

October, 1989

MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK FALL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, November 18, 1989
Room 3C00, University of Winnipeg

AGENDA

BUSINESS - 9:00 - 10:30

- * Welcome - Jack Dubois
- * Chair's Report
- * Staff/Financial Report
- * Selection of Delegates to Globe 90 Conference
- * Update from member groups

BREAK - 10:30 - 11:00

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN CUP!!!

SPEAKERS 11:00 - 12:30

- * The Hon. Harold Neufeld, MB Minister of Energy - Sustainable Energy Strategy for Manitoba.
- * Helen McCullough, Winnipeg Water Protection Group - Threats to Winnipeg's Water Supply.
- * A third speaker, to be announced.

Each member group of the Eco-Network is allowed one voting delegate at the AGM. All members of environmental groups and the general public are welcome to attend all or part of the meeting.

continued on p. 6

NETWORK TO SPONSOR HAZARDOUS WASTE FORUMS

The Network has embarked on an initiative to facilitate greater public participation in discussions on siting a hazardous waste management facility in the Province. The initiative comes about in response to several factors:

1. Despite what seem to be sincere efforts of the Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation to be as fair as possible in their public participation program, there exists a measure of public distrust and uncertainty over the siting issue. Debates "for" and "against" siting have emerged particularly in communities whose elected representatives have expressed an interest in exploring the issue further. (Examples which come to mind are Rossburn, Hamiota and Pinawa). The debate often revolves around the key issues of economic development and environmental/health and safety risks.

2. A need has been expressed by many citizens for information on hazardous waste which they perceive to be unbiased and independent, and beyond this, for guidance on the process of environmental decision-making in the province.

continued on p.7

Inside:

Dates to Remember...p.3
Forestry Hearings...p.4
Recycling Update....p.5

CONAWAPA WORKPLAN RELEASED

Manitoba Hydro has proposed the possible construction of the Conawapa Generating Station on the Nelson River downstream from the Limestone station currently under construction. By Hydro's estimates, additional energy sources will be needed by 1999, and Conawapa is one of the possible supply alternatives being evaluated to meet that need.

An environmental impact assessment of the station and its support facilities has been initiated and the Eco-network has been given a copy of the draft EIP workplan. The workplan outlines the project activities (exploration, access road, transmission lines etc.), the environmental setting, preliminary environmental assessment and an EIP plan for proposed studies.

The EIP workplan is available for reading at the Network Resource Centre and your comments or suggestions would be appreciated.

Global 500 Award

For the past three years the United Nations Environment Programme has awarded individuals and organizations for "practical achievements". The award is called Global 500 because 500 people and organizations around the world will be given this honour. Nominations for 1990 are being accepted until December 15, 1989. Copies of the nomination form can be obtained from the network office.

Contributors to this issue:

Bryan Johnson, Mary Kronenwald, Anne Lindsey, Leigh Patterson. The "Green Household Quiz" (p.8) is from Guy Dauncey's handbook Building A Green Future.

ACID RAIN NETWORKING PROJECT

The Clean Air Catalyst Fund is inviting proposals for projects which will promote solutions and advocate legislative and regulatory reform to reduce acid gas emissions. Funding is geared towards projects which network with affected U.S. groups, increase U.S. public awareness of shared concerns and increase communication between U.S. and Canadian grassroots organizations. The fund is open to any Canadian non-profit organization. For more details, project criteria, etc. please contact the office.

The Manitoba Eco-Network exists to facilitate communication among environmentalists, especially in Manitoba, and between environmentalists and government decision-makers. Membership is open to any non-government, non-profit group that has as one of its objectives the enhancing or furthering of environmental quality, protecting the environment or carrying out environmental education.

