

AMM turns green



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The AMM is committed

to recycling and reducing waste wherever possible, and we know our members are too. That is why we are continually searching for ways to become better stewards of the environment. We are pleased to say that over the past year we have implemented a number of waste reduction initiatives that, due to the nature of our organization, have had effects across Manitoba.

Perhaps the biggest change we made was to implement a set of guidelines for recycling and waste reduction at AMM events (see sidebar). We encourage our members to follow these guidelines when hosting AMM meetings (such as June Districts and Mayors, Reeves and CAOs) in their communities. We follow the guidelines ourselves for larger events such as the Municipal Officials Seminar and the Annual Convention. This has made a huge impact on the amount of waste created and disposed of whenever we gather with our members!

But our events are not the only place where the AMM has tried to act more environmentally responsible – we walk the talk in our office, too. Here's what we've done so far:

- Installed programmable thermostats that automatically adjust the temperature when the office is closed.
- Installed sensor lights in all offices.
- Changed all office lighting to Manitoba Hydro-recommended bulbs that use less electricity and last up to eight times longer than light bulbs previously used.



- Implemented recycling programs for:
 - Office paper
 - Household recyclables (news-paper, magazines, phone books, cardboard, plastic containers, glass containers, aluminum and metal cans, aseptic containers)
 - Toner cartridges
- Installed a hand dryer in the ladies restroom – but not just any hand dryer. The XLERATOR® has been awarded

GreenSpec® designation by the editors of Environmental Building News. It conserves energy, has low maintenance requirements and reduces waste. It also qualifies for LEED® credits!

- Purchased a kitchen compost pail. All coffee filters/grounds, tea bags, and fruit and vegetable scraps are collected and taken home by a staff person who adds the materials to her back yard composter each week.
- Purchased enough reusable plates and cutlery to ensure no paper or plastic need be used, even on busy meeting days.
- Purchased office paper with at least 30% recycled content whenever possible.
- Installed a timer for outdoor signage.
- Printed the 2007 annual report on 100% recycled paper.

As always, we'd like to hear from our members – what are *you* doing in your municipal offices to reduce waste and save energy? Do you have any ideas to share with other AMM members? Let us know and we will print them in the next issue of the Leader! 🌱

Recycling & Waste Reduction at AMM Events

Most communities in Manitoba have long-standing, successful community recycling programs. It only makes sense that when an AMM meeting takes place in your community, we practice good 3 R's behavior – by reducing, reusing, *and* recycling.

Following the guidelines below will help us to meet our environmental goals, and result in less waste being sent to your landfill after the meeting:

1. Please ensure that no disposable cutlery or plates are used.
2. Please do not use Styrofoam.
3. Cream should be served in a pitcher, rather than individual creamers.
4. Likewise, sugar should be served in a bowl, or in cubes, rather than individual packets.
5. Try to avoid disposable napkins and use linen where possible.
6. Many recent studies suggest municipally treated water is equal or higher in quality than bottled water. In addition, bottled water containers are made of plastic, which must be recycled. We strongly suggest serving water in pitchers, with glassware rather than plastic glasses.
7. If bottled water must be served, please provide adequate recycling bins, clearly marked (one bin per 50 attendees is adequate.)
8. If soft drinks are to be served, please provide adequate recycling bins, clearly marked.
9. Please provide clear recycling instructions to meeting participants early in the day.

Reducing waste and practicing good recycling behavior is everyone's responsibility.

We appreciate the efforts of our members towards making AMM meetings "GREEN"!