

Business Workshops Summary Manitoba's Green Future:

A Dialogue on Climate Change Action and Greening in our Economy

Tuesday, October 23, 2007, Hotel Fort Garry, Winnipeg

Moderator: Jim Carr

Presenters: Johanne Gélinas, Graham Starmer

CGI presenter: Juliane Schaible

Rapporteur: Troy Havard, Kris Hartung

Summary of the Province of Manitoba's presentation:

Actions to Date

- Number one in energy efficiency
- North American leader in geothermal installations
- North American leader in hybrid buses
- Biofuel production from 10 M to 130 M litres and new community based biodiesel plants
- Wind production from zero to 100 MW to 1000 in the next 10 years
- New green building standards
- New incentives for efficient vehicles
- Recognized as an international leader on climate change action

Transportation – Next Steps and Opportunities

- *Expanding biofuels production* = Less money spent on imported gasoline and more for the Manitoba economy as well as diversifying the farm income
- *Older Car programs, Vehicle Efficiency/ Emissions standard, Better trucking practices* = increased fuel economy across the private fleet and improved urban air quality
- *Expanding green vehicle technologies* such as the plug in hybrid vehicle = becoming a leader and lead exporter of low-emitting vehicle technologies

Agriculture- Next Steps and Opportunities

- *Renewable energy* = diversification & guaranteed annual income
- *Biofuels* = diversification & reduction of on farm fuel costs
- *Energy efficiency* = reduced on-farm energy costs
- *Timed applications, soil testing, nutrient management, forage crops* = reduced input costs
- *Marketing "Made in Manitoba" locally and sustainably grown products* = potential to expand local, national & international markets
- *Some of these practices may have the potential to be verified as offset credits*

Opportunities for SMEs

- Fleet conversions
- Energy, waste, water efficiencies
- New green technologies
- Risk management
- Access to carbon markets

Next Steps for the North

- Energy efficiency
- Helping diesel communities switch to renewable energy sources

- Set up two more wind monitoring towers in two northern communities
- Continue building all weather road and access
- Redesigned Manitoba Climate Change Action Fund (MCCAF) with a focus on Transportation, Agriculture and Northern Communities
 - Polar Airships
 - Build northern greenhouses through the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative
- New Legislation for Traditional Land Plans
- Polar bear research
- Port of Churchill

Cross Sectoral Next Steps and Opportunities

- *Expanding MB Hydro Power Smart programmes, Green Building Policy and Commercial Building Codes* = Further energy savings to be used against load growth and for export, lower energy costs for MB businesses and homeowners
- *Expanding and Diversifying Manitoba's renewable energy portfolio* = Export opportunities and potential credits for reducing coal emissions, backup supply in drought years, local economic development
- *Manitoba Climate Action Portal* = Future Carbon Trading Opportunities
- *Port of Churchill* = Longer term shipping opportunities

Summary of discussion

The questions for discussion presented to participants included:

Workshop I

- Given the key initiatives we have heard to date, are there others that you think are critical to moving toward a greener economy?

Workshop II

- What are the potential long term goals for the sector for 2017?
- How do the actions we identified this morning get us there?
- What are the next steps?

Workshop III

- What are the best ways to engage your sector/community?
- What are specific recommendations for how government and your sector/community can work together to implement next steps?

Guided by the questions, several main themes emerged from the discussion (numbering does not denote priority):

- 1) You cannot deny the social phenomenon of "Environmentalism"; we must find ways to exploit the emerging opportunities.
- 2) The Public and Private sector need to work together and move towards a sustainable path, this is a collective problem.
- 3) Need to measure current environmental impacts of your business (baseline). Once you have the baseline you can make small but key changes towards your goals and monitor progress.

- 4) Green Products and Green Certification (through production and supply chains) have great appeal in today's market. Businesses will always follow the market.
- 5) Communication and Education are needed at a Grassroots Level and in schools at an early age. The real need to change is in Consumer Behavior.
- 6) Companies do not know where to start when making attempts to go green. Government should develop a guide (especially for SME's) interested in going green and offer supports such as self help tools and guides.
- 7) There should be tax incentives for businesses that would like to improve sustainability. ie. Substitute Payroll Tax for Environmental Sustainability Tax.

The Province is undertaking a number of actions to address climate change in addition to what has been mentioned here. For more information, please visit <http://www.gov.mb.ca/stem/climate/index.html>