

PROCEEDINGS from the

**Thompson and Area
Community Workshop
On Climate Change**



Thursday, April 17, 2003
Mary Fenske Boardroom, Thompson

Climate Change. Are you doing *your bit*?

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I. Notes from Roundtable

Question 1: What kind of people are interested in Climate Change?

- Manitoba Hydro
- City Councillors
- INCO Thompson (mining)
- First Nations
- Manitoba Municipalities
- Community Councils
- Manitoba Conservation
- Tolko Industries (forestry)
- Educators
- NorMan Regional Development Corporation
- Resource Management Board

Question 2: What questions and concerns does this community have regarding Climate Change?

- How can Thompson address the Federal and Provincial plans for greenhouse gas reductions?
- What are the best practices for individual greenhouse gas reductions?
- What are the worst sectors for emissions? Where are the greenhouse gases coming from in Northern Manitoba?
- The mining industry is responsible for 2% of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions-- what carbon streamlining options exist for this sector?
- How will climate change affect tourism in Northern Manitoba? We have a thriving tourist industry that is dependant on natural resources.
- Where does information on Climate Change fit into the education system? When should we start exposing children to this information and how?
- How will First Nations communities be impacted?
- How will the boreal forest be impacted?
- How can our most important industries – mining and forestry – co-exist with action against climate change?
- Is this really a northern issue? I don't think we are responsible for greenhouse gas emissions as much as southern communities.

- Where can we find funding for greenhouse gas reduction projects?
- What are other Northern communities doing to reduce emissions?



Representatives from the Keewatin Tribal Council and Tolko Industries listen to roundtable discussions.

II. Notes from Facilitated Discussion of Community Needs and Interests

Question 1: What does Thompson need to address Climate Change?

- Public education – we need to educate people about the issue
- Attitude change – we think this isn't our problem!
- Eco-incentives for good consumer choices
- Levies on environmentally poor choices to build an EcoFund
- Home energy assessments

CCC Comment:

Home energy audits are available through Manitoba Hydro for a cost of approximately \$75. This includes a "Blow-test" to outside doors to assess the amount of air flow (and therefore lack of weather resistance) around the door.

- Incentive loans for home renovations
- More reuse operations like "Pic-a-Pop"*
- Get more people recycling – only 30% of Thompson is recycling
- Community composting
- Methane collection from landfills

* Pic-a-Pop is a beverage retailer that reused its glass bottles. Customers choose from a wide selection of pop, usually filling up a Pic-a-Pop customer tray for easier handling and transport. When customers finish the pop, they return the bottles to Pic-a-Pop at the retail outlet for reuse, and refill their tray.

- Access to economical, fuel-efficient vehicles
- Access to energy efficient home appliances
- Industrial and Municipal fleet vehicles that are more efficient, less polluting
- A community anaerobic digester
- Appliance/technology exchange days with local retailers – rewards or discounts on next purchase when old fridge/lawn mower/range brought in
- IMPROVE TRANSIT SERVICE

CCC Comment:

One area that participants strongly felt should be explored further is Thompson’s public transit system. Because of the very cold winters, active transport is not necessarily a viable option for many city residents who wish to do their bit for climate change. As such, the role of public transit in helping Thompson reduce transportation sector greenhouse gas emissions takes on much greater importance than it might in other communities with less harsh winter conditions.

Question 2: What can be done to improve transit service?

- Upgrade buses to more efficient or alternative-fuel models (ex. hydrogen fuel cell)
- Scheduling – buses need to run more frequently
- Smaller buses might offset costs of an increase in route frequency
- Buses need to be more reliable. They aren’t very punctual, which is particularly inconvenient in wintertime
- Increase ridership
- Weekend and summer schedules need to be reviewed. They do not reflect the actual riding needs of customers. Lots of people work weekends and summers!
- Bus to main employer on weekends – shuttle style – would cut down on costs.



Representatives from INCO and Manitoba Hydro take in the Municipal Greening presentation from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Question 3: What other transportation issues need addressing?

- Re-examine roadways, smart streetlights to enhance traffic flow and vehicle efficiency
- Encourage the use and consumption of local products. Reduces transportation costs that raise prices in Northern Manitoba
- Return to rail transportation of goods and people. It would also cut down on trucking, which would make the roads safer



Paul Gregory, from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, explains methane capture from landfill sites during his “Greening Municipal Operations” presentation.

