

PROCEEDINGS from the

**North Man
Community Workshop
on Climate Change**



**Thursday, October 28, 2004
Sam Waller Museum, The Pas**

Climate Change. Are you doing your bit?

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I. Notes from Roundtable

Question 1: What have you heard about climate change?

Question 2: Have any of you done anything for climate change?

Question 3: What are your interests in climate change?

- I am here for information. I would like to know more about our world. It's pretty scary. There is a lot going on.
- To learn and get information.
- I am an environmental activist and it's nice to see the youth here participating.
- I have a personal interest in hybrid vehicles and I think it would be great if my next purchase were a hybrid vehicle.
- We have an expression of interest in being here for the town.
- Here for information to adapt to the purpose of instituting awareness in the logging industry.
- It is great to see the students here. I hope they will add a student component to the discussion.
- I am here for accurate information to pass on to my students. I am looking forward to the MB Hydro Power Smart presentation.
- I came for information to help with the communities recycling program.
- I also help with the recycling team and I am hoping this information should help with awareness. It is also great to see the students and youth here.
- I have noticed how the world has changed, how birds, rivers and environments have changed over the years and I would like some information.
- I am a student here for information for a school project.
- Here for information to supplement our programs already instituted in the field of conservation.



Q. Is there anybody here who has or uses the anti-idling signs?

A. *No.*



II. Questions and Comments, “The Basics of Climate Change”

Q. How does The Pas and surrounding areas get their drinking water?

A. *The Saskatchewan River.*

- *With a warmer climate there is less water in the rivers due to evaporation. With less water, the pollution will have higher concentration levels.*

Q. How many people drove from Flin Flon to be here?

A. *Seven people drove here in five cars. Essentially the entire seven could have fit in the van I drove here. This is a reminder that humans are inefficient. You know what the motivating factor should be? Money. If gas were \$5 a litre everyone would want to carpool.*



Workshop participants listening and taking notes during the “Basics of Climate Change” presentation.

III. Climate-Friendly Living Module

Question 1: Has any of this information surprised you?

- In the media, there are many arguments against any serious change in the climate. The graph has surprised me. If it is accurate and true, it is quite dramatic.
- Modeling hasn't evolved far enough to predict accurately in the "real world".
- The activity of jet streams in the models?
- I would like to initiate roof top gardens, downtown greening, trees for shade and awnings for storefronts to reduce cooling costs.
- Water quality – Tolko's effect to our local water.
- Agricultural inputs into the river are greater than local effluent.
- Global impacts
- Pollution
- Freon in fridges

Q. Has there ever been any work done with climate control and predictive models that work backwards?

A. *Yes. That is actually how Global Circulation Models are tested. By setting up models to predict past climates you can determine their accuracy.*

Q. Do you have any public reason for being here?

A. *We are looking for ideas to increase green space. We are looking to incorporate more trees in the town and possibly rooftop gardens.*

Q. Teachers? Anything to add?

A. *Our main incentive is to get the kids interested and aware.*

Q. What about some of you students?

A. *I am here to learn about water quality. The Saskatchewan River is really yucky. I am really concerned about what I am drinking.*

Q. At any point are you going to touch on global issues? In India the vehicle pollution is unbelievable and I was actually taken aback by the situation. Mexico is quite bad too.

A. *There is lots of information out there and yes Canadians are actually one of the greediest energy gluttons.*

- *But that must certainly attribute somewhat to the fact that we live on half frozen continent and need to continuously consume energy.*
- *Another factor is the fact that India's and Mexico's technology is not as refined and well tuned as ours.*
- *We Canadians have a disproportionate impact on the global climate change occurring. We are only second to the USA.*
- *Part of what Kyoto is trying to do is to encourage these developing nations not to make the same mistakes that we have made. Not to go through the coal burning and energy inefficient vehicles. In a sense, leap frog over past problems. It is a great start but we have only just got our foot in the door.*



Question 2: Where do your personal GHGs come from?

- My vehicle
- Energy consumption
- Lack of recycling
- Air conditioners

Q. What is the best way to heat?

A. *Geothermal heating, which we will discuss later.*

- *What bothers me is, we have to pay an enviro levy on everything we buy and then we can't sell it.*
- *Air conditioners emit greenhouse gases. A lot of people run their air conditioners too low. You are not to cool your home more than 5 degrees lower than what it is outside.*
- *Many people leave the house and have their thermostat blasting with no one in the house but the cat. This is very wasteful.*

Q. Are there any stats that quote how much energy is consumed to eventually heat your home to what temperature you had it at when you left?