COORDINATOR.....JOHN BARKER

EXECUTIVE

CHAIRMAN.....JACK DUBOIS
VICE-CHAIR.....BRIAN PANNELL
SECRETARY-TREASURER.....LETTY LAST

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE.....BRIAN PANNELL

STEERING COMMITTEE

Arnold Baker - Westman Wilderness Club
Jack Dubois - Wildlife Society, Manitoba Chapter
Bill Goddard - Crossroads Resource Group
Bryan Johnson - Sustainable Agriculture Movement
Letty Last - Recycling Council of Manitoba
Anne Lindsey - Concerned Citizens of Manitoba
Al Maki - Manitoba Naturalists Society
Brian Pannell - Manitoba Environmentalists Inc.
Eldon Schmitz - Sierra Club of Manitoba

The Manitoba Eco-Network Resource Centre is located in room 202 - 128 James Ave., Winnipeg (behind the Concert Hall).
Phone (204)956-1468.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Oct. 31 MB. Naturalists Society, Indoor Program "Little Brown Bats in Manitoba" with Jack Dubois. Also, the annual costume contest! 8:00pm, Basic Medical Science Building, Theatre A. Call 943-9029 for more info.
- Nov. 2 Clean Environment Commission public hearing on the Wastewater Treatment Lagoon at the Milltown Hutterite Colony, R.M. of Portage la Prairie. 10:30am, Poplar Point Memorial Hall, Poplar Point. Further info. 945-7120.
- 6 Winnipeg Co-ordinating Committee for Disarmament is hosting an information and letter-writing session 7:30pm, Westminster United Church. Further info. 786-8928.
- 8 Resource Recovery Institute's Open House with "The Man from Glad" 1-3pm, 51 Aikens St. Winnipeg. Further info. 589-4008
- 12 "Loonisee" looks at the environment. Great Clown entertainment for the whole family! 2 shows, 1pm and 3pm. West End Cultural Centre. Tickets \$4.00 available at the Network office. Further info. Sue Proctor at 786-1499.
- 14 MB. Naturalists Society Indoor Program. "A Naturalist in Belize" with Daniel Weedon. 8:00pm, Basic Medical Sciences Building, Theatre A. Further info. 943-9029
- 18 ECO-NETWORK FALL GENERAL MEETING. 9:00 - 12:30, Theatre 3C00, University of Winnipeg. Further info. 956-1468
- 20 Eco-network Public Forum on Hazardous Waste Facility Siting. 7pm - 10pm, Brandon Centennial Library, Guest Speaker, John Jackson of the Ontario Toxic Waste Research Coalition. Further info. 949-9052.
- 20 Deadline for submitting suggestions for the scoping of the proposed public review of the new Manitoba Forestry Plan. Call Floyd Phillips, Terrestrial Standards and Studies, 945-7003.
- 22 Second Eco-network Public Forum on Hazardous Waste Facility Siting. 7pm -10pm, location to be announced, Winnipeg. Guest Speaker, John Jackson.
- 28 Manitoba Recycling Council General Meeting. 7:30pm, Versatech Industries, 436 William Ave. Winnipeg. Further info. 942-7781.
- 29 University of Winnipeg Seminar on Sustainable Development and Urbanization. "The Place of Recycling in Sustainable Development" with Dr. Peter Miller. 7pm, Room 3C13, U of W.
- Dec. 2 Manitoba Environmental Council and the Conservation Strategy of Manitoba are co-hosting an Interactive Workshop on Forestry Futures in Manitoba. For more info. 945-7031.

MB. GOVT. CALLS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS ON NEW FORESTRY PLAN

In an unprecedented move, the provincial government has announced its intention to hold public hearings on the new five-year Forest Management Plan for Northern Manitoba. During the hearings, to be held before the Clean Environment Commission (CEC), the public will have the opportunity to scrutinize and comment on Repap Manitoba, Inc.'s application for a forest management licence covering the vast area of the North to which it has cutting rights. In addition, the government has invited public input into the scoping process in setting guidelines for the forestry assessment. Environmental groups have been lobbying hard for such input.

According to a recent Globe and Mail article, the government's announcement seems to have taken Repap by surprise. The company did not anticipate Environment Minister Glen Cummings' call for a review, which is optional under the Environment Act.

The CEC is currently deliberating over the proceedings of a prior set of hearings - on Repap's application to convert the old Manfor mill in The Pas from an unbleached kraft pulp producer to a bleached pulp facility. The Commission has until mid-December to make its recommendation on licensing the mill conversion, but the local environmental coalition TREE (Time To Respect Earth's Ecosystems) is calling for a deferral of the licensing decision until a thorough and independent examination of the Forest Management Plan is completed. The mill conversion plan presupposes a 350-450% increase in timber cutting to provide sufficient feed stock to the expanded facility. TREE argues that too little is known of the forest ecology to determine whether this elevated cut is sustainable, or environmentally sound.

