

PROCEEDINGS from the

**Mid Western
Community Workshop
on Climate Change**



Wednesday, November 2nd, 2005
Asessippi Ski Area & Winter Park

Climate Change. Are you doing your bit?

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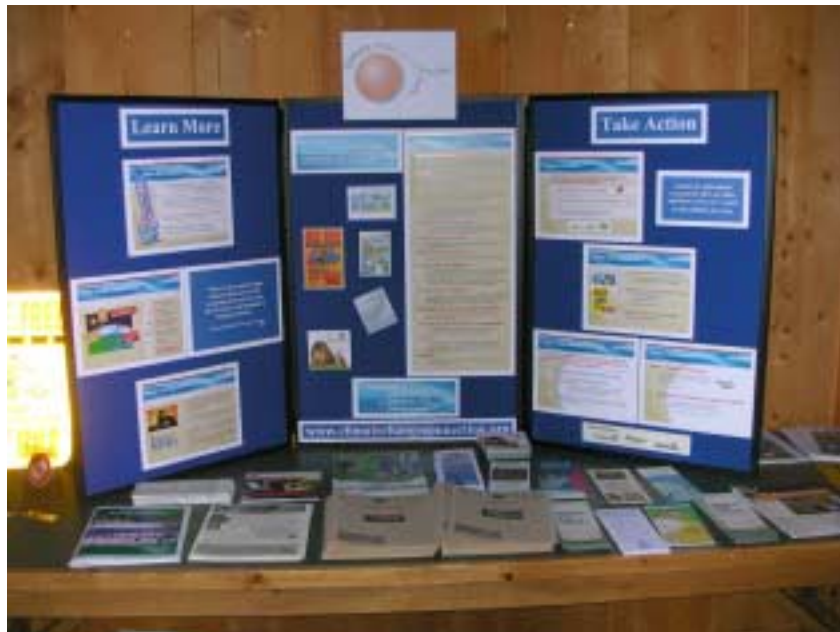
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I. Notes from Roundtable

Question 1: What is your interest in climate change?

Question 2: What questions do you want answered over the course of the day?

- Keep up to date on climate change issues, funding possibilities, and identify opportunities for future action
- Interested in what's going on
- Haven't done anything with climate change in the past, like previous presentation
- Want to better my community
- Get Information, climate change is a new topic that council is looking at
- Moral responsibility to environment, how can we get involved?
- Energy/Water audits inspire the RM to look into opportunities for conserving



Climate Change Connection's display and materials table – includes information pieces on energy efficiency, waste reduction, municipal greening information, local climate change projects, funding, and much more.



II. Notes from Basics of Climate Change

Q. What do you mean by the word “NORTH”?

A. The word north refers to the arctic, a region in Canada that starts around the tip of the Hudson’s Bay. The north will be increasing in temperature by six degrees Celsius if the US increases by two. More than a two degree increase poses serious problems for the arctic ecosystem.

Q. Are feedlots a source of methane?

A. Yes, feedlots are a source.

Q. Is nuclear power waste a halocarbon?

A. No, it’s not a halocarbon, i.e. a GHG, but it does create separate problems.

Q. Ozone is a greenhouse gas. We want less GHG’s in the atmosphere, yet we are also concerned about ozone depletion?

A. Separate issues. Same molecule but two different situations. Ozone molecules combine and are produced throughout atmosphere. We are referring to ozone that is created lower in the atmosphere and not the ozone layer.

Q. Even though we are seeing a lot of extreme weather events, a lot of disasters are directly man-made. People are living where they never lived before, i.e. flood plains. People are building in places where they are vulnerable to extreme weather events and then are asking to be compensated when flooding does occur. Why do we keep approving building in these areas and letting people do this?

A. Good question. We are seeing more severe weather events. And yes, we are expanding development onto land that carries the risk of natural disaster.

Q. Rural Manitoba is concerned currently with depopulation. Climate refugees and displacement of coastal peoples may provide opportunities for smaller towns to expand and improve their communities.

A. You are the first to put a positive spin on this issue.

Q. Did GHGs increase when glass containers were replaced by plastics?

A. Definitely had some kind of contribution. We have created a culture that promotes one use items so we end up throwing everything away – like plastics. Plastics are petroleum based products, so their manufacture is a part of the demand for fossil-fuel extraction. It will be interesting to see what we lean towards in the future.