A. *It does take a lot to eventually heat your home but it is overshadowed if you leave your home for a prolonged period.*

Question 3: What changes could you make to reduce your personal GHGs?

- Turn down the heat at night, during the day, and when you're not at home
- Geothermal systems
- Idling
- Use a timer on car heaters
- More efficient lighting, weather stripping, insulation
- Buy products locally
- Paper bags instead of plastic

Q. The issue of idling.

A. *We spoke to some mechanics and the best way to warm your vehicle is to slowly drive around the block and then your good to go.*

- *Industry vehicles or fleets that are company owned, their drivers will go into a restaurant for some coffee and leave their truck idling because it's the tax payers that pay for the gas. They would be more concerned if they had to pay for the gas they used or for the gas not covered in a carefully monitored budget.*
- *Some companies are instituting auto shut offs for their fleets.*
- *On the fleet idling issue - major corporations are actually taking on the challenge of not idling their fleets and they quote saving significant amounts of money.*
- *The government is actually offering rebates for those who drive fleets and don't idle.*



IV. Questions and Comments, “Making Your Building Power Smart”

Q. There is a growing trend in the buying of residences and renting them out. Does the Power Smart program cover them or are there some restrictions?

A. *There are some restrictions but we have a Power Smart program for businesses and residences. Those people would probably fall under the residence program.*

Q. Does the Power Smart compact fluorescent lighting program concern private residence?

A. *No, it is more concerned with industry and business but we did have incentives in the form of sales - buy one get one free.*

Q. For people with the stomach lupus, are they susceptible to irritation from fluorescent lights?

A. *With the older fluorescent lights there were complaints but there are now we have created better lights with new technology. Since these lights have been instituted most of the complaints have stopped.*

Q. What is the progress of your program with the government?

A. *Just about every government institution has implemented the program completely or is in the middle of it.*

Q. Does the new fluorescent lighting technology take variable circuit technology?

A. *There are fluorescent lights that you can buy and dim, but it comes in a different package.*
➤ *Some fluorescent lights do not operate in cold weather. You need to be careful what type of ballast and bulbs you purchase. Some are different and meant for different environment. Their life is shortened also in areas, like the washroom, where there are repeatedly switched on and off. But overall they are the safer buy to save money and energy.*

Q. Your program pays an incentive for business to install more energy efficient windows?

A. *Yes, we do.*



V. Questions and Comments, “Earth Energy Heat/Cooling Systems”

Q. The geothermal systems are \$15,000 to \$20,000. I have heard that the technology available for the systems is kept in control by the people that control the geothermal systems.

A. *The market has changed significantly and ten years ago it was incredibly more expensive because all the systems were coming from the U.S. but now there are geothermal system companies in Canada and the cost will continue to decrease.*

Q. Is your company’s new headquarters going to be showcasing these energy conserving standards.

A. *Yes, we will have all kinds of technology implemented, even wind power.*

Q. Are you guys investigating wind power?

A. *Yes, my company is investigating and there are only a few places in Manitoba that are compatible for wind power. Right now we are monitoring the wind in several places to gauge whether it is suitable for wind power.*

Q. How deep do geothermal pumps go into the ground?

A. *However far the bedrock is under the ground, which depends on the area involved. Some instances entail 50ft to 200ft.*

Q. If I was to build a house and wanted to use a geothermal system are there any installers around here?

A. *Yes, there are agencies in Flin Flon and Swan River and more in the Manitoba area.*

Q. Is the Canadian Shield a problem for a geothermal system because you say a system can’t be installed in rock?

A. *Yes, it is. There is no heat in rock or gravel. You need to install in moisture and soil.*
➤ *The bulk of the newer geothermal systems recently installed involve newer commercial building renovation but there are some private residences factored in.*

Q. If you install in an existing house how long is the wait for the payback?

A. *The payback comes quicker if you install in a building just being built. The payback comes within 8 to 10 years if you renovate for the geothermal system in an existing private residence.*

Q. To have an energy inspector, who evaluates the energy consumption of your home, do you have to wait a long time?

A. *They won’t come up and evaluate a single residence but they eventually come up and inspect houses when it is practical and cost efficient. The best thing to do is to contact them and sign up as soon as possible.*



VII. Questions and Comments, “Climate Change Policy for Decision Makers”

Q. Is there an answer as to why the cooling affect is more dramatic in the north?

A. One theory is that areas near the equator and areas in the south are more efficient with their water systems at dispersing the interrupted and complicated systems of currents of water and thus there is less of an effect. But there is not just one factor but a number of them.

