

2011-2012

Annual Report



April 1st, 2011 to
March 31st, 2012



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Message from the Outgoing Chair

This year has been a year of downs and ups for the Eco Network. Weeks after our last AGM, our long-time Executive Director, Anne Lindsey, announced she would be leaving her leadership role (a role she created many years ago). Then the Canadian Environmental Network announced it was would no longer be receiving Federal funding and therefore, we, as a member organization, lost a significant part of our funding. However, we were very fortunate to have recruited Kristine Koster to serve as our new Executive Director. Thanks to a lot of hard work and creativity, Kristine was able to balance the budget for this fiscal year, bring on new board members, and at the same time begin to learn all that is entailed in her new position. Thanks very much, Kristine, for your energy, optimism and dedication.

However, as you are aware, things are looking dark for environmentalists as the Federal government continues to focus a lot of its cost cutting efforts on departments related to environmental protection, research and analysis; as well as threatening ENGO's about their potential loss of the charitable status if they protest too much. The upcoming year will require the MEN to work very closely with its member groups to ascertain the impact these changing times are having on their organizations and, as a network, help to respond to these challenges. Although, for cost cutting reasons, we did not have a member forum in 2011-12, money has been budgeted for a forum this coming year and I encourage all of our member groups to ensure they have a delegate at this important forum.

Jim Chapryk
Past Chair of the MEN Steering Committee

Message from the Incoming Chair

Since joining the MEN steering committee as a board member in December 2009, I took on the position of chairperson just this past winter. Working with Kristine, Jim, the rest of the board and the MEN staff has been an inspiring experience I look forward to continuing over the next year. It's so easy to lose hope during times of change when funding is lost, or when my friends and I, or the organisations I care about are called the enemies of Canadian citizens or worse. But I find the smart, caring and passionate people that I have had the privilege to work with through my involvement in the MEN to be a continual source of hope that the needed solutions to our environmental challenges will be found. Despite staff changes, major funding losses, and walking a fine line in order to maintain funding and charitable status, the MEN has prevailed.

It is with this resilience and hope that I feel the MEN will enter the coming year with talented staff, a balanced budget, and the opportunity to find solutions with our member groups on the collective challenges that ENGO's currently face.

Kisti Thomas
Incoming Chair of the MEN Steering Committee

Message from the Executive Director

The Manitoba Eco-Network has experienced incredible change over the past year. Anne Lindsey, the first Executive Director in the Eco-Network's history, who held the position for 23 years, concluded her tenure in October 2011. On October 19th the Eco-Network organized a tribute to Anne celebrating her diligence and commitment to building the Eco-Network and engaging Manitobans in environmentalism.

Anne's accomplishments cannot be overstated. In Anne's own words, her time at the Eco-Network was spent, "...raising awareness, promoting behaviour change, encouraging smarter practices and regulations, building capacity, helping people to connect with each other – all in the interest of reversing desecration of the earth, living more harmoniously within the planet's carrying capacity, and building towards a future in which everyone has what they need." We will forever honour Anne for building the Eco-Network's enduring foundation and for her dedication to promoting positive environmental action across Manitoba.

Another transformative change at the Eco-Network came on October 13th when we received notice that Environment Canada had decided to end its Contribution Agreement with the Canadian Environmental Network (RCEN). The Eco-Network, as a regional affiliate of RCEN, depended on financial assistance from the national network to expand and enhance our programs, projects and activities across Manitoba. Despite this large funding cut the Eco-Network has maintained its capacity and continues to explore undiscovered partnerships and funding opportunities.

Throughout the year the Eco-Network prioritized opportunities to facilitate environmental awareness and expand community connections. We engaged with Manitoban's at Ciclovía, Moving Planet Manitoba, and the Green Lifestyle & Natural Living Show, just to name a few. We organized workshops for Member Groups on planned giving, grant writing, Photoshop basics and organic lawn care. A great effort was devoted to delivering the Rio+20 event in collaboration with the International Institute of Sustainable Development. The event was designed to encourage frank discussion among some 50 participants on the subject of Manitoba's role in the green economy and governance for sustainable development.