TREE is also calling for the establishment of a Sustainable Forestry Task Force, a multi-stakeholder, non-partisan body with adequate representation of the environmental community and experts in Boreal Forest/Parklands ecology, and recourse to research assistance and consultations. The Task Force would be mandated to develop a sustainable forestry policy for the Province, against which future forestry initiatives could be evaluated.

TREE, along with several other groups, is planning input into developing the scope of the forestry assessment. They will also be repeating their requests for intervenor funding from the Department of Environment. For more information, contact TREE via the Eco-Network office, 956-1468.

Organic Producers Association of Manitoba Co-op Ltd. (O.P.A.M.).

Many of us are tired of serving up pesticides with our favorite meals and have turned to organic products. But can we be sure that organic products grown by various farmers are up to the standards we expect? O.P.A.M. is an organization concerned with setting up standards for organic products. The members of O.P.A.M. are producers, buyers and others in the food industry who share information on organic agriculture. O.P.A.M.'s functions include establishing standards for growers, promoting organic agriculture in Manitoba and working with the Province to develop a certification and inspection program. The certification guidelines are detailed, with specific information on methods for maintaining soil fertility and weed control without chemicals, artificial fertilizers, pesticides etc. For more information contact O.P.A.M., Box 929, Virden, Man. R0M 2C0

RECYCLING UPDATE

by Leigh Patterson

Recent months have seen numerous developments in Manitoba's recycling scene. Following is a brief look at some recent and ongoing projects.

The Wolseley Recycling Project is progressing well. The project, an initiative of the Resource Recovery Institute (RRI) began September 12, covering 1000 households. Public response has been "fantastic," says Barbara Golden, project manager. Golden has found householders "very anxious to participate" in the pilot program and is pleased with the success of the Glad "blue bag". In fact the RRI has confirmed its plans to expand its recycling project to another area of the city. Beginning October 31, 1000 households in the Wildwood area of Fort Gary will be introduced to curbside recycling. For a great opportunity to see the RRI's recycling facility, plan to attend its Open House on November 8.

On October 14, the Recycling Council of Manitoba organized a recycling depot in four areas of the city. John Stewart, secretary for the Council, and one of the volunteers helping out at the River East depot, commented on the "generally positive feedback" from the public. Approximately 420 cars were recorded at the River East site, up almost 2 times as many as the last depot, Stewart said. Stewart expects "a slight increase across the board" for each type of recyclable product, but the final tally will not be known until the MRC's October 24th General Meeting.

Throughout the month of October, the Manitoba Recycling Action Committee has been holding a series of Open Houses in Winnipeg, Brandon, Winkler, Thompson and Dauphin. The Committee, appointed

earlier this year by the Environment Minister, Glen Cummings, was mandated to develop a Recycling Action Plan for Manitoba.

The Open Houses consisted of a variety of displays and videos, followed by a meeting. Highlights from the Committee's background paper and topics related to recycling such as paper, composting, and packaging materials were the focus of the meetings. Bob Fenton, Committee Chair, said that groups of 50-70 people had attended each Open House. The Province is sponsoring a major conference on recycling in March 1990. For details of meetings listed in this article, please see the "dates to remember" page, this newsletter.

Eco Logo and Environmental Choice Guidelines

Canadians will soon be able to identify products that diminish the burden on the environment by looking for the 'EcoLogo'. Through the Environmental Choice Program, developed by Environment Canada, products are compared to a set of guidelines which they must meet. If the products fulfill the requirements, they are given the 'Eco Logo'. There are two points in the process where the public is asked for their input. Environmental Choice needs ideas for products or services for which guidelines will be developed. Once guidelines are created, the public has 60 days to make any suggestions for improvement.

Guidelines are now available for items, such as zinc - air batteries, vegetable oils, low pollution water - based paints and recycled paper. If you would like further information, or would like to participate in the public comments process, contact the Network office at 956 - 1468.

CCM CALLS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS IN MANITOBA ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL

Early in October, Federal Environment Minister Lucien Bouchard made the long-awaited announcement of the Panel members and terms of reference for the environmental assessment review of nuclear waste "disposal". The Panel is to examine Atomic Energy of Canada, Ltd. (AECL)'s plan to dispose of spent nuclear fuel in the granite rock of the Canadian Shield.

