

**PROCEEDINGS from the**

**Portage La Prairie and Area  
Community Workshop  
On Climate Change**



**Tuesday, February 3, 2004  
Canad Inns, Portage La Prairie**

**Climate Change. Are you doing *your bit*?**

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# **PROCEEDINGS from the Portage la Prairie and Area Community Workshop on Climate Change**

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## I. Notes from Round Table

**Question 1: What is your interest in climate change?**

**Question 2: What resources are available locally?**

**Question 3: What are some of the questions participants would like answered over the course of the day?**

**Question 4: What is happening in the sector you represent regarding climate change and sustainability?**

- We are part of joint Federal/Provincial project to plant hybrid Poplar trees in order to restore and preserve land that is better suited to forest than for agriculture. Currently, we have 890 participants signed up for a total of 40 hectares of land.
- I want get ideas of what other jurisdictions are doing
- I am here to listen and take back information to the Dept. of Transportation. We are not sure what initiatives are out there as we generally go through other agencies concerning environmental matters e.g. Environmental Impact Assessments.
- The school division uses busses run on compressed natural gas. They travel approximately the distance to Toronto and back in a week. We also have programs underway to upgrade to efficient lighting schemes, cycling power to monitor heating and cooling in our buildings and are currently looking at the prospects for geothermal heating.
- The CDC is interested in looking at agricultural residues as alternative fuels
- The RRR CDFC works with community groups (16 currently) and is looking for information on funding programs.
- The Portage la Prairie CFC has an endowment fund. Some of the conditions have environmental stipulations attached to it and we are looking for information on current projects.
- The Regional Health Authority does not have a lot of information on climate change or the role it could play. We are here to listen and learn regarding North American compliance with Kyoto.
  - There is still a US delegate participating in Kyoto and with hope for “Post-Bush” participation.
- The RM of Macdonald is looking for information on geothermal heating/cooling systems and is currently looking at installing a lagoon filtration system.
- Southport aerospace has implemented some basic programs, such as increasing energy efficiency and are interested in—more information regarding energy efficiency.



- The Portage la Prairie Public Operations Department runs several programs such as, recycling, yard based collection, composting and is interested in issues surrounding the release of methane gas.
- The RM of Gladstone is looking for information concerning energy efficiency. It is involved in the MB Municipal Efficiencies to change over its lighting scheme.
- We are considering geothermal and wind turbine power for rural areas.
- We have undergone a large expansion and have begun using new ways of treating water such as, using gravity vs. motors. We are also looking at the specialized pre-treatment of water and improving lighting efficiency. My primary interest is in the quantity and quality of waters in rivers and what we can do to save it.
- Information is important efficiency must come if we are to survive.
- Southport participates in a blue box recycling program and has anti-idling signs in front of one of our restaurants.
  - There are currently 175 idle free zones across MB.
- One of our buildings has gone geothermal, but it remains to be seen how it stands up to MB winters.
- I am primarily here for information.
- I have worked for the RM of St. Ambrose for 25 years and I'm skeptical, but I'm here to listen and ask questions.
- I'm here for geothermal information. We do have new graders (road machines) that are fuel-efficient.
- I'm here to gather information for science teachers at the Scholl where I teach.
- I'm here to listen, learn and pass on information.
- Here to learn.
- The school has started a recycling program and we participate in an enviro-thon. We found that it has been a good event.
- I'm a Green Team program member and I'm here to learn about ecosystems.
- I've grown up on a farm and have always been interested in environmental issues.
- Association of MB Municipalities is part of a pilot project, which has just achieved approval for energy audit program.



***Left and right: Information on emissions and impacts, energy efficiency, alternative energy solutions, municipal funding opportunities -- and much more -- is available at every community workshop.***

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

### **Q. Have there been any studies conducted on the efficiency of heating a garage?**

A. *If you were going to heat your garage insulating would be the most efficient means of conserving energy. If your garage is attached, the roof and wall adjoining the house should be insulated to prevent heat loss. This will also reduce the amount of time you need to plug in your car.*

### **Q. Is diesel more harmful than gasoline?**

A. *A diesel vehicle produces less carbon dioxide out of the tailpipe than a gas vehicle. However, it produces more sulfur, which creates smog and disperses dust that has been found as far away as the Antarctic. Per unit of fuel, you may get farther, but it is important that the agricultural industry takes action on fuel efficiency.*

