



Policy Framework
and
Approved Policies
of
the
Green Party of Manitoba

January 2016

POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR ACHIEVING A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

DEFINITION OF SUSTAINABILITY

There are many definitions of sustainability and sustainable development and they emphasize different elements, including the following:

- A multi-generational focus by ensuring the needs of current and future generations are met;
- A multi-dimensional focus including social, economic and environmental objectives;
- An acknowledgement of competing needs and trade-offs and the challenge of balancing them;
- A maintenance of natural and human-made processes of productivity indefinitely by replacing resources used with resources of equal or greater value without degrading or endangering natural biotic systems;
- A systems approach to growth and development that manages natural, produced and social capital for the welfare of current and future generations;
- An acknowledgement of the finite carrying capacity of natural systems and the need to meet human needs within those limits.
- A qualitative improvement in the ability to satisfy wants without a quantitative increase in throughput beyond environmental carrying capacity.

By way of fleshing out these definitional elements, the "Common Values of the Manitoba Greens" statement in the Constitution of the Green Party of Manitoba provides the following description of what constitutes a sustainable society:

- **Interdependence of society, economy and environment**
Society, the economy and the environment are fundamentally and inextricably interdependent. Policies addressing one sphere can only be effective if they address all three spheres at the same time. In an ecological society, policies are sustainable which means they are capable of being maintained indefinitely into the future.
- **Society**
Society is sustainable only if it is democratic, egalitarian, compassionate, co-operative and peaceful, both within itself and in relation to other societies. People are secure about their personal safety and health care. Social development respects and values diversity, including physical, ethnic, sexual, cultural, political and religious.
- **Economy**
The economy is sustainable only if it is able to maintain full employment without harming the environment. Jobs in a sustainable economy are sufficiently productive to meet society's needs and are meaningful to satisfy its members' human needs. People are not exploited or

economically insecure and small economic enterprises dominate. Such an economy serves the people and not vice versa.

- **Environment**

The environment is sustainable only if human activity does not harm natural ecosystems. The environment of this finite planet cannot sustain infinite material growth nor absorb infinite pollution. In a sustainable environment, society lives in harmony with nature, is guided by ecological insights, limits its consumption and acknowledges its finiteness.

- **Democracy**

In a sustainable society, democracy is grassroots and local. People are empowered to participate directly in society's political institutions rather than only through elected representatives. They participate in economic decisions directly as owners of local businesses and farms, as trades people and professionals and as members of co-operatives, credit unions and trade unions. They participate in environmental policy directly through local community responsibility for natural resources. In all three spheres, local grassroots control ensures institutions stay truly democratic.

DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Building on the above definitional elements, values and principles, sustainable development involves the following dimensions and an understanding of what sustainability implies and requires for each dimension:

Environmental Sustainability

At its core, environmental sustainability means not exceeding the carrying capacity of the environment to absorb and process wastes, not exceeding the regenerative capacity of renewable resources and not depleting nonrenewable resources at a rate faster than human invention can produce renewable substitutes¹. Regarding the latter, it is important to understand whether natural and human-made capital are substitutes or complements. If human-made capital can replace natural capital, then non-renewable resources can be used up. However, if natural capital cannot be replaced by produced capital then the stock of natural capital has to be maintained. In addition, environmental sustainability means reducing wastes and restoring ecosystems to a healthy state, where the carrying capacity of natural systems has been exceeded.

¹ See, Goodland, R. and H. Daly. 1995. *Universal environmental sustainability and the principle of integrity*. In L. Westra and J. Lemons, eds. *Perspectives on Ecological Integrity*. Kluwer, Dordrecht, The Netherlands.

Economic Sustainability

To be supportive of environmental sustainability, the thrust of economic policy has to be on increasing the efficiency with which goods and services are produced so that waste and pollution are minimized and on emphasizing development rather than growth, particularly where the size of the economy has exceeded the carrying capacity of natural systems. Building an economy based on non-polluting energy sources and on the production and sale of non-material services are ways of achieving needed limits to growth.

Key to such a transition is the creation of 'green' jobs which can be defined as jobs which focus on increasing the health of ecosystems and of aiding the economy to live within the finite carrying capacity of natural systems. Thus, jobs which restore ecosystems to health, which help to regenerate natural capital, which increase the energy and material resource efficiency of production processes, which minimize waste products and convert them into useable products are all examples of green jobs.

As well, to be supportive of social and fiscal sustainability, economic policy also has to ensure employment for all who want it and a level of income that ensures adequate government revenues. To achieve such a balancing act, a number of economists have pointed out that there is a need for a macro-economics for sustainability that takes into account resource constraints, the need for high public sector expenditure and investment, lowered levels of consumption and yet an adequate level of demand to ensure employment for those who want it.²

Governance Sustainability

This type of sustainability encompasses three elements: fiscal management, effective policy making and public participation.

Fiscal management is concerned with achieving a balance between revenues and expenditures and avoiding the accumulation of public debt. Key to achieving this balance is having an understanding of the longer-run potential size of the economy and the revenues it can produce so that expenditures can be scaled accordingly and structural deficits avoided.

