

Transportation Workshops Summary Manitoba's Green Future:

A Dialogue on Climate Change Action and Greening Manitoba's Economy

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Summary of the Province of Manitoba's presentation:

Initiatives are Already Underway in Transportation

- Centre for Sustainable Transportation
- Biofuels Mandate (10% ethanol blend)
- WINSMART
- Northern Transportation Initiatives
- Hybrid and Hydrogen Buses
- Winnipeg Transit Projects
- Manitoba Hydro Plug-in Electric Vehicle Project
- Hybrid Electric Rebate Program

Next Steps and Opportunities

- Made-in-Manitoba Vehicle Standard
- Accelerate Older Vehicle Retirement
- Green Driver Training
- Green Fleet Policy
- Manitoba Climate Action Portal
- Port of Churchill = Longer term shipping opportunities

Summary of discussion

The questions for discussion presented to participants included:

Workshop I

- What additional initiatives are critical to moving towards a greener economy?

Workshop II

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

Workshop III

- What are the best ways to engage your sector to analyze where changes are needed and how to act?
- What are specific recommendations for how government and your sector can work together to implement next steps?

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

The Role of Transportation in a Green Economy

- The links between transportation and climate change require greater emphasis within this sector of Manitoba's economy.
- The sector must continue to take steps toward transitioning to a green economy.

- Dialogue and partnerships with academic institutions will ensure training and skill development in the sector.
- Partnerships need to be built on well articulated public sector goals and objectives.

Leadership, Education and Awareness

- Need for more provincially funded research and development to overcome initial risks associated with some investment (i.e. new green technologies, etc.).
- Portfolio of research initiatives should be designed to ensure a suite of tangible short and long term options.
- Education and awareness is needed to inform all sectors on the numerous benefits of green transportation initiatives (model after the work-safe campaign).
- Review previous Climate Change Action Plan recommendations; publish implementation results and share lessons learned.
- Increase the appeal and savings associated with using public transit (consider lowering fares and system improvements including rapid transit).
- Educate citizens regarding the full cost of transportation choices, including costs to the environment.

Technology

- There are a wide range of mechanisms available to reduce emissions from transportation; these could be integrated into existing operations.
- It may be necessary to regulate new equipment being purchased and/or acquired in order to encourage implementation.
- Accelerate fuel saving equipment/technology for the heavy trucking industry by accelerated capital cost allowance.
- Be aware of energy balance and potential conflict between bio-fuel capacity and food security.
- More research on cellulose based biofuels.
- Provide incentives for Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles in urban areas; educate and demonstrate the potential of this technology.

Infrastructure

- Other jurisdictions have made great strides in reducing GHG emissions from and overall reliance on individual personal vehicles through intergenerational infrastructure planning.
- Funding could be better tied to environmental objectives and outcomes.
- Retrofit infrastructure to accommodate new initiatives and technology.
- Explore traffic circles (“roundabouts”) to reduce idling and congestion.
- Support increases in light and heavy rail capacity.
- Place a moratorium on rail line decommissioning and implement regulations to improve logistics and rate structure.
- Increase support for northern infrastructure (i.e. review airships).
- Provide E85 refuelling infrastructure throughout the province.
- Reduce vehicles trips through active transportation and improved park-n-ride infrastructure.

Policy and Programming Tools

- Green transportation regulations, standards and programs should create a level playing field for Manitoba’s citizens and businesses.

- Green regulations and incentives should accelerate the adoption of green technology and retirement of inefficient technology.
- Additional focus should be placed on rewarding people who are willing to make changes in their travel behaviour (i.e. mode shifting to public transit, active transportation).
- Legislate that gas tax funding must be invested in green transportation initiatives and infrastructure.
- Implement user pay models, including distance based insurance, should be explored.
- The price of fossil fuel should better reflect its effect on the environment.

Measurement

- Measuring GHG emissions is both a verification and education tool.
- Public awareness and information is needed to illustrate the inefficiency of certain transportation options/equipment when compared to green alternatives.
- Put achievable reductions next to the alternatives so that individuals or companies can make more informed decisions (i.e. EnerGuide labelling for vehicles).

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>