III. Notes from Brainstorming Climate-Friendly Living Module

Question 1: Has anyone noticed any changes in animals or the environment around them?

- Migratory patterns of geese – they have shown up where they never were before
- Less blizzards over the years
- Change in trees, years ago we used to have a lot more trees, more are dying
- Weather seems more extreme, rain rain rain, then drought
- Can't see the bottom of the lakes anymore there are too many weeds
- Jet streams are shifting and becoming more varied as result of the airline traffic
- Municipalities are spending more money on repairing roads each successive year
 - Shift from rail to road, trucks are causing more infrastructure damage

Q. Where do you get a heating pad?

A. Just use a wooden box or blocks.

Question 2: Where can you find GHG emissions in your community?

- Doors and entry ways to the grocery store
- Seasonal lighting (like Christmas lights) vs. LED's
- Bus fleets
- Overnight trucks need to stay on 24/7 to keep their products refrigerated, but a lot are switching to solar power
- Manitoba has the worst rink refrigeration chemicals
- Geothermal, big bucks \$\$\$, taxpayers look at short term, geothermal is a want but doesn't seem realistic
- Town hall, 5000 sq feet, cost less than 2000 a year in energy bills, and so it will pay for itself in 5 yrs
- Retrofit schools, some classrooms had too much light; energy audits are an important part of making your school more efficient
- Recycle more and improve the process so less ends up in a landfill, implement more incentive programs, will there be more of a cost involved with extra transport of waste

Q. Can we get funding for things like recycling?

A. For sure, that is exactly what they want to give funding for.

- Talk the talk, walk the walk, the top of the pyramid is expected to set the example, soon the bottom is going to be told to start pulling its weight
- Transportation is the biggest contributor to climate change and the feds have essentially dismantled the railroad and then yells at us to do something which includes not driving everywhere. Everyone would rather take a train, but rural Manitoba doesn't have enough people to make that feasible. As far as goods go, if you can't make money shipping by train you put it in a truck, you have to move the goods!



IV. Communities as Part of the Solution

Q. Is this New deal or infrastructure?

A. This is the new deal.

- Being on the infrastructure committee that provides funding, the money doesn't go that far even if it is millions of dollars (350 in request only 60 to spend), we have to spread it over the province, and some people get left out. There is no consistent and sustainable funding available. We need to change that. We **NEED MORE MONEY** for municipalities, many projects gets passed over. They want to do the work but don't have the money to even maintain what they have now. Drive by funding: you get a chunk of cash and have to use it right away and can't do anything long term. You need long term.

Q. Is the New deal money for municipalities over 5000 people only?

A. Yes, for larger cities it's specifically for transit and projects like that. The smaller communities are split up into 5 categories for funding. The government doesn't want to spend millions of dollars on a town that has a pop of 100 if it might not exist in 20 years. It's about working in regional communities, banding municipalities together, and coming up with a more efficient and sustainable plan.



Participants discuss how their communities can be part of the solution.

V. Community Funding and Support

Q. We are building a heritage building, is there a possibility of getting 50% of funds for that project from the green municipal funds?

A. Yes, as long as there are GHG reduction implications involved in design, construction, and use of the building. There is a specific fund for heritage buildings, and you can apply for funds that are specific to your project, for example if you want to implement a geothermal system there are appropriate grants that you can apply for.

Q. What communities are currently involved in the C4/OTC project?

A. There are four communities: Pegu First Nation, Thompson (17 surrounding communities), Morden and Winkler (rural) and Brandon.

Q. Is the funding from the C4/OTC exclusive to community or do school division get funding? What about a bus fleet?

A. Only communities get funding, the school division itself can't apply. The community as a whole has to apply for things like funding for a more efficient bus fleet. They can incorporate the School Division into the proposal.

Q. If we institute a plan this year, will it keep being reviewed or do we need to keep reapplying annually?

A. Yes the applications stay active. It is a good idea, however to keep updated the status of your application by calling and finding out how to improve your plan if it's needed.

Q. Does getting funding from one group lessen your chances of getting funds from another? Is it possible to access funds from more than one grant?