Effective policy making requires that governments commit to evidence-based policy making and to implementing programs in such a way that they can be evaluated. Only in so doing can the most effective policies be implemented.

Finally, sustainable governance requires that citizens are involved in the political process through voter turnout in elections, participation in feedback to government discussion papers and lobbying for required changes. It also

² See, Jackson, Tim. 2011. *Prosperity without growth: Economics for a Finite Planet*. Routledge, London.

means that people are empowered to participate directly in society's political institutions rather than only through elected representatives.

Social Sustainability

With social sustainability, the core focus is on developing *the capacity* of individuals to be healthy, contributing members of society so that their happiness/life satisfaction is maximized, that they possess the resiliency to optimally cope with disruptive changes in their lives and that they make minimal demands on those publicly-funded health, education, justice and social services focused on rehabilitation. Key to achieving this objective is the strengthening of core social institutions such as the family which play a strong preventive role.

A SYSTEMS VIEW OF POLICY MAKING

Key to developing a sustainable society is the selection of those policies for each of these domains that contribute to achieving sustainability in the other domains so that the policies are mutually reinforcing and produce a virtuous circle. For example, sustainable economic policies must both protect and strengthen the carrying capacities of the natural ecosystems while, at the same time, generate sufficient government revenues to avoid structural deficits. Similarly, sustainable social policies must avoid incurring large government expenditures that do not support economic development in order to ensure fiscal sustainability.

For governments, this means that policy making must take into account impacts across program areas and seek those policies which provide positive spill-over effects and which minimize negative impacts on other areas.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMS FOR ACHIEVING A SUSTAINABLE MANITOBA

The following table provides a framework for developing policies and programs for achieving a sustainable society. For each of the four dimensions of sustainability described above, it presents a set of goal statements which, if realized, would result in a (more) sustainable society. The chart lists the current set of policies adopted by the Green Party of Manitoba.

GREEN PARTY OF MANITOBA APPROVED POLICIES

SUSTAINABILITY DOMAIN	SUSTAINABILITY GOAL	POLICIES FOR ACHIEVING GOAL
1. Natural Environment	1.1 Reduce GHGs to 6% below 1990 levels	Green renovations (2013), Intercity Bus Transportation (2009), Airship Fleet for Remote Communities (2009), Fare Free Public Transportation (2011), Fuel Efficient Transportation (2005), Carbon Tax (2015), Energy & Housing (2011), Energy Efficiency (2005)
	1.2 Reduce Contamination of lakes & streams and aquifers	Fracking Ban (2013), Restoring the Health of Lake Winnipeg (2013), Water Protection (2005), Ecological Sanitation (2004), Potable Water (2004), Energy East Pipeline (2015), Independent Environmental Assessments (2013)
	1.3 Reduce the generation and disposal of waste	Radioactive Waste Storage (2001), Deposit Return System for Glass Food Containers (2004), Water Conservation (2011)
	1.4 Maintain Provincial Parks in their natural state	Provincial Parks & Mb. East Shore Wilderness (2004)
	1.5 Restore organic content to soils and return mine sites to pristine state	Sustainable Agriculture (2015)
2. Economy	2.1 Increase the efficiency of production processes (energy & materials)	Sustainable Agriculture (2015), Flow-through shares (2013)
	2.2 Promote local production of goods & services	Sustainable Agriculture (2015), Manitoba Liquor Control Act (2011), Bank of Manitoba (2013), Food Handling Regulations (2006)
	2.3 Create more secure & higher paying jobs	Respect Labour Relations Act (2009), Equal Treatment for Farm Labour (2013), Living Wage (2004), 32 hour work week (2003)
	2.4 Create green jobs	Green Renovations (2013)

SUSTAINABILITY DOMAIN	SUSTAINABILITY GOAL	EXISTING POLICIES FOR ACHIEVING GOAL
3. Government/ Political	3.1 Eliminate structural deficits	Achieving Balanced Budgets (2015), Reduce Costs of Health Care Delivery (2015)
	3.2 Reduce the level of public debt	Achieving Balanced Budgets (2015), Reduce Costs of Health Care Delivery (2015)
	3.3 Improve public governance	Financing of Public Schools (2015)
	3.4 Increase participation in formal and informal political institutions.	Democratic Voting (2004), Fixed Election Dates (2004), Youth Suffrage (2005), Harmonization of Provincial & Municipal Boundaries (2011)
4. Social	4.1 Reduce/eliminate poverty & increase financial security	Living Wage (2004), Guaranteed Annual Income (2015), Manitoba Child Care Program (2013), Pension Protection in Case of Bankruptcy (2013), Protection of Pension Benefits (2013)
	4.2 Improve physical & mental health	Preventive Health Care (2001), Family Planning (2004), Legalizing 30km/hr speed zones (2013), Vision zero policy for Mb. Roads (2013), GMO's (2009), Promotion of Healthy Living (2015)
	4.3 Promote early childhood development	Manitoba Child Care Program (2013) Child Welfare Service Delivery (2105)
	4.4 Promote education and lifelong learning	Education Philosophy (2004), Aboriginal Education (2005), Environmental Education (2004)
	4.5 Reduce addictive behaviours	Gambling (2001)
	4.6 Reduce criminal activity	Restorative Justice (2015)
	4.7 Promote human rights	Same Sex Rights (2001)

