



Annual Report 2014-2015

April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015



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Message from the Chair



This has been a year of changes for the Manitoba Eco-Network.

Spring and summer of 2014 saw considerable effort by all parties in the collective bargaining process and the Eco-Network is now a unionised workplace, CUPE Local 2348. In the end, we now have a mutually supported collective agreement guiding us. The Eco-Network was provided legal support throughout negotiations by Nicole Smith and William Gardner of Pitblado Law who provided a great portion of their support pro bono, we are grateful for their help. One clause in the collective agreement called for staff representation on the board of directors. The staff selected Megan Krohn as their representative; we look forward to her participation and contributions in the years to come.

In addition to Megan Krohn we were privileged to welcome James Beddome and Damli Gureja as new Board members. I do encourage member groups to nominate directors to the board. It is through a diverse, strong, and representative board that the Eco-Network will begin to achieve its full potential.

In the fall, our Executive Director, Kristine Koster, was offered and accepted a position in the Sustainability Office at Red River College. Kristine was dedicated and worked extremely hard for the Manitoba Eco-Network. We thank her for her contributions and wish her every success in the future.

We were then faced with the immediate necessity to deal with the filling of the Executive Director position. Curt Belton was appointed on an interim basis and was able to begin within a week of Kristine's departure. While not without difficulties, the transition was successful and Curt continues as interim Executive Director (At time of writing Curt has been hired permanently).

The Board had committed that in the 2014/15 operating year a strategic planning process would be undertaken. While we have distributed member surveys, we did not make as much progress on the file as we had hoped. We believe that a robust strategic plan is critical to the Eco-Network and we are determined to finish the plan development in the upcoming year.

In his executive director's report Curt has enthusiastically chronicled the many activities undertaken by the Eco-Network over the 2014/15 fiscal year. We have every reason to be proud of the performance of the Manitoba Eco-Network and we look forward to another productive and fulfilling year in 2015/16.

John Fjeldsted
Board Chair

Message from the Executive Director



It has been an exciting opportunity to be asked to be the interim Executive Director of the Manitoba Eco-Network because I believe so passionately in what we are doing. We are connecting and educating Manitobans around environmental issues that are so critical to all of us. What I have seen since I arrived is a group of people who are dedicated to working towards building a more sustainable society through education, connections, and personal action. It is intense work as we write, plan, discuss, network, apply for funding and report to various bodies. But we do it because we know that it is important work to do. When we have a breakthrough with a project, get to work closely with other groups, or support youth, it is fantastic.

The Manitoba Eco-Network is a complex organization with our function as an umbrella group and our programs. We have been striving to be greater than the sum of our parts and making connections with groups and individuals to move the agenda of environmental sustainability forward. This could be seen through our collaboration with the Universities, the Wilderness Committee, and our Climate Change Connection Program to educate the Public about the proposed Energy East Pipeline. We also have had the honour of collaborating with the David Suzuki Foundation's Blue Dot movement who have had a staff member located in our office since September. We co-sponsored a "Save the Pollinators" workshop with the Sierra Club, and worked with the Next-Up Youth Leadership program to provide workshops tying in environmental concerns with social issues. In October we worked with the Manitoba Education for Sustainable Development Working Group to put on Sustainability Month that featured 137 events from 61 organizations. These are just some examples of how we are fulfilling our mandate of connecting and education about environmental issues.

In the chill of winter we presented a "Lunch and Learn" for member groups on the CRA regulations with respect to "political activities" and continued to facilitate informal conversations through our monthly "Green Drinks". Our Reel Green Festival in March was well attended, full of inspiring films about nature, and another great networking opportunity for members of the environmental community. We have also been strengthening our ties to the Canadian Environmental Network and put out a member survey to see what we can do to improve as a network. The Manitoba Eco-Network continues to be a vibrant hub of environmental activity and distributor of information from our member groups. We strive to support our members and inspire the general public towards positive environmental action.

Curt Belton
Executive Director (Interim)

Manitoba Eco-Network

The Manitoba Eco-Network (MEN) is a non-profit organization which promotes positive environmental action by connecting people and groups in our communities and aims to be an environmental resource for all. Since 1988 the Manitoba Eco-Network has been carrying out public education on matters concerning the environment.

Our Mission:

The Manitoba Eco-Network's mission is to facilitate environmental awareness and expand community connections. We serve as an umbrella for environmental non-governmental organizations across the province. We welcome individual, ENGO, and associate members to our organization.

Core Services

EcoCentre

The EcoCentre is located on the third floor of Winnipeg's Mountain Equipment Co-op.

Manitoba Eco-Network continues to provide overall coordination and financial management of the EcoCentre. In partnership with Mountain Equipment Co-op, Manitoba Eco-Network sublets space to Green Action Centre, Trails Manitoba, Wilderness Committee, and Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Manitoba Chapter. The EcoCentre is significant in that it is a hub of activity with dozens of meetings happening monthly in the boardroom involving a multitude of ENGOs.

The work of everyone is strengthened by regular social gatherings such as coffee afternoons and bbqs, as well as the informal discussions that occur due to the close proximity of the EcoCentre organizations.

Resource Centre - Alice Chambers Memorial Library

Manitoba Eco-Network is proud to continue our operation of the Alice Chambers Memorial Library. The library contains environmental resources in the form of books, reports, magazines, journals and DVDs/videos for free loan to the public. This year we began the process of revitalizing our library through going through the entire collection, reorganizing the space, and making plans for additions to the collection and updating the library software.



Alice Chambers Memorial Library.

