

Green Initiatives

Tires

- On April 1st, 2008 Tire Stewardship Manitoba (TSM) took over the responsibilities for tire recycling in Manitoba from the Provincial Government.
- TSM is comprised of industry groups who have been given the responsibility for tire recycling in the province.
- The AMM, municipalities and the public had input over the last couple of years into the regulation and business plan and AMM is pleased to see the group up and running.
- AMM sits on the Advisory Board for TSM which provides an avenue for municipal input into the program.
- TSM reinstated the \$0.50 rebate for municipalities per tire.
- To receive this rebate municipalities need to properly pile tires in their landfill to facilitate pickup.
- It is important that tires are properly piled for pick up.
- Municipalities should also be using the online system for reporting tires to ensure TSM is aware of the need for a pickup.
- If you are not getting your tires picked up, contact Tire Stewardship Manitoba. They want to work with you to get these tires picked up.

Printed Paper and Packaging

- Municipalities know about recycling as most communities have some kind of recycling option for residents.
- While recycling has been the purview of Manitoba Product Stewardship since its inception in 1995, the Province is now shifting responsibility away from MPSC to a new industry group, as they have already done with tires.
- While the shift has been a long time coming, progress is being made.
- In late December 2008, the Province passed the regulations making the shift to the industry group official.
- The IFO – Industry Funded Organization – now has 6 months to complete their business plan.
- The AMM has made arrangements to have the IFO present their thoughts on a successful plan at this year's MOS session in April.
- Throughout the process the AMM has advocated for the 80:20 funding formula to remain, and for guarantees that the new program will continue to provide service across the Province.
- We were pleased to see these aspects remain in the new guidelines for the industry plan.

- While the AMM is pleased with the process so far, there are still issues that will need to be worked out with the IFO.
- These include issues around which costs will be eligible and how disputes will be resolved.
- We encourage you to attend the session at MOS and to make your thoughts on the program known to AMM and to industry.

Plastic Bags

- Part of what held up the printed paper and packaging regulation was the need to do something about plastic bags.
- The Province has now added plastic bags as an item that needs to be included in the new industry plan.
- While we all know plastic bags are not the bulk of the waste in our landfills, they are a nuisance item and should be dealt with.
- There are options currently on the table for dealing with this item, and we will be working with the Province and industry group to find the best solution for municipalities.

Markets for Recycling

- I also want to take a minute to mention some of the challenges recycling programs have been facing due to collapse of the markets for recyclables.

- We have all seen the costs of recycling skyrocket as of late.
- On February 27th there was a session held in Winnipeg to talk about this. I hope most municipalities were able to attend.
- MPSC has been working trying to connect recyclers with potential end users.
- We have also seen some creative ways of dealing with the problems, as a company in Southern Manitoba is looking at turning corrugated cardboard into heating pellets.
- The option of using cardboard in animal bedding is also becoming more prevalent.
- We will continue to work through MPSC to keep municipalities informed on the latest developments.

Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste

- Another issue for municipalities is dealing with electronic and household hazardous waste.
- These types of waste pose real threats to the environment and we are seeing more and more of this kind of material in municipal landfills.
- The AMM has been advocating for programs to deal with this material for some time.

- We are pleased that now that the province have moved forward with the printed paper and packaging regulation their attention seems to be shifting to these waste streams.
- In the interim, the Province has provided collection days for materials and it looks like this will continue again for 2009.
- These are certainly beneficial, however they do not take the place of a permanent program, and we will continue to push for this with the Minister.

Bio-Diesel, Ethanol and Wind

- As concerns about the climate continue to grow, the interest and market for alternate fuels will grow as well.
- Manitoba has one major ethanol plant in Minnedosa which is now fully up and running.
- A bigger problem for Manitoba will be getting a bio-diesel industry up and running.
- One of the major challenges continues to be cheap palm oil which can be easily converted to bio-diesel.
- The Province has rightly taken the approach that a Manitoba bio-diesel industry should benefit everyone, meaning it should be an economic driver for the community.

- Manitoba would like to use local products for the industry but is having trouble building the business case.
- One of the obstacles continues to be the confusion around the Federal plan.
- Canada lags behind other countries in providing industry subsidies, and the process is too confusing.
- Manitoba's goal is to build an industry that provides economic benefits to communities by providing value-added alternatives for producers.
- A closely related issue is wind energy as it is a green energy source as well.
- Manitoba's Minister responsible for this file is pushing the concept of a wind power energy grid across Western Canada to provide the firm power needed for long-term use and export.
- Without such a grid there are limits to how far wind power expansion can go.
- The Manitoba grid can only accept a limited number of kilowatts.
- Wind power is not reliable enough for export or for long-term use but does provide a supplement to hydro power.

- Manitoba will continue to pursue options for wind power and we will continue to raise the need for more wind farms as there are certainly economic benefits for communities.