



*Environmental
Annual Report*



2016

Overview

This report provides an update with regards to many of the environmental initiatives being addressed directly by City staff or in partnerships with other groups in the community over the last year.

DID YOU KNOW?

The committee meets the last Wednesday of each month, anyone can join!



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 has a series of actions over the short and long-term which 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 Brandon Environment Committee is on Twitter @BdnEnviroCom, Facebook, and on-line at www.brandonenvironment.ca to provide an easier format for the public to access information.

Public Engagement Initiatives

DID YOU KNOW?

CAA Manitoba-Brandon branch volunteered their staff to help with the challenge this year

DID YOU KNOW?

George Fitton school adopted Kin Park to clean once a month throughout the school year!

Brandon Waste Reduction School Challenge

2016 marked the 6th year of the Waste Reduction School Challenge. This educational program is in partnership with the Brandon School Division and title sponsor 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.). This year 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 prizes made out of recycled plastic, pencils made out of newspaper and t-shirts. Winners of the challenge received a photo with the Mayor, bragging rights, and a bench made out of recycled plastic for their school. 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 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 160 people volunteered their time to help make the City clean and green.

Eco Day in May

The Brandon Environment Committee partnered with the Global Market to host "Eco Day in May". The event was hosted at the Global Market and included other partnerships in the community such as Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation, and CAA Manitoba. This eco-friendly day brought 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.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Expo has been marked a favourite must attend event by teachers

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. In 2016 the Enviro Expo had 280 students take part in interactive workshops entailing tours of the City's landfill and recycling facility, geocaching, gardening and much more led by environmental stewards within the community and surrounding area.

Planet Protectors

Brandon continues to implement the Planet Protector Academy. It is geared to classrooms grades 3-6. The program is a 6-week web based digital led resource that trains students as 'apprentice' Planet Protectors and sends them home on superhero missions to change their families' habits! 120 students graduated from the Planet Protector Academy in 2016. Early last year Brandon was selected to be 1 of the 7 cities to be a pilot city for their new program "Zero Heroes" this program focuses on organics and food waste in the home.

Corporate Initiatives



Water Treatment Facility Waste Residual Program

The City's water treatment process uses a conventional lime soda ash process followed by filtration and disinfection. This process creates a by product called lime sludge. The annual production of waste solids is approximately 16,000 tonnes/year. Instead of the lime sludge being buried in the landfill, the City takes part in a Waste Residual Program where the material is contracted to an agriculture company to spread on to farmers' fields. The lime sludge is beneficial as it increases the ph of the soil, therefore increasing crop yields. At the end of each year the contracted company provides an annual report to both the City and the Province.



Energy Upgrades

The City's Building Maintenance section has upgraded all of the nostalgic lights downtown to LED and have been upgrading some of our buildings to LED through the Manitoba Hydro Rebate Program. These upgrades will save on energy consumption and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Brownfields

In the spring of 2015 the City became a participant with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Leaders in Brownfield Renewal Program (LiBRé). The LiBRé program provides municipalities with tailored peer learning activities, networking opportunities and knowledge resource to help municipal governments better understand and minimize barriers to brownfield redevelopment our community. The City of Brandon's internal steering committee is currently drafting a strategy and exploring potential incentives to entice development.



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 destroy landfill gas as identified in legislation. Currently the gas is being flared off until a viable and sustainable long-term end user is found. This project will continue in the future with a life expectancy of 20-25 years.

DID YOU KNOW?

The average resident uses 64,605L of water/year

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 it is on track in meeting our conservation targets. In 2016 the committee experimented with drought tolerant grass seed on city boulevards. The project continues with the possibility of trying more trial plots in the spring. The City's metered water consumption has decreased while maintaining a growing population.

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, and promoting fair trade. Environmental Initiatives staff see value in educating our City employees in order to be viewed as environmental leaders in our community.

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(ghg) inventories, setting realistic and achievable GHG reduction targets, developing local action plans and 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 within the corporation (fleet, City buildings, streetlights, waste, sewer and water), and community is based on the City as a whole (residential, institutional, commercial, industrial, and transportation). To date we have reached completion of all the milestones for both sectors and we are working with FCM to establish the next step.

Urban Forestry

In 2016 the Parks Department created two holding nurseries. One of the nurseries is specifically for transplanting trees from areas that are flagged for redevelopment. The other is a temporary holding nursery comprised of white spruce seedlings. In September 350 seedlings were planted in partnership with TD Bank and Tree Canada. These trees will be used in our green spaces. The City continues to work with the Province to manage Dutch Elm Disease and take preventative measures on other invasive species that risk our urban forest such as Emerald Ash Borer. In the works for 2017 is the launch of the Urban Forestry Plan and a Tree Protection policy.

Community Initiatives

DID YOU KNOW?

1,900 tonnes of organic waste diverted from the landfill in 2016.

DID YOU KNOW?

250lbs of batteries were recycled through Call 2 Recycle Program in 2016.

DID YOU KNOW?

Over 300 bicycles enter the landfill each year

Green Cart Program

In 2016 the program had 6,366 households participate on a voluntary basis. Throughout the year the public has been able to access the finished compost. 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

Household hazardous waste (hhw) is shipped from the landfill's yearround 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.

Bike Works

Late this past fall, youth through our Youth Center started to refurbish bicycles rescued from the Eastview Landfill. Participating youth take part in workshops where they are taught how to fix and maintain bicycles. Each participating youth will fix three bikes with one for themselves, one for a youth in need, one to be sold to cover the costs of the program.



DID YOU KNOW?

CAA Manitoba Brandon Branch and the Riverbank Discovery Center received Fair Trade Workplace designation in 2016 and Grace Mennonite Church became the 3rd Fair Trade Faith Group in Canada!



DID YOU KNOW?

All of the City of Brandon's shredded paper is recycled.
This has saved 50 trees!



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, to do so 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 a complete list of what is available can be found at www.marquisproject.com. In July of 2016 the City's Purchasing Policy was amended to include fair trade coffee and sugar for all meetings and offices. Over the next year the committee will continue to engage the community and keep the momentum going to promote Brandon as a Fair Trade Town.

