



**ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE**

**2015**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

# Overview & History of Environmental Initiatives

## 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.

## 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 online at [www.brandonenvironment.ca](http://www.brandonenvironment.ca) to provide an easier format for the public to access information.

### Did you know?

The committee provides funding for small environmental initiatives in the community.



# National Recognition



## Communities in Bloom Outstanding Achievement in Environmental Action Award

On October 2nd, 2015, the City of Brandon was thrilled to receive the Outstanding Achievement in Environmental Action for 2015 by Communities in Bloom. The City was recognized at the annual national symposium, held in Kamloops, BC with hundreds of delegates from Canada, the United States and Europe in attendance. This award was sponsored by the Canadian Nursery and Landscape Association and showcases efforts related to waste reduction, composting, environmental stewardship activities and sustainable development related to greenspaces. The award distinguishes communities who make special efforts to establish themselves as green, environmentally responsible communities. The City's Greenspace Master Plan, the Green Cart Compost program, partnerships with the Assiniboine Hills Conservation District, and Brandon School Division were all programs that contributed to this success. For more information on the City of Brandon's involvement in the Communities in Bloom programs please, visit [www.brandoninbloom.ca](http://www.brandoninbloom.ca).

## 2015 Fair Trade Town of the Year

This past year the City of Brandon tied with the town of Hudson, QC, for Fair Trade Town of the year. This is the second time in a row Brandon has been Fair Trade Town of the year recognized, by Fair Trade Canada.



## Federation of Canadian Municipalities Partners for Climate Protection Program

The City of Brandon is a participant in the "Partners for Climate Protection Program." The program helps municipalities reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Brandon is 1 of 32 municipalities across Canada and the first municipality in Manitoba to complete all 5 milestones! The City of Brandon will be formally recognized at the FCM Sustainable Communities Conference in Ottawa, ON, in February 2016. To learn more about this initiative flip to page 7!

# Public Engagement Initiatives



## 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.



## Earth Day Spirit Week

In April, 2015, the City's Green Team and the Brandon Environment Committee celebrated Earth Day each day of the week with a different environmental theme: "Make a difference Monday, Trivia Tuesday, Wear Green Wednesday, Thrifty Thursday and Fair Trade Friday."



## Planet Protectors

Brandon was the first in Manitoba to implement the Planet Protector Academy in five classrooms Grades 3-6 in the Brandon School Division. 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!

## Brandon Waste Reduction School Challenge

2015 marked the 5th 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, 19 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, water bottles 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).



### Did you know?

Over 10 organizations helped the City of Brandon carry out environmental initiatives in 2015.

### Did you know?

The Waste Reduction School Challenge Program has been shared with other municipalities across Canada.

### Did you know?

Brandon Enviro Expo registration filled up in less than four hours for this high in-demand event.

## 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 2015 the Enviro Expo had 294 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.

## National Environment Week

For the first time ever, the Brandon Environment Committee partnered with the Global Market to host an event to kick off National Environment Week (the first week in June). The event was hosted at the Global Market

and included other partnerships in the community such as the Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation and CAA. 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.

# 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 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.

## 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. The City has replaced its hanging flower baskets and planters with water efficient ones. The new spray park at Rideau Park has a 1,000 gallon underground holding tank. The water from the tank is reused to water the lawn bowling green. In exchange, the Wheat City Lawn Bowling club ensures the refuse and recycling containers in the park are rolled out for pick up. In 2016, the committee will be exploring drought tolerant grasses in several locations in the city. The City metered water consumption has decreased while maintaining a growing population.

## 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.



# Corporate Initiatives

## Did you know?

Trees can increase a property's value as well as prevent water pollution.

## Did you know?

The average resident uses 177L of water per day.

## Did you know?

New City employee orientation packages have switched from a paper to a digital copy saving 1.5 trees/year.

## 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. In 2015, waste audits were completed in four city facilities. 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 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.

PCP Framework:

1. Develop a greenhouse gas inventory
2. Set GHG emission reduction target
3. Develop a local action plan
4. Implement a local action plan
5. Monitor and report

## Building a Sustainable City

The Planning and Building Safety Department has launched a "Building a Sustainable City" initiative. The goal is to promote and advocate sustainable development as part of the day-to-day development applications review and the long-term land use planning processes. The policy statements set forth in all our planning documents include, but are not limited to: the Brandon Area Planning District Development Plan 2013, the BAPD Fringe Area Growth Strategy, the North Gateway Secondary Plan, the South West Brandon Secondary Plan, and the Urban and Landscape Design Standards Manual. All are geared toward promoting sustainable developments and green building practices. To learn more on this initiative, [click here](#).

## Urban Forestry

In the past year the City has received tree planting grants from TD Canada and CN Eco-Connections. With the help of these grants, volunteers were able to plant over 300 trees in our greenspaces. Coming in 2016 will be the Urban Forestry Management Plan.

# Community Initiatives

## Did you know?

1,289 tonnes of organic waste diverted from the landfill.

## Did you know?

250 lbs of batteries were recycled through the "Call 2 Recycle Program".

## Did you know?

1,787 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e ghg emissions reduced by the Green Cart Program.

### Green Cart Program

In 2015, the program had 5,646 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 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.

### 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.

# Community Initiatives

## Brandon Community Garden Network

The Brandon Community Garden Network (CGN) began in 2000 through the work of Samaritan House to bring food security to Brandon's lower income residents. Since that time, the CGN has blossomed through partnerships with the Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation, Healthy Brandon, the Agricultural Research Station and the City of Brandon. The CGN continues to grow using as many environmentally sustainable practices as they can. Sustainable practices include using environmentally friendly treated wood for raised garden bed building. Composting and mulching techniques applied at the gardens while incorporating training workshops to educate community gardeners and the public are important to the CGN. Effective communication about sustainable water practices are being employed at Hummingbird Community Garden location by communicating that message in seven languages. The CGN encourages organic and pesticide free gardening at all garden locations. The CGN is an important community group in Brandon and a great educator in environmentally sustainable urban agriculture.

## 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 have to be completed: 1. form a steering committee, 2. receive political support, 3. have a certain number of stores and restaurants to demonstrate product availability, and 4. public engagement and 5. community support. There are hundreds of fair trade products in Brandon. To promote awareness of fair trade, the committee launched Fair Trade Fridays. In September, Fair Trade Canada recognized Brandon as a Fair Trade Town of the year for the 2nd time in a row. 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.

### Did you know?

There are 847 community gardens that spread out over 17 locations.

### Did you know?

You can go to [www.marquisproject.com](http://www.marquisproject.com) to see what fair trade products can be found in Brandon.