A. As far as provincial and federal go, you can't piggyback from different programs for the same project. You can't take from two federal, but you can take from a federal and a provincial. If you have more than one project it's better to apply individually rather than umbrella the projects under one action like reducing GHGs.



Marie Storey, from Green Manitoba Eco-Solutions, explains how communities can receive money from the Green Municipal Fund.

VI. Projects to Reduce GHGs

Q. How does selling carbon credits help the whole world? Who's going to enforce it? How much is a credit worth?

A. The opportunity to make money is incentive for everyone to reduce there emissions. We aren't sure at the moment who is going to enforce it. A credit is worth \$15/tonne in Canada.

- Swap shacks in Northern Manitoba = Canadian Tires/Costcos
- Sidewalks are expensive to fix and install so some towns are cutting costs by not installing them.



Rachel Van Caesele, Manager of Climate Change Connection, discusses projects Manitoba communities can implement to reduce GHG emissions.



VII. Notes from Facilitated Discussions of Community Needs & Interests

- A community plan, long term funding, community buy in, sustainability
 - Everything we have discussed is based on a plan. Some municipalities budgets are on a four year plan. These aren't good enough anymore because governments don't have a lot of money to invest in non-sustainable short-term or unreliable long-term projects. Municipalities need to develop long-term plans, 20 years minimum and the community needs to have a say so that there is cooperation between all the sectors.
- New landfill site
- Recycling program
- New water mains
- Rural water lines
- Upgrade arena
- Bike trail
- Stop depopulation
- Industry (Biodiesel Plant)
- Health & Wellness Centre
- Drinking water
- Municipal building
- Community hall
- Money for energy costs
- Wind farms
- High speed internet
- Communications (cell phones)
- Bus transportation (to and from Winnipeg), shuttle service for skiers

1. Small towns find it hard to plan long-term if there isn't a stable employment source like large industry, they are fighting depopulation

How to make it a GHG reduction project:

- Industry, move it into the rural so that people don't have to travel so far to go to work.
- Match places and people, urban centers are getting all these upgrades to public transit where rural communities don't have anything and travel even larger distances on average to get to the same places like work and recreation center.
- Communal Housing for short term town occupants.
- Green business education and training so there will be more industry that will be permanent in the smaller communities

2. Need a new landfill site, filling up too fast, recycling program required.

How to make it a GHG reduction project:



- Get a larger storage facility with balers which cuts down on the amount of waste that actually ends up in the landfill
- Expand services to involve regional disposal
- Water main upgrades
- Rural water lines

3. Upgrading arenas

How to make it a GHG reduction project:

- Retrofitting with geothermal systems
 - This might be a challenge due to the environment (too much rock). There are grants available for geothermal initiatives.
- Rebuilding a new green facility.
- Water as source of heat/energy
 - There are mineral deposits that occur so we are moving away from that.
- Get away from using some of the old coolants and use recyclable materials



During the coffee break, participants skim through the community-based resources provided to them by Climate Change Connection.

VIII. Notes on Group Work

Question 1: How would you want your community described to potential new residents?

Group 1

- Progressive
- Green potential
- Full service (medical, school, business sector, recreational)
- Safety, serenity, scenic
- Peaceful, quiet, friendly
- Reasonable taxation

Group 2

- Beautiful fresh air and water
- Quiet and safe
- Low cost of living
- Lots of trees
- Wildlife and fish near
- Variety of recreational activities
- On major highway



Participants work in groups to generate ideas on how to achieve a climate-friendly community.



Question 2: What can you do to make that a reality and access funds for climate change and sustainability?

Group 1

- Retrofit municipal infrastructure (recreation facilities, halls, churches, etc.)
- Cost savings – operational = reasonable taxation
- Brownfield redevelopment into parks, gardens, bike/walking paths, etc.
- Upgrade W + S
- Recycling + waste management
- Use carbon credits to attract industry and sustain business
- Organize group car sharing/ pooling
- Co-op biodiesel

Group 2

- Bike trails, urban forestry, keep up water treatment plants and control water run off (policies re: fencing buffer zones and land use)
- Planning green areas in our community
- Idle free zones
- Extra fees for extra garbage
- Reduce traffic noise/ reduce speed
- Whole town on geothermal (school and rink in Birtle)
- Municipal buildings retrofitted (audit)
- Tree planting (Upper Assiniboine)
- Sharing funds with other municipalities
- Flipper program