Concerned Citizens of Manitoba (CCM) and a coalition of groups working on energy and environment issues (including Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace and Energy Probe) criticized the terms as being far too narrow to do justice to the seriousness of the issue and the potential implications of the Panel's final recommendations: If the Panel approves AECL's plans, the stage will be set for a disposal site somewhere in the Canadian Shield; and an important barrier to expanded nuclear development will be removed. It is therefore essential that the Panel have access to full information on the issue.

CCM is also upset that the Province of Manitoba is not scheduled for public hearings on the waste disposal issue, in spite of the fact that the focal point of AECL's waste research is in Eastern

Manitoba. The Provincial government has not indicated to the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office that it wishes hearings to be held here. CCM feels that it is extremely important for Manitobans to be given a forum in which to address nuclear waste disposal, particularly since there are no guarantees that this province will not eventually be chosen for a disposal site.

CCM urges all concerned Manitobans to ACT NOW on this issue. For further information, call 452-2352.

General Meeting Continued

As always, the Network offers to subsidize the transportation of out-of-town delegates at the rate of a return bus trip (only one delegate per group, please), we will also undertake to arrange billeting or other accommodations for rural delegates who need to stay in town overnight. We need advance notice for billeting.

Important: We urgently require volunteers to staff the Network's book and info. table, and to register delegates and participants. Please call the office if interested. Also, in the past, we have not offered Child Care, but if this is an important factor for you, or if you can offer volunteer service in this capacity, please call Anne at the office.

Detach and mail to:

The Manitoba Eco-Network, P.O. Box 3125, Winnipeg, MB R3C 4E6

Yes! I/We want to become a supporter of the Manitoba Eco-Network and to receive the newsletter.

Enclosed is a cheque for a yearly newsletter subscription

_____ \$5 (Limited Income)
_____ \$10 (Individual)
_____ \$20 (Group Membership and Subscription)

I/We want to support Eco-Network activities. Enclosed is a donation of \$ _____

I would like to do volunteer work for the Eco-Network. Please call me!

Name or contact person _____

Group _____ Telephone # () _____

Mailing address _____ Postal Code _____

Area(s) of interest _____

Hazardous Waste Continued

3. Most of the established environmental groups in Manitoba have not become involved in the discussions to date.

The Network Board feels that there is a role for the Network to play in addressing these points. The aim of our initiative is to ensure that all sides of the discussion are aired and fairly represented, that citizens have access to necessary information, and ultimately that we can contribute to a consensus-building process on the issue of hazardous wastes.

While our process may appear in some respects to parallel that of the Corporation, it is important to recall that our mandate as the Network is not that of the Corporation (ie) to site a facility. Rather, our mandate is to facilitate public participation in the decision-making process and this is the premise upon which our initiative is based.

In the first step of the project, we are sponsoring two public forums on hazardous wastes - one in Western Manitoba and one in Winnipeg - at which the guest speaker will be Mr. John Jackson of the Ontario Toxic Waste Research Coalition. These will take place in November (see "dates to remember" for details). We have hired Toby Maloney through the Federal Government's job placement program "On Site" as co-ordinator of the project. For more information, call Toby at the Office at 949-9052 or leave a message at 956-1468.

