

PROCEEDINGS from the

**Parkland
Community Workshop
on Climate Change**



**Thursday, October 26, 2004
Westwood Inn, Swan River**

Climate Change. Are you doing your bit?

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I. Notes from Roundtable

Question 1: How 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 the community and am looking to start environmental projects in the community.
- I am worried about the consequences of climate change and the impacts to Manitoba's rural community.
- I am interested in looking into innovative projects and funding.
- I am looking to initiate climate change projects in the community.
- To learn about climate change. I am curious to know what is going to happen with our winter and summer seasons - the usage of salt on the highways and the effects.
- To listen and learn.
- To learn about climate change, the effect to highways and the cost of fuel.
- I am here to learn about possible projects for the local arena.
- I am a local organic producer - we produce certified products. Interested in improving well waters, and am interested in learning the effects of climate change and frost on agricultural land. Climate change is occurring and we have to tackle it and take action now.
- I am here to learn more about the issue of climate change.
- I am here to help prepare for the next Envirothon.
- The students are dedicated to environmental issues and their sophisticated approach to environmental issues is very commendable. The high schools students are very much involved in environment issues, hands on, as well as understanding the issues. At the school, we are very involved in environmental issues. I am looking forward to the Power Smart presentation. At the school, we are expanding into other areas like recycling and our goal is 100 percent environment free.



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

Q. Would it not be better to use the railroads more?

A. Trains are an efficient use of energy, produce less GHGs, and are a great alternative to shipping and personal transportation. A 100-car freight train carries the equivalent of 280 trucks and one passenger train takes 1500 cars off the highways.

➤ *In Thompson, community members would like to take the train to cities and not use their cars; there has been a shift in the organization of railway transport.*

Q. Has the pollution eased now that we are trying to improve?

A. We are continuing to add more and more GHGs every year. The gases that we produce now will persist in the atmosphere for centuries. For example, CO₂ can stay in the atmosphere for up to 120 years.

➤ *Developing countries are still using CFCs.*

- Every month this summer we had frost. There are fires in BC, flooding in the Yukon, and these events are happening more and more. We are being affected. It is happening now!



Workshop resource table – information on GHG emissions and impacts, energy efficiency, alternative energy solutions, municipal funding opportunities, and much more. These resources are available at every community workshop.

III. Climate-Friendly Living Module

Question 1: What information did you find most interesting?

- The effects of climate change to lakes in Manitoba.
- The amount of garbage being dumped.
- The benefits of composting.
- Issues related to icy road conditions.
- Issues dealing with transportation - rail is a cheap way to transport goods, but it needs to be improved. Things have changed from the amount of time customers want their products to be delivered, it's no longer what it used to be, economy has played a big part. Trucking is becoming more efficient.
- Bus services – how rapid transit is effective in urban vs. rural areas.
- The lack of active transportation - walking in communities should be encouraged.
- We all have to start considering lifestyle changes in order to help the environment.
- Before purchasing an item we should decide if we really need it first.
- Are we really serious about attacking on these issues?
- The issue surrounding carbon credits.

Q. Did you do a presentation like this in Winnipeg?

A. *No.*

- *We need to get our priorities right.*
- *We have not had a workshop in Winnipeg because they have already started to take action on these issues, our time would not be well spent.*

Q. What effect does farming have on climate change?

- A. *Agriculture plays a big part in this whole scenario. In Manitoba, agriculture is responsible for 33% of the GHG emissions. The improper use of nitrogen fertilizers produces a greenhouse gas. Agriculture is also a sink for carbon sequestration.*
- *Awareness leads to defensive actions about the issues.*
 - *There are over a hundred farmers in this province, there will be regulations in the future, most things will start to fall into place.*
 - *Best management practices have been brought in, so that farmers can learn about the effects they have, understand environmental issues, and improve their farming practices.*

Q. Are you worried about climate change?

- A. *We have to realize how we live from day to day, look at vehicles on the road, do we really need SUV on the road.*
- *Do we really need to build roads, motor industry makes profit out of it, what happens to these vehicles when they are no longer in operation – they sit in people's backyards.*





Workshop facilitator Chuck Mrena leads participants through a brainstorming session on Climate-Friendly Living.