- *It’s hard to believe that synthetic products like CFC’s are much more detrimental than carbon dioxide. Not all developments are good developments.*
- *Bio-diesel, or creating fuel out of agricultural residue can be made out of wild mustard seed and canola, but the best results have come from yellow kitchen grease (i.e. from restaurants). It has proved to be the most efficient and saves on emissions.*
- *I’m surprised to learn that the greenhouse effect is a good thing, but the enhanced greenhouse effect is detrimental. It’s the extra GHGs that are hurting us.*
  - *Heating contributed to a lot of greenhouse gas emissions!*
  - *I’m surprised about contribution of homes to greenhouse effect.*
  - *Programmable thermostat ramp up is not an issue because you end up with savings. Hydro monitors individual homes randomly to determine what a homes average energy consumption is. It was found that by reducing the average thermostat by 3 degrees results in big savings. We are strongly lobbying for R-2000 design standards and construction, such as using tri-pane windows. It will save the homeowner in the long run and help to balance out upfront costs.*



*Portage La Prairie workshop participants take notes during the “Basics of Climate Change” presentation.*

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### III. Notes from Brainstorming Session on Climate-Friendly Living

#### **Question 1: Where do emissions in your community come from?**

- Hockey transportation emissions are huge. The ways in which games are scheduled in relation to their location in rural areas is a big contributor to emissions.
  - Travel arrangements and scheduling of hockey games could be improved to minimize driving.
- Vehicle emissions -- I think it's a lot harder to carpool in rural farm communities. Everyone tends to live farther away from amenities and each other, which means they probably drive alone most of the time. Although, new cars are more fuel efficient than they used to be.
  - SUV's are ridiculous. They are an environmental disaster.
  - It is important to choose an appropriate vehicle. Car culture sucks you in with it advertising.
  - Some vehicles are too big and inefficient.
  - Small vehicles won't cut it on rural roads and that's a fact

#### **Question 2: What are the small steps to begin working on immediately (lifestyle changes for a climate friendly community)?**

##### **Q. Will composting attract rats and rodents etc.?**

- They do have closed composting containers, such as those made out of old olive barrels. They can be sealed and you just have to turn them over from time to time.
- Portage la Prairie has a composting program and we hope to divert more kitchen waste. The bins sell for \$25 per barrel.
- It's possible that a garborator will solve that problem to make the initial mass of your waste more manageable.
- Garborators use an excessive amount of water and energy.
- We should get those reduce your idling emissions signs.
- I think bike paths around the city would be a great way to facilitate low impact travel.
- We should downsize the number of vehicles per household; however, two people usually work in different places or areas, which makes it harder to get around.
- There are some transit options to get to the mall and some other main areas, but they are very limited.
- City planning is poor. Cities are built backwards, everything is built around a hub and they cram everything into them. We need a big area in terms of taxes. If we had uniform taxes we would have more money to implement proper development and planning initiatives. We should develop along lines of a spoke wheel. Compact use packs people into one area and concentrates emissions in the area and causes problems with city infrastructure, such as piping used for water. This type of development contributes to compacting, congesting and wearing out of infrastructure.



- Compact urban land use will help reduce emission as it minimizes the need travel with vehicles.
- I have an issue with government funding of energy efficiency initiatives. As your energy efficiency improves at home or as a business, the property value is reassessed and taxes increase. There is no savings benefit. The government doesn't take steps to make people want to become energy efficient. I want to know if the government can give us a tax incentive?
  - Houses are second largest emitters of greenhouse gases. There is a need for green taxes, or shifting taxes that allow for some kind of credit or incentive benefit to be transferred to homeowners.
  - Manitoba Hydro provides funding for energy efficient improvements to your home. A home energy audit from MB hydro runs at about \$70 and we recommend the types of changes the homeowner should consider. After the improvements have been completed you will receive a cash rebate for the upgrades.
- Car-pooling is a great way to start. When daughter was in high school she got handi-van to pick her up for school.
- There is a need to give tax credits for increased efficiency in homes, not increasing taxes.



*Workshop facilitator Jim Rennie leads participants through the Brainstorming Session on Climate-Friendly Living. One of Climate Change Connection's highly reflective "Idle-Free Zone" street signs glows in the background.*

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

- I know of a school in Gimli that under went a whole change in its lighting scheme. The staff and teachers noticed effect on student’s mood. I have read a study on lighting and its effects on mood disorders. Changes in lighting schemes have proven to be beneficial.
- Hydro wants people to retrieve their costs in a 3-5 year time frame.

