

## Analysis - Government of Manitoba and Climate Change - Part Two

Source: 'Manitoba and Climate Change: Investing in Our Future'

Report of the Manitoba Climate Change Task Force, September 2001

<http://manitobawildlands.org/pdfs/MBCC-investingINfuture.pdf>



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Source of Recommendation	Text of 2001 Task Force Report Recommendation	Analysis - Manitoba Wildlands	Summary Comments - Manitoba Wildlands
<b>Section 5: Strategic Direction and Recommendations - Lead by Example in Government Operations</b>			
page 33	<i>Set real greenhouse gas reduction targets for government operations, as well as require the immediate baseline measurement of greenhouse gas emissions produced by government departments and agencies.</i>	<p><b>ANALYSIS:</b> Difficult to assess action on this recommendation. Although government claims it had reduced emissions as of 2002, there is no supporting baseline information and no clear statement of a GHG emissions reduction target for government operations.</p> <p><b>VERIFICATION:</b> Manitoba government indicates that GHG emissions reduced by 8% from 1990 levels by 2002 for all government operations (page 3, Climate Change: Leading Practices by Provincial and Territorial Governments in Canada <a href="http://www.councilofthefederation.ca/pdfs/CCInventoryAug3_EN.pdf">http://www.councilofthefederation.ca/pdfs/CCInventoryAug3_EN.pdf</a>) There is information to suggest that the government has collected some baseline information regarding GHG emissions and government buildings. "The Demand Side Energy Use baseline audit of 85 Manitoba government buildings was completed in 2003 and found that 2001/02 greenhouse gas levels in government buildings was already 8% below 1990/91 levels." (<a href="http://www.gov.mb.ca/greenandgrowing/greening.html">http://www.gov.mb.ca/greenandgrowing/greening.html</a>). No actual baseline or reporting information is available for government departments and agencies.</p>	GHG emissions reductions for government operations may have occurred. This recommendation has not been addressed.
<b>Section 5: Strategic Direction and Recommendations - Lead by Practice in Governance</b>			
page 34	<i>Require climate change impact statements for all Treasury Board and Cabinet submissions, legislative and regulatory proposals and intergovernmental activities.</i>	<p><b>ANALYSIS:</b> Unclear whether parts of this recommendation have been acted upon.</p> <p><b>VERIFICATION:</b> No information found regarding requirements for climate change impact statements for Treasury Board and Cabinet submissions or legislative proposals. There is no requirement for all regulatory proposals to include climate change impact statements. Projects required to adhere to EIS Guidelines are increasingly including climate change requirement, but no climate change impact statements have occurred.</p>	No information found to verify that this recommendation has been acted upon.
page 34	<i>Require all departments to consider greenhouse gas impacts, in addition to current environmental assessment criteria, in their evaluation processes as well as specifically addressing climate change as a strategic objective in departmental business plans and budgets.</i>	<p><b>ANALYSIS:</b> No indication that this requirement is in place. If this is a policy of the Manitoba government, it has not been made public; no documentation appears to exist. Environmental assessment criteria do not include GHG impacts. Departmental business plans are not fully public.</p> <p><b>VERIFICATION:</b> The government's webpage on Greening the Provincial Government (<a href="http://www.gov.mb.ca/greenandgrowing/greening.html">http://www.gov.mb.ca/greenandgrowing/greening.html</a>) does not refer to any such requirements. A search of the Manitoba government website does not indicate the existence of such a policy, nor do there appear to be examples of this requirement being put into practice.</p>	No information found to verify that this recommendation has been acted upon.