Information Service

Manitoba Eco-Network is a hub for individuals, journalists, and nonprofits, providing access to local environmental information, as well as providing presentations on a wide variety of environmental topics to groups in the community. We also act as a go-to resource for extensive eco-event and green job listings around the province.

This past year, our staff has also taken part in a wide variety of radio and television interviews on CJOB, CTV, CBC, CHVN, as well as print media such as the Winnipeg Free Press and community newspapers.



Christie and Liz (Blue Dot Movement) at our monthly Green Drinks event.

Eco Journal

Published quarterly, the Eco Journal covers a wide array of environmental topics and gives voice to many conservation-minded groups and individuals around the province. The past year's publications included articles on beekeeping in the city, community orchards, bike safety and tips, getting active in Manitoba winters, the NHL and climate change, and much more. The Eco-Journal is available to Manitoba Eco-Network members and also around town at various locations including public libraries, Vita Health stores, and Hollow Reed Holistic.

We act as a hub for individuals, journalists, and nonprofits to access local environmental information

Member Services

The Manitoba Eco-Network provides networking and information services for our individual members and member groups, as well as meeting space, equipment use, and discounted ad rates for the Eco-Journal. As well, we provide referrals from the media, government and public on issues relating to the expertise of our member groups, and promote their work and action through social media, as well as outreach activities and events.

This past year we hosted a CRA lunch and learn for our member groups, as well as participating in various public workshops and events open to both our members and members of the general public.

Our monthly Green Drinks at the King's Head Pub continues to be a relaxed and casual way to network amongst our members and anyone interested in all things environmental.

Core Activities

Blue Dot Campaign - The Right to Healthy Environment

The Manitoba Eco Network took on an important new role this year as the Manitoba partner with the David Suzuki Blue Dot Movement.

Liz Shearer, Winnipeg Blue Dot Community Organizer, has taken up residence in our office which makes for fantastic collaborating on a regular basis about how to support this vital movement.

We have partnered together at events and workshops, and were proud to have our staff member Susan Lindsay speak at the Blue Dot Tour Stop in Winnipeg in October. We look forward to continuing a lasting and engaging relationship between the Manitoba Eco-Network and the David Suzuki Foundation, and helping to ensure the right to a healthy environment.



We all live on a little blue dot.



Susan Lindsay speaks to thousands about her passion for the environment at the David Suzuki Blue Dot Tour

Call2Recycle

The Manitoba Eco-Network became an official Call2Recycle location for old batteries and cell phones. Our first major collection resulted in **20 kgs of items** which otherwise would have ended up in the landfill, releasing harmful elements into the land and waterways.



Eco-Network helps to divert batteries and cellphones from the landfills



Some of the many people who came out to support us on National Battery Day

National Battery Day

Kildonan Place gave the Manitoba Eco-Network and the environment some "positive energy" in the form of used batteries this past February, by holding a one day collection site at the mall. Not only did they help in diverting over **1500 batteries** from the landfill, they donated \$1 to the Eco-Network for each battery collected!



Corey Quintaine (KP Marketing Manager), Megan Krohn, Peter Havens (KP General Manager), Curt Belton.

Core Activities continued...

Prairie Love Yoga Festival

We had the chance to table at this fabulous event which featured DJs, incredible yoga workshops, meditation sessions, and discussion with inspirational teachers and speakers. Not only did we soak up the great energy of the day, the great folks at Prairie Yogi also donated a portion of festival proceeds as well as 100% of pre-fest karma event proceeds to the Manitoba Eco-Network.



Megan, Christie and Ani getting to know people at Prairie Love.



Commuter Challenge

We participated in the annual Commuter Challenge and managed to **save over 70 kgs of GHG** emissions from entering our atmosphere and burned more than 5800 total calories during our cycling and transit green commutes to work.

Jack Frost Challenge

Our staff had a fantastic afternoon of cross-country skiing as part of Green Action Centre's Jack Frost Challenge. A great way to enjoy some relaxing time with each other and stay active in the beautiful Manitoba winter.



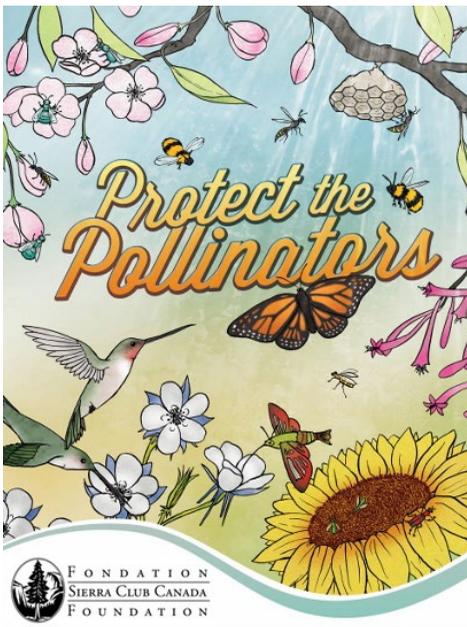
The Manitoba Eco-Network staff enjoy a beautiful winter day outside.

Protect the Pollinators Workshop

The Manitoba Eco-Network partnered with the Sierra Club on this vital bee-focused Winnipeg tour stop. The workshop included a panel discussion on the danger of pesticides to bee populations and the ultimate effects on our food sources.

Staff Leadership Workshop

After taking part in a week-long leadership training course at Banff Centre, Megan led a knowledge sharing workshop for Manitoba Eco-Network staff. She talked about different leadership styles, teamwork, and how to manage a team for high performance results.



