

2023-13 Green Jobs & System Change, Not Climate Change

Mover: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives - Manitoba

The Province of Manitoba should make life more affordable, create jobs, and tackle poverty while reducing emissions and making Manitoba more climate resilient through a just transition and green jobs strategy where no one is left behind. This can be achieved through implementing the recommendations made in [Manitoba's Road to Resilience](#) reports.

In addition, particular attention should be given to the Community Economic Development potential of a just transition, including but not limited to:

1. Rework Manitoba's newest crown corporation, Efficiency Manitoba's mandate to focus on greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets instead of only general electricity and natural gas.
2. Worker supports - a training and workforce development strategy to skill Manitoba workers in low-carbon industries such as energy efficiency and retrofitting, that prioritizes Indigenous peoples, low-income individuals, and others facing barriers to employment, through the use of social economy enterprises.
3. Using the building and maintenance of energy efficient, net-zero, affordable housing stock as a key economic and social development opportunity.
4. Free public transit and inter-provincial transportation to reduce single-occupancy vehicle use and poverty.
5. Financing household energy transitions, making the transition more affordable by providing low or zero-cost financing to support household retrofits, and making existing programs easier to access.
6. Use the carbon tax to further climate action while reducing poverty.

Because: In December 2015, Canada agreed to be a signatory to the [Paris Climate Agreement](#), binding us to make ambitious efforts to keep global temperature rise to below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, combat climate change, and enhance support to assist developing countries to also do so.

Because: The [United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (UN IPCC), an intergovernmental body of hundreds of expert scientists, found the world has until 2030 to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 45% and to net zero by 2050 to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees or face irreversible damages, loss of ecosystems, millions more climate refugees world-wide and loss of human life due to climate change.

Because: UN IPCC scientists find the effects of climate change are happening much more quickly than previously anticipated and Canada's climate is warming twice as fast as the global average. If Manitoba and Canada don't make major reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, we will miss the chance to stave off extremely serious, and possibly catastrophic, effects.

Because: High levels of GHG emissions are the long-term impact of the settler-worldview with its focus on exploitation for profit. The United Nations, alongside many allied groups advocate for Indigenous-led development. A quarter of land on Earth is traditionally owned, managed, used or occupied by Indigenous people, who have been stewarding that land sustainably for millennia. Following Indigenous leadership means respecting Indigenous nationhood and right to self-determination and that recognizing the rights of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people will do more to protect life on earth than any government measures. This must begin by Canada implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

Because: Women are - and will increasingly be - disproportionately impacted by climate change. They are more likely to depend on resources for their livelihoods and/or care of their families that are most at risk because of climate change, such as sourcing water and food for their families. Women are also most impacted by climate displacement. Despite these facts, women are underrepresented in climate change decision-making.

Because: Climate change will impact all of us. More frequent and severe heat waves result in heat stroke and death. Manitoba is slated to have more flooding in the spring and droughts in the summer, threatening food supply.

Because: Low income Manitobans already face energy poverty and should be compensated fairly for increased cost of living due to a price on pollution or other costs of climate change. Workers in sectors related to fossil fuels require a just transition away from fossil fuels, which involves adequate training and support to secure work in decent green jobs, and could include the use of social enterprises, cooperatives, and other enterprises to support local, fair economies at the heart of a just transition.

Because: The “Made in Manitoba Climate and Green Plan” has had little impact at a time when Manitoban GHG rates [are at an all-time high](#); Manitoba is the [sixth largest emitting Province](#). There’s nothing holding government to account on its GHG reductions goal.

Because: The Province isn’t taking a “whole of government” approach, so emissions could be reduced in one area (by introducing more electric buses, for example) and increase in another (like by approving more hog barns), but the government could still count the GHG emissions saved in one area - even if there is an overall increase.

Because: [Agriculture is the largest emitter](#) in Manitoba at 39% of all emissions. The provincial response is the Growing Outcomes in Watersheds endowment, promising approximately \$5 million of funding annually. Wetlands and natural prairie can be effective carbon sequestration, but public funding should be tied directly to reducing GHG, and this program has no such metrics. The Conservation Trust established by the Province in 2017 only yields \$5 million per year for climate and related projects.

Because: The provincial government is also not adequately funding transportation - the second largest emitter in Manitoba at 31%. In 2016, the provincial government cut funding to the City of Winnipeg for transit, and bus ridership in Winnipeg [is declining](#). Outside of Winnipeg, the Province didn’t take up the federal offer [to cost-share subsidized bus](#) service to communities no longer served by Greyhound.

Because: Natural gas is a GHG concern as the main heat source for Manitoba’s housing stock, but uptake on efficiency programs is declining. [Hydro predicted](#) that 117,000 Manitobans will use their incentives in 2019, a decrease from the 142,000 estimated in 2018.

Because: The building code identifies minimum acceptable building performance, energy benchmarking of actual building performance allows for improvements to energy management through the identification of underperforming building infrastructure and systems in order to inform building component and system upgrades, retrofits, and life cycle analysis.

Because: Manitoba’s greenhouse gas reduction targets require a rapid shift to more energy and resource efficient buildings and industries, building a culture of conservation in our community requires the development of a highly qualified and specialized workforce in energy conservation and efficiency, in order to quantify and understand the true environmental impact of our building stock.

Because: We need system change, not climate change. Individual actions like eating locally, using renewable energy and reducing consumption are important but we cannot tackle this problem as individuals, we need governments to lead to respond to the challenges of climate change at the scale required. Community solutions should be nurtured where possible.

Because: There is a massive opportunity to turn despair about the climate into a hopeful pathway toward a just transition to a low carbon economy, particularly focusing on worker supports and training. Community economic development and social economy enterprises are particularly useful tools to help in a just transition as community-led enterprises. Industry, government, and community groups should work together to address training gaps in impacted sectors, applying an equity and CED lens to workforce development.

Because: The Climate Action Team, a group of non-profit organizations, is creating an alternative climate action plan for Manitoba focused on food, shelter, and transportation.

How the Resolution will be Advanced: CCEDNet Manitoba can work with the Climate Action Team, CCPA Manitoba, Manitoba Eco-Network, Green Action Centre, Climate Change Connection, Sustainable Building Manitoba, Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition, the Wilderness Committee, and others to move this resolution forward. The Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition is planning a campaign related to this resolution following the 2023 provincial election.

CCEDNet Manitoba can continue to focus on promoting the possibility of the Community Economic Development lens as a climate action solution and way to shape a just transition. CCEDNet Manitoba should continue to support the organizing work of the Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition and other frontline climate justice organizing efforts in an effort to continue to call for system change, not just individual responses to climate change.