XI. Workshop Participants

Antoniw, Nick	Councillor, <i>Town of Rosscburn</i>
Bertram, Charles	CAO, <i>RM of Birtle</i>
Birch, Sandra	CAO, <i>Town of Binscarth</i>
Boguski, Lorne	Mayor, <i>Town of Roblin</i>
Butler, Morley	Councillor, <i>RM of Birtle</i>
Jensen, Debbie	CAO, <i>RM of Birtle</i>
Kutzan, Clifford	Reeve, <i>RM of Grandview</i>
Melnyk, Wally	CAO, <i>Town of Russell</i>
Tweet, Linda	Resident, <i>Town of Russell</i>
Yanchycki, Wally	Vice Chair, <i>Rolling River School Division</i>



X. Community Workshop Evaluation Summary

NOTE:

Rating System is out of 5 points. 5 representing “most satisfactory” or “strongest agreement”.

1.0 Organization and Design	Score
Overall quality	4.0
The programme – flow of activities	3.83
Workshop documents	4.0
Location and facilities	3.33
Meals and refreshments	4.33

Comments: NONE

2.0 Presentations	Score
I could hear clearly	4.33
I could see clearly	4.16
Level of comprehension (minimal jargon, explained theories, etc.)	4.16
I could proceed with group work with the information given	4.0

2.1 Basics of Climate Change, <i>Susan Block</i>	Score
Provided me with a basic understanding of CC	4.33
Understand impacts of CC	4.0
Understand link between lifestyle, GHG’s and CC	4.0
The presenter was dynamic and informative	4.16

Comments: NONE

2.2 Communities as Part of the Solution, <i>Rachel Van Caesele</i>	Score
I understand how municipalities fit into Canada’s CC plan.	3.83
I feel well informed about how communities are participating in reducing GHG emissions.	4.00
The presenter was dynamic and informative.	4.33

Comments: NONE

2.3 Community Funding and Support, <i>Marie Storey</i>	Score
I feel well informed about funding opportunities for my community.	3.75
I understand how to access the funding programs.	3.75
I understand which projects are eligible to be funded.	3.83
The presenter was dynamic and informative	4.00

Comments: NONE



2.4 Projects to reduce GHGs, Rachel Van Caesele	Score
I understand how my community can reduce GHG emissions.	3.83
I understand the link between reducing GHGs and economic savings.	3.66
The case studies have provided me with ideas for reducing GHGs in my community.	4.00
The presenter was dynamic and informative	4.16

Comments: NONE

3.0 Facilitated discussion	Score
Ideas for educating my network about CC and need for action	3.33
Identify GHG reduction opp's in my community	3.50
Additional reduction opp's (funding, networks, etc.)	4.33
Identify steps for an action plan	3.66

Comments: NONE

4.0 Feedback

1. *What was the most useful part of the workshop?*

- *Reduce GHG emissions*
- *Slides, handouts*

2. *What was the least useful part of the workshop?*

- NONE

3. *What suggestions do you have to improve format and/or content at subsequent workshops?*

- Some acronyms were unfamiliar to me as I'm not involved in municipal activities. I must read up on them.

4. *Other comments.*

- All presenters were knowledgeable and had pleasant clear voices.
- All presentations were informative. Discussion was good. Lots of information and constructive suggestions. Good Day.
- This workshop is something that could be offered in each of our communities for the general public to attend and understand their part in reducing GHGs.



XI. Acknowledgements

The Climate Change Connection would like to acknowledge the following individuals and organizations for their assistance in making the *Mid Western Community Workshop on Climate Change* a success.

Jen Sparling, CCC volunteer and workshop scribe, for donating her time to the workshop.

All our participants, who took time out from their busy schedules to learn about climate change, listen to their fellow community members, and find solutions for a healthier, more sustainable Mid Western Community.

All presentations are provided in PDF format for download under Manitobans and Climate Change on www.climatechangeconnection.org. For copies of the handouts on municipal GHG-reduction option please visit the Emissions and Impacts section of the web site. Hard copies can be mailed out upon request to climate.connection@mts.net or (204) 943-4836.