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Source of Recommendation	Text of 2001 Task Force Report Recommendation	Analysis - Manitoba Wildlands	Summary Comments - Manitoba Wildlands
page 34	<p><b>Use and strengthen existing legislation to implement provincial objectives related to greenhouse gas reductions,</b> including two key provincial acts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Manitoba Sustainable Development Act</b> to set greenhouse gas targets and indicators, require annual reports on progress, ensure that an evaluation framework is implemented and require engagement of the public</li> <li>• <b>The Manitoba Energy Act</b> to implement greenhouse gas reducing energy initiatives, such as setting more stringent energy efficiency codes for appliances and buildings, requiring sustainable development plans from Manitoba energy utilities, supporting the use of alternative transportation fuels and setting energy export transmission fees</li> </ul>	<p><b>ANALYSIS:</b> This recommendation has not been specifically acted upon. In Spring 2007, the government committed to the introduction of climate change legislation that will enshrine GHG emissions reduction targets in law (MB Gov press release - <a href="http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2006-12-01&amp;item=610">http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2006-12-01&amp;item=610</a>). This legislation has yet to be introduced</p> <p><b>VERIFICATION:</b> Neither the Sustainable Development Act or the Energy Act have been amended to include objectives for GHG emissions reductions. A variety of new energy efficiency programs have been introduced, including financial incentives, rebates, loans (PowerSmart Home Programs - residential and Commercial <a href="http://www.hydro.mb.ca/savings_rebates_loans.shtml">http://www.hydro.mb.ca/savings_rebates_loans.shtml</a> &amp; Manitoba Green Building Policy <a href="http://www.gov.mb.ca/est/energy/green_bldg.html">http://www.gov.mb.ca/est/energy/green_bldg.html</a>) Manitoba has acted to support the use of alternative transportation fuels (The Biofuels Act - <a href="http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/b040e.php">http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/b040e.php</a> &amp; The Biofuels and Gasoline Tax Amendment Act - <a href="http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/2003/c00503e.php">http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/2003/c00503e.php</a>)</p>	<p>In 2007, Manitoba has committed to address the spirit and intent of this 2001 recommendation. To fulfill the Task Force recommendation, the legislation must "set greenhouse gas targets and indicators, require annual reports on progress, ensure that an evaluation framework is implemented and require engagement of the public", require sustainable development plans from Manitoba energy utilities, and set energy export transmission fees.</p>
<b>Section 5: Strategic Direction and Recommendations - Lead by Practice in Public Policy</b>			

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page 36	<b>Immediately develop an energy policy,</b> given that energy will be a key determinant of Manitoba's ability to address provincial and national climate change objectives.	<b>ANALYSIS:</b> Manitoba does not have a comprehensive energy policy.	Manitoba needs to undertake a public policy development process that includes citizen input to craft a provincial energy policy. See Manitoba Wildlands content on an Energy Plan for Manitoba and the 2006 Chambers of Commerce resolution ( <a href="http://manitobawildlands.org/develop_hydro.htm#energy">http://manitobawildlands.org/develop_hydro.htm#energy</a> )
page 36	Manitoba's energy policy development process must [also] address . . . • How Manitoba Hydro and its subsidiary, Centra Gas, should participate in Manitoba's energy future, <b>by immediately conducting a review of the Manitoba Hydro Act to ensure that our key energy provider is responsive to the overall interests and future of Manitobans;</b>	<b>ANALYSIS:</b> None - no review of the Manitoba Hydro Act has been conducted to date.	This recommendation has not been acted upon; there has been no review of the Manitoba Hydro Act
page 36	Adopt economic development policies that recognize that a comprehensive climate change action plan requires both the participation of Manitoba's key economic sectors and the integration of our industry development strategies by . . . • <b>Directing departments and agencies responsible for agriculture to immediately address: climate change issues of carbon sinks; strategies to deal with increasing animal emissions; and, accelerated implementation of best management practices in agricultural production;</b>	A search of the Manitoba Agriculture website indicates one pilot project that is specifically aimed at GHG emissions reduction. The sustainable agriculture program, 'Covering New Ground' lists climate change a priority funding area for 2007/08. More information on these initiatives is needed in order to assess the level of investment and real benefits of these programs. <b>VERIFICATION:</b> The 2000 Livestock Stewardship Panel report ( <a href="http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/news/stewardship/livestock.pdf">http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/news/stewardship/livestock.pdf</a> ) contains a whole section on Livestock and Climate Change, but it is not clear how or whether the recommendations of this section have been acted upon in terms of specific policies or actions. The January 2007 document regarding 'POLICY GAPS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY' does not mention the word 'climate' ( <a href="http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/news/nextgen/pdf/principlesandpriorities.pdf">http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/news/nextgen/pdf/principlesandpriorities.pdf</a> ) In spring 2006, Manitoba launched the 'Growing Ecological Goods and Services program with the goal to 'test the concept of paying farmers for land management practices that benefit their land	Manitoba has launched a pilot program to enhance ecological benefits, including GHG emissions reductions and has climate change as a priority area for another grant program. No other information was found.