SOCIAL PURCHASING PORTAL SHOPPING DIRECTORY

FOOD -- Catering, Retail/Wholesale, Cooking Classes, Grocery			
Divinity Food Services 8 Catalina 204-754-1111 www.divinityfoods.com	Food for Thought Produce, Groceries and Catering 800 Duane St. W. 204-772-2000 www.foodforthought.ca	Organic Planet Organic Groceries and Catering 877 Macdonell Ave. 204-972-0000 www.organicplanet.com	Urbane Taste Café 204-754-1111 110 Poplar Trail E. 204-972-0000 www.urbanetaste.com
Greenleaf Organic Food 401 Broadway St. 204-983-0300 www.greenleaffoods.com	Chameleon Catering Catering and event services 401 Broadway St. 204-983-0300	Spice People Catering, Groceries, Café 100 Macdonell Ave. 204-972-0000 www.spicepeople.com	The Seed Store Organic Health Food Catering 800 Broadway Ave. 204-983-1999 www.seedstore.ca
Manitoba Food Project Community Centre 401 Broadway Ave. 204-983-0300 www.manitobafoodproject.com	Bowman's Deli Deli, Grocery, Catering 1170 Corydon Ave. 204-983-0300 www.bowmansdeli.com	Organic Groceries Delivery Organic Groceries Delivery 1508 Corydon St. 204-772-1475 www.vegandirect.com	Neesh Foods Canada Specialty Meats, Restaurant & Catering 401 Broadway St. 204-983-0300 www.neeshfoods.com

WARES -- Clothing, Textiles, Home Furniture, Art, Crafts, and Gifts			
Hart & Sparrow Clothing & Textiles 120 Main St. 204-588-0200 www.hartandsparrow.com	The UpCycle Handmade Textiles, Home Goods 200 South Ave. www.upcycle.ca	Stark Textiles, Table Linens, Craft 200 South Ave. 301 471 Ave. N. 204-943-0039 www.stark.ca	Neesh Kites Textiles, Home Goods, Bedding Local Businesses (SPP) only 309 Main St. 204-714-9119 www.neeshkites.com
Manitoba Eco-Network Textiles, Home Goods, Bedding 100 Main St. 204-714-9119 www.manitobanetwork.com	The Home Goods Store Home Goods, Textiles, Bedding 100 Main St. 204-714-9119 www.homegoodsstore.com	Manitoba Eco-Network Corp. Home Goods, Textiles, Bedding 100 Main St. 204-714-9119 www.manitobanetwork.com	Polka Record Change Shoppe Record Vinyl, Books & Document 309 Main St. 204-714-9119 www.polkarecordchange.com

HARDWARE & RENOVATION -- Supplies, Construction, Workshop, Property Maintenance			
Plumbing Services Co. Plumbing, Heating, Air Conditioning 1000 Main St. 204-983-0300 www.plumbing-services.com	Manitoba Green Roofing Roofing, Siding, Gutter Installation 100 Main St. 204-714-9119 www.manitobagreenroofing.com	Blair Wright Development Residential, Commercial, Industrial 100 Main St. 204-714-9119 www.blairwrightdevelopment.com	Building Urban Solutions for Local Businesses (SPP) only Construction, Renovation, Property Maintenance, Home Services 100 Main St. 204-714-9119 www.builturbansolutions.com

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT -- Health, Cleaning, Gardening, Landscaping			
OSCAR'S 1000 Main St. 204-983-0300 www.oscars.ca	Urban Green Cleaning Services Commercial, Residential Cleaning 100 Main St. 204-714-9119 www.urbandevelopment.com	Urban Earth Services Inc. Landscaping, Gardening, Property Maintenance 100 Main St. 204-714-9119 www.urbanearth.ca	Manitoba Eco-Network Health, Cleaning, Gardening, Landscaping 100 Main St. 204-714-9119 www.manitobanetwork.com

OFFICE & TECHNOLOGY -- Supplies, Printing, Computer Software, E-News			
Print & Water Co. Printing, Water, Paper Products 204-772-1111 www.printandwater.com	Book Connection Canada Inc. Books, E-books, Digital Products 100 Main St. 204-714-9119 www.bookconnection.ca	Book & Technology Printing Printing, E-books, Digital Products 100 Main St. 204-714-9119 www.bookandtechnology.com	Manitoba Eco-Network Supplies, Printing, Computer Software, E-News 100 Main St. 204-714-9119 www.manitobanetwork.com

TRANSPORTATION -- Courier Services, Cycle Repair, Transportation, Car Co-ops			
Map City Car Co-ops Car sharing, Car rental, Car maintenance 100 Main St. 204-714-9119 www.mapcitycar.com	Auto Maintenance Auto repair, Car maintenance 100 Main St. 204-714-9119 www.automaintenance.com	Manitoba Eco-Network Courier Services, Cycle Repair, Transportation, Car Co-ops 100 Main St. 204-714-9119 www.manitobanetwork.com	Manitoba Eco-Network Courier Services, Cycle Repair, Transportation, Car Co-ops 100 Main St. 204-714-9119 www.manitobanetwork.com

OTHER -- Children, Events, Professional Development, Music Services, Space Rentals			
Manitoba Eco-Network Children, Events, Professional Development, Music Services, Space Rentals 100 Main St. 204-714-9119 www.manitobanetwork.com	Manitoba Eco-Network Children, Events, Professional Development, Music Services, Space Rentals 100 Main St. 204-714-9119 www.manitobanetwork.com	Manitoba Eco-Network Children, Events, Professional Development, Music Services, Space Rentals 100 Main St. 204-714-9119 www.manitobanetwork.com	Manitoba Eco-Network Children, Events, Professional Development, Music Services, Space Rentals 100 Main St. 204-714-9119 www.manitobanetwork.com

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GUIDING PRINCIPLES
(Courtesy of Health Foods Worker Co-op)

1. Use of locally produced goods and services
2. Production of goods and services for local use
3. Local re-investment of profits
4. Long term employment of local residents
5. Local skills development
6. Local decision making
7. Public health
8. Healthy, safe physical environment
9. Neighbourhood stability
10. Worker equity
11. Support for other CEO initiatives

Social Purchasing Portal (SPP)

By choosing local supplier partners when ordering food for a workshop or sending items by courier, the Eco-Network helped to **contribute to over \$400,000 in purchases made via the Social Purchasing Portal.**

Each purchase helps to support local businesses that hold a socially conscious mandate and approach to sustainable employment and/or environment in Winnipeg.