The workshop programme follows.

Climate Change Connection

Rachel Van Caesele, *Manager*

Susan Block, *PEO Coordinator*

3-303 Portage Avenue

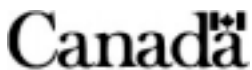
Winnipeg, MB R3B 2B4

Tel, Rachel: (204) 943-4836

Tel, Susan: (204) 786-9963

Fax: (204) 989-8476

Climate Change Connection is funded by:



XII. Workshop Programme

MID WESTERN COMMUNITY WORKSHOP on CLIMATE CHANGE

Wednesday, November 2nd, 2005
Asessippi Ski Area & Winter Park
West on HWY 482, off HWY 83
Inglis, Manitoba
Tel: (204) 564-2000

- 9:00 – 9:15 **WELCOME from Climate Change Connection**
(1) Explanation of logistics of programme and workshop details.
- Rachel Van Caesele, Manager, Climate Change Connection
(2) Who is Climate Change Connection? Brief description of mandate, funding partners, information tools and services.
Presenter: Susan Block, PEO Coordinator
- 9:15 – 10:00 **ROUNDTABLE**
Allows everyone to identify themselves and share (1) their interest in climate change, (2) share activities from within the sector they are representing.
Chaired by: Rachel Van Caesele
- 10:00 – 10:30 **BASICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**
What is climate change? What are the greenhouse gases (GHGs)? Enhanced greenhouse effect? How are human activities involved? What are the potential impacts? This presentation will bring everyone up to speed the day's main topic.
Presenter: Susan Block
- 10:30 – 10:45 **BREAK**
- 10:45 – 11:10 **CLIMATE-FRIENDLY LIVING MODULE**
Identifying emissions reductions opportunities.
Brainstorming session with participants.
Chaired by: Susan Block
- 11:10 – 11:35 **COMMUNITIES AS PART OF THE SOLUTION**
Canada is a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol. Manitoba has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with federal government to take action on climate change. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities has identified municipalities as one of key emissions reductions targets. Gain an understanding of how your community will be expected to participate in the climate change solution.
Presenter: Rachel Van Caesele
- 11:35 – 12:15 **COMMUNITY FUNDING AND SUPPORT**
There are a number of funds available specifically to communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Find out where opportunities exist to access support for projects from \$1,000 to \$350,000. Receive our valuable "Funding Source Guide for Climate Change Projects in Manitoba".
Presenter: Marie Storey, Climate Change Branch



- 12:15 – 1:00 **LUNCH (provided), DISPLAYS & INFORMAL NETWORKING**
Please bring information you wish to share. Materials table provided.
- 1:00 – 1:30 **PROJECTS TO REDUCE GHGs**
What types of projects can you undertake to reduce GHGs and access funding -- yet address the needs of your community? Case studies from communities across Canada will offer examples of creative solutions to these questions.
 Thanks to the Partners for Climate Protection Program, Federation of Canadian Municipalities and Energy Services, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives for providing content.
Presenter: Rachel Van Caesele
- 1:30 – 3:50 **FACILITATED DISCUSSION OF COMMUNITY NEEDS & INTERESTS**
Facilitator will draw out participants ideas on (1) how to further educate their sectors and neighbours about climate change and the need for action, (2) what GHG reduction opportunities exist your area, (3) what the community would need/want in order to participate in outside-supported programs, or to generate locally-led programs, and (4) envisioning what a climate-friendly, sustainable community would look like.
- 2:30 – 2:45 **BREAK & filling out of evaluation and proceedings request forms.**
Break-out groups for flip charting responses and feedback into larger session. Action planning for next steps. Final summary comments.
- 3:50 – 4:00 **THANK YOU from Climate Change Connection & Manitoba Hydro Power Smart**



Climate Change Connection aims to build awareness and to empower Manitobans to take action to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, both individually and as a community.

GHG emission reductions achieved by Manitobans will help Canada to meet targets established by the Kyoto Protocol.

The Connection will work to assist Manitobans make the changes necessary to live more sustainable and climate-friendly lifestyles.

Working to reduce GHG emissions enables us to take responsibility for our part in a changing global climate.