NEW MATERIALS IN THE NETWORK RESOURCE CENTRE

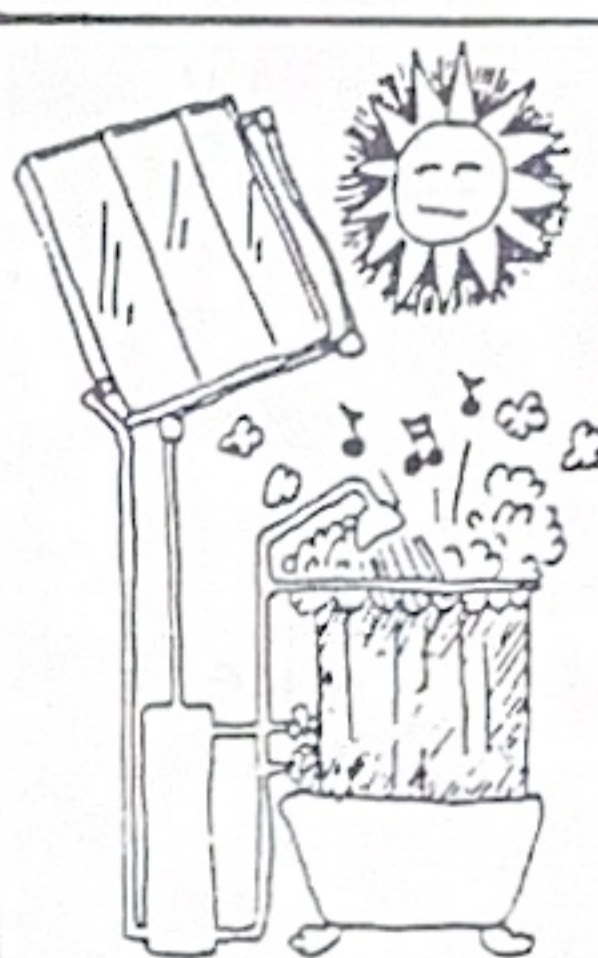
* CUSO/Saskatchewan Environment Network Directory of Environment and Development NGO's in Saskatchewan

* TREE (Time To Respect Earth's Ecosystems) volume of Background Documents on the Repap issue.

* Friends of the Earth. Protect the Ozone paper #1 (Coming soon - updated Ozone Protection Kit).

* Alberta Environment Views - A Look at Alberta's Forests. Issue on the Boreal Forest.

Plus....Lots of great environmental titles in our BOOKSTORE, consider them when buying holiday gifts.



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HOW GREEN IS YOUR HOUSEHOLD?

We are all at least partly responsible for the mess we are in. So what are you doing about it? Are you doing your best? Find out how green your household is by answering the questions below.

SCORING : 0 = No 1 = Occasionally 2 = Usually 3 = Always

1. Are you regularly recycling your household wastes? (Paper, cardboard, tins, metals, glass, compostables) (0/1/2/3)
2. Do you refuse to accept plastic bags in shops? (0/1/2/3)
3. Do you refuse to buy products packed in polystyrene foam containers? (Includes cups) (0/1/2/3)
4. Are you refusing to buy CFC-containing aerosols? (0/1/2/3)
5. Are you buying environment-friendly household cleansing fluids and detergents? (0/1/2/3)
6. Are you buying recycled (or at least non-bleached) paper products? (0/1/2/3)
7. Do you cycle, walk or use public transport whenever possible? (0/1/2/3)
8. Have you given up using disposable diapers? (Or would you?) (0/1/2/3)
9. Have you had your house fully weatherised? (0/1/2/3)
10. Have you installed energy-saving compact fluorescent light-bulbs? (0/1/2/3)
11. Are you fully energy-conscious? (0/1/2/3)
12. Are you growing your own vegetables? (Or would you, if you had the space?) (0/1/2/3)
13. Are you buying organically-grown vegetables? (0/1/2/3)
14. Are you buying cruelty-free beauty-products? (0/1/2/3)
15. Do you always buy free-range eggs? (0/1/2/3)
16. Do you keep your consumption of meat to a minimum? (Cruelty; hormone treatments; wasteful use of farmland; slurry run-offs) (0/1/2/3)
17. Do you avoid the use of pesticides, herbicides and chemical fertilisers in the garden? (0/1/2/3)
18. Do you avoid pouring toxic chemicals (paint-thinner, sump-oil, etc) down the drain? (0/1/2/3)
19. Do you avoid the purchase of tropical hardwoods? (0/1/2/3)
20. Have you stopped buying hamburgers? (Their production destroys the rainforest) (0/1/2/3)
21. Do you drive a car? (Lose points - 3/2/1/0)

Scoring

- 0-5 Come on, you can behave more responsibly than this. This is why our Earth is in such a mess.
- 6-20 You've made a start. How about improving a bit?
- 21-35 You're making a good effort - but there's still a long way to go.
- 36-50 You are doing well. Why can't you make it the rest of the way?
- 51-60 You're a Hero of the Environment. The Earth thanks you.

This is a consciousness-raising tool. It could be used as the basis for a media search for 'The Greenest Household in Victoria', or a 'Green Street' competition. It could be linked with a local 'Green Pages' put out by a local environmental organisation. Watch out for 'The Canadian Green Consumer Guide' (McLelland & Stewart, November 1989).