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Source of Recommendation	Text of 2001 Task Force Report Recommendation	Analysis - Manitoba Wildlands	Summary Comments - Manitoba Wildlands
page 38	<p>Adopt economic development policies that recognize that a comprehensive climate change action plan requires both the participation of Manitoba's key economic sectors and the integration of our industry development strategies by . . . • <b>Directing departments and agencies responsible for forestry to immediately address key climate change issues of carbon sinks and boreal forest impacts.</b></p>	<p><b>ANALYSIS:</b> It does not appear that this recommendation has been acted upon in any substantive way, aside from research investments. Action to protect boreal forest areas as carbon sinks (among other purposes) has been stalled for several years.</p> <p><b>VERIFICATION:</b> Manitoba reiterated this recommendation and quoted the 2001 Task Force report in its 2002 policy document, 'Next steps: Priorities for Sustaining Manitoba's Forests' (<a href="http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/forestry/reports/prioritiesdoc.pdf">http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/forestry/reports/prioritiesdoc.pdf</a>) Manitoba is investing in climate change research related to forests (<a href="http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/forestry/pdf/5year.pdf">http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/forestry/pdf/5year.pdf</a>). (page 5) In 2003, a Memorandum of Understanding was established with the Canadian Forest Service to study forest sustainability and climate change effects through the establishment of a series of long-term ecosystem monitoring plots. (page 12) A research project is being conducted near Thompson to examine the effects of warming on ecosystem carbon budgets and on nitrogen use by vegetation and microbes and the effects of warming on tree phenology and stand structure Manitoba has not protected a significant boreal forest area/carbon sink since 1999.</p>	<p>Manitoba has not yet taken substantive action to address this recommendation, aside from investments in research. Research results are not public.</p>
Section 5: Strategic Direction and Recommendations - Lead by Practice - Manitoba Hydro			
page 39	<p>The task force recommends that <b>Manitoba Hydro: Recognize that it is an integrated energy corporation</b> that could lead Manitoba into the carbon-constrained energy future by . . . • <b>Preparing a strategic plan that addresses climate change and the roles that electricity, natural gas and alternative energy will play;</b></p>	<p><b>ANALYSIS:</b> Manitoba Hydro's 2007-08 Corporate Strategic Plan includes a commitment to completing a climate change action plan. Manitoba Hydro does not indicate when this plan will be released. No specific information as to roles for electricity, natural gas, but target of 400MW of wind power by 2011 is stated.</p> <p><b>VERIFICATION:</b> Manitoba Hydro's 2007-2008 Corporate Strategic Plan - <a href="http://www.hydro.mb.ca/corporate/csp/2007/csp_2007.shtml">http://www.hydro.mb.ca/corporate/csp/2007/csp_2007.shtml</a> Manitoba Hydro Goal # 7 - Env Protection &amp; Sustainable Energy Supply - <a href="http://www.hydro.mb.ca/corporate/csp/2007/goal7.pdf">http://www.hydro.mb.ca/corporate/csp/2007/goal7.pdf</a> Manitoba Hydro Goal #10 - Leadership In Energy Conservation and Alternative Energy - <a href="http://www.hydro.mb.ca/corporate/csp/2007/goal10.pdf">http://www.hydro.mb.ca/corporate/csp/2007/goal10.pdf</a></p>	<p>Manitoba Hydro starting to address this recommendation. No indication of when its climate change plan will be made public.</p>