III. Workshop Participants

Bruce Bowdie	Area Superintendent, <i>Tolko Industries</i>
Ed Cook	Business Representative, <i>Manitoba Hydro</i>
David Cunningham	Manager, <i>NorMan Regional Development Corporation</i>
Pat Gmiterek	Business Representative, <i>Manitoba Hydro</i>
Darryl Hedman	Regional Biologist, <i>Manitoba Conservation</i>
Murray Kissick	Teacher, <i>R.D. Parker Collegiate</i>
Shauna Kortz	Forester, <i>Manitoba Conservation</i>
Bert Lagimodiere	Northern Director, <i>Association of Manitoba Municipalities</i>
Twila Makuch	Program Director, <i>Thompson Boys and Girls Club</i>
Frances McIvor	Northern Chairperson, <i>Northern Association of Community Councils</i>
Sharon McLeod	Researcher, <i>Treaty & Aboriginal Rights Research Centre</i>
Reg Meade	President, <i>Northern Association of Community Councils</i>
Tebesi Mosala	Technical Engineer, <i>Keewatin Tribal Council</i>
Greg Penney	Principal, <i>R.D. Parker Collegiate</i>
Oswald Sawh	Councillor, <i>City of Thompson</i>
Cathy Stewart	Environmental Council Superintendent, <i>INCO Thompson</i>

IV. 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	3.9
The programme – flow of activities	3.9
Workshop documents	4.0
Location and facilities	2.9
Meals and refreshments	4.3

Comments:

- More emphasis on society’s “values” – understanding climate change is understanding is our own sense of values as a society.
- Incorporate remote slide change to prevent blocking view of some.
- Need better chairs.

2.0 Presentations	Score
I could hear clearly	4.44
I could see clearly	4.56
Level of comprehension (minimal jargon, explained theories, etc.)	4.44
I could proceed with group work with the information given	4.11

2.1 Basics of Climate Change, Jennifer Duggan	Score
Provided me with a basic understanding of CC	4.33
Understand impacts of CC	4.44
Understand link between lifestyle, GHG’s and CC	4.33

Comments:

- I kept hearing the word “we” – who does this refer to? Is it people in the western world, industrial world, indigenous people?
- Using the “scare” science to make the point is a bit of a turn-off.
- Better explanation of topics.
- Did a very good job under a difficult situation.
- Ensure better participation that is constructive. Uncontrolled and excessive commentary uses valuable time needed to cover topics and has tendency to lead off topic. Refer other questions to support personnel.
- Session too long, 10:20-12:00 (should be 10:30-11:45). Human activities portion is flawed – there should be 5 activities – you omitted agriculture – the single largest human activity contributor to emissions.

2.2 Understanding Kyoto, Dennis Cunningham	Score
Provided me with a basic understanding of Kyoto	4.43
Understand how Kyoto will affect Manitoba	4.14

Comments:

- When we say “economic development” – Do we really mean to say “community development”? Economic development is just one aspect of community development.
- Good overview.

2.3 Greening Municipal Operations, Paul Gregory	Score
Understand role of municipalities in CC	4.14
Understand link between reducing GHG’s and economic savings	3.57
Ideas for reducing GHG’s in my community from case studies	3.71

Comments:

- I would have liked to see visual images that relate to life in northern Manitoba. I like the emphasis on communication (working together).
- Good presentation – would like to know more about Kyoto.
- Include more examples of case studies, including initial obstacle overcame.

3.0 Facilitated discussion	Score
Ideas for educating my network about CC and need for action	4.17
Identify GHG reduction opp’s in my community	3.83
Additional reduction opp’s (funding, networks, etc.)	3.60
Identify steps for an action plan	3.60

Comments:

- In regards to 2. I do have an idea now as to how to get opportunities identified.
- Lots of discussion. Going back to a traditional mode of life.

4.0 Feedback

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

- Information.
- All information on various issues surrounding the topic of climate change. In particular, possible individual contributions in the fight against global warming.
- Greening municipal operations.
- Not enough theory into climate change?