BLENDED
Blending RESOURCES and SOCIAL VALUES in purchasing.

>>

sppwinnipeg.org

BUILDING
The building for the green practices in a city.

Reel Green and Protecting our Earth Awards

Reel Green Celebration

Working to promote positive environmental action can seem like you are swimming upstream all the time, and that someone keeps building dams that you have to try and hurl yourself over.

Faced with the ongoing reality of climate change, momentum for projects that you know will have a detrimental effect on ecosystems, and policies that don't seem to take into account the broad picture of sustainability, it can seem like those of us pursuing environmental justice and sustainability face insurmountable odds.

That is why it is important to take time out to reflect on the positive work that we do get done, and look to the beauty of nature to inspire us.

At Reel Green this year we saw *How Wolves Change Rivers*, an incredible story of how the reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park had a profound positive effect on the entire ecosystem and even changed the rivers.

We also saw the beauty of belugas in the icy waters of Hudson Bay in *Swimming with Belugas*, and were inspired by the tenacity of 93-year-old Alice Kolisnyk as she used her walker to traverse portages in her canoe trip in Northern Ontario in *Nonagenarian Canoeist*.

The incredible beauty of nature and the inspiring actions of people reminding us that there is still work to be done to protect what we hold dear for now and the future.



A packed house of environmentalists, philanthropists, and others at Reel Green.

Environmental Awards

The Anne Lindsey Protecting Our Earth Awards are awarded each year to recognize significant contributions to the awareness and protection of Manitoba's environment.

This year we put much thought and effort into revamping our awards to make the application process more logical and to improve the information on the website. We also produced a short video promoting our awards that is available on the Manitoba Eco-Network's YouTube channel and website.



Opening credits of the new Protecting our Earth Awards video

This year celebrated the work of two dedicated environmentalists, Peter Miller and Carolyn Garlich, who have been working diligently for positive environmental change and inspiring others for over 30 years.

Peter and Carolyn have a longstanding association with the Green Action Centre and the Green Action Committee of the Universalist Unitarian Church. Peter was a founding member of Time to Respect Earth's Ecosystems and Carolyn has been a board member for the Manitoba Eco-Network.



Separately, and together this remarkable couple have unequivocally earned their joint Lifetime Achieve Award. Looking at the work of Peter and Carolyn and exchanging thoughts and sharing experiences with others at Reel Green was a time to renew our commitment and prepare to throw ourselves into the next challenge in our quest towards promoting environmental sustainability.

Climate Change Connection

Climate Change Connection is raising awareness and understanding of climate change in Manitoba.

We have reached and inspired thousands of people: children in Turn Your Key presentations, young adults in Youth Climate Conferences, and adults of all ages in our presentations, panels, and group work.

We assist (and have sometimes helped initiate) groups who are working to solve the climate challenge and build a resilient Manitoba.

We continue to build collaborative networks with the province and the city, with NGOs, with business leaders, and with First Nations on active transportation, on public transportation, on agricultural bi-products for biomass, and on "green" construction. agricultural straw for heat.



Sustainability Conference at Sisler High School, April 2014.



CLIMATE CHANGE CONNECTION

Highlights

- New climatechangeconnection.org website and logo - Thanks to a grant from Assiniboine Credit Union, we were able to rebuild our website in Wordpress. The new site is much more lively and attractive. Coming events are presented in a sliding array on the homepage. The site is responsive - the display resizes to fit the visitors' device. This provides an attractive and informative experience on mobile devices. The site adds request forms and integrates our Facebook, Twitter, and Vimeo feeds. Featured & archived videos. New "FRESH Stories" interface.
- Instrumental in developing Transition Winnipeg's Energy Descent Action Plan. This document has been useful in engaging mayoral candidates, other politicians, and public servants to discuss a low-carbon future.
- Youth Conferences on Climate Change at Murdock MacKay, Sisler High School, W.C. Miller in Altona, and Goose Lake in Roblin. The opening presentation at Murdock MacKay was to the whole student body (~**1000 students & staff**)
- The Biomass Economy Network (BEN) has identified policy barriers to agricultural and forestry biomass for heat. Working with the Province to reduce those barriers.

**1000 students and staff
learned about Climate
Change at Murdock MacKay**

Highlights continued...

- More than **20 presentations** to more than **3000 Manitobans**.
- The Transformative Buildings Group is working with CaGBC to promote Passivhaus construction methods in Manitoba. We have built a webpage, there will be week-long training in April and a buildings tour in May 2015.
- Displayed at Assiniboine Park Zoo Sustainability Day. This allowed us to strengthen our connection with the Zoo and with the interpreters and volunteers. The new polar bear exhibit features many climate change display elements.
- chatted and shared climate change facts & tips at our table in the Bike Zone at Ciclovía.



Cyclists make their way to work during Bike Week 2014. Carbon-free commuting at its best!



Susan Lindsay chats with Ciclovía goes in the "Bike Zone"



Polar Bear under water. Visitors to the Zoo will now learn about how climate change is affecting the Polar Bears.