Evidently, it was a very productive year! I wholeheartedly thank the dedicated and resourceful team at the Eco-Network for making this year a success. I also thank all the Board members, who bring a wealth of knowledge to the Eco-Network. I very much appreciate their generous donation of time and their tireless commitment. Finally, thank you to all the environmental organizations across Manitoba who are so passionate about promoting sustainable living and discovering creative solutions to environmental challenges.

Kristine Koster
Executive Director

2011-12 Staff & Contractors

Staff

<i>Anne Lindsey, Executive Director</i>	<i>Until October 2011</i>
<i>Kristine Koster, Executive Director</i>	<i>Starting October 2011</i>
<i>Beverly Sawchuk, Coordinator</i>	<i>Until January 2012</i>
<i>Lise Smith, Interim Coordinator</i>	<i>Until February 2012</i>
<i>Sean Goertzen, Coordinator</i>	<i>Starting Feb 2012</i>
<i>Stu Gauld, Financial Manager</i>	<i>Until April 2011</i>
<i>Wynne Haaksma, Financial Manager & Librarian</i>	<i>Starting April 2011</i>
<i>Curt Hull, Climate Change Connection</i>	
<i>Shawna Plischke Culleton, Climate Change Connection</i>	<i>Until June 2011</i>
<i>Lydia Carpenter, Climate Change Connection</i>	<i>Aug 2011 to Mar 2012</i>
<i>Anika Terton, Climate Change Connection & Water Caucus</i>	
<i>Sacha Kopelow, Water Caucus</i>	
<i>Laurel McDonald, Water Caucus</i>	<i>Until October 2011</i>
<i>Josh Brandon, Water Caucus</i>	<i>Until February 2012</i>
<i>Erica Young, Youth Network & Librarian</i>	<i>Until April 2011</i>
<i>Jonathan Ventura, Organic Lawn Care & Youth Network</i>	<i>Starting May 2011</i>
<i>Maya Thau-Eleff, Organic Lawn Care</i>	<i>May to June 2011</i>
<i>Marie Sereneo, Winnipeg Foundation SIP Intern</i>	<i>July to August 2011</i>
<i>Karina Cardona Claros, Children's Health & Environment Partnership</i>	<i>Until April 2011</i>

Contractors

<i>Joel Trenaman, Eco Journal Editor</i>	<i>Until December 2011</i>
<i>Mikhail Kolybaba, IT Systems Manager</i>	<i>Oct to Dec 2011</i>
<i>Siobhan Stewart, Climate Change Connection</i>	
<i>Megan Dias, Water Caucus</i>	



From left: Sean Goertzen, Kristine Koster, Susan Lindsay, Anika Terton, & Curt Hull.



Wynne Haaksma, Joel Trenaman, & Sacha Kopelow.



2011-12 Board of Directors



*Kisti Thomas
Chair
Red River College
Sustainability Office*



*Alec Stuart
Treasurer
Planners Network Manitoba*



*Kevin Freedman
Secretary
Member at Large*



*Nyree Bridgman
EcoPIA,
University of Winnipeg*



*Carolyn Garlich
Green Action Committee,
Unitarian Church*



*Carol Hitchon
Nature Manitoba*



*Sylvie Hebert
Green Action Centre*



*Jim Chapryk
Bike to the Future*



*Curt Belton
Member at Large*



*Alana Lajoie-O'Malley
University of Winnipeg
Campus Sustainability Office*



*John Fjeldsted
Manitoba Environmental
Industries Association*



*Sean Petty
Sierra Club Prairie Chapter*

Activities



Eco Journal

Published 5 times during the year, the Eco Journal continued coverage of a wide array of environmental topics and gave voice to many conservation groups around the province. To view all issues of the Eco Journal, visit www.mbeconetwork.org/projects/eco-journal

Website

In February 2012, Scott Cairns of Computer Service Group began the major undertaking of moving our website to a new server to greatly improve cost effectiveness, and a new content management system to improve functionality. Recently-hired Coordinator Sean Goertzen began creating a completely new look for the website and helped move all content over. The new site is now up and running, and offers aesthetic and functional upgrades to an important community resource. The 2012-13 Annual Report will cover all work done from April 2012 onward.