**Q. What if you have a commercial lighting scheme that does not use standard 100-watt bulbs?**

A. *You can replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents. These offer a 14% reduction in energy use. To change over we have one and two-piece adaptors that unscrew and can be integrated into existing system. A 13-watt compact fluorescent is comparable to 60-watt bulb, while an 18-watt fluorescent is equivalent to 100-watt bulb.*

**Q. What’s the difference between low and high-pressure sodium bulbs?**

A. *Low-pressure sodium bulbs are more efficient than high-pressure sodium bulbs. They aren’t used often because people don’t like colour.*

**Q. Shouldn’t we be concerned about human health concerning multi-spectrum lighting?**

A. *Compact fluorescent are safer and address human health concerns.*

- I know that Manitoba Hydro sponsors Island of Lights, which is double standard. They want us to conserve energy, but waste a lot of energy keeping the area lit up throughout the Christmas season.
  - There are new Christmas lights, which are based on energy efficient technology. Hydro bills generally increase with extra lights, especially when using inefficient light bulbs. LED rope lighting is available for Christmas lights. Hydro uses it for the Island of Lights and it is very efficient. Using a Christmas light timer at this time of year will automatically shut off lights at a pre set time. This helps conserve energy rather than letting them stay on all night long.

**Q. Are there any incentives or funding available for geothermal heat pumps?**

A. *In the case of heat pumps, or any custom incentives, Hydro will conduct a feasibility study to determine what kind of improvements and upgrades will be best suited to your needs. I believe the study costs roughly \$70 and we look at past energy use throughout the year, geographic location and physical characteristics of the ground, and home itself i.e. insulation, glass etc. We try to ensure that you get the best bang for your buck will pay up to 50% of the first \$5,000 based on findings of feasibility studies.*





**Q. Roughly how much does a geothermal system cost?**

A. *Geothermal heat pump systems cost approximately \$15,000.*

**Q. Are the associated costs transferable to regular heating systems?**

A. *Costs associated with larger buildings such as factories are somewhat proportionate, but depend on other factors, such as building design. In essence the costs are not perfectly transferable.*

- Rate increases are positive force people to go to hardware store and implement energy efficient technologies.
- In Europe and other places there are a lot of costs associated with water use. I was at a symposium on irrigation in California and heard an individual who paid over \$120, 000 per year.
- The City of Winnipeg has a new subdivision that is being built based on climate friendly technology -- using geothermal heat etc.
  - Studies in Ontario have shown that one of the effects of using geothermal heat pumps has been a slight forcing down of frost levels in the immediate area.
  - In many homes it is cheaper and more cost effective to replace existing furnaces with high efficiency varieties rather than installing a geo-thermal pump. Homeowners live on the bottom line, meaning that they generally employ the most cost effective means.
- Manitoba has a lot of surplus energy that sells for 5 cents per kilowatt in MB and 8 cents per kilowatt in the US. The 3 cent return should be re-invested into further incentive programs and promote greater energy conservation.

**Q. What are the differences between types of geothermal heating pumps?**

A. *There are many different variations geothermal heating pumps, such as vertical, horizontal, open and closed system types. The two most commonly used are closed and open loop systems. The closed loop system is preferable in case of drought or low water levels as it maintains its own supply. The Open loop system is more prone to accumulating mineral deposits. Additionally, the closed loop system is essentially self sufficient as its energy and water requirements are known. Open loop systems requirements may fluctuate depending on environmental circumstances i.e. low water supply.*

**Q. Why do you need a feasibility study?**

A. *A feasibility study determines the cost-benefit analysis of the potential improvements to your building, or home.*

**Q. Has anyone had a feasibility study conducted and been turned down?**

A. *Yes, because the payback period was 10 years. Hydro likes to work within a 3-5 year time frame, which the investment pays itself off. If the improvement in longer than the 3-5 years, or if the equipment costs didn't balance out then a proposal is likely to be rejected.*

- Heat pumps are good for old homes like those in Winnipeg's Wolsely area. Installing a heating pump requires less renovation and allows you to maintain the character of these old houses.



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## V. Questions and Comments, “Greening Municipal Operations”

- Not many participants have attempted to apply for FCM environmental funding.
- FCM environmental programs have been under-funded in Manitoba and Nova Scotia. This has been recognized by the program administrators. It would be a good time to apply!