Q. How would a country pay another country for their emission fund credits?

A. Usually with cash.

Q. Who is going to enforce the Kyoto Protocol?

A. Kyoto is not perfect but it is a good step. A lot of things have not been settled and its definite form has not been determined so the really pertinent questions cannot be answered with certainty.

Q. How much is a hybrid car worth?

A. They cost a little more than your average vehicle.

Q. Where would the hybrid vehicle be serviced?

A. Yes, that is a very important point. There are not very many places that are convenient.



Workshop facilitator, Chuck Mrena, discusses how you incorporate policy into creating climate-friendly communities.



VIII. Notes from Facilitated Discussion of Community Needs and Interests

Question 1: Has anyone seen impacts in their community?

- The animals have changed. I now see raccoons. Before there was none and elk too.
- I remember driving near Devil's Lake and seeing a whole herd of caribou crossing the road.
- Changes to the water levels in the lake. Our dock at our cottage was at one point sticking out of the water. We talked to the previous owners and they said the water level was the lowest they'd ever seen it. It was very dramatic.
- Clear Water Lake is a closed water system and the water level is a foot lower than it is traditionally.
- This year giant squid off the coast of B.C have been observed and they usually hang around Mexico.
- I have noticed also an increase in algae and the mosquitoes are not as bad as they used to be.
- There has been an increase in spruce bugs in recent years.
- When I came to Swan River 32 years ago there was no wood ticks and now they're too many.
- It is much more windy. Tornadoes have really increased in intensity and frequency.

Question 2: What do you think are some ways to reduce GHG emissions?

- One thing to do would be to influence local politicians to do something about the amount of green space in town.
- In the spring, it becomes really dusty and dirty and it is terrible to walk around in such weather. It needs to be cleaned up.
- There have been policies in some towns where if students live within a certain distance of the school they have to pay for parking to get them to walk or carpool.
- There are actually parents and volunteers who use the walking school bus, these people go around and pick up the students and walk them to school.
- In large corporations they have carpooling offices.
- Anti-idling signs around schools would increase awareness.
- Some areas have a community-wide event where they gather household materials and do away with it by recycling or reusing as much as possible.
- There is an outfit in Winnipeg where they take in old computers, fix them up and donate them to non-profit organizations.
- Consideration of geothermal energy on the reserve would definitely be appropriate to the policy of reduction of geothermal energy.

Question 3: Who are the pioneers and leaders of communities?

- Teachers
- Climate Change Connections – non-profits
- These types of seminars are very helpful to increase awareness, create ideas and help inspire individuals to stand and make a difference.



- In our coffee room at work, we no longer condone the use of styrofoam cups. We now use a single cup each that is washed at the end of the day.
- I would really like to encourage composting and the idea of a swap shop at the dump.
- How can we get people to change their whole mindset about what is taken for granted everyday? If people were to see the big picture it would eventually become natural to walk to the store and eat healthy.
- In Europe, they have very strict laws for packaging. A product comes to your house in a box, you take the product out, collapse the box and send it back. It is the manufacturers responsibility to take that box and reuse or recycle it.
- There are many alternatives to synthetic pampers and feminine pads that are less harmful to the environment.
- If every mother would breastfeed we wouldn't need all those plastic bottles and their bags.



IX. Break-Out Group Work

Question 1: Describe your community as it would be if you had no barriers to make improvements to sustainability. What is your climate-friendly vision?

Group 1

- Geothermal systems for all – commercial, industrial, residential (no smoke stacks)
- Enclosed, all season sidewalks
- Central parking downtown
- Composting – town giveaways
- True recycling – reduce landfill requirement
- Shuttle service
- Increase residential accommodations downtown for seniors

Group 2

- Replace and upgrade all area lighting
- Redesign and plant trees to make walking easier – landscaping
- Public transportation with hybrid fuel
- Upgrade all school buses
- Geothermal heating for all
- Recycling made mandatory and enforced
- Better utilization of industries waste products
- Recycle building products
- Improve roads for gas efficiency

Group 3

- Entire community on geothermal heating
- Waste consolidation and recycling/re-use/dispersal
- Attitude change/education
- Move the whole community from the north to somewhere more temperate for the winter



Question 2: Take action for your vision; what low-cost or no-cost projects could you undertake now to reduce GHGs?