Facebook

The Eco-Network Facebook page, which has enabled us to reach new audiences, reaches approximately 670 users on a weekly basis and has 856 'likes'.

Information Services

We responded to hundreds of personal, media and organization requests for information via phone, email, Facebook, website and in person.

Eco Bulletins

Monthly Eco Bulletins of Manitoba environmental events, resources and news were sent to over 1000 members and interested individuals. In addition, a number of Member Group Bulletins were sent to our network of Member Groups containing capacity and organizational resources and key announcements.

Lunch & Learns

A series of *Lunch & Learn* sessions were held at the EcoCentre throughout the year for staff and Member Groups. Topics included: fundraising, grant application writing, photoshop basics, and organic lawn care techniques.

Displays

Eco-Network staff set up informational displays at a number of events:

- Moving Planet Manitoba
- Rain Barrel Sale
- Ciclovia
- Eco Green Shift Fair
- RBC Blue Water Day
- Growing Local Conference
- Save Our Seine Trails Day
- Compost Bin Sale
- Earth Day at Fort Whyte
- Art of Water Film Festival
- Radical Book Fair
- Green Lifestyle & Natural Living Show
- MEIA Sustainable Futures Career Fair
- All-Candidate's Forum on the Environment
- MB Environmental Industries Association Conference



Other events

- Banff Mountain Film Festival
- IISD PEG Workshop
- Winter Solstice EcoCentre Open House
- Presentation at Global Film Festival

For workshops and presentations done by the projects, see the project reports.

Projects

Climate Change Connection

In this tenth year of the Climate Change Connection (CCC) program, we have continued to concentrate on youth and have expanded our network of connections with the business audience. We are also playing a key role in helping Manitoban's transition away from fossil fuels.

We hired Lydia Carpenter on contract to fill in for Susan Lindsay as Susan continued her maternity leave. Lydia had a half time position. Anika Terton (Ani) was on full time with half of her salary coming from a grant from the German government.

We continue to connect to youth and school audiences with our youth conferences and Idle Free campaign. Ani attended COP17 in Durban, SA on behalf of CCC. While there, she blogged and Skyped with local schools. The goal was to inspire youth to get involved.

In association with the www.350.org day of global action we organized a Moving Planet Manitoba march from the Legislature and a display and presentation event at the Forks for hundreds of people.



Curt Hull's involvement with Al Gore's Climate Reality Project resulted in a number of speaking opportunities including an invitation and funding to present at the Keepers of the Water Conference in Lac Brochet, Manitoba.

Our efforts in the Active Transportation area continued with our collaboration on Bike to Work Day, Commuter Challenge, and work to update the Cycling Map of Winnipeg.

We have been able to expand our contacts in the business community in a few ways. We hosted a second "Green Dragon's Lair" presentation and panel at the Manitoba Environmental Industry Association (MEIA) Emerging Issues conference. We continued to work in a leadership role with the 50by30.org initiative. We have been invited to become a member of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce' Manitoba BOLD initiative's Clean Energy policy advisory committee.

We are on the Initiating Committee that has established a Transition Towns chapter in Winnipeg.

As we move into our 11th year, funding will become a challenge. We will be back to full staff and our funding will have been frozen for 11 years. Inflation and cost of living will seriously affect our ability to deliver on our work plan.

Alice Chambers Memorial Library



This year, we continued to promote the books, periodicals and films available at community events and to publicize new materials in the Public Registry.

The library made 203 loans of material and assisted with 66 reference questions. DVDs continue to be our most popular items, and we were able to add many of

the films shown at the 2012 Reel Green Film Festival to our collection.

Thanks to the grant provided by the Saint Johns Ravenscourt Youth in Philanthropy Group, we are making a number of improvements to the Library to increase its effectiveness, including purchasing a new computer.