APPROVED POLICIES

Section 1 – Child Protection and Development

Policy Title: **Child Welfare Service Delivery**

Date of Approval: 2015

Category: Social Sustainability

WHEREAS:

- the number of children in care of child welfare agencies has almost doubled in the last 10 years (5,782 in 2003/4 to 10,293 in 2013/14);
- the cost of providing child welfare services has more than tripled in the last 10 years, rising from \$130.8 million in 2003/04 to \$437.3 million in 2013/14;
- the Hughes Inquiry into the death of Phoenix Sinclair concluded that lack of agency and worker compliance with existing policies and best practice was at the root of the system's failure to protect Phoenix;
- the Inquiry recommended that the Metis, First Nations Southern and Northern, and General child welfare authorities be funded to a level that supports the implementation of the differential response model, including caseloads of 20 families per worker, an increase in the \$1,300 annual fund for family enhancement services, and the extension of services to age 25;
- the permanent wards of the child welfare system constitute 69% of all children in care, and face poor educational and employment outcomes and much higher odds of involvement in the criminal justice;
- providing these permanent wards with either adoptive homes or subsidized legal guardianship or custom adoption would reduce the risk of poor outcomes and result in savings to the child welfare system;
- federal funding of child welfare services on reserves is 22% less than provincial funding;

BE IT RESOLVED:

- that the primary goal of the Green Party of Manitoba is to reduce the number of children in care by shifting resources to the support of families and extended families;
- that the Green Party of Manitoba supports the following changes to the delivery of child welfare services in Manitoba:
 - the full implementation of the differential response approach to assessing the safety and risk of children, using the Structured Decision-Making tool in all of the Authorities, which ensures short-term and long-term improvement to the Child's well-being;

- o hiring sufficient additional child welfare workers in each of the Authorities to achieve caseloads of 20 family services cases per worker;
- o training those workers to properly administer the Structured Decision- Making tool and to prepare and implement an adequate plan for delivering the required supports and services to the family to enable it to adequately care for its children;
- o increasing the annual fund available to families to purchase support services;
- o implementing changes to the Adoption Act that would permit subsidized legal guardianship and improvements to adoption;
- o instituting custom adoption practices;
- o equalizing provincial and federal funding of child welfare services on reserves by increasing the federal amount;
- o helping families of children who are taken into care to regain custody when possible;
- o taking into account the colonial history of Canada and the impacts that history has on Canada's First Nation and Metis people.

Policy Title: **Manitoba Child Care Program**

Date of Approval: 2013

Date of Revision:

Category: Social Sustainability

WHEREAS:

The availability of affordable child care is a key element in reducing and preventing poverty.

- Quality child care enhances a green and sustainable economy
- Manitoba's current child care system is inadequate
- there is a licensed child care space for only one in five children who needs care
- recent numbers show that more than 11,000 children are on the province's centralized waiting list registry
- fees are high and subsidies limited
- child care workers' wages are low, so staffing is often unreliable.

THERE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party supports the establishment of a publicly funded provincial child care program, with the intention that it become a part of any future national child care program. The program will offer affordable, high quality care.

Section 2 - Crime Prevention

The Green approach to crime focuses on causes instead of simply addressing symptoms.

Policy Title: **Restorative Justice**

Date of Approval: 2001

Date of Revision: 2015

Category: Fiscal & Social Sustainability

WHEREAS:

- the crime severity index, the rate of total violations, and the charge rates for both youth and adults has dropped since 1998 in Manitoba, but the incarceration rates for youth have increased since 2004 and those for adults have increased since 2007;
- the cost of adult and youth corrections services has increased by 10.3% and 8.2% per year respectively, since 2003/04;
- the budget for the Justice Initiative Fund, which finances crime prevention and restorative justice programs, has declined from 1.9% of the total Department of Justice budget in 2004/05 to 0.9 per cent in 2013/14;
- the government passed The Restorative Justice Act in June, 2014, but has just proclaimed it;

BE IT RESOLVED:

- that the Green Party of Manitoba promotes and supports:
 - the implementation of The Restorative Justice Act;
 - the appointment of Manitoba Restorative Justice Advisory Council;
 - the development of policies respecting the use of restorative justice programs;
 - the funding of restorative justice programs to a level that represents at least 5% of the total budget of the Department of Justice.

Section 3 - Democratic Reform

Policy Title: **Democratic Voting**

Date of Approval: 2004

Date of Revision:

Category: Governance Sustainability

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Green Party of Manitoba supports proportional representation.

Policy Title: **Fixed Election Dates**

Date of Approval: 2004

Date of Revision:

Category: Governance Sustainability

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Green Party of Manitoba would fix the length of the governing party's term at four years, unless the government falls in a non-confidence vote.

Policy Title: **Youth Suffrage**

Date of Approval: 2005

Date of Revision:

Category: Governance Sustainability

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Green Party of Manitoba supports lowering the voting age to 16 for provincial elections.