### **Q. Who else is eligible for these green funds?**

*A. Green funds are not exclusively for the municipality -- but individuals, or businesses wanting to apply for them must be partnered with the municipality in order to receive funding.*



*Workshop scribe Mike Foth records comments and questions from participants and staff throughout the course of the day.*

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## VI. Notes from Facilitated Discussion of Community Needs and Interests

### **Question 1: Is climate change an important issue for Portage La Prairie?**

- Yes!
- I'm not sure of my interest in terms of climate change, but incidental economic savings/benefits are good.
- We need to make a downward adjustment for crop yields. An approximate 20% decline in crop yields expected with change in climate/weather patterns.
  - I don't agree, last year's temperature, climate and moisture provided Portage la Prairie with record yields!
  - Was increased irrigation associated with increased, higher than average crop yields?
  - No, it was the drier climate that allowed crops to experience better yields. There are high rates of disease associated with moist growing seasons. A drier actually climate results in less instances of disease.
  - But increased dry spells may result in an increased amount of Grasshoppers. Instead of two cycles of grasshoppers, we might experience three or four.
- It is important to realize that before you attack the global problem we need to try to address local, small-scale actions that provide immediate returns.

### **Q. Are climate change scenarios – predictions -- accurate?**

A. *Climate change modeling backtracks throughout historical records, information drawn from ice core and sediment samples in order to make comparisons with current climatic records. It allows for what are deemed accurate predictions up until 2099. Canadian models are considered to be some of the best because they take into account socio-economic variables.*

### **Question 2: What is your response to GHG reduction strategies?**

- I think any step is in the right direction; it only makes sense we can't just see things in terms of only economic benefits.
- It's all about return on investment. It's smart business from a capital investment perspective. However, there are only a few people that can produce the money up front to invest into some of these programs and cover the initial costs.

### **Question 3: Are people your age more environmentally sensitive than the older generation? (Addressed to youth sector representatives in attendance).**

- It's just that we have a different perspective. Parents are set in their ways, we are taught the importance of the environment in school.
- Some part of every age group seems not to care. There is always a lot of garbage being thrown around by kids and adults.
- Corporations don't come here to lose money, but to make money and they end up providing a large number of jobs for people





*Students from Portage Collegiate participate in the discussion of community needs, providing valuable input from the youth sector.*

- The Rural Council is willing to make that investment, for example, there is no more black summer fallow.
- Environmental sensitivity is associated with people's work and lifestyles. If you view environmental issues from a completely work related perspective you never begin to recognize a problem
- We should solve source point pollution, because everybody is really downstream from everybody else.
- The RM of Roblin installed a solar aquatic filtration system. There were fears that it would smell, but it has been so successful that it's been turned into a park.
- The reality is that small dedicated groups tend to be more successful in achieving their goals than larger bodies.
- Changing people's sensitivities to the environment will take a complete adjustment in their attitudes. For example, transportation is a key element, using rail produces less than 10% of the emissions given of by trucks.
- It will take strong action with tax incentives and disincentives like Mayor Murray's garbage and gas taxes for the City of Winnipeg.
- There should be more spot checks for vehicle emissions monitoring.
- The MB Lung Association would like the MB government to impose restrictions on coal burning and use biomass fuels as an alternative.
- We need a change in our attitudes and education for long-term benefits, but short-term economic benefits should also be feasible.
- Public transit may not be feasible with the spread out type of rural development.
- Hydro has a mass transit school bus system for their employees to get them to work.
  - So does the Campbell Mushroom factory.
- We have become impatient with increased access to information like the Internet. Before if you needed to get some information you might have to put in a request and wait until the following week to get an answer. This mentality has to change.

- The reality is that everybody means well, but it is very overwhelming and very complicated. Some Municipalities only have one employee, we need to continue to streamline and simplify the grants and funding process to make it more accessible to everyone.
  - It is not very well integrated, some municipalities have full time staff working on these applications and projects and they are still confused.
  - What we need is a greater level of technical assistance, but in many instances success stories have been the result of a very strong and dedicated base group.
  - Volunteer action is also very important to the success of these initiatives.
- What worries me is how do we evaluate success. There is no real measure for success in the short-term. Many of these ideas and initiatives are based on the long-term.



*Representatives from the RM of Portage La Prairie contribute their thoughts to the roundtable discussion.*

**Question 4: What would be a successful strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for Portage La Prairie?**

- Water is important, I worry a lot over the quality in the Assiniboine River.
- Conserving water in the summer, such as a ban on watering lawns and crop irrigation during the day when you lose a large proportion of it to evaporation. It does the ground no good.
- Composting from city landfills strictly for city use.
- We should restructure the city work crews and get them using environmentally friendly vehicles when conducting low impact work that does not require heavy equipment or bigger trucks.