Summary

The following metrics quantify Climate Change Connection's efforts to increase awareness among Manitobans, with phase XIII representing the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Number of...	Phase							
	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	XIII
Connection_update mailings posted	20	18	18	20	12	16	13	11
Connection_update membership	448	479	824	1135	872	843	849	207
Idle-free zone (IFZ) municipalities, schools, businesses	32	24	32	69	46	42	11	7
Idle-free zone (IFZ) signs and kits distributed	178	186	294	278	156	96	31	39
Media coverage events earned	29	32	13	13	21	10	14	7
Professional development & networking events attended	28	30	19	26	25	27	28	52
<i>Turn your Key-This School is Idle-Free (TYK-TSIF)</i> venues	4	4	4	2	14	5	4	9
TYK-TSIF students & teachers reached	400	792	161	62	1137	465	265	585
Webpages added or modified	25	45	41	50	25	28	39	182+
Display opportunities	22	19	24	13	15	12	11	7
Meetings organized or attended	52	132	168	105	144	134	145	134
Presentation attendees	1200	1056	3988	2359	1537	2426	1696	3107
Presentations given	30	26	43	34	35	40	33	20
Youth Conference attendance	189	270	345	450	270	310	580	440
Youth Conferences in Winnipeg and rural Manitoba	4	4	4	4	4	3	5	4

Manitoba Environmental Youth Network

The Manitoba Environmental Youth Network (MEYN) is helping to build a capable, knowledgeable and connected youth community who actively seek to create positive environmental solutions in Manitoba.

We offer resources, support, inspiration, and collaborative opportunities in order to facilitate action and foster a sense of community for environmentally minded youth in Manitoba.

WITH ART Program

In 2014 we launched our Eco Art Action project, collaboration with artist Karen Cornelius, and developed with support from the Winnipeg Arts Council's Youth WITH ART program.

We worked with grade 12 Dakota Collegiate students to environmental issues through art-making. The WITH ART program partners professional artists with community groups to work on community identity, issues, and shared goals through the development of an art project.

By engaging in the artistic process and interacting with professional artists, young people are given a chance to express themselves and often gain a deeper understanding of their own communities.

Students were introduced to environmental issues facing Winnipeg and the wider world, and responded to the issues through workshops that used a variety of art-making mediums.



*Silk Screen by Dakota Collegiate student,
WITH ART program.*

Projects included using printmaking techniques to repam the local neighbourhood as a greener, more environmentally friendly place, and a collage project exploring what the students loved and hated about Winnipeg.

From there, the focus was narrowed to the tangible issue of water and waste, particularly plastic bottle waste.

The class collected all the plastic bottles in their school for four months, and then counted them. The students each created an action figure to help them respond to their concerns about these issues. They animated their figures in a comic strip, created a story board, and then brought their action figure to life using stop motion animation.

The students were encouraged to explore their own creative voice as they expressed their ideas and concerns about water, plastic bottles, and waste. The results were humorous and sobering, cautionary and hopeful. **Fifteen videos were created**, which can now be viewed online.

Students explored their own creative voice... results were humorous and sobering, cautionary and hopeful



Students from Dakota Collegiate try their hand at stop motion animation and city planning.



Visit the Winnipeg Arts Council website to watch the fantastic films: www.tinyurl.com/youthwithart

Our Steering Committee continues to be active, meeting on a monthly basis to represent a variety of high school, post-secondary and community-based groups in order to organize training and networking opportunities for environmentally conscious youth.

We continue to connect with our network through our website, monthly newsletter, and social media outlets (Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest) to foster our community's growth by helping them to exchange ideas, and propel collaboration into action.



Students engage in sustainability discussions during workshop.

**We foster our community's growth
by helping them to exchange ideas,
and propel collaboration into action**

An integral part of our programming is the mentorship and follow-up we do with schools. One memorable action project we provided mentorship was with Sisler High School, and keeping chickens in their school courtyard!

The students and staff were both excited to have chickens in the courtyard. The woodshop teacher was particularly happy to be involved, building a mobile coop to house the chickens.

When the pair of chickens arrived **students who typically are not interested in sustainability projects at the schools were engaged** in this project – helping to set up the chicken area, and checking in on the chickens well-being throughout the project.

The students in the sustainability circle took turns feeding the chickens, changing the water, moving the coop, and collecting the eggs each morning.



The chickens arrive to their new home at Sisler High School.

The eggs were used in the after school cookers club where students gather on a monthly basis to develop skills in the kitchen.

Keeping chickens helps reconnect students with their environment, food and animals. It fosters learning about health eating, knowing the origins of food, care, and responsibility.

Organic Lawn Care

The 2014 Organic Lawn Care season saw a significant transition towards more partnerships in organizing events and reaching out to the wider community.

The Organic Lawn Care program provided a number of resources to the community this year. Reference materials were distributed at tabling events and workshops. A new mower sharpening video was created to replace the 2012 video. In addition, the lawn tool lending library, was regularly used throughout the summer.



Michael demonstrates how to care for your push mower in a humorous and educational video: "Push Mower Sharpening with Barry". Check it out on youtube.

The Organic Lawn Care program staffed **eight events** throughout the season. These included:

- **Green Drinks documentary screening**
- **Red River College Sustainable Living Eco-Fair**
- **Lord Nelson School Sustainable Symposium**
- **Arbor Day in Kildonan Park (hosted by Trees Manitoba)**
- **Native Prairie Plant sale at the Living Prairie Museum**
- **Campus Beautification Day at the University of Manitoba**
- **Royal Bank of Canada Barbeque**
- **Wolseley Farmer's Market**

These types of events are important in that they serve the combined purposes of educating people about organic lawn care, increasing eco-network visibility, and promoting the organic lawn care workshops.