Question 2: What could you do to reduce your GHG emissions and live a more sustainable lifestyle?

- Personal choices – choose a vehicle for your lifestyle.
- Selecting food – look at where it comes from and how it is produced.
- Eat local and what is in season.
- Lead by example.
- Recycle – improve community recycling.
- Green purchasing
- Gardening
- Support local business.
- Composting – at home and in the community.
- Lifestyle choices – shopping, transportation, daily practices.

Q. Why aren't we asking our government to do more about recycling?

A. *Good Question.*

- *A 2-cent enviro-levy is collected every time you buy a product that can be recycled.*
- *Manitoba recycles more than Saskatchewan.*
- *Manitoba Hydro is looking at a buy back programme, e.g. refrigerators - when you buy a new one, Manitoba Hydro will take the old one.*
- *In Europe, manufactures are responsible for packaging; they make sure that everything is reusable - very little waste.*
- *Paper is easy to recycle, plastic is difficult to recycle.*

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

Q. What is the average reduction?

A. *Power Smart program reduced approx 512,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions.*

Q. Is Manitoba looking at exporting more energy in the future?

A. *Manitoba Hydro is trying to improve the efficiency through our Power Smart program. From this they hope to be able to sell more energy to the United States.*

Q. What do you mean by capital cost?

A. *In most cases there is no wiring costs. Hydro will pick up 90 per cent of new fixture.*

Q. Is T5 compatible with T8?

A. *No.*

Q. Can you buy power cords that save power?

A. *No. There is a power cord with a time delay that can help to save energy.*

Q. Does Power Smart only apply for commercial customers?

A. *Residential customers do not qualify. There are avenues for smaller customers.*



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

Q. How are wells drilled?

A. *Manitoba Hydro has systems in place to guide communities on how to go about getting wells drilled. In Manitoba, if you are going to drill wells, you have to have a permit.*

Q. Does anyone in Manitoba supply Geothermal Systems?

A. *There are approximately 12 installers in Manitoba.*

Q. Do you have to replace existing hot water tanks?

A. *I am not sure, but I believe the answer is no.*



VI. Questions and Comments, “Greening Municipal Operations”

Q. How do you advise other ways of altering waste - burning?

A. Burning garbage is very polluting. Other ways of doing this is to use a huge tank (digester), so that gas is generated. Methane can be reused as a source of energy. Vegetable producers in North Dakota have digesters in place, they are very successful. Toronto, as well, has a digester to reduce waste and it is very successful.



Climate Change Connection Manager, Rachel Van Caesele, identifies municipal greening ideas, opportunities and funding sources for the Parkland community.



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

Q. Why are we switching to ethanol if it takes lots of energy to produce it?

A. The GHG emissions in your personal vehicle are reduced by the use of ethanol blended gasoline. Ethanol blended gasoline is also a good economic opportunity for Manitoba.

Q. How does emission trading work?

A. Countries that produce little amounts of GHGs can sell credits to countries that produce too much GHGs.

Q. Who enforces the Kyoto Protocol?

A. Kyoto is not perfect but it is a good first 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.



Young leaders in the community, Swan Valley Regional Secondary School Envirothon team members, participate in the discussion of community policies, providing valuable input from the youth sector.

VIII. Notes from Facilitated Discussion of Community Needs and Interests

Question 1: Do you think climate change is important to your community and have you seen any impacts from climate change?

- Changes in waste management - before everything went to the dump, now we recycle.
- We have never had wood ticks in Swan River. Now, wood ticks are in the valleys and in our backyards. Winter may not be cold enough to kill them off.
- Evergreens, more and more evergreen have parasites - this is caused by frost, which dehydrates the ground. Less moisture in the soil will cause trees to lose natural remedies to fight parasites.
- More forest fires –this could be caused by a lack of moisture in the soil.
- The trees outside the school have signs of disease.
- Thunderstorms are more frequent.