**Question 5: If we are going to take action, who takes on leadership roles in Portage La Prairie?**

- We must form a committee and appoint a spokesperson for that committee. Otherwise you'll get an information clog with too many trying to make decisions, or working at cross-purposes.
- Community consultation has become an effective tool in Portage La Prairie on a variety of issues. We should facilitate an environmental forum.
- We could think on a small scale, neighborhood level, where we work on implementing programs at home or at school. For example, using rechargeable lawnmowers.
- The first step is becoming a role model for the community. We need to start small and then grow bigger.
- My issue is the transportation of farm chemicals. Transport drivers pass Portage La Prairie to drop off their cargo in Winnipeg, then they turn around and come back to make their deliveries here. This makes absolutely no sense. We need to start reorganizing some of the transportation schedules to increase efficiency and conserve fuel expenditures
- There is never any snow at the Portage La Prairie pipeline compressor station. The exhaust fan is powered by 747 jet engines. The heat loss is huge and none of the energy is re-captured, maybe the city could use it for something.
  - The local municipality must apply as a corporate entity to be able to implement any plans to recover any of the lost energy for any other purposes.



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## VII. Break out Group Work

**Question 1: When you imagine Portage La Prairie as a climate friendly community in the future, what would it be like? How would you hope to be able to describe it to potential residents?**

### Group 1

- Walking/Bike paths to get around anywhere
- Effective transit system
- Recycling/composting program
- Operations – retrofitting buildings, electrical, machinery and heating systems
- Water treatment
- Green-space/tree planting
- Green “building” tax incentives



### Group 2

- Green
- Paved bike paths connecting city
- Outdoor/indoor recreational facilities
- Maintain family farm community
- Planting trees
- Organic oriented farm and, fertilizers etc.
- Water quality and quantity management
- Public education initiatives
- Idle signs
- Battery operated vehicles
- Elimination of fossil fuels
- Self-sustainable water sources

### Group 3

- More green space – natural park setting – beautification program
- Safe, secure, sustainable water supply
- Accessibility to information regarding any community issues i.e. environment, blue box program and water condition
- Sustainable agriculture i.e. drip irrigation, municipal watering of parks etc.

### Group 4

- Availability of a good quality of water – river water as well as ground water
- Continue with tree planting and green space development
- Consistent education to everyone involved in a municipality/community in order to maintain knowledge and awareness of climate and/or its changes
- Clean, comfortable, peaceful



- Maintain progressiveness to keep jobs for generations to come
- Provide more public transportation (safe and reliable)



#### Group 5

- Clean
- Vibrant
- Prosperous
- Green space and park-like
- Friendly
- 100% recycling
- Fields of golden opportunity
- Looking to the future
- Spirit of co-operation
- Clear vision of prosperous future
- Wildlife, animal friendly, deer pens and more delta

#### Group 6

- More sidewalks and bike trails
- Ban daytime watering – use rain gauges
- Enhanced green-space
- Water conservation
- Incentive for water efficient shower heads, toilets
- Beautification – green space
- Garbage recycling
- Composting of organics – leaves, grass
- Include recycling, composting, bike trails, walking pathways – green “sunglasses” (as marketing tool) for all residents

**Question Two: What actions could you and your neighbors begin taking now to create this climate-friendly Portage La Prairie? What are “no cost/low cost, or low hanging fruit?” Short term and long term plans?**

#### Group 1

- Restriction watering lawns (only between 6-9pm)
- Sand points (not sure what was meant here?)
- Power-smart initiatives
- Walking school bus
- Carpooling
- Cleaning paths during winter
- Encourage idle free zones –encourage city workers, school buses to shut off vehicles when not in use
- Banning semi traffic through downtown
- Encourage greenhouse tax incentives
- Assess tax penalties for non-conformance





## Group 2

### Short Term

- Form a committee to promote public awareness
- Involving corporations
- Idle signs
- Plant trees

### Long Term

- Geothermal heating



*A representative from Group 6 reports back to the rest of the workshop participants.*

## Group 3

### Green space

- Groups to clean up areas i.e. school groups etc.
- Lobby council to keep green space in tact

### Water purity

- House hold decisions on cleaning products, waste eater management
- A guaranteed standard on water for all communities

### Conservation of water

- Irrigation of lawns,
- Showerheads and low flush toilets etc.
- Education, public knowledge, water retention plans

## Group 4

### Short-Term

- Implement water saving devices for toilets and showers etc.
- Environment friendly chemicals
- Save stabilizers and developers for small business
- Plant trees in community
- Distribute garbage cans to convenient locations in Portage (drive-thru)

### Long-Term

- Reduce the use of harmful chemicals
- Legislated buffer for waterways



- Follow up in short-term projects – keep the commitment throughout town changes
- Use tax incentives to encourage residents to use environmentally friendly procedures (i.e. geothermal)
- Policing of waterways