This year, workshops saw an increase in attendance from last year, bringing it up to a total of **175 participants**. Program staff formed and cultivated partnerships within the community. This contributed greatly to the success of the workshops.

The program hosted **nine successful organic lawn care workshops** and two Mow Better Clinics between May 14th and August 6th. An average of fifteen people attended each workshop.



Organic Lawn Care Staff Michael and Georgia.

2014 was a particularly exciting year for the program in that it represented the first time operating within the social and political climate of a pesticide ban. The success of this ban ultimately depends upon building understanding in the general population so people can better recognize the hidden costs of their choices and the existence of alternatives.

The OLC program has a unique opportunity to help usher in this cultural shift, and we have every reason to believe there is the capacity to meet this potential.

175 individuals participated in organic lawn care workshops and clinics over 3 months.

Water Caucus

We promote and communicate the value of freshwater, the need for water conservation and we encourage greater protection of our province's freshwater for all Manitobans.

More and more people are becoming concerned about the health of Lake Winnipeg. It is sad because it is a sign of the poor state of our watershed and just how bad it has become. It is also exciting because Manitobans are increasingly becoming aware that our actions can impact the quality of our water. In turn, the quality of our water impacts our lives. As more people become aware of the problems, we have the opportunity to focus on investigating and educating about the solutions.

2014/2015 was a busy and exciting year! This year was about building and strengthening relationships with individuals, member groups and other organizations as we work toward improving the health of our watershed.

Foster Public Engagement

We had a great opportunity this year to run the Protect Our Water household conservation program in **both official languages**. 12 households participated, with each household receiving a personalized water saver kit, a water use audit, and hands-on advice on reducing water consumption. We also engaged people in the conversation about water conservation at a variety of events and presentations.

Workshops were offered on Do-It-Yourself Rain Barrels, and Green Cleaners (in French and English), with these workshops reaching **50 participants**.

Wilgis AGOSSA presse@la-liberte.mb.ca

SAUVER LE LAC WINNIPEG

LE GOUVERNEMENT DU MANITOBA VIENT D'ALLOUER 320 MILLIONS \$ DANS LE BUT DE RÉDUIRE LA POLLUTION DU LAC WINNIPEG. MAIS, SELON CERTAINS, LE CHANGEMENT DE COMPORTEMENT DES POPULATIONS SERA L'ARME LA PLUS UTILE.

La pollution du lac Winnipeg inquiète le gouvernement du Manitoba. Le 11 juin dernier, un plan d'action qui coûtera 320 millions \$ à la Province a été lancé. Le but est de réduire la contamination du lac par les algues bleu-vert qui sont de plus en plus une menace pour la faune aquatique et les populations tout en détruisant les plages.



PHOTO : WILGIS AGOSSA

Avec des ingrédients utilisés de façon usuelle en cuisine, Zoe Cressman fait son savon nettoyant et son détergent de lessive depuis plusieurs années dans le but de contribuer à sauver le lac Winnipeg de la pollution.

Local newspaper, *La Liberté* interviewed Protect Our Water coordinator, Zoe Cressman about making green cleaners.

Educate for wider public awareness

Building on the strategic plan that we created in the 2013/2014 fiscal year, the Water Caucus approached the Winnipeg Folk Festival and the Winnipeg Fringe Festival to provide an educational activity in the family areas at each festival. These activities were well received, and we had many meaningful conversations with children and their caregivers.

We were also present RBC Blue Water Week, MEIA Career Expo, and Prairie Love Yoga Fest.



Kids paint rain barrels at the Winnipeg Folk Fest, while learning about rain and climate.



Andrea teaches elementary students about how rain moves through watersheds.

Engagement by the numbers:

- approximately **500 people reached**
- over **200 pamphlets and booklets** distributed
- responded information requests from public
- gave 3 media interviews
- responded to 13 requests for presentations
- one book review in the Eco Journal
- partnered with Rivers West and others to develop an educational video about storm water management (view video at www.tinyurl.com/stormwatermgmt).

Network and Facilitate Outreach Activities

The Water Caucus sent out 15 electronic bulletins throughout the year, highlighting water issues and innovations, news, resources, and events.

Prior to the changes in the Anti-Spam law, our subscriber list had reached 588 subscribers. We made a decision to start our subscriber list from scratch when the new laws came into effect. This provided three benefits: it gave us the opportunity to update our list, gave us clear records of permissions from our subscribers, and improved the engagement level of our subscribers. Since August 1, we have brought our list back to **212 subscribers**, with an average of **47 % open rate** (up from 25-30% from last year).

Water Caucus staff regularly update the website with news stories and resources. Tracking the top searches allows us to keep a pulse on what issues are most important to our readers. The top searches to our website were: Lake Winnipeg, Lake Winnipeg watershed, wetlands in Manitoba, and fracking in Manitoba.

Water E-Bulletin - A service of the Manitoba Eco-Network



water caucus

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Happy Holidays!

Water Conservation tips for the holidays:
Water is a part of our holidays in everything from food preparation, to clean up. Here are some tips for reducing your water use over the holidays.

1. Defrost frozen foods in the refrigerator or the microwave instead of running hot water over them.
2. Rinse vegetables, fruits and dishes in a basin filled with water. Avoid letting the water run continuously. A running kitchen faucet can use over 10 litres of water per minute.
3. Run your dishwasher only when you have a full load.
4. Scrape food scraps into a composting bin, rather than rinsing them into a garburator. A garburator uses up water, and increases the amount of nutrients that make it into our waterways.

