Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development Round Table Discussion on Climate Change Summary

Introduction

On October 3, 2007 the Climate and Green Initiatives Branch of the department of Science, Technology, Energy and Mines met with the members of the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development as part of the process for updating Manitoba's 2002 Climate Change Action Plan. The meeting was co-chaired by the Honourable Stan Struthers, Minister of Conservation and Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, President of the University of Winnipeg.

The following presentations were made:
Climate Change Connection: The Science of Climate Change
Manitoba Government: Next Steps on Climate Change Action: Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development Round Table on Climate Change

There was recognition that Manitoba is a small contributor to overall GHG emissions nationally and globally, but the predicted impacts of climate change on the province are such that the issue cannot be ignored and it is important that the province continue to be proactive, innovative and committed to long-term action.

Summary of the Province of Manitoba's presentation:

Manitoba Actions

- Number one in energy efficiency (Power Smart saving $36 M/yr)
- North American leader in geothermal installations ($25m in annual sales)
- North American leader in hybrid buses (2010 Olympic bid)
- Biofuel production from 10 M to 130 M litres and new community based biodiesel plants ($58m in reduced outflows)
- Wind production from zero to 100 MW to 1000 in the next 10 years (St. Leon $210 M capital investment)
- New green building standards (further efficiency savings)
- New incentives for efficient vehicles (more affordable vehicle technology)
- Recognized as an international leader on climate change action

Business Success

- Transport: New Flyer and Bison Transport
- Buildings: Prairie Architects – national and int'l green building design awards, window, door, building envelope manufacturers
- Energy: Ice Kube geothermal systems, St. Leon – Wind energy co-op
- Waste Management: New World Technologies – world class manufacturing facility for recycled products and Re-TRAC - exporting waste mgt software to 20 US states

While Canada as a whole has more to do, Manitoba is ahead in preparing for a low carbon economy.

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*

Next Steps for Municipalities
- Continue WINSMART
- Landfill gas capture
- Create green commuting opportunities
- Climate friendly planning
- Efficient freight practices
- Rail transportation
- Public private partnerships

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 an airport road from Wasagamack to St. Theresa Point
- Explore the possibility of turning the Rice River Road into an all weather road
- Redesigned Manitoba Climate Change Action Fund (MCCAF) with a focus on Transportation, Agriculture and Northern Communities
- Build northern greenhouses through the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative
- WNO – East Side Planning

Cross Sectoral Next Steps and Opportunities
- *Expanding MB Hydro PowerSmart 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:

1. How can Manitoba lead a transition to a lower carbon economy? I.e.: reducing reliance on fossil fuels, increasing alternate heat and fuel sources, expanding sustainable practices in transportation and agriculture, promoting green technologies, carbon credits, etc.?

2. What government and market signals are required to invest in change?

Guided by the questions, several themes emerged from the discussion:

A. Lead by doing
- Several participants indicated that this issue required leadership and a commitment to "get the house in order". Examples were given where a start had been made – green building policy – but there appeared to be agreement that more could be done. One

participant indicated, “Lead by doing – lead by legislation, regulation, incentives, but lead first by doing.” Another participant suggested finding champions for policies and supporting interdepartmental cooperation and leadership.

- Other leadership suggestions included:
    - Setting targets that people can understand and lead to public engagement
    - Developing a climate change or sustainability lens to assess all provincial financial decisions and as well as put pressure on municipalities to address this issue (transportation should be a priority here)
    - Legislation or regulation that leads to behaviour changes by individuals, municipalities, and industry (load-based licensing, emissions limits enforcement, efficiency standards, beater removal programs)
    - Develop effective incentive programs (payment for eco-system services, tax breaks)
    - Identify areas where the province has established a leadership position and ensure adequate support is provided to maintain this leadership
    - Foster innovation at the community and regional levels through education and awareness
    - Find areas where the province and federal government can collaborate

B. Equity

- Climate change will have the greatest impact on those in our society with the least capacity to cope with changes. One participant promoted the concept of “just transition strategies”, that would see policies developed to address climate change in the province which are equitable and do not negatively impact or favour one segment of the population over another.
- Climate change policies should also try to achieve co-benefits like pollution prevention or human health issues as this also addresses the equity issue.
- It was suggested that the climate change lens could include a social component that would also support equity issues.
- Developing a mix of instruments (voluntary, incentives and regulated) may be another way to address equity issues. A broad array of instruments provide a greater range of response options and may address capacity and cost concerns.

C. Policy/Program directions and development

- Policies need to be developed that recognize the “inherent diversity” of our population and one size fits all solutions do not exist. Integrating climate change policies with other integrated management efforts will help achieve efficiencies that increase program buy-in.
- Developing policies and programs that create carbon sequestration opportunities should also be designed to ensure they deliver water and land-use management benefits as well.
- Policies that are developed should be adaptive in order to manage the uncertainty associated with climate impacts.
- The climate change action plan should be as detailed as possible, establishing clear “goals, objectives, implementation strategies, responsibilities, timelines, and a monitoring and evaluation schedule”.
- Manitoba is fortunate to produce clean, renewable hydroelectric power for the vast majority of our energy needs. Manitoba Hydro needs to rethink its position as a 21st century energy company developing renewable energy from multiple sources and rethink the role it can play to promote climate change action.

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