#### Group 5

- Buy extra recycling bins
- Plant trees (long term) – commemorative tree (every year for whatever justifies a good reasons – does not have to be done all in on shot, but worked on over time)
- Clean up day, Arbor Day
- PPP – Private Public Partnerships – business and government partnerships
- Biking Paths
- Skating path along Crescent Lake
- Green space preservation



*A participant from the youth sector presents her group's ideas.*

#### Group 6

##### Short-Term

- Make it easy for every citizen to recycle
- Recycling depots at the dump for rural residents
- Provide recycling boxes for free
- Spring-cleaning neighborhood parties
- Anti-idle Programs: City and RM partnerships to provide community with “idle-free” zones
- Give out free tire pressure gauges with advertising on them to promote properly pressurized tire to conserve energy
- Further education: brochures for schools and general public
- Water conservation incentives for sustainable agricultural practices

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## VIII. Check Out Roundtable

- My jaw is dropping -- this was a good conference and I have a lot to take back to school.
- It gave me a lot to think about.
- The main thing I've taken from this workshop is to see what our generation has to go through to clean up all the mistakes.
- I was really informed about learning how to save energy. The Portage CFDC has some money to take on a few small projects.
- I thought it was a great presentation. There was a lot of information. I would like to go home and become a role model and start taking baby steps.
- It's going to take real community involvement in order to create any kind of change.
- I will be buying compact fluorescents on the way home!
- I saw this guy's house last summer and he was disconnected from the power grid. He used straw bales to insulate his home and generated his own power. He was completely self-sufficient.
- I would like to get some lobbying to the provincial and federal governments so that they could provide better incentives for installing geothermal heating systems
- Hydro was a tremendous resource in changing over my home. It is an impartial body that provides a lot of information for our benefit
- We should focus on the most flexible people in society. I think it's really important that the students showed up.
- Climate change is an important topic and we must do things in a sustainable fashion.
- We need to understand that these things take time to develop and that we are just starting out.



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## IX. Workshop Participants

Adamson, Robert	Economic Development Officer, <i>Town of Gladstone</i>
Alford, William	Councillor, <i>RM of Portage La Prairie</i>
Barley, Jason	Project Coordinator, <i>Southport Aerospace Centre Inc.</i>
Blair, Louise	CAO, <i>Town of Gladstone</i>
Braden, Karen	Executive Director, <i>Community Foundation for Portage and District</i>
Bradon, Kelly	Director of Operations, <i>City of Portage La Prairie</i>
Cabak, Shawn	Representative, <i>MB Agriculture and Food (PM)</i>
Campbell, Doug	Manager, <i>Portage La Prairie Water Treatment Plant</i>
Cibula, Ralph	Board Member, <i>RHA – Central Region</i>
Davidson, Raymond	Councillor, <i>RM of Portage La Prairie</i>
Durcharme, Wallace	Councillor, <i>RM of Portage La Prairie</i>
Faurschou, David	MLA, <i>Portage La Prairie Constituency</i>
Galbraith, Katlyn	Student, <i>Arthur Meighen High School</i>
Goodall–George, Ian	CEO, <i>Triple R CFDC</i>
Kirouac, Roger	Councillor, <i>RM of Macdonald</i>
Kitching, Chris	Freelance Writer
Hince, Maurice	Economic Development Officer, <i>Village of St. Claude</i>
Klassen, Darlene	Student, <i>Arthur Meighen High School</i>
Knight, Jim	Reeve, <i>RM of Portage La Prairie</i>
Marginet, David	Councillor, <i>RM of South Norfolk</i>
Martin, Terry	Councillor, <i>RM of Portage La Prairie</i>
Morrison, Charles	Operations Trustee, <i>Portage La Prairie School Division</i>
Morse, Robert	Councillor, <i>RM of Macdonald</i>
Masi, Joe	Executive Director, <i>Association of Manitoba Municipalities</i>
Mauss, Brenna	Student, <i>Portage La Prairie Collegiate</i>
Muirhead, Ryan	Geography Teacher, <i>Arthur Meighen High School</i>
Nelisan, Devin	Student, <i>Portage La Prairie Collegiate</i>
Neill, Mike	Representative, <i>MB Transportation</i>
Pauch, Winnie	North Area Leader, <i>RHA – Central Region (PM)</i>
Popoff, Lawrence	Geography Teacher, <i>Portage La Prairie Collegiate (PM)</i>
Rennie, Jim	Workshop Facilitator; MB Regional Coordinator, <i>Community Foundations of Canada</i>
Schneider, Larry	Representative, <i>MB Transportation</i>
Shackleton, Trevor	Representative, <i>Portage La Prairie School Division</i>
Williams, Owen	Councillor, <i>RM of Portage La Prairie</i>
Yurkiw, Dayna	Student, <i>Portage La Prairie Collegiate</i>