Section 4 - Educational Opportunity and Equity

Policy Title: **Education Policy**

Date of Approval: 2004

Date of Revision:

Category: Social Sustainability

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party of Manitoba supports an educational policy that ensures:

- children are equipped with the learning skills that will enable them to lead lives in which they can thrive, not just survive; and
- education programs provide a model of living, working, playing, and learning that accustoms everyone from childhood on to participate in a society that is sustainable, peaceful, and appropriately meets diverse needs
- opportunities are available for lifelong learning
- the full potential of all students is recognized and the motivations and strengths of both learners and teachers built upon.

Policy Title: **Aboriginal Education**

Date of Approval: 2005

Date of Revision:

Category: Social Sustainability

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party of Manitoba will work toward mandating that Manitoba Education collaborate with the aboriginal community to prepare and implement a plan to improve the educational experiences of aboriginal students.

Policy Title: **Environmental Education**

Date of Approval: 2004

Date of Revision:

Category: Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party of Manitoba supports providing funding for an environmental educator for every school in Manitoba, whose duties would include designing and implementing environmental education programs.

Policy Title: **Financing of Public Schools**

Date of Approval: 2015

Category: Governance Sustainability

WHEREAS:

- Manitoba is the only province in Canada where school boards have retained the power to tax locally in order to meet divisional budgets;
- local education taxes make up approximately one- third of the operating budgets for public schools;
- the 36 school divisions in Manitoba have a widely varying revenue generation capacity with the per pupil value of assessed property, ranging from a low of \$74, 484 in the Frontier School District to a high of \$523,644 in the Evergreen School District. This results in very different levels of taxation required to provide the same amount per pupil (for example, Evergreen spends \$12,681 per pupil and Pine Creek \$12,685 but Evergreen's mill rate is 11.5 while Pine Creek's is 17.1);
- the current equalization support program only covers 64% of the additional expenses provincial grants do not cover;
- businesses are taxed twice to pay for public school education – once by school divisions via the special levy and again by the provincial government via the education support levy;

BE IT RESOLVED:

- the Green Party calls for the provincial government to assume complete responsibility for the financing of the public school system in Manitoba by removing the power of property taxation by the school divisions and replacing the foregone revenues with a system of financing that would provide an equitable level of funding to each

- school division, based on objective criteria of student need and a standardized level of service based on student need;
- the \$487.6 million in additional revenues required to completely finance public schools would be raised through an increase in the personal income tax rates, but would be revenue neutral to the tax payer given that the \$642.8 million in property taxes raised in 2013/14 would be eliminated;
 - the education support levy on commercial properties of \$150.94 million be removed and replaced with a revenue neutral increase in corporate income taxes.

Section 5 – Energy Efficient Housing

Manitobans looking to reduce costs and decrease their energy footprint want a well-insulated, smaller home.

Policy Title: **Green Renovations**

Date of Approval: 2013

Date of Revision:

Category:

WHEREAS:

- The lack of adequate, affordable housing is frequently identified as a top priority for reducing poverty in Manitoba. The Province of Manitoba currently offers a number of financial incentives to improve and increase the stock of affordable housing units;
- Green building practices and materials offer cost savings in the long run through efficiencies, and healthier living spaces due to reduced indoor pollution. As a result, green construction and renovation contribute to the affordability of houses and apartments.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party of Manitoba supports offering significantly larger financial incentives for the renovation of modest residences, and making these incentives contingent upon the incorporation of clearly established green building standards.

Policy Title: **Laneway Housing**

Date of Approval: 2011

Date of Revision:

Category:

WHEREAS:

Most Manitoba cities have a shortage of affordable housing and/or affordable rental accommodation. Encouraging the construction of lane-way housing units can reduce this problem. Lane-way housing also helps to reign in urban sprawl, allows for denser and more mixed neighborhoods, and decrease the per-unit cost of utility servicing.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party of Manitoba will work toward establishing policies to allow the implementation of lane-way housing where economically feasible.

Section 6 – Green Transportation

Transportation is expensive and is a major source of atmospheric pollution. Greens want to bring back rural bus service, shift freight off of highways and onto railways, and increase vehicle fuel efficiency.

Policy Title: **Intercity Bus Transportation**

Date of Approval: 2009

Date of Revision:

Category: Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- changing the structure of the Motor Transport Board to ensure that groups in need of inter-community bus service, small businesses, and rural interests are all represented;
- encouraging competition and greater ridership, while maintaining rigorous safety standards;
- encouraging the use of smaller and/or freight only vehicles for routes that are currently considered unprofitable, taking into account economic and environmental impacts;

- considering alternative business plans, such as the one proposed by Boudin Bus Lines, instead of bailouts;
- coordinating bus service with rail service;
- establishing a transportation commission (using Saskatchewan as a model) to ensure that services are provided to all communities;
- providing transitional grants for truly uneconomical routes (using Quebec as a model) to allow continued service while a local solution is being developed;
- encouraging a joint federal-provincial approach to the issue of the declining bus industry in Canada;
- encouraging a switch to more fuel efficient vehicles, and vehicles more appropriate for low-use routes within a specified time frame; and
- restoring VIA Rail Canada services where possible.