The Manitoba Eco-Network will be closed for the holidays from December 24 - January 2. Have a wonderful holiday!

Consider buying tickets for Reel Green for the eco-fan on your list. Happy Holidays!

Upcoming Events

2015 MMWA Annual Conference and Tradeshow
January 11-14, 2015

This four day event features numerous activities including a tradeshow, awards ceremony and a variety of technical sessions. Session topics include: nutrient removal in cold climate lagoons, fracking in Manitoba, 50 shades of greywater, and others. For more information and to register, visit mawa.net.

32nd Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference
January 20-22, 2015
Fort Garry Hotel in Winnipeg

This year's conference theme "Meeting the Basin's Needs: One Goal at a Time", will continue to highlight the Red River Basin Commission's Natural Resources Framework Plan goal areas and celebrate all the work that is being done in these goal areas. There will be updates on Water Quality efforts throughout the Red River Basin as well as the progress that has been made on the

Shoal Lake supporters rally at 10:00 AM
A rally was held early in December at the Manitoba Legislative Building in support of members of an Ontario First Nation.

Representatives of Shoal Lake First Nation met with Winnipeg Mayor Brian Bowman and provincial Jobs Minister Kevin Chif.

Protesters end occupation of Manitoba hydro dam after agreeing to negotiations
A six-week occupation of a northern Manitoba hydro dam is over after First Nation protesters reached a deal for negotiations.

Protesters from Cross Lake First Nation have agreed to leave the site of the Jersey generating station after agreeing to talks that will address some key concerns including revenue-sharing, a

Excerpt from the Holiday edition of the Water Bulletin.

In November we invited our network and members to join us for a webinar with the Commissioner for Sustainable Development. The Commissioner summarized her report and answered questions from participants.

During Water Week in March, we hosted a film screening event at the Eco Centre. Film screenings are a great opportunity not only to educate the public, but to facilitate connections between environmental groups and the public, as well as to encourage discussion and idea sharing. 13 people attended the event, and were very engaged in conversation after the screening.

Multi-stakeholder and Capacity Building Workshops

This year, we chose to use a forum format for our events.

The first event that we planned was the Mayoral Forum “Environment on the Agenda”. The event was a great success, attended by all candidates (but one), members of the media, and **over 300 members of the public.**

The questions that were addressed by the candidates provided great insight on the candidates and their hopes for the future of the city.

The second forum, unfortunately, had to be cancelled. But we are already working on our next forum for the 2015/2016 year.



A packed house at the Mayoral Forum (planned in partnership with Canadian Council for Policy Alternatives, Green Action Centre, and the Green Action Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Wpg).

This really is a great turnout. There’s not a windowsill, bit of carpet, corner, doorjamb open at this forum

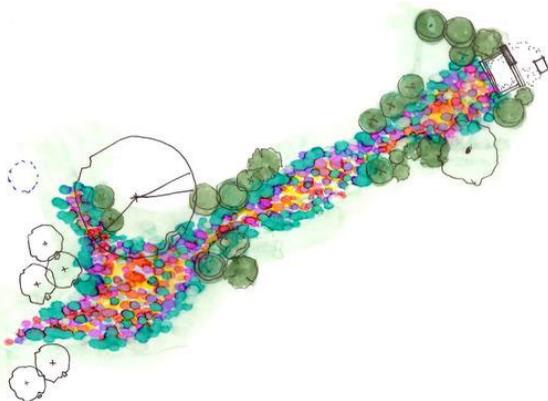
-Mary Agnes Welch

Exploring Action and Policy Tools

As a follow up to the conversations on storm water management that began during the last fiscal year, the Water Caucus, together with the City of Winnipeg, Save our Seine, and HTFC Planning and Design, secured a site for a demonstration Rain Garden.

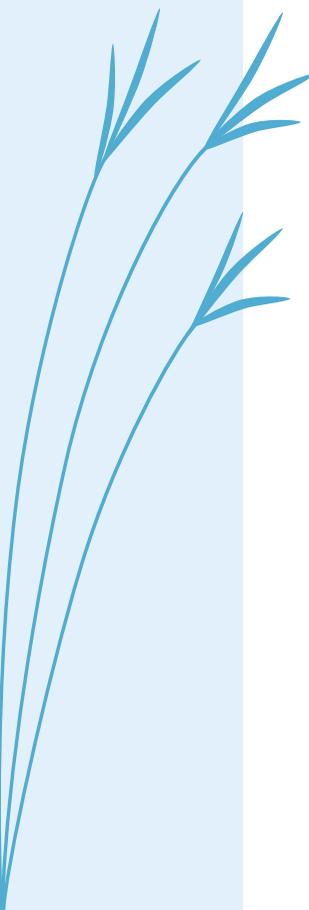
The project will filter runoff from a 9,860 m² parking lot, and will involve the naturalization of a high profile site along the Trans-Canada Highway; planting almost **1000 native plants.**

We hope that the success of this site will lead to greater use of Green Infrastructure in city planning and on private properties.



Planting schematic for demonstration rain garden (prepared by HTFC Planning and Design).