## X. Community Workshop Evaluation Summary

### **NOTE:**

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

<b>1.0 Organization and Design</b>	<b>Score</b>
Overall quality	4.16
The programme – flow of activities	4.06
Workshop documents	4.32
Location and facilities	4.06
Meals and refreshments	3.97

### **Comments:**

- No copies of presentation given.
- Maybe larger facilities where everyone can see clearly.
- More presentation on the effects of global warming, not just Mabitoba-specific.
- Poor sound quality and meals were sub-par (breakfast was horrible).
- I thought it moved well from one topic to the next.
- I think more stretching, less sitting would have been nice but you only had one day, so good job.

<b>2.0 Presentations</b>	<b>Score</b>
I could hear clearly	4.49
I could see clearly	4.13
Level of comprehension (minimal jargon, explained theories, etc.)	4.45
I could proceed with group work with the information given	4.40

<b>2.1 Basics of Climate Change, Rachel Van Caesele</b>	<b>Score</b>
Provided me with a basic understanding of CC	4.37
Understand impacts of CC	4.23
Understand link between lifestyle, GHG’s and CC	4.20
The presenter was dynamic and informative	4.50

### **Comments:**

- All very energetic and easy to listen to.
- Excellent.
- Excellent.

<b>2.2 Making Your Building Power Smart/Earth Energy Systems, Tony Pimentel</b>	<b>Score</b>
I have ideas on how to reduce business GHG’s.	4.36
I feel well informed about earth energy systems.	4.07
I understand how to access the incentive programs	3.54



The presenter was dynamic and informative	4.21
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**Comments:**

- Was not as informed about some information as he could have been – I’ll go to the website.
- Well done, lots of information.
- The Hydro presentation was confusing, was not always sure what he was talking about.
- I thought there was too much time spent on all of the incentives because when he was done they were forgotten or confused.
- Presenter rushed – more geothermal information required.
- More info for individuals, rather than big business.
- Bit rushed.
- I felt that Tony rushed through his presentation and didn’t have adequate time to discuss presentations.

<b>2.3 Greening Municipal Operations, Jennifer Duggan</b>	<b>Score</b>
Understand role of municipalities in CC	3.95
Understand link between reducing GHG’s and economic savings	4.08
Ideas for reducing GHG’s in my community from case studies	4.05
The presenter was dynamic and informative	4.27

**Comments:**

- Need more time. Missed ideas from other communities. I’ll check materials for info.
- Great.
- Need more in-depth info about how and what the case studies did to achieve success.

<b>3.0 Facilitated discussion</b>	<b>Score</b>
Ideas for educating my network about CC and need for action	4.10
Identify GHG reduction opp’s in my community	4.17
Additional reduction opp’s (funding, networks, etc.)	4.10
Identify steps for an action plan	4.07

**Comments:**

- Good participation by everyone.
- Some good feedback, too large a group – can be intimidating for some to speak.

**4.0 Feedback**

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

- Information.
- Sharing circle, Hydro information on geothermal.
- Case studies on reducing GHGs, incentive programs by Hydro.



- Facilitated discussion.
- Basics of Climate Change.
- The facts!
- Discussion groups on values for community.
- General education – GHG formation.
- The specific facts and information were a real eye opener and incentive to take action.
- Good information.
- All the discussion that took place – it was good to hear all the different perspectives.
- For me, Manitoba Hydro info on geothermal, etc., even though it was squeezed for time.
- The information about the greenhouse effect.
- I found it very informative.
- The discussions in large groups.
- Hearing other groups.
- For me, it was the presentations over the first half of the workshop.
- Ways to reduce GHGs immediately!
- The first presentation about GHG and what causes climate change.
- The group discussion – working together with a small group of people towards something huge.
- Discussion.
- Exchange of information.
- Get you started in doing something.

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

- All was good.
- Overview could have had more scientific information to actually tell us why we should “go green”.
- It was all good.
- The individual group work.
- Discussion circle.
- Which communities have spent money on energy efficiency plans – no concrete details.
- The incentive programs by Manitoba Hydro.
- N/A
- The Power Smart presentation and about businesses.
- The case studies portion.
- Repeatedly going over concerns without changing attitudes.
- N/A
- Lunch.