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

- Not being able to state at the outset the complexity of the issue, debates on various topics within the broader scope of the entire topic.
- Small communities need more education.
- Too much meaningless dialogue by participants.
- Overall Kyoto presentation – for most participants there seems to be a general understanding of Kyoto.
- Not enough First Nation perspectives were incorporated (re: traditional vs. non-traditional).

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

- Include among the support personnel with as many backgrounds (climate agriculture biology oceanography hydrology hydrogeology forestry) to answer some of the participant's questions during and between sessions.
- Keep sessions on track and on time – limit participant dialogue.
- Pre-educate or give history of lifestyles before presenting certain stats.
- More time spent on greening municipal operations – program applications.
- Need to emphasis regional and northern perspectives. Need to distinguish between who has been affected and who are the one who create GHG emissions (re) industrialized nations and non-industrialized nations.

4. *Other comments.*

- Thanks for coming to Thompson! We look forward to working with you.
- Questions covered in other presentations yet to come should be tactfully deferred. Use expertise of your support personnel (where you have them) to briefly answer some of the questions. Handout a copy of the slide presentations to assist follow along and relevant note taking.
- Too much monopolizing of session time by some participants. One teacher in particular too eager to show off his “knowledge”, his opinions and his dislike of economic and industrial participants.

VI. Acknowledgements

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

Faith Dagleish at the Keewatin Community College, who helped the Climate Change Connection locate our workshop scribes.

Dorothy Smith of Northern Lites Catering, who provided workshop staff and participants with delicious food and drink throughout the day.

The **City of Thompson Recreation Centre Staff**, who helped make our event a success by providing us with prompt, last minute supplies and service when an unforeseen need arose.

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 Thompson.

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
2-70 Albert Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1E7
Ph: (204) 943-4836
Fax: (204) 989-8476



V. Workshop Programme

THOMPSON COMMUNITY WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Thursday, April 17, 2003

Mary Fenske Boardroom, Recreation Centre

Continental breakfast is provided.

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

Introduction of local facilitator and explanation of logistics of programme.

Pointing out of scribe and how to order follow-up proceedings.

- *Jennifer Duggan, CCC Manager*

Who is Climate Change Connection? Brief description of mandate & highlighting of all information tools and services.

Presenter: Rachel Van Caesele, CCC PEO Coordinator

9:15 – 10:15 ROUNDTABLE, chaired by Jennifer Duggan.

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.

10:15 – 10:30 BREAK

10:30 – 12:15 PUBLIC EDUCATION MODULE

10:30 – 11:45 BASICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. What is climate change? What are the greenhouse gases (GHGs)? Greenhouse effect? How are human activities involved? What are the potential impacts? Where does Canada fit in internationally? How can we take action and live a more climate-friendly lifestyle.

Presenter: Jennifer Duggan

11:45 – 12:15 UNDERSTANDING KYOTO. What is it? What does the Protocol mean for us in Manitoba? Opportunities? Barriers?

Presenter: Dennis Cunningham, Climate Change and Energy Team, International Institute for Sustainable Development.

12:15 – 1:00 LUNCH (provided) & DISPLAYS & INFORMAL NETWORKING

Please bring local information you wish to share.

1:00 – 1:45 GREENING MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

Municipal councils have many opportunities 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. Examples apply also to school divisions, campuses, and so on.
Presenter: Paul Gregory, Partners for Climate Protection (PCP), Centre for Sustainable Community Development, Federation of Canadian Municipalities. PCP is a national program that brings municipal governments together to reduce local production of greenhouse gas emissions and improve quality of life.

1:45 – 3:50 FACILITATED DISCUSSION OF COMMUNITY NEEDS & INTERESTS.

Facilitator will draw out participant 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 the community (what would really work for Thompson)
3. What the community would need/want in order to participate in outside-supported programs, or to generate locally led programs.

2:45 – 3:00 BREAK

Breakout groups would do flip charting in response and then feedback into larger session. Action planning for next steps. Invitation for final summary comments on the day from participants.

3:50 – 4:00 THANK YOU from Climate Change Connection

Filling out of evaluation forms by participants. Filling out of proceedings request form for later mail-out and joining e-listserv. Any additional business.



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.