Group 1

- “No idle” program
- Composting
- Community gardens
- Swap shack
- Car pools
- Paper bags
- Solar energy street lights



- Roof top gardens
- Expanded recycling program

Group 2

- Change to LED or HPS lighting
- Have a local tree nursery and plant trees on streets
- Compost depot
- Public transit – one bus
- One day a month no vehicles in the downtown core
- Central geothermal heating for a group of houses
- Take advantage of all available funding
- Registry of salvage products at local level

Group 3

- Environmental awareness education, starting with kids in grade school
- Cultivate an attitude of using “natural” sources of energy to do standard household chores – hand washing, clothes line, etc.



Participants in groups 2 and 3 fill out evaluation forms while they wait to present their community vision.



X. Workshop Participants

Bedford, Brent	Teacher, <i>Hapnot Collegiate – Flin Flon</i>
Blennell, Rona	Student, <i>Joe A. Ross School</i>
Burrell, Leslie	Dawson Bay Community Hall
Burrell, Lou Ann	Dawson Bay Community Hall
Cante, Chad	Student, <i>Joe A. Ross School</i>
Constant, Deena	Student, <i>Joe A. Ross School</i>
Constant, Jaime	Student, <i>Joe A. Ross School</i>
Constant, Vanessa	Student, <i>Joe A. Ross School</i>
Cook, Michael	Student, <i>Joe A. Ross School</i>
Delaronde, Diana	Student, <i>Joe A. Ross School</i>
Dede Demey	Student, <i>Joe A. Ross School</i>
East, Greg	<i>Flin Flon and District Environment Council Inc.</i>
Gibbons, Richard	Woodlands Manager, <i>Tolko Industries</i>
Gray, Ryan	Teacher, <i>Hapnot Collegiate – Flin Flon</i>
Guthrie, Tom	Teacher, <i>Hapnot Collegiate – Flin Flon</i>
Hood, Jonathan	Student, <i>Joe A. Ross School</i>
Karpick, Lonie	Chair, <i>Downtown Revitalization</i>
Lafreniere, Terri	Student, <i>Joe A. Ross School</i>
Lautamus, Linda	Chair, <i>Nor-Man Regional Health Authority</i>
Murray, Doreen	Manager, <i>Flin Flon & District Environmental Council Inc.</i>
Nilsen, Joel	Environmental Officer, <i>Manitoba Conservation - Flin Flon</i>
Jill Stewart	Office Manager, <i>The Pas & District Chamber of Commerce</i>
Sawchyn, Adrianna	Biology Teacher, <i>Joe A. Ross School</i>
Swan, Burt	Manager, <i>The Pas C.D.C.</i>

XI. 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	4.44
The programme – flow of activities	4.33
Workshop documents	4.33
Location and facilities	4.00
Meals and refreshments	4.25

Comments:

- Facility was small for # of participants

2.0 Presentations	Score
I could hear clearly	4.77
I could see clearly	4.55
Level of comprehension (minimal jargon, explained theories, etc.)	4.55
I could proceed with group work with the information given	4.50

2.1 Basics of Climate Change, Susan Block	Score
Provided me with a basic understanding of CC	4.44
Understand impacts of CC	4.55
Understand link between lifestyle, GHG's and CC	4.66
The presenter was dynamic and informative	4.55

Comments:

- Supply a glossary of terms, acronyms in the movement
- Good clear speaking voice for all presenters
- Very well done
- Excellent presentation

2.2 Making Your Building Power Smart/Earth Energy Systems, Bruce Taylor	Score
I have ideas on how to reduce business GHG's.	4.00
I feel well informed about earth energy systems.	4.11
I understand how to access the incentive programs	3.77
The presenter was dynamic and informative	4.44

Comments:

- Maybe add some different colour or images to slides – it was OK for me but I think you lost some of the young ones



- Very well done
- Very informative, presenter was very knowledgeable

2.3 Greening Municipal Operations, Rachel Van Caesele	Score
Understand role of municipalities in CC	4.55
Understand link between reducing GHG's and economic savings	4.44
Ideas for reducing GHG's in my community from case studies	4.00
The presenter was dynamic and informative	4.55

Comments:

- Very well done
- The presenter new her stuff, very good

2.4 Climate Change for Decision Makers, Chuck Mrena	Score
Understand what it means to be a PCP Community	4.37
Understand the strategies to integrate CC policy in my community	4.00
The presenter was dynamic and informative	4.44

Comments:

- Very well done

3.0 Facilitated Discussion	Score
Ideas for educating my network about CC and need for action	4.12
Identify GHG reduction opp's in my community	3.87
Additional reduction opp's (funding, networks, etc.)	4.00
Identify steps for an action plan	3.75