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page 39	The task force recommends that <b>Manitoba Hydro: Recognize that it is an integrated energy corporation</b> that could lead Manitoba into the carbon-constrained energy future by . . . • <b>Significantly expanding its energy efficiency program incentives and benchmarking these programs against other leading utilities in Canada;</b>	<p><b>ANALYSIS:</b> Manitoba Hydro has introduced a variety of new energy efficiency programs, including financial incentives, rebates, loans. It is unclear as to whether the utility is benchmarking these programs against other leading utilities in Canada. Manitoba Hydro's 2007-08 Corporate Strategic Plan includes explicit objectives for energy conservation to be achieved through PowerSmart and rate restructuring. Working with independent power producers and integrating wind energy into the Hydro system is also included. It does not include information to benchmark its targets and achievements to date in comparison with other Canadian utilities.</p> <p><b>VERIFICATION:</b> PowerSmart Home Programs - residential and Commercial <a href="http://www.hydro.mb.ca/savings_rebates_loans.shtml">http://www.hydro.mb.ca/savings_rebates_loans.shtml</a> Manitoba Green Building Policy <a href="http://www.gov.mb.ca/est/energy/green_bldg.html">http://www.gov.mb.ca/est/energy/green_bldg.html</a> Manitoba Hydro's 2007-2008 Corporate Strategic Plan - <a href="http://www.hydro.mb.ca/corporate/csp/2007/csp_2007.shtml">http://www.hydro.mb.ca/corporate/csp/2007/csp_2007.shtml</a> Manitoba Hydro Goal # 7 - Env Protection &amp; Sustainable Energy Supply -</p>	Manitoba Hydro is making progress on this recommendation, but needs to provide public information.
page 39	The task force recommends that <b>Manitoba Hydro: Recognize that it is an integrated energy corporation</b> that could lead Manitoba into the carbon-constrained energy future by . . . • <b>Changing its approach with respect to purchasing from Manitoba energy producers</b> , in order to stimulate alternative energy activities and export potential for clean power. <b>The current practice of purchasing at the equivalent cost of production is a barrier to this option;</b>	<p><b>ANALYSIS:</b> Manitoba's first wind farm is on line with other being licensed. Manitoba Hydro needs to move rapidly to providing customers (Manitoban) with the option to purchase new alternative energy.</p> <p><b>VERIFICATION:</b> According to Manitoba Hydro (<a href="http://www.hydro.mb.ca/projects/wind_q_and_a.shtml">http://www.hydro.mb.ca/projects/wind_q_and_a.shtml</a> accessed September 12, 2007) "The economic viability of wind is related directly to the export price that Manitoba Hydro can sell it for in the export market, including recovery of any costs associated with getting the wind energy to market." See also <a href="http://www.hydro.mb.ca/customer_services/customer_owned_generation/independent.shtml">http://www.hydro.mb.ca/customer_services/customer_owned_generation/independent.shtml</a></p>	"Carbon-constrained energy future" is not something Manitoba Hydro understands yet. Much more development of new alternative energy is needed in Manitoba.
<b>Section 5: Strategic Direction and Recommendations - Develop an Approach to Sinks and Emissions Trading</b>			

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page 41	The task force recommends that to capitalize on opportunities in emission trading and sinks, the government of Manitoba . . . <b>Address the knowledge gaps related to determining Manitoba's potential for our forestry and agricultural sectors to participate in sinks and emissions trading opportunities.</b>	<b>ANALYSIS:</b> A search of the government of Manitoba website yields no information regarding policy, research or mechanisms for Manitoba's forests and agricultural lands to be included in emissions trading as carbon sinks. No information available as to carbon inventory for these lands as baseline, for discussion, etc. <b>VERIFICATION:</b> Manitoba Climate and Green Initiatives - Forestry ( <a href="http://www.gov.mb.ca/est/climate/mb_doing/forestry.html">http://www.gov.mb.ca/est/climate/mb_doing/forestry.html</a> ) - This website does not indicate any action to determine Manitoba's forest sector potential as a carbon sink. It mentions <b>managing</b> the forests for carbon storage (harvesting still occurring) but does not discuss or acknowledge potential for these lands to sequester carbon for the long term.	It does not appear that Manitoba has taken substantive action to address this recommendation