Policy Title: **Airship Fleet for Remote Communities**

Date of Approval: 2009

Date of Revision:

Category: Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS:

Airships may provide a cost-effective transportation option to remote northern communities. The high cost of transportation in these remote communities results in exorbitantly high costs for food and poor access to medical services.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party of Manitoba supports the development of airship transportation and services.

Policy Title: **Fare-free Public Transportation**

Date of Approval: 2011

Date of Revision: 2015

Category: Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS:

- public transit use is an effective way of reducing GHG emissions from transportation;
- fare-free transit has been successful in dramatically increasing ridership in other cities with a corresponding reduction in automobile use;
- fare-free transit will reduce the long-term costs of road expansion and maintenance;

- public transportation improves air quality and stimulates activity in our local economy;
- the largest operating costs for public transportation are salaries and benefits;
- fare-free transit systems will reduce transit labour costs by 5% – 15%;
- the total operating costs for Winnipeg transit are funded by: the Province of Manitoba – 23.5%; the City of Winnipeg – 27.0%; and, collected fares – 49.5%;

BE IT RESOLVED:

- that the Green Party of Manitoba supports fare-free public transportation service in Manitoba;
- that the Green Party of Manitoba supports improved public transit, including increased frequency of buses, operating hours, and number of routes;
- that the Green Party of Manitoba encourages all cities in Manitoba with public transit systems to provide fare-free transit by committing to change the funding formula for operating expenses for any city that adopts a fare-free transit system to the Province of Manitoba - 60%, municipal funding – 40%, and fare collection - 0%;
- that the Green Party of Manitoba encourages the federal government to reallocate the existing public transit non-refundable tax credit directly to the urban centers providing fare-free transit systems;
- that any additional funding required by the Manitoba government be funded with proceeds from a new carbon tax;
- that the Green Party of Manitoba supports the conversion of the current public transit fleets to zero carbon emission vehicles.

Policy Title: **Fuel Efficient Transportation**

Date of Approval: 2005

Date of Revision:

Category: Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party of Manitoba supports encouraging fuel efficient transportation by:

- mandating that the provincial government purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles;
- providing Manitobans with rebates and other incentives to buy fuel efficient cars, such as hybrids;

- implementing an eco-tax on less fuel efficient vehicles to be used to subsidize public transit;
- phasing in buses that use hydrogen fuel cells and/or other alternative fuels.

Section 7 - Energy Responsibility

Policy Title: **Energy East Pipeline**

Date of Approval: 2015

Category: Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS:

- the proposed Energy East pipeline will carry diluted bitumen and other petroleum products across Manitoba through an existing natural gas line that is more than forty years old;
- the TransCanada natural gas lines have a long history of rupture and explosion including one in Otterburne, Manitoba, in the winter of 2014;
- leaks and spills from this pipeline will endanger water supplies across Manitoba, including the Winnipeg Aqueduct, and present a serious risk of a deadly bitumen explosion and fire ignited from an explosion in any one of the five natural gas lines that all run in a parallel corridor within about 30 metres of the proposed Energy East pipeline;
- the Energy East line will offer very little benefit to Manitoba in terms of long term employment;
- development of this line will promote the expansion of the extraction of bitumen from the tar sands that will add to our global burden of greenhouse gases and inhibit a transition away from fossil fuels that is necessary to avoid climate disaster;
- components of the project require provincial licensing and approval;

BE IT RESOLVED:

- That firstly the Green Party of Manitoba support the transition away from fossil fuels so that pipelines and transport of oil via rail or road are no longer required;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

- that the Green Party of Manitoba advocates that the provincial government:
 - oppose the Energy East project through its role as an intervenor in the NEB hearings and by any other means at its disposal;
 - oppose the transportation of diluted bitumen via pipeline or rail;

- increase penalties for oil spills and pollution of waterways under the Manitoba Oil and Gas Act and Manitoba Water Protection Act;
- ensure that any and all clean-up costs be borne by the company, or companies, responsible;
- strengthen legislation to hold corporate directors and/or managers accountable for permitting corporate activities that result in oil spills, water contamination and/or, pollution

Policy Title: **Fracking Ban**

Date of Approval: 2013

Date of Revision:

Category: Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS:

- Hydraulic fracturing has occurred in all of Manitoba's 3,600 active oil wells;
- The Province of Manitoba currently has no regulations that would require oil companies to report the type and amount of fracking chemicals used, nor the amount of fresh water used in the process.
- Among the possible dangers inherent in fracking is the permanent contamination of groundwater with toxic chemicals.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party of Manitoba supports a ban on fracking.

Policy Title: **Carbon Tax: Transition from Fossil Fuel Dependence**

Date of Approval: 2013

Date of Revision: 2015

Category: Environmental and Fiscal Sustainability

WHEREAS:

- climate change due to global warming threatens to unleash massive changes in weather that will seriously compromise the health and well-being of all forms of life;
- burning fossil fuels is the key driving force of global warming;
- large increases in the price of fossil fuels are required to reduce the demand;
- a carbon tax based on the CO₂ equivalent of fossil fuels leads to increases in the price of fossil fuel that are directly related to its global warming potential;

- where carbon taxes have been implemented, there are reductions in fossil fuel use;

BE IT RESOLVED:

- that the Green Party of Manitoba supports a tax on the sale of a broad range of carbon-based fuels, based on their carbon equivalent emissions, that is sufficiently high to reduce consumption of those fuels to targeted levels;
- that the revenues collected from this tax are to be disbursed in full on (a) spending on public and private green infrastructure, (b) cash transfers to households, and, (c) reductions in payroll and/or income taxes;
- that the government provides an annual full accounting of the revenues raised and disbursed.

