



2013
ENVIRONMENTAL
UPDATE





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 will provide 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.

The Brandon Environment Committee (BEC) is a vital component of environmental initiatives and concerns in the community. The BEC consists of a number of businesses, institutional partners, groups, and individuals in and around the Brandon area and provides assistance and recommendations to City Council on various environmental issues.

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 city staff, citizens at large, business representatives, and students. The committee meets on a monthly basis and deals with many issues in the community.

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

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, CAA, and Renaissance Brandon. 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.

Waste Reduction School Challenge

This event has been running for three 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, and take part in waste reduction activities to earn points. The classrooms who had the most points won the challenge. This year was the biggest year yet with just over 450 students taking part. All participants received recycled rulers 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).

Community Clean-Up Day

This event was spear headed by UCT and Enactus. There were over 200 non-profit groups cleaning up our city's streets and boulevards as part of UCT's Join Hands Day. UCT provided a generous donation to each youth service group, and organization that cleaned up a designated section of the city. The volunteer groups picked up a total of 970 kilograms of litter from our streets and boulevards.

Corporate Clean Sweep

The City had several businesses participate in the Corporate Clean Sweep last year. Businesses could either pick an area of the city in need of some TLC throughout the summer or choose to do a one day clean up; the City provided supplies such as bags, gloves, paint etc. and gave recognition to those who participated.

Brandon Enviro Expo

In 2013 the first ever Brandon's Enviro Expo took place during National Environment Week. The two day event was a celebration of our community's environmental achievements, initiatives, and programs. The event highlighted the achievements of students who were involved in Brandon's Waste Reduction School Challenge. During the Enviro Expo, students went on tours of the city's landfill and recycling facility, showcased their environmental school projects, 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 2014.



Green Scene TV

The Brandon Environment Committee started to air a small series of environmental programs/initiatives taking place in our community. The show airs on WCG TV's local channel and is available on YouTube. If interested in doing an episode please email thebrandongreenscene@gmail.com.

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 www.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."



Manitoba
Conservation Districts
Association

Providing an informed
Voice in
Manitoba

MADON'S WASTE REDUCTION
SCHOOL CHALLENGE



Students at the 2013 Enviro Expo

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.



Water Conservation Plan

In early May of last year the Water Conservation Plan was presented to City Council. 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 is a tremendous water conservation initiative, watering the hanging baskets have reduced from 7 days a week to 2-3 times a week. The City is now phasing in water efficient planters.

Brownfields

The City is continuing to investigate the number of "Brownfields" in the community. City staff will continue to meet with stakeholders to develop a strategy for these sites in the future.

Asphalt Recycler

In the spring of 2013 the Public Works Department purchased an asphalt recycler. This machine can take old asphalt roof shingles and turn them into asphalt for our roadways. To date this investment has had a cost savings just over \$24,000.



Municipal Employees

Environmental Initiatives staff continues to educate City employees on ways they can incorporate environmental practices into their daily work tasks. Last fall an internal Green Team was formed to identify environmental opportunities for environmental improvements for the organization.

Staff on the green team is to act as Champions within their departments to engage coworkers in environmental stewardship. Some examples include, recycling, double sided printing, and no idling of city vehicles, creating a newsletter, and rolling out an organics collection program in city facilities. Environmental Initiatives staff sees value in educating our city employees in order to be viewed as environmental leaders in our community.







Photo by Linda Boys

Community Initiatives

Brandon Transit

This past year, Brandon Transit partnered with Google to be part of a Google Transit Web Service. The free web service allows commuters to easily plan their Brandon Transit routes using Google Maps or on their mobile device. This fall Transit provided a 4 month pilot program for Sunday bus service.

Green Cart Program

The City of Brandon, in partnership with Green Manitoba and Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal, started the launch of the expanded curbside organics collection program. In 2013 the program had 3000 households participate on a voluntary basis. The plan is to add up to an additional 3000 households in 2014.

To date the program has diverted 826.62 tonnes of organics from the landfill, throughout the year the public has been able to access the compost from the entrance at the landfill and at Earth Day. The benefits of this program will extend the life of the landfill and help 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 gases.

Household Hazardous Waste Depot

In the spring of last year the City of Brandon opened its first year round household hazardous waste depot located at Eastview Landfill. This program is in partnership with Product Care and the Province of Manitoba. The waste is disposed of through Miller Environmental Group in an environmentally friendly manner.



Battery Recycling

The City of Brandon continues to be a part of the “Call 2 Recycle” battery and phone recycling program. Collection boxes are located at City Hall and at the Civic Services Complex. The program includes free freight to a facility in Ontario. All types of batteries (except automotive) are accepted in this program.

Share the Road

Throughout last summer the “Share the Road” project was implemented. The “Share the Road Corridor” along Lorne Avenue provides a safe route for cyclists to travel east/west and passes by many destinations, businesses and institutions such as Brandon University, the Downtown HUB and several city parks.



Future Projects

Mobile Education Unit

The Environmental Initiatives Staff are working on securing partnerships for the mobile education unit. The MEU will be an interactive display that will travel to schools and community events within Brandon and surrounding area. It is intended that the focus areas of the MEU will be recycling, energy and water conservation, and miscellaneous.



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.



Recycle Your Cycle

In the spring/summer of 2014, inmates under the direct supervision of a Correctional Officer will refurbish the bicycles recovered from the landfill (1440kgs). Once there is an inventory of good bicycles, the units will be turned over to a yet to be determined human services group in the community for distribution to people needing a bicycle.





A recreation path in Brandon.

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