Environmental Youth Network

The Manitoba Environmental Youth Network (MEYN) is helping to build a capable and connected community of youth in Manitoba who are making a positive difference for the environment. MEYN is run by a steering committee of volunteer youth, representing a variety of high school, post-secondary and community-based groups who help organize projects, training and networking opportunities for youth. These projects help youth to meet and learn from one another, share ideas, plan joint projects, and find out about resources available to them in order to collectively build their capacity to take positive action.

GreenSpace, our annual youth forum continued to help interested environmental youth build community, network, deepen their understanding of environmental issues, and plan collaborative actions. The two day event included workshops with community organizations like renewable energy, composting, climate justice, and water. The second day workshops were hands on and included farm trips, bike building, and DIY environmental fashion. GreenSpace's lasting inspiration to youth was proven through projects initiated by schools after the forum. Projects included a bike shop and also efforts to integrate renewable energy into the school system.



In 2011-12, we have placed a strong emphasis on encouraging youth to learn from each other through our exciting new pilot mentorship project. We have chosen 5 mentors who will help youth plan, organize, and implement projects that will create change and better their community. Mentors were trained in facilitation, project management, grant writing, and specific environmental issues in order to be leaders to their groups, and in Manitoba. Mentors will meet with their youth group in September and start implementing their projects which include water conservation, two composting projects, environmental art, and a biology mentorship.

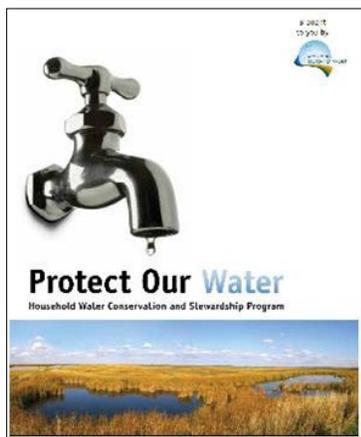
Various independent and partnered workshops, along with our social networking website, mbecoyouth.org, and movie screenings have attempted to foster and bring together the environmental youth community throughout the year.

By supporting environmental youth to take action towards sustainability, our communities benefit from initiatives that address climate change, and create behaviour change. The youth involved with MEYN gain valuable experience in organizing, communication and leadership, along with creating a sense of belonging, empowerment, and positive change.

Water Caucus

Publications

Water E-Bulletin - We produce a bi-monthly e-bulletin featuring upcoming water-related events, calls to action, news, and resources for a listserv of over 500.



Water Experts and Resources Database - A Water Resources List was published by Water Caucus staff. This consists of a comprehensive review of local water related experts, organizations, and media, including relevant books, DVDs and u-tube clips.

Manitoba Examples of Alternative Water Systems - The Water Caucus published a booklet entitled “Alternative Plumbing Systems and Water Conservation for Manitobans”, which showcasing Winnipeg examples water-friendly systems and the regulations which apply to them.

Outreach and Consultations

Some examples of recent Water Caucus participation include:

- In May, 2011 a staff member acted as a guest judge for FortWhyte Alive’s water conservation poster and video contest.
- In June, 2011 we published an article in the Winnipeg Free Press entitled *Start Fighting the Next Flood Now*. www.winnipegfreepress.com/opinion/westview/start-fighting-the-next-flood-now-122926843.html
- In June, 2011 we spoke at the Province of Manitoba’s press release announcing that it will no longer use provincial funds to purchase small bottles of water. See the press release: www.gov.mb.ca/chc/press/top/2011/06/2011-06-07-122000-11689.html
- The Water Caucus organized the Provincial Election Forum on the Environment (September 14) featuring Jennifer Howard, NDP candidate Fort Rouge, Heather Stefanson, PC candidate, Tuxedo, Paul Hesse, Liberal candidate, Fort Rouge, James Beddome, Green candidate, Wolseley.
- The Water Caucus organized the Choking Lake Winnipeg Film showing and electoral debate (September 15) in Gimli, Manitoba

- Lake Winnipeg Regulation planning meetings: we facilitated a meeting for stakeholders interested in participating in the LWR process on September 8, 2011 and November 22, 2011 and we circulated a sign-on letter which was submitted to the Minister of Conservation.
- In March 2012 we consulted with Friends of the Earth based in Ottawa, who are working on Soft Path planning in SE Manitoba. They sought an overview of recent water action in the province.
- Also in March, Sacha Kopelow and Ani Terton (who replaced Josh Brandon this year) attended the CWRA luncheon “Water Security at Home and Around the Globe”.