Question 2: What kind of projects do you think would work here in the Parkland community?

- We have to justify the use of chemicals and toxics in our industries. For instance, what we use to keep the roads safe.
- Communities have to be open to innovation, to reduce the effects of climate change.
- There are more pigs in Manitoba than people - we have to take action.
- Control erosion
- Don't drive - walk.
- Doing very small things will go a long way, encourage people to do the same, recycle.
- There are many opportunities, composting and recycling.
- It's time we look after our backyard.
- Bucks - never use to see them but now I see them migrating.
- We need more funding opportunities for recycling.
- Composting in the community. Composting costs less - good for gardening and good for the environment.

Question 3: What things could work in your community to reduce GHG emissions?

- Recycling, policies for photocopy machines - double sided printing.
- Look at recycling as revenue. Manitoba is not up to recycling like Saskatchewan. This can be an employment opportunities. Create an opportunity for people to be able to remove and create things out of recycling.
- Low cost or no cost activities can and will always help out.



Question 4: Who are the pioneers and leaders of communities?

- Students - they are the ones to take the next step.
- The younger generations have to initiate more of these issues and we can all do more for the environment.
- Leaders have to take responsibility for the issues that matter.
- Aboriginal communities are the stewards in these areas.



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

- 100% recycling - Landfills become recycling depots rather than disposal sites.
- Move away from throw away - send boxes back to the companies.
- More efficient transportation awareness.
- Change in active lifestyle - less reliance on vehicles.
- Tax incentives for energy efficient vehicles.
- Tax penalties for people who drive gas powered vehicles.
- Municipal tax for not recycling.

Group 2

- Everyone in the community would recycle and compost (school).
- Incentive program - community groups receive money for recycling (bottles, cans etc).
- Public transportation: hybrid buses to reduce emissions and cut down the numbers of vehicles on the road.
- Supply rebates to anyone installing energy saving devices.
- Town of Swan River and supporting municipalities offer a refrigerator/freezer buy back program.
- Buy all new hybrid buses for the school division.

Group 3

- All organic waste to use as an energy source.
- Have a bicycle system for all town transport.
- Convert all new buildings to geothermal (mandatory).
- Have a separation system for recycling.
- Centralized, organized shipping system.
- Idle Free Zone.

Group 4

- Vehicle free downtown area.
- Walking Wednesday.
- No-Mow Zones – waterways.
- Enhance Green Spaces.
- Supply Home composts/Blue Boxes.

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

Group 1

- Educate farming communities about the problems of climate change.



- Educate younger students
- Public meetings
- Anti-Idle program
- Christmas light timers (lights sensors)
- Gardening/composting
- Green schools
- Tree planting day

Group 2

- Encourage walking, car pooling, parking fee if you live in close proximity.
- Dumping fee at nuisance ground.
- Recycling stations for paper, plastic, organic, at lunch rooms in school - run by environment teams.
- Add to existing "Idle Free Zones".
- Promote a town wide energy saving week & challenge other communities to do the same.
- Retailers to have specials on energy saving devices.



Break-out group brainstorms ideas to identify no-cost projects that will reduce GHGs in their community.

Group 3

- Add climate change related tasks to the green teams.
- Have envirothon students/EYA students educate younger students.
- Engage/expose the community in the global change game.
- Climate change awards (Industry, individual, etc.).

Group 4

- Community composter with methane for electrical generation for town.



X. Workshop Participants

Barkowski, Henri	Mayor, <i>Town of Minitonas</i>
Bell, Courtney	Student, <i>Swan Valley Regional Secondary School</i>
Clubb, Lindy	Coordinator, <i>Mixedwood Forest Society</i>
Hart, Lawrence	CAO, <i>Town of Swan River</i>
Hardie, Amanda	Student, <i>Swan Valley Regional Secondary School</i>
Holinaty, Mervin	Councillor, <i>RM of Swan River</i>
Janzen, Ed	Highway Superintendent, <i>Dauphin Regional Highway Office</i>
Jeffrey, Glen	Director, <i>MRAC</i>
Peden, Kathleen	Student, <i>Swan Valley Regional Secondary School</i>
Powell, Larry	Owner, <i>Earthkeeper Farm</i>
Rooks, John	<i>Town of Swan River</i>
Schneider, Bill	Mayor, <i>Village of Benito</i>
Watson, Garrett	Student, <i>Swan Valley Regional Secondary School</i>
Wowchuk, Rick	Teacher, <i>Swan Valley Regional Secondary School</i>
Zebinski, Bill	Councillor, <i>Village of Benito</i>
Zenchyshyn, Boris	<i>Town of Swan River</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	4.36
The programme – flow of activities	4.19
Workshop documents	4.39
Location and facilities	3.64
Meals and refreshments	4.14