Policy Title: **Independent Environmental Impact Assessment of Fossil Fuel Exploration and Production Projects**

Date of Approval: 2013

Date of Revision:

Category: Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED:

- That the Green Party of Manitoba supports environmental impact assessments, independent from the industry but paid for by the proponents, of all current and future fossil fuel exploration and production activities.
- Assessments are to be independent from the industry and paid for by the proponent.
- Mitigation procedures for the safe disposal of all solid, liquid and gaseous waste streams are to be required for both current and new projects.
- New production is to begin only upon the completion of the impact assessment on all waste streams.

Policy Title: **Energy & Housing**
Date of Approval: 2011
Date of Revision:
Category: Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS:

- numerous events have shown that macro power grid systems are not 100 % reliable and prone to catastrophic outages (Quebec ice storm, Ontario power outage). Micro grid technologies are well established and affordable. Climate change will create an increase in demand and the cost of power will be increasing.
- under micro power systems each house is an independent power producer, and a power thrifty home owner will never have to purchase power from a utility provider.
- micro power systems are available "off-the-shelf", extremely reliable, and in most cases allow for a reliable supply of power to the building if a catastrophic macro grid power outage should occur.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party of Manitoba will work towards mandating that any building permit for new residential housing units include the installation of a 3 KW capacity micro power system based on renewable energy sources.

Policy Title: **Back-metering Electricity**
Date of Approval: 2006
Date of Revision:
Category: Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS:

Currently in Manitoba there is no provision to allow for paying home-owners and/or businesses for unused power -- which may be produced from solar-panels, small-scale wind-turbines, or other alternative energy sources -- returned to the electricity grid.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party supports facilitating the individual and small-scale production of green energy systems by allowing back-metering.

Policy Title: **Energy Efficiency**
Date of Approval: 2005
Date of Revision:
Category: Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party supports specific policies for increasing the efficiency of energy use in Manitoba.

Policy Title: **Street Lighting & Light Pollution**
Date of Approval: 2009
Date of Revision:
Category: Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS:

LED street lights use considerably less energy than halogen street lights.

BE IT RESOLVED:

- that the Green Party of Manitoba supports the transitioning from older designed street lights to newer energy efficient LED street lights.
- that the Green Party of Manitoba supports policies that would reduce excessive lighting and light pollution.

Section 8 - Fair Trade

Policy Title: **Opposition to the Canada-European Trade Agreement**

Date of Approval: 2013

Date of Revision:

Category: Economic and Governance Sustainability

WHEREAS:

- the Canada-European Trade Agreement contains many non-trade clauses which will hurt the citizens, the existing businesses, and the economy in Canada;
- CETA contains clauses which allow an investor to sue the citizens of Canada if any law is passed which reduces that investor's expectation of profit;
- CETA requires the consent of the provinces.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party urges the Manitoba government to oppose the Canada-European Trade Agreement.

Section 9 - Food Safety

Policy Title: **Food Handling Regulations**

Date of Approval: 2006

Date of Revision:

Category: Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Green Party will work towards amending the "Food and Food Handling Establishments Regulation" of the *Public Health Act* thus:

- change the definition of a "temporary food service establishment" (which is currently defined as an establishment held in conjunction with an event of no more than 14 days) to provide an exemption to farmers' markets, and therefore not limit their duration.
- strike down Sections 15(3), 35(2), 37e and 38b, which state that temporary and mobile food service establishments be required to provide "only single-service eating and drinking utensils". These establishments

would naturally still be subject to providing utensils that are clean and free from contamination as per the regulations.

Section 10 - Health Care

Greens believe that all Manitobans have a right to equal access to health care services. Greens advocate a health care program which emphasizes both the prevention of illness and personal responsibility for well-being.

Policy Title: **Preventive Health Care**

Date of Approval: 2001

Date of Revision:

Category: Social and Fiscal Sustainability

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED:

- that the Green Party of Manitoba supports a more inclusive health care program, which would take steps to permit the subsidization of alternative treatments and therapies;
- that the Green Party of Manitoba will work towards mandating stricter pollution control measures.

Policy Title: **Family Planning**

Date of Approval: 2004

Date of Revision:

Category: Social Sustainability

WHEREAS:

A woman has the right to receive an abortion in the health care facility of her choice without financial or other penalty. She should not have to travel outside of her region for an abortion.

BE IT RESOLVED:

- that the Green Party supports full public funding for abortion services. Every regional health authority should be legally required to offer abortion services within its geographical boundaries.

- that the Green Party promotes less invasive family planning programs, including education, reducing the need to seek such medical interventions. Conception planning should be fully publicly funded under Medicare and Pharmacare. The provincial government should require all Manitoba pharmacies to sell contraception and abortion products, such as the 'morning after pill' and the 'abortion pill'.