Water Caucus Meetings

Recent quarterly meetings have featured:

- Cheryl Heming, Manitoba Water Stewardship’s Aquatic Invasive Species Watercraft Inspector, Invasive Species Council of Manitoba, “Aquatic Invasive Species in Manitoba” (July 21, 2011).
- Perry Stonehouse, Manager of Water Control Works and Drainage Licensing Section, Manitoba Water Stewardship, “Drainage Regulation and Policy in Manitoba” (October 6, 2011).
- Eric Reder, Manitoba campaign director of the Wilderness Committee and Kalyn Murdoch, assistant campaigner with the Wilderness Committee, “Manitoba Peatlands at Risk” (February 1, 2012).

Workshops

Capacity-building Workshop - “*Livestock and Water Quality in Manitoba*” was held on June 18, 2011 in Gimli, Manitoba. Presenters included representatives from The Clean Environment Commission, Manitoba Water Stewardship, Manitoba Conservation, researchers from the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg, and two small-scale farmers. News article: *Ready to get to work - Livestock producers, environmental experts, government officials talk water quality of Lake Winnipeg* www.selkirkjournal.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3182863

Multi-stakeholder Workshop - The Water Caucus, in co-operation with Climate Change Connection, held a multi-stakeholder workshop February 28, 2012 in Arborg, Manitoba. The workshop, titled “Agriculture and Water in a Changing Climate” focussed on climate change adaptation in the Interlake Region agricultural sector. Panelists included representatives from Ducks Unlimited, Agriculture Canada, Agriculture Manitoba, Keystone Agricultural Producers, International Institute of Sustainable Development, and the East Interlake Conservation District.

Protect Our Water - Our project to audit water habits and implement water conservation and stewardship solutions in the home was launched in Selkirk and District, La Broquerie, and the Interlake Region, hiring and training three contract staff based in those areas.

Organic Lawn Care

2011 marked an evolution of the Organic Lawn Care education project into a more resource-based program.

Resources – The OLC Resource Manual was completed this summer and 58 copies were distributed at workshops. For the first time, 100 “Pesticide-Free Zone” lawn signs were printed and made for sale, both as a service and a fundraiser. 10 signs were sold by the end of the season. Many patrons continued to utilize the unique and valuable tools in the Lawn Lending Library, including mower sharpening kits, sprinkler timers, and aerators. Amanda Kinden (2010 Y-Eco Intern and 2011 OLC Project Coordinator) produced a reel mower sharpening video, which had received over 7,000 views by the end of the 2011 OLC season.

Advertising – Four ads were run in the Canstar community papers. Displays were set up at 11 events, from May 7th to July 20th, 2011. Events included Arbor Day, Trails Day, EcoFair, PaddleFest, Herb Fest, the Fringe Festival, and more. Posters were put up at libraries and community bulletin boards. A press release and public service announcement was distributed to media, including CBC, the Winnipeg Free Press, CJOB, CKUW, and UMFM. Online, Kijiji classifieds, event calendars, and the Eco-Network’s Facebook account were utilized. Ads were placed in the Eco Journal, Water Caucus, and Climate Change Connection bulletins. The Eco-Network played a major role in OLC advertising by releasing a [3-part news report](#) on cosmetic pesticides.

Workshops - 8 Organic Lawn Care workshops and 3 mower sharpening clinics were hosted in public libraries across Winnipeg, from May 17th to June 29th, 2011. A total of 102 people registered for workshops and 73 attended. Per workshop, an average of 9 people registered and 7 attended.

