

# Government : Greening our Operations

## Actions to date

- The Demand Side Energy Use baseline audit of 85 government buildings was completed in 2003. In total, these 85 buildings emit over 40,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases annually. The baseline audit found that the 2001/02 greenhouse gas level in the buildings was already eight per cent below 1990/01 levels.
- **The Manitoba government now uses 30 per cent post-consumer waste recycled paper** and the provincial Materials Distribution Agency (MDA) has 200 Green Choice products in its annual catalogue.
- The MDA categorizes used government assets as reusable or recyclable. Reusable items are redistributed within government or given to charitable organizations. Recyclable items are sold to companies to extract base metals.
- Waste minimization initiatives have been introduced in more than 300 government buildings.
- **The provincial light duty fleet currently has approximately 370 alternative and flexible fuel vehicles.** Fleet Vehicles Agency has a policy encouraging the use of cleaner E10 fuels broadly across the fleet.
- In evaluating future leases, the government will seek green standards and environmentally friendly products such as recyclable carpet tile, EcoLogo paints, T8 lighting and Manitoba Hydro Power Smart Program upgrades.
- Trades contractors are encouraged to provide goods, materials and services that lessen the burden on the environment, and are asked to implement green business practices.
- The Manitoba Housing Authority (MHA) is adopting energy efficiency measures (ex: high efficiency boilers, high performance windows, energy efficient lighting and insulation). These are being incorporated into ongoing modernization and improvement activities at MHA housing projects.
- In addition, through MHA's Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI), all new single family homes must be built to Manitoba Hydro Power Smart standards, and the MHA is currently offering a homeowner and tenant training program in northern Manitoba that includes training on improving energy efficiency.
- The delivery of government services through the Internet, over the phone, multiple services at over-the-counter centres and expanded broadband service will improve citizen satisfaction in addition to helping the environment.



## Leading by example in government

The Manitoba Government is committed to energy efficiency, water conservation, waste minimization and greening its vehicle fleet to reduce emissions from its own operations.

### Next steps

- **GREEN BUILDING POLICY FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION AND MAJOR RENOVATIONS.** The province's new green building policy applies to all commercial and institutional projects that are funded by the Government of Manitoba, including Crown corporations. The policy requires all new capital projects, including schools and health-care facilities, to exceed LEED® Silver certification. This policy will be mandated in new climate change legislation.
- **GREENING OUR PROVINCIAL BUILDINGS.** Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation and Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy and Mines are working to review and implement rating systems for existing government buildings. These will take into account a building's actual performance. The government will use what it learns from this review to develop strategies and operational practices to ensure government buildings operate at optimum efficiency. The government will work with Manitoba Hydro through the Commercial Building Optimization Program to review and improve energy savings and occupancy comfort in existing government buildings.
- **GREENING THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT FLEET.** Starting with an executive fleet policy requiring the use of hybrid vehicles, the province will develop a policy to reduce fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions from its vehicles. Departments and agencies will be required to reduce the amount of gasoline and diesel used in fleet vehicles by increasing vehicle fuel economy, operating efficiency and reducing the number of miles driven by employees. Departments will be required to limit the purchase or lease of four-wheel drive sport utility vehicles and similar vehicles to situations where there is a clear business need. Priority will be placed on hybrid gas/electric and other fuel-efficient/low-emission vehicles. The Fleet Vehicles Agency will identify vehicles that meet the requirements of Manitoba's green fleet objectives. In addition, the government is considering the feasibility of extending Winnipeg Transit's EcoPass program to provincial employees.
- **ALTERNATIVE TO TRAVEL AND TRAVEL OFFSETS FOR GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES.** The province is working to reduce provincial employee air and land travel through the use of teleconferencing and expanded video conferencing. Greenhouse gases generated through necessary travel will be offset through verified carbon credits.
- **CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS IN DECISION MAKING.** Climate change impacts and adaptation will be part of the future budget, land-use and environmental assessment decision-making processes.