Policy Title: **Reducing the Costs of Health Care Delivery**

Date of Approval: 2015

Category: Fiscal Sustainability

WHEREAS:

- provincial health care costs have increased by 5.3% per year over the last 10 years, compared to 5.0% per year for all provincial government expenditures, and 4.7% per year for the provincial GDP;
- such growth crowds out provincial government expenditures on other services and is unsustainable;
- health care delivery in Manitoba can be more economical. Over 80% of physician visits can be dealt with by another (and cheaper) health professional;
- Manitoba's Aging in Place program, which is focused on keeping seniors in their own homes for as long as possible, saves the high cost of care home placement and hospital stays;

BE IT RESOLVED:

- that the Green Party of Manitoba supports the following measures be pursued by the provincial government:
 - work with other provinces to jointly purchase pharmaceuticals;
 - make greater use of inter-professional care at health clinics, such as physician assistants,
 - provide greater supports for the Aging in Place program.

Policy Title: **Promotion of Healthy Living**

Date of Approval: 2015

Category: Fiscal Sustainability

WHEREAS:

- of the \$5.3 billion spent on health care in Manitoba in 2013/14, only \$21 million (0.04%) was spent on health promotion programs, including healthy living and healthy populations, seniors and aging, mental and spiritual health, tobacco cessation and control, and addictions policy and support;

- obesity and diabetes are big cost items, due primarily to lifestyle choices, which can be influenced by public policy;
- recent studies have shown that a high sales tax on sugar-sweetened beverages, snack foods and sweetened baked goods leads to their reduced consumption;

BE IT RESOLVED:

- that the Green Party of Manitoba supports increasing the funding on health promotion to 2% of total health care spending (\$100 million) by focusing on best-practice programs;
- that the funding for this come from an increase in the existing provincial sales tax rate on “junk food”;
- that this tax be at least 20% of the retail price of the product.

Section 11 - Human Rights

Policy Title: **Same-Sex Rights**

Date of Approval: 2001

Date of Revision:

Category: Social Sustainability

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party supports the extension of all legal rights enjoyed by heterosexual couples to same-sex couples, including the right to legally marry and adopt children.

Section 12 - Local Economy

Policy Title: **Achieving Balanced Budgets**

Date of Approval: 2015

Category: Fiscal Sustainability

WHEREAS:

- the overall debt in Manitoba is over \$19 billion;
- the Manitoba government has run up consecutive annual deficits since 2009/10 with no plan to run surpluses until at least 2018/19;

- interest expenses now consume over \$800 million a year, despite historically low interest rates;
- the current government has reduced the Manitoba fiscal stabilization fund from a high of \$864 million in 2008/09 to the current \$115 million;
- the real per capita GDP has grown by 1.3% per year since 2009/10 while real per capita government revenues have fallen by -0.9% per year and real per capita expenditures have risen by +0.5% per year;

BE IT RESOLVED:

- that the Green Party of Manitoba supports balancing the Manitoba budget through the following changes:
 - administration savings through replacing social assistance and income-tested benefits with a tax-based Guaranteed Annual Income;
 - eliminating selected tax expenditures, including the fuel tax discount on marked fuels, the PST exemption on farm pesticides, as well as corporate business tax credits;
 - limiting the overall increase in expenditures by all departments to the per cent change in the real per capita GDP;
 - increasing own-source revenues by an amount equal to the loss in federal revenues;
- that the Green Party of Manitoba supports balancing the budget and adding to the fiscal stabilization fund by 2.0% of revenues during years of revenue increases along with using the stabilization fund in years of revenue decreases, to balance the budget on an annual basis.

Policy Title: **Bank of Manitoba**

Date of Approval: 2013

Date of Revision:

Category: Social, Environmental and Fiscal Sustainability

WHEREAS:

- The Canadian economy is plagued with debt saturation and exposure to global financial volatility, which is an artificial problem that distracts from more pressing ecological considerations.
- With electronic credit as the dominant global currency medium, it presents credit creators ("banks") with an opportunity to derive benefits that were once solely available to the central banks of federal governments.

- A citizen treasury branch can be mandated to re-invest that reward into the local economy and into public services rather than have it drained into a private bank, where it may be paid out as a bank dividend to bank shareholders rather than invested into roads, schools, and hospitals.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party advocates investigating the feasibility of a Manitoba owned public bank, modelled on the Bank of North Dakota or Alberta Treasury Branch (ATB Financial), so that banking profits can be reinvested in public services and fiscal stability can be maintained.

Policy Title: **Flow-through shares**

Date of Approval: 2013

Date of Revision:

Category: Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS:

- Flow-through shares are a special type of share issued by oil and gas or mineral exploration companies that allows certain tax deductions.
- The purchase of these shares provides an incentive for financing qualifying exploration ventures in Canada by effectively shifting the tax deduction from the company doing the exploration to the purchasers of the flow-through shares.
- The existence of these shares gives preferential treatment to the oil and gas industry over alternative energy industries.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party of Manitoba supports the creation of investment in alternative energy development, by allowing for 100% of the intangible costs associated with renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, such as feasibility studies and pre-construction development expenses, to be included in any provincial tax incentives. In addition that, to be eligible for flow through shares, there be no baseline requirements of depreciable assets.