Recommendations - A focus on business lunch and learns would help to reach a wider audience, including many who do not practice organic lawn care. A continued focus on displays will serve to disseminate educational resources. Alternative forms of advertising should be explored, as conventional advertising is crowded and spans too large an audience. Selling Pesticide-Free Zone lawn signs at stores could help to raise money for OLC.

Conclusion - Though 2011 saw a decrease in workshop participants, there remains strong demand and interest in Organic Lawn Care and lawn alternatives in Manitoba. In combination, the educational tools of the Organic Lawn Care project help lead Manitoba towards a pesticide-free future.



Funders and 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.

Core funding

- Manitoba Conservation
- United Way Donor-Designated Gifts Program
- Winnipeg Foundation
- Winnipeg Foundation: Youth in Philanthropy group at Churchill High School
- TD Training Grant
- Province of Manitoba All-Charities Campaign

Climate Change Connection

- Manitoba Hydro
- Manitoba Conservation, Climate Change Action Fund
- Assiniboine Credit Union
- Winnipeg Foundation
- Social Planning Council

Organic Lawn Care

- City of Winnipeg
- Manitoba Education, Citizenship & Youth Urban Green Team

Alice Chambers Memorial Library

- Winnipeg Foundation: Youth in Philanthropy group at Saint John's Ravenscourt

Eco Journal

- Per Capita Grant - Brian Mayes, St Vital Ward

Water Caucus

- Manitoba Water Stewardship
- RBC Blue Water Project
- Morden Foundation

Environmental Youth Network

- Assiniboine Credit Union
- Winnipeg Foundation
- Government of Canada - EcoAction
- Winnipeg Foundation: Youth in Philanthropy group at Kelvin High School

M.E.N. /TREE Legacy Endowment Fund

- Winnipeg Foundation

M.E.N. Endowment Fund

- Hugh and Valerie Arklie
- Kathleen Taylor

Reel Green Film Festival Sponsors

Assiniboine Credit Union
Prairie Architects
Kendrick Quality Printing
CUPE Local 500
University of Winnipeg Sustainability Office
Vita Health's Go Green Program
Winnipeg Free Press
Tire Stewardship Manitoba
Manitoba Chamber Orchestra
Emterra Environmental
Lake Winnipeg Foundation
The Billabong Bar and Bistro
Miariaggi's Theme Suite Hotel & Spa
Natural Resources Institute, U of M and SSHRC

Green Please!
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
Green Action Centre
Climate Change Connection
Fort Whyte Alive
Uniquely Manitoba
Manitoba Nature Summit
FresHair Boutique
Deseo Bistro
Safeway
Waterfront Massage
Growing Opportunities
Red River College
Green Manitoba

Eco-Journal Advertisers

Greenplease!
Blue Stem Wildlife
Eco-Tea

Room to Grow
Assiniboine Credit Union
Green Lifestyle and Natural Living Show

Volunteers

A sincere thank you to the volunteers who assisted us this past year, including, but not limited to:

Pamela Fernie

Filomena Macina

Hillary Beattie

Kristina Hunter

Steve Rauh

Rhianne Favelle

Barry Kopulos

Sue Maranda

Judith Santos

Apurba Krishna Deb

Kristin Savoie

Tricia Enns

Lucie Paquet

Thank you, also, to the many volunteers who contributed articles to the Eco-Journal.

Thank you

Member Groups

Green = New for 2011-12

A Rocha

Alpine Club of Canada – Manitoba

ArtsJunktion mb

Bike to the Future

Bird Studies Canada

Canadian Federation of Students - MB

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives MB

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society

*Centre for Indigenous Environmental
Resources*

Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba

Churchill Research Centre

Consumers Association of Canada - MB

Consumers for Responsible Energy

Council of Canadians – Winnipeg

*Daniel McIntyre/St. Matthew's Community
Association*

Debwendon Inc.

EcoPIA (Ecological People in Action)

ElectroSmog Manitoba

*Environmental Health Association of
Manitoba*

Food Matters Manitoba

FortWhyte Alive

Friends of Gardens Manitoba

Green Action Centre

Green Action Committee, Unitarian Church

Green Kids Inc.