Member Groups



A Rocha
Alpine Club of Canada - Manitoba
ArtsJunktion mb
Assiniboine Park Conservancy
Bird Studies Canada
Bike Winnipeg
Canadian Federation of Students - Manitoba
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives - Manitoba
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Manitoba
Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources
Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba
Churchill Northern Studies Centre
Consumers Association of Canada - Manitoba
Consumers for Responsible Energy
Council of Canadians - Winnipeg
Daniel McIntyre/St. Matthew's Community Association
Debwendon Inc.
EcoPIA (Ecological People in Action)
Safer Wireless Manitoba
Environmental Health Association of Manitoba
Food Matters Manitoba
FortWhyte Alive
Friends of Gardens Manitoba
Green Action Centre
Green Action Committee of the Unitarian Church
Green Kids Inc.
Health in Common
Henteleff Park Foundation
International Institute for Sustainable Development
Lake Winnipeg Foundation
Living Prairie Museum
Manitoba Chapter, Canada Green Building Council
Manitoba Environmental Industries Association
Manitoba Fly Fishers Association
Manitoba Forestry Association
Manitoba Nature Summit Inc.
Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association
Manitoba Wildlands
Mixedwood Forest Society
Nanuq Foundation
Native Orchid Conservation Inc.
Nature Manitoba
Oak Hammock Marsh
Oceans North Canada
Organic Food Council of Manitoba
Paddle Manitoba
Planners Network Manitoba
Prairie Rivers Cohousing
Prairie Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre Inc.
Project Peacemakers
Pumpkin Creek Faire Inc.
Red River Basin Commission
Red River Valley Clean Cities Coalition
Rockwood Environmental Action Community
Taskforce
Save Our Lake (SOUL)
Save Our Seine River Environment Inc.

Sierra Club Canada - Prairie Chapter	University of Winnipeg Environmental Studies
Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions	UniVERT (Université de Saint Boniface)
Social Planning Council of Winnipeg- Environment Committee	West Broadway Community Organization
Sustainable South Osborne Community Cooperative	Western Canada Wilderness Committee
South Eastman Transition Initiative	Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre
Transition Winnipeg	Winnipeg Water Watch
Trees Winnipeg (Coalition to Save the Elms)	
University of Manitoba Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Earth, Environment, & Resources	
University of Winnipeg Campus Sustainability Office	

Associate Member Groups

S3 Interior Design Inc.
Aviva
Aurora Farm
Building Professionals
The Forks
Falcon Trails Resort
Frog Box
Red River College
Sustainable Organic Solutions
Tall Grass Prairie
Tire Stewardship Manitoba
Manoverboard

Funders & Contributors

Manitoba Eco-Network wishes to thank the generous individual donors and supporters in our community, and acknowledge the following organizations which have made grants, donations or gifts-in-kind over the past year.

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Province of Manitoba All-Charities Campaign

Mountain Equipment Co-op

Manitoba Education for Sustainable Development Working Group

Eco Journal

Brian Mayes, City Councillor for St. Vital

Manitoba Hydro

M.E.N./T.R.E.E. Legacy Endowment Fund

Winnipeg Foundation

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Manitoba Hydro

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Manitoba Environmental Youth Network

Winnipeg Foundation

International Environmental Youth
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Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning

Organic Lawn Care

Government of Manitoba, Green Team

City of Winnipeg – Parks and Open Spaces Division – Greenspace

Water Caucus

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship

Environment Canada

RBC Blue Water Project

Winnipeg Foundation

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

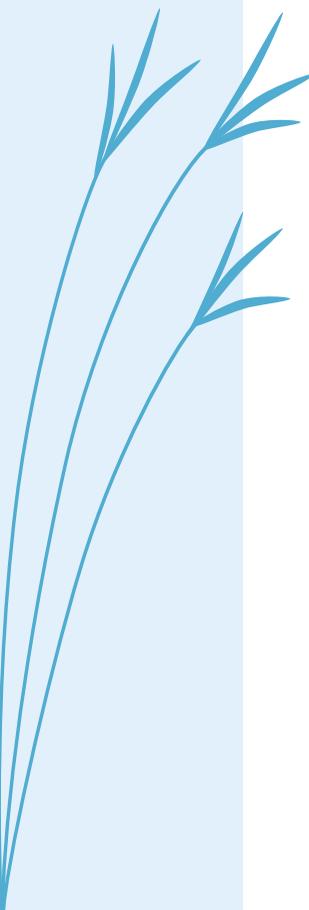
Red River Co-op

Volunteers

Manitoba Eco-Network wishes to express our gratitude to the many volunteers who have made this year possible.

Your contributions have made an immeasurable impact.

THANK YOU



Gareth Ainslie
Kristy Anderson
Natalie Baird
James Beddome
Misty Belcourt
Lianne Belton
Danny Blair
Richard Bolton
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Neil Cunningham
Denis DePape
Dave Dorning
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Carmelle Kozak
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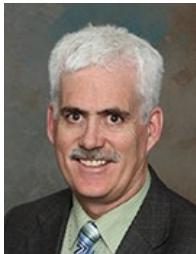
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Susan Lindsay, Climate Change Connection Program Manager
Anika Terton, Climate Change Connection Public Awareness & Outreach Coordinator
Ellen Cobb-Friesen, Manitoba Environmental Youth Network Coordinator
Anika Terton, Water Program Manager
Megan Krohn, Water Program Manager
Gloria Gordon, Financial Manager
Georgia MacDonald, Organic Lawn Care Manager
Michael Barkman, Organic Lawn Care Educator



Staff enjoying a beautiful February day outside while participating in the Jack Frost Challenge.



February 2015 - (from left) Ani Terton, Christie Fischer, Curt Belton, Megan Krohn, Susan Lindsay, Ellen Cobb-Friesen, Curt Hull.

Contractors

Sheldon Birnie Eco Journal Editor
Tracey O'Neil, Eco Journal Design & Layout
Scott Cairns, IT Systems Manager, Computer Service Group of Winnipeg
Lise Smith, Reel Green Sponsorship Coordinator
Erica Young, Reel Green Event Coordinator
Jonathan Ventura, Videographer

WE EDUCATE, WE FACILITATE, WE CELEBRATE!

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