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

- Very good already.
- Good format.
- Presentation of model – water, vegetation, air quality – historic and projected.
- Central location in city – we all drove.
- No comments here.
- Bring in a professional on GHG emissions.
- More time to explore options (Power Smart time was a little short).
- N/A
- A little more action/movement.
- N/A
- Allow sufficient time for presentations, keep the group focused and on topic.
- Only continue efforts because they are for a great cause.

4. *Other comments.*

- Very informative and useful workshop.
- I was impressed by the number/diverse/well informed individuals that attended and good organizational skills by the Climate Connection personnel.
- No comments.
- What is being done to educate high energy-consuming industry?
- Excellent moderator.
- Overall, I learned a lot and that was why I signed up for this workshop.
- More focus on practical solutions to reduce GHGs, especially on a municipal level. More info about solar and wind energy alternatives.
- We need more government incentives.
- N/A
- It was good. Learned a lot. Thanks.





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## XI. Acknowledgements

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

**Jim Rennie**, our workshop facilitator. Instead of accepting payment for his excellent skills leading participants through thoughtful group discussions and productive break out work, Jim donated his earnings to the Carman Area Foundation Inc. for their new recycling program.

**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 Virden.

*All presentations are provided in PDF format for download under Manitobans and Climate Change on [www.climatechangeconnection.org](http://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](mailto:climate.connection@mts.net) or (204) 943-4836.*

*The workshop programme follows.*

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## XII. Workshop Programme

### **PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE & AREA COMMUNITY WORKSHOP PROGRAMME**

Tuesday, February 4, 2004

Canad Inns

*Continental breakfast is provided.*

#### **9:00 – 9:15 WELCOME from Climate Change Connection**

1. Explanation of logistics of programme. Pointing out of scribe and how to order follow-up proceedings.

*- Jennifer Duggan, Manager*

2. Who is Climate Change Connection? Brief description of mandate, information tools and services, & funding partners.

*Presenter: Rachel Van Caesele, PEO Coordinator*

#### **9:15 – 10:00 ROUNDTABLE**

Allows everyone present to identify themselves and share:

1. Their interest in climate change
2. A question they want an answer to over the course of the day
3. Identify resources available locally
4. Share activities from within the sector they are representing.

#### **10:00 – 10:30 PUBLIC EDUCATION MODULE: Part One**

BASICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE- What is climate change? What are the greenhouse gases (GHGs)? The enhanced greenhouse effect? How are human activities involved? What are the potential impacts? Where does Canada fit in internationally?

*Presenter: Rachel Van Caesele*

#### **10:30 – 10:45 BREAK**

#### **10:45 – 11:15 PUBLIC EDUCATION MODULE: Part Two**

CLIMATE-FRIENDLY LIVING- How can we take action and live a more climate-friendly lifestyle? Discussion of Climate Champion Pledge.

Brainstorming session with participants.

*Presenter: Rachel Van Caesele*

#### **11:15 – 12:15 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. Learn how you can save money plus make an important savings on your "carbon budget".

*Presenter: Tony Pimemtel, Energy Services Coordinator*

#### **12:15 – 12:30 EARTH ENERGY HEAT/COOLING SYSTEMS**



Gain an introduction to a low-GHG technology to heat and cool your homes/offices. Learn about the incentive programs.

*Presenter: Tony Pimentel*

**12:30 – 1:30 LUNCH (provided), displays and informal networking**

Please bring local information you wish to share.

**1:30 – 2:15 GREENING MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS**

Up to 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 and provide their residents with cleaner air and healthier communities, while saving money! Success stories from other jurisdictions across North America will be shared. *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: Jennifer Duggan*

**2:15 – 4:20 FACILITATED DISCUSSION OF COMMUNITY NEEDS & INTERESTS**

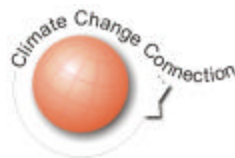
Facilitator will draw out participants' ideas on:

1. How to further educate their sectors and neighbours about climate change and the need for action,
2. What GHG reduction opportunities exist in Portage and area,
3. What the community would need/want in order to participate in outside-supported programs, or to generate locally-led programs
4. Envisioning what a climate-friendly sustainable Portage area would look like.

**3:00 – 3:15 BREAK & filling out of evaluation and request forms.**

Break-out groups for flip charting responses and feedback into larger session. Action planning for next steps. Final summary comments.

**4:20 – 4:30 THANK YOU from Climate Change Connection & 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.**