Comments:

- None

2.0 Presentations	Score
I could hear clearly	4.93
I could see clearly	4.17
Level of comprehension (minimal jargon, explained theories, etc.)	4.57
I could proceed with group work with the information given	4.5

2.1 Basics of Climate Change, <i>Susan Block</i>	Score
Provided me with a basic understanding of CC	4.71
Understand impacts of CC	4.93
Understand link between lifestyle, GHG's and CC	4.57
The presenter was dynamic and informative	4.57

Comments:

- It was very informative and easy to comprehend, even though I didn't know much to begin with.

2.2 Making Your Building Power Smart/Earth Energy Systems, <i>Bruce Taylor</i>	Score
I have ideas on how to reduce business GHG's.	4.3
I feel well informed about earth energy systems.	4.15
I understand how to access the incentive programs	3.69
The presenter was dynamic and informative	4.23

Comments:

- None



2.3 Greening Municipal Operations, Rachel Van Caesele	Score
Understand role of municipalities in CC	4.5
Understand link between reducing GHG's and economic savings	4.28
Ideas for reducing GHG's in my community from case studies	4.43
The presenter was dynamic and informative	4.60

Comments:

- Perhaps being more forward about the seriousness of the problem. i.e. It is happening now.
- Best presenter of the day.
- Rachel made me want to listen. Her voice was very interesting and she made jokes. It mad it easier to listen.

2.4 Climate Change for Decision Makers, Chuck Mrena	Score
Understand what it means to be a PCP Community	4.31
Understand the strategies to integrate CC policy in my community	4.31
The presenter was dynamic and informative	4.39

Comments:

- None

3.0 Facilitated Discussion	Score
Ideas for educating my network about CC and need for action	4.23
Identify GHG reduction opp's in my community	4.31
Additional reduction opp's (funding, networks, etc.)	4.39
Identify steps for an action plan	4.39

Comments:

- Excellent ideas
- It was excellent.

4.0 Feedback

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

- Feedback and ideas from participants.
- Case studies, grant information, examples of applying reform.
- The information and the interaction.
- Better understanding of climate change.
- Learning more about why and how this is happening and how we can slow it down.
- It was all useful, if absolutely necessary I would chose greening Municipal operations.
- Group discussion
- The ideas that came from different presentations that could be implemented at different levels.



- All the facts - made it more real to me.
- Awareness

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

- The Power Smart program was too comprehensive. It was great but maybe just the highlights for this type of day.
- Hydro
- Facilitated discussion
- Breakdown of funding

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

- Direct a workshop exclusively at the agri-food sector.
- More participants - a better venue
- More time on group discussion
- Follow ups

4. *Other comments.*

- Very good dynamic presentations. Wonderful to see high school students here. I'd like to see more material directed towards youth, in addition to community leaders and decision makers.
- It was well presented and had useful content.
- Ideas like symposium at school with partners and facilitators and coming up with corporate people picking projects that will make a difference.
- Have one more open to more people.
- I would like to see all municipal councillors attend plus students.



XII. Acknowledgements

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

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

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 Parkland 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 options 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

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XIII. Workshop Programme

PARKLAND COMMUNITY WORKSHOP on CLIMATE CHANGE

Tuesday, October 26, 2004
Westwood Inn -- 473 Westwood Road
Swan River, Manitoba
Tel: 204-734-4548

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

Swan River 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 Parkland 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.