Comments:

- Very helpful – nice to hear feedback from others.
- Very well done.
- Excellent!
- Okay. Generated a lot of “quick-to-implement” ideas. However, see the need to establish commitment towards a committee (leadership to promote these ideas)?
- Very good
- Thought provoking

4.0 Feedback

1. What was the most useful part of the workshop?
 - Break out groups
 - Awareness of the urgency for action
 - The whole thing pretty much – I watch quite a bit of T.V. about the topic – it's nice to see “live” action, locally!
 - Information sharing
 - Excellent overall
 - Understanding of climate control



- All of it
 - Power Smart Presentation by MB Hydro
 - The interaction between participants
2. What was the least useful part of the workshop?
- Facilitated discussion.
 - Lunch – too good!!!
3. What suggestions do you have to improve format and/or content at subsequent workshops?
- More students involved
 - Expand the MB Hydro presentation to provide information on opportunities for energy efficiency in homes and residences.
4. Other comments.
- Very enjoyable and informative day
 - Overall an excellent seminar!
 - Very informative



XII. Acknowledgements

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

Chuck Mrena, our workshop facilitator, who assisted in the workshop set-up, provide much needed equipment and led our participants through group discussions and the days agenda.

Bruce Taylor, our Manitoba Hydro Power Smart Presenter, for providing gifts and prizes for the workshop participants. Greatly appreciated.

Kirk Mutanen, a Partner for Career Councillor with The Pas Friendship Centre, for assisting in recruiting our workshop scribe. Leonard Chastellaine was punctual, hard working and professional.

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 North Man 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.

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XIII. Workshop Programme

NORTH MAN COMMUNITY WORKSHOP on CLIMATE CHANGE

Thursday, October 28, 2004
Sam Waller Museum
306 Fisher Avenue
The Pas, Manitoba
(204) 623-3802

Continental breakfast is provided.

- 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, Climate Change Connection
- 9:15 – 9:45 **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 facilitator, Chuck Mrena, Climate Change Research Coordinator, PARC
- 9:45 – 10:10 **THE BASICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**
What is climate change? What are the greenhouse gases (GHGs)? Enhanced greenhouse effect? What are the potential impacts for Manitoba? How are human activities involved?
Presenter: Susan Block
- 10:10 – 10:25 **BREAK**
- 10:25 – 11:05 **CLIMATE-FRIENDLY LIVING MODULE**
How can we take action to live a more climate-friendly lifestyle?
Brainstorming session with participants.
- Chaired by facilitator, Chuck Mrena
- 11:05 – 11:40 **MAKING YOUR BUILDING POWER SMART**
Manitoba Hydro's *Power Smart for Business* incentive programs for lighting, envelope and heating/cooling technologies. Maximize the performance, comfort and visual appeal of your facilities. Learn how to use Power Smart to significantly reduce your organization's greenhouse gas impact, save money, plus make an important savings on your "carbon budget".
Presenter: Bruce Taylor, Energy Services Coordinator, Manitoba Hydro Power Smart
- 11:40 – 12:15 **EARTH ENERGY HEAT/COOLING SYSTEMS**
An introduction to low-GHG technology to heat and cool your homes/offices. Learn about the incentive programs.
Presenter: Bruce Taylor
- 12:15 – 1:00 **LUNCH (provided)**
Please bring local information you wish to share – materials table provided.



- 1:00 – 1:30 **GREENING MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS**
 50% of emissions in any given locale are directly or indirectly under the influence of the municipal government. Many opportunities exist for municipal councils to reduce GHGs while saving money. Success stories from other jurisdictions across North America will be shared. ***Receive our valuable “Funding Source Guide for Climate Change Projects in Manitoba”.***
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 – 2:00 **CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY FOR DECISION MAKERS**
The Pas is a “Partner for Climate Protection” community through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. As such, policy decisions will play a key role in meeting your GHG reduction commitments. Explore strategies for integrating climate change mitigation and adaptation policy into your community’s decision-making process.
Presenter: Chuck Mrena
- 2:00 – 3:50 **FACILITATED DISCUSSION OF COMMUNITY NEEDS & INTERESTS**
 Facilitator will draw out participants ideas on (1) how to further educate their sectors about climate change impacts and the need for action, (2) what GHG reduction opportunities exist in the North Manitoba 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 and the Prairie Adaptation Research Council (PARC)**



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.

The Connection will work to assist Manitobans to 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.