

## **Municipalities 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: David Witty

Presenter: Mayor Dave Burgess

CGI presenter: Neil Cunningham

Rapporteur: Erick Pay

#### **Summary of the Province of Manitoba's presentation:**

Communities & Municipalities Actions to Date

##### 1) Municipal Policy

- Federation of Canadian Municipalities Partners for Climate Protection (FCM PCP) Communities, Manitoba Municipal Efficiency Project (MMEP), Power Smart for Business/Commercial Buildings
- Morden "revolving green fund", Brandon "Green to Gold" strategy

##### 2) Municipal Operations

- Gladstone Community Centre LEED® Silver, Dauphin recreation facility eco-chill system
- Brandon Phase 1 Landfill Gas (LFG) Study, Selkirk Solid Waste Management Plan
- Province of Manitoba Green Building Strategy

##### 3) Community Programs

- Climate Change Connection (C3) & Resource Conservation Manitoba (RCM); valuable public education and outreach activities
- Neighborhoods Alive!
- Climate Change Community Challenge (C4)/ One Tonne Challenge (OTC) Communities

##### 4) Adaptation

- Relocation of northern winter roads
- Floodway expansion, community ring-dikes
- Flood forecasting and emergency preparedness
- Enhanced weather forecasting stations
- Expand capacity of provincial fire program
- Integrated Watershed Management Plans

#### **Summary of discussion**

The questions for discussion presented to participants included:

##### Workshop 1

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

##### Workshop 2

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

##### Workshop 3

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

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

**Measurement & Evaluation**

- There is a need to have a baseline measurement of each local region's contribution to climate change so that short and long-term goals can be established.
- There is a need for specific measurement tools that can determine if a given project or set of projects are working to ensure efficient use of resources.
- Community green audits should be encouraged across the province.

**Education & Communication**

- The role of government, the private sector, Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), school systems, and community groups needs to be clarified.
- School curriculum should be adjusted to include practical education on both large-scale "green" matters, but also local issues. Hands-on experience should be included so students are engaged in visible, tangible and practical ways.
- Information needs to get to all communities through mass media, local celebrities, etc.
- Develop mandatory programming among professionals (planners, architects, engineers, designers, business associations etc.).
- Create a "municipal mentoring program" for small municipalities.

**Economy**

- There needs to be a greater understanding of the economic opportunities in a greener economy.
- Consumer habits and behaviour needs to be addressed as a factor affecting climate change.

**Collaboration among Municipalities**

- Develop a centralized hub of climate change information including:
  - Available expertise on sustainable development initiatives.
  - Best practice information including communication, implementation, etc.
  - Funding options available for sustainable development initiatives.
  - Development of a network for local leaders to support each other and share information, expertise and ideas.
  - Coordination of resources among municipalities.
  - A central resource base of other information (tools for calculating GHG emissions reductions for various activities, etc.).
- Bring regional stakeholders together to establish shared goals and a long-term vision including municipal governments, business, and stakeholders, with the objective of developing comprehensive integrated plans.
- Develop community-led initiatives that grab citizens' attention.
- Involve residents in the planning process to ease the challenges of implementation.

**Incentives**

- Streamline the reporting requirements for government programs.
- Increase in long-term funding to municipalities for green projects.
- Reward municipalities that develop green plans (tie funding to performance).
- Reward climate friendly projects/practices with tax incentives.
- Utilize user fees/targeted taxes to fund product stewardship activities (gas tax revenue to fund toward mass/active transit).
- Show how green initiatives can be an economic generator.

### Planning

- Imbed climate change policy within local Integrated Community Sustainability Plans.
- Perform a sustainability/climate change analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.
- Establish benchmarks for infrastructure investment, including establishing policies that move toward intensification (infill) development.
- Assess impacts of climate change on municipal infrastructure and develop adaptation strategies.

### Policy

- Communicate and enforce climate change goals, policies, by-laws, and legislation.
- Develop a carbon offset mechanism wherein municipalities can both purchase and sell carbon offsets.
- Develop an accountability framework for how municipalities spend funds and assess the effectiveness of project implementation.
- There should be a balance between top-down provincial mandates and grassroots priorities.

### Transportation

- A wide variety of sustainable transportation options need to be developed and promoted, including local and inter-regional public transit systems, rapid transit, ride sharing, active transportation, etc.
- Land-use and transportation planning decisions need to be better integrated.

**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>**