



ENVIRONMENTAL ANNUAL REPORT

— TWENTY FOURTEEN —

2014 OVERVIEW & HISTORY OF ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES



The City of Brandon has an Environmental Strategic Plan (ESP) that was approved by City Council in November of 2007. This living document provides guidance and direction on environmental initiatives and concerns in the community and the city as a corporation. This report provides an update with regards to many of the initiatives being addressed directly by city staff or in partnerships with other groups in the community over the last year.

Environmental Strategic Plan (ESP)

The Environmental Strategic Plan (ESP) was compiled for the community with the public's input and approved by City Council in November of 2007 and updated in June of 2013. The ESP is a living document and is linked to the Community Strategic Plan "Shaping Tomorrow Together" where the community stated their desirable future to be; "Brandon will be a recognized leader in environmental stewardship."

Through the ESP, a series of actions over the short and long-term will reduce the city's negative impact on the environment and produce a positive outcome.



BRANDON ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (BEC)

The Brandon Environment Committee is an arm's length committee for City Council and provides information related to environmental issues in the community. The committee is made up of, citizens at large, business representatives, students, and a city staff member. The committee meets on a monthly basis and deals with many issues in the community. The Brandon Environment Committee (BEC) is a vital component of environmental initiatives and concerns in the community.

The committee provides funding for small environmental initiatives in the community. The Brandon Environment Committee is on Twitter @BdnEnviroCom, Facebook, and www.brandonenvironment.ca to provide an easier format for the public to access information.





“BRANDON WILL BE A
RECOGNIZED LEADER
IN ENVIRONMENTAL
STEWARDSHIP”

- ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIC PLAN

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

BRANDON EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS

This annual family event in April is put on by the Brandon Environment Committee with partnerships in the community such as BNRC, and CAA. This eco-friendly day brings the community together with local entertainment, compost giveaways, and exhibits from local organizations/businesses showcasing their product/service and offering opportunities for the general public to participate in.

BRANDON WASTE REDUCTION SCHOOL CHALLENGE

This event has been running for four years in partnership with the Brandon School Division and Multi Material Stewardship Manitoba (MMSM). This program involves students in grades 1-6 to measure their recyclables and organic waste volumes over a three week period. Students take part in waste reduction activities to earn points (clean school grounds, recycled art, educate other students etc.). New this year the 15 participating classrooms went on a tour of the Eastview Landfill. The classrooms who had the most points won the challenge. All 330 students received lunch kits, water bottles and t-shirts. Each participating class had to pledge a waste reduction initiative they would carry out for the rest of the school year (organics program, litter-less lunches, and engage other students in recycling).

BRANDON ENVIRO EXPO

The Brandon Enviro Expo started in 2013 and is a one day annual event held the first week in June to celebrate National Environment Week. The purpose of the Enviro Expo is to educate and empower youth within the Brandon School Division on environmental stewardship and connect what they learn in the classroom to their community. At last year's Enviro Expo, 280 students went on tours of the city's landfill and recycling facility, and took part in small interactive workshops/activities led by environmental stewards within the community and surrounding area, and were addressed by a musical keynote speaker. Plans are underway to grow this to a bigger event in 2015.



COMMUNITY CLEAN SWEEP

This initiative was spear headed by the Brandon Environment Committee this year. It was launched in June and the committee encouraged community organizations, businesses, and individuals to tidy different areas of the city. An estimated total of 100 people volunteered their time to help make the city clean and green.

INFORM THE PUBLIC AT LARGE

Environmental Initiatives staff continues to engage the broader public on environmental issues such as composting and alternative transportation through the website brandonenvironment.ca, council updates, twitter (@BdnEnvCom), Facebook, PSA's, ads in local media and through WCG local TV channel "One to One With the City of Brandon."



2014 PUBLIC INITIATIVES

**EARTH
DAY**

~300
residents engaged

4

partnerships

60

volunteers

330

students engaged

9

partnerships

**BRANDON
ENVIRO EXPO**

280

students
educated

**BRANDON
WASTE REDUCTION
SCHOOL
CHALLENGE**

10

organizations
participated

**COMMUNITY
CLEAN SWEEP**

4

partnerships

CORPORATE INITIATIVES

Landfill Gas

The destruction of landfill gas via a flare system is continuing at the Eastview Landfill Site. Methane gas is a greenhouse gas and is 21 times more harmful to the environment than carbon dioxide. The Province of Manitoba requires all major landfills in the province to capture and destruct landfill gas as identified in legislation. Currently the gas is being flared off until a viable end user is found. This project will continue in the future with a life expectancy of 20-25 years.



Brownfields

The City is continuing to investigate the number of “Brownfields” in the community. A brownfield is a former industrial or commercial site where future use is affected by real or perceived environmental contamination

In the spring of 2014 the City became a participant with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Brownfield Boot camp Peer Learning Pilot Program. The purpose of the group is to foster connections between municipal brownfield practitioners from across the country but also to advise FCM on the development of its brownfield-focused programming and resources to municipalities.

Water Conservation Plan

The City’s Water Conservation Committee continues to implement the City’s Water Conservation Plan adopted by council in 2013. The plan’s focus is on conserving and protecting water use for present and future generations on both a community and corporate level. The Water Conservation Committee meets quarterly to ensure we are on track of meeting our conservation targets. Over the last two years the City has replaced the hanging baskets with water efficient ones. This past year the City has replaced the planters placed on boulevards to water efficient ones. This is a tremendous water conservation initiative, watering the hanging baskets and planters have reduced from 7 days a week to 2-3times a week. In the spring of 2014 the City implemented the Low Flow Toilet Credit Program once again. Homeowners switching out their high flow toilet to a low flow toilet received a \$60 credit on their water bills. The City metered water consumption has decreased while maintaining a growing population.