Health in Common

Henteleff Park Foundation

*International Institute for Sustainable
Development*

Lake Winnipeg Foundation

Living Prairie Museum

*Manitoba Environmental Industries
Association*

Manitoba Fly Fishers Association

Manitoba Forestry Association

Manitoba Nature Summit

*Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry
Association*

Manitoba Wildlands

Mixedwood Forest Society

Native Orchid Conservation Inc.

Nature Manitoba

Oak Hammock Marsh

Organic Food Council of Manitoba

Paddle Manitoba

Planners Network Manitoba

Prairie Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre

Project Peacemakers

Pumpkin Creek Faire Inc.

Red River Basin Commission

Red River College Sustainability Office

Red River Valley Clean Cities Coalition

Rockwood Environmental Action

Community Taskforce (REACT)

Save Our Lake

Save Our Seine River Environment Inc.

Sierra Club Canada - Prairie Chapter

Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions

*Social Planning Council of Winnipeg -
Environment Committee*

*Sustainable South Osborne Community
Cooperative*

Trees Winnipeg (Coalition to Save the Elms)

*University of Manitoba Clayton H Riddell
Faculty of Earth, Environment, &
Resources*

*University of Winnipeg Campus
Sustainability Office*

*University of Winnipeg Environmental
Studies*

*UniVERT (College universitaire de Saint-
Boniface)*

West Broadway Development Corporation

*Western Canada Wilderness Committee -
MB*

Wildlife Haven

Winnipeg Water Watch

Associate Members

City of Brandon
The Forks Renewal Corporation
Greenplease!
Red River College
Tire Stewardship Manitoba

Falcon Trails Resort
FrogBox
Tall Grass Prairie Bread Company
Urban Eatin' Gardeners' Co-op

Reel Green Film Festival

The Manitoba Eco-Network hosted our 3rd annual Reel Green Film Festival on February 3 - 4, 2012. Each year we aim to show a diversity of films which bring awareness to important environmental issues. The film selection process takes place over several months by a volunteer committee who are tasked with choosing films that highlight Canadian and local issues, while also considering global and national films when the content is relevant.



The film *On the Line*, featuring the hotly debated proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline, was chosen as the opening night feature. This courageous film, by Canadian Filmmaker Frank Wolf, documents a human-powered odyssey along the proposed pipeline's route from the Alberta tar sands to the rugged coastal waters of Kitimat, BC. Following the film the Climate Change Connection along with Elizabeth Williams of Pacific Wild lead a

discussion about the pipeline project, its impacts on Canada's economy, and how it is connected to climate change. Opening night also included a celebratory reception for Manitoba Eco-Network's 2012 Anne Lindsey Protecting Our Earth Awards.

The Reel Green Film Festival continued on February 4th with eight environmental films showcased at the University of Winnipeg, as well as informative displays hosted by environmental organizations from across Manitoba. Local organizations sponsored each film, and sent representatives to introduce the content and lead follow-up discussions. This gave audience members the opportunity to connect with local groups involved in a wide range of environmental issues.

Anne Lindsey Protecting Our Earth Awards

First established in 1990, the Manitoba Eco-Network's Protecting Our Earth Awards are presented annually in recognition of achievements in protecting and stewarding Manitoba's environment. In 2011, Anne Lindsey retired from the Manitoba Eco-Network after serving for 23 years as Executive Director. In recognition of her extensive service, the Board of Directors voted to re-name Manitoba Eco-Network's Protecting Our Earth Awards in her honour.

For over 20 years, Manitoba Eco-Network has provided recognition to groups and individuals for their contributions in promoting sustainability and protecting ecosystems with its annual awards. Anne, an award winner herself, provided inspiration and mentoring for many of the groups and individuals who have won the award over the years. Anne has been active on nearly every environmental issue that concerns Manitoba. She helped spearhead the campaign in the 1980s that kept nuclear waste out of this province, led initiatives on children's health, and raised awareness about toxicity in our environment. It was under her leadership that the Manitoba Eco-Network took on important causes like food, climate change, and water.