Partners for Climate Protection (PCP)

The PCP program is a program run by Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) that empowers municipalities to take action against climate change through a five milestone process that guides members in greenhouse gas emission inventories, setting realistic and achievable GHG reduction targets, developing local action plans, implementing plans using specific, measurable actions to reduce emissions. There are two streams for each milestone: Corporate and Community. Corporate looks at the City’s emissions with the corporation and community is based on the city as a whole. To date we are at milestone 4, for both corporate and community and currently working on updating our greenhouse gas inventory and reporting to reach milestone 5 of the program.

Corporate (within City operations)	Community
1 Develop a greenhouse gas inventory	1 Develop a greenhouse gas inventory
2 Set ghg emission reduction target	2 Set ghg emission reduction target
3 Develop a local action plan	3 Develop a local action plan
4 Implement local action plan	4 Implement local action plan
5 Monitor and reporting	5 Monitor and reporting

Municipal Employees

Environmental Initiatives staff continue to educate City employees on ways they can incorporate environmental practices into their daily work tasks. The City’s internal Green Team was formed to identify environmental opportunities for environmental improvements for the organization. Staff on the green team are to act as champions within their departments to engage coworkers in environmental stewardship. Some examples include, recycling, double sided printing, no idling of city vehicles, creating a newsletter, rolling out an organics collection program in city facilities, promoting fair trade, and recently looking at recycling cigarette butts. Environmental Initiatives staff sees value in educating our city employees in order to be viewed as environmental leaders in our community.

Green Cart Program

In 2014 the program had 4786 households participate on a voluntary basis. Throughout the year the public has been able to access the finished compost at Earth Day. The benefits of this program will extend the life of the landfill and has helped the City reach its goal of diverting more than 50% from the waste stream, create a natural fertilizer to use within our city, and reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions.

Household Hazardous Waste Depot

Household hazardous waste (hww) is shipped from the landfill's year round depot to Miller Environmental Group located in Winnipeg where it is properly disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner. This program is in partnership with Product Care and the Province of Manitoba. Items collected include:

Fluorescent Bulbs	Ant/Wasp Spray	Mildew Remover	Epoxies
Mercury	Turpentine	Toilet Cleaner	Brake Fluid
Ammonia	Lacquers	Lighter Fluid	Bleach
Oven Cleaner	Kerosene	Rodent Poison	Medication
Rug & Upholstery Cleaner	Disinfectants	Insecticides	Rust Remover
Brass/Silver Polish	Solvents	Herbicides	Drain Cleaner
Septic Tank Detergents	Antifreeze	Car Batteries	Fertilizers

Fair Trade Town

Fair trade is a certification program ensuring that the producers behind the products we buy are getting a fair deal. In May of 2014 the City of Brandon became the 19th Fair Trade Town in Canada, the 2nd in Manitoba. This initiative was spearheaded by the Marquis Project. To become a fair trade town 5 steps had to be completed: form a steering committee, receive political support, have a certain number of stores and restaurants to demonstrate product availability, and lastly public engagement and community support. There are hundreds of fair trade products in Brandon and to promote awareness of fair trade the committee launched Fair Trade Fridays. In September Fair Trade Canada recognized Brandon as fair trade town of the year. Over the next year the committee will continue with public engagement and plans to have signage promoting Brandon as a Fair Trade Town.



COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



FUTURE INITIATIVES

Recycle Your Cycle

We are working with the Community Development Department to create a program to salvage a number of bicycles that are thrown out at the landfill. Once there is an inventory of good bicycles, the units will be turned over to a yet to be determined service group in the community for distribution to people needing a bicycle.



Urban Forestry Management Plan

City staff, with consultation from Manitoba Forestry, is currently drafting an Urban Forestry Plan for the City of Brandon. The purpose of this plan is to formalize a management process for the City's trees as they are a city asset and provide several social, economic and environmental benefits to our community.



Benchmarking

We are working on completing greenhouse gas inventories for both corporate and community levels, as well as sharing our information with the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) a non-profit organization that compares data with over 200 cities across the globe.

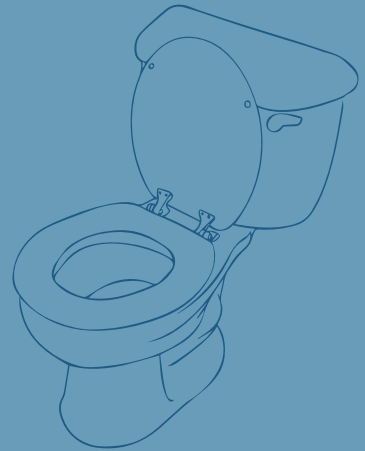
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

14,393

tonnes CO₂e emissions reduced from capturing & destructing landfill gas



Equivalent of 2,999 vehicles off the road

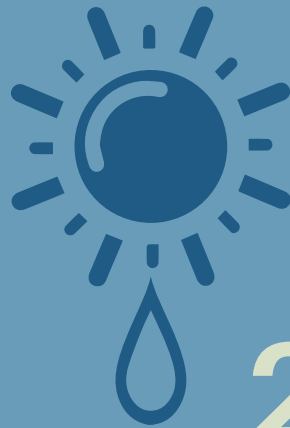


31,937 L

of water saved installing a low-flow toilet (Per toilet/household/year)

1,500

tonnes organic waste diverted from landfill



2,079

TONNES of CO₂e greenhouse gas emissions reduced from composting

12

SEMI-TRAILER HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE LOADS





City of
BRANDON
brandonenvironment.ca