In February, The Manitoba Eco-Network announced the winners of the 2012 *Anne Lindsey Protecting Our Earth Awards*. This year, four winners were recognized in a ceremony on the opening night of the Reel Green Film Festival:

Dennis Cunningham (Individual Award)

As Environmental Sustainability Manager at Assiniboine Credit Union, Dennis develops and delivers projects that contribute to the credit union's continued leadership in environmental sustainability. In this role he initiated a partnership with Responsible Electronics Recycling and succeeded in recycling approximately 180 computers, 130 monitors, 60 printers and saved more than 12,500 pounds of e-waste from the landfill. Dennis' professional experience includes a decade of project work at the International Institute of Sustainable Development; two years as Executive Director of Manitoba Environmental Industries Association; and teaching Business and the Environment at the University of Winnipeg from 2006 to 2008.



Dennis's home is a great example of an extremely sustainable home renovation and is featured in the following video: sustainableouthosborne.com/seedsofinspiration/videos/ Using environmentally-friendly materials and design, Dennis takes us on a 7-minute tour of his home, from his soy-based insulation, to his efficient appliances, to his green roof!

Gerry Dube (Individual Award)

From his farm near La Broquerie, Manitoba, Gerry has been a long-time activist for sustainable agriculture. He is a founding member of the Organic Food Council of Manitoba, the Manitoba Composting Association and actively works to promote agricultural, large-scale composting. His efforts have seen municipalities move towards composting organic waste. He has been an activist for straw-based hog production over confinement, and has worked to educate farmers on topics of sustainable agriculture and composting. He has spoken at numerous workshops and conferences discussing issues such as: water quality preservation, food and health, and food justice. He has worked as an organic farm inspector and educator. For over 30 years Gerry has worked tirelessly to make agricultural practices both earth and animal-friendly.



The Landless Farmers Collective (Group Award)

The Landless Farmers Collective is a group of young people with a vision for the viability of urban agriculture as a means of feeding people as well as making an income for themselves. In 2009, they created a successful proposal to the City of Winnipeg to create an urban farm on the grounds of the Pan Am pool – formerly an open grassy area. Since then, they have demonstrated the viability of their vision, while creating an important and visible demonstration site.

Each year, they feed 50 to 60 households - between 120 and 180 people, directly from their operation, and supply regular produce during the summer to 4 local restaurants.

They have partnered with Grade 8 students at Grant Park High School delivering a 12 week curriculum introducing students to sustainable agriculture and food issues, including hands-on opportunities. Through their education and outreach efforts, they reach many more Winnipeggers with a message of the possibility of sustainable food production in an urban environment.



Ron Thiessen (Special Award)

Ron has demonstrated a tireless commitment to wilderness protection, relying on dialogue and relationship building with all interested parties to achieve wilderness protection goals. As the Executive Director of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) Ron has been instrumental in the protection of two exceptional wilderness areas in Manitoba: Fisher Bay and Little Limestone Lake. His work through CPAWS, in collaboration with the local First nations, has resulted in the establishment of Manitoba's two newest provincial parks in 2011, protecting over 88 thousand hectares of largely undisturbed mature forests, sandy shorelines and the largest "marl lake" in the world.



Ron's leadership at the Wilderness Committee and later at CPAWS was a key driver in establishing the legislative ban on commercial forestry in Manitoba's provincial parks. He also negotiated with industry to defer logging in important habitats of threatened species including woodland caribou. His efforts have helped to ensure that Manitobans can enjoy the protected areas and that local First Nations can ensure that their vision for their lands and communities are realized.

Award winners are chosen by a committee of the Eco-Network Board of Directors from amongst nominations provided by the general public. Recognizing that nomination by one's peers is high praise for work and a commitment to a better environment, Manitoba Eco-Network wishes to recognize the accomplishments of the other nominees this year:

Canadian Beverage Container Recycling Association

Manitoba Conservation District Association

Anika Tertton

Julie Fine

Jaret Olford



The Manitoba Eco-Network promotes positive environmental action by connecting people and groups in our communities. We educate, we facilitate, we celebrate!