Policy Title: **Gambling**

Date of Approval: 2001

Date of Revision:

Category: Economic and Social Sustainability

WHEREAS:

The Green Party of Manitoba recognizes that small-scale gambling with limited pots can be a source of entertainment; however, large-scale and addictive gambling operations are unhealthy for individuals, families, and communities.

BE IT RESOLVED:

- that the Green Party of Manitoba opposes using large gambling operations to raise government revenue.
- that the Green Party of Manitoba supports a freeze on the development of new casinos, with existing casinos to be phased out over a ten-year period.
- that the Green Party of Manitoba supports banning video lottery terminals.
- that the Green Party of Manitoba supports distributing 50% of the annual revenue from existing casinos to First Nations communities as grants. The grants would be used to develop sustainable alternative economic projects.

Policy Title: **Manitoba Liquor Control Act**

Date of Approval: 2011

Date of Revision:

Category: Economic Sustainability

WHEREAS:

- The Manitoba Liquor Control Commission is the sole importer of liquor into the province as per the *Manitoba Liquor Control Act*;
- the *Manitoba Liquor Control Act* allows only private wine stores and beer vendors (attached to a motor hotel or similar facility), and the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission sets the retail price for liquor sold in the province;
- the regulations for commercial liquor licenses are onerous and outdated.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party of Manitoba supports amending the *Manitoba Liquor Control Act*:

- to allow private liquor retailers to import directly from wholesalers and producers
- to allow private liquor retailers to set their own retail prices in their establishments
- to allow private beer stores not attached to a motor hotel and similar facility, and private enterprises to sell other spirits
- to harmonize commercial liquor licenses to one license which allows a restaurant or hospitality enterprise to serve liquor.

In Addition:

The Green Party of Manitoba will encourage the Government of Canada to allow for the importation of liquor across provincial boundaries.

Section 13 - Natural Resources

Policy Title: **Restoring the Health of Lake Winnipeg**

Date of Approval: 2013

Date of Revision:

Category: Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS:

- Lake Winnipeg has been declared the world's "Threatened Lake of the Year for 2013" by the Global Nature Fund, an international environmental protection foundation;
- excess phosphorus is entering the lake from inadequately treated sewage and from agricultural run-off, causing toxic blue-green algal blooms which are poisonous to vertebrates, including humans, and which choke out other life forms and undermine the balance of the lake's food web;
- lax sewage treatment regulations and agricultural run-off are the main culprits creating the lake's problems.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party of Manitoba support increased efforts to reduce phosphorus run-off into Lake Winnipeg, which would include:

- mandating the strengthening and enforcement of manure management regulations for hog barns, chicken barns and feedlots in the Red River Basin to eliminate manure run-off;
- mandating proper sewage treatment and water testing by all municipalities in the Lake Winnipeg watershed to eliminate the contamination of waterways; and
- banning mining of peat lands, which are the filter for Lake Winnipeg.

In Addition:

The Green Party of Manitoba urges the Province of Manitoba to take a stronger lead in pressing the federal government and other government bodies responsible for the Lake Winnipeg watershed to take urgent action towards establishing and maintaining effective stewardship for the lake.

Policy Title: **Water Conservation**

Date of Approval: 2011

Date of Revision:

Category: Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS:

Treated potable water is a valuable commodity. In most houses 50% of the treated potable water is used to supply water for toilets – a tremendous waste of resources. Water reclamation systems are available “off-the shelf” and, in addition, rainwater can easily be diverted for toilet flushing purposes.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party of Manitoba will work toward ensuring that all building permits for residential, commercial, institutional and industrial buildings include a water reclamation system so that only minimal amounts of treated water are used for toilet flushing.

Policy Title: **Water Protection**

Date of Approval: 2005

Date of Revision:

Category: Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party of Manitoba supports making vigorous efforts to protect surface and ground water by increasing enforcement of existing laws and regulations, and adopting ecological sanitation technologies to process manure.

Policy Title: **Ecological Sanitation**

Date of Approval: 2004

Date of Revision:

Category: Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS:

- Sewer and wastewater systems are inherently capital and energy intensive; they cause endless problems, including public health and ecosystem deterioration, and they produce no useful product.
- Ecological sanitation systems exist that cause none of sewer and wastewater systems' problems but rather correct them. Their infrastructures cost far less, and they produce a useful agricultural end product.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party of Manitoba supports moving the province toward ecological sanitation by implementing low-cost, on-site, excreta recycling technologies giving primacy to dry, composting toilets.

Policy Title: **Potable Water**

Date of Approval: 2004

Date of Revision:

Category: Environmental and Social Sustainability

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- legislating watershed reserves for the protection of domestic water sources and, within those watersheds, banning logging, road building, pesticide use, grazing, and industrial development; and
- banning the privatization of municipal water and wastewater services; and
- supporting federal government initiatives to ban bulk water exports; and
- banning the deposition of untreated human and livestock sewage into waterways; and
- requiring the phase-out of chlorination water treatment systems, replacing them with ozonation, ultra-violet sterilization, sand filtration and other safer water purification systems.

Policy Title: **Provincial Parks and Manitoba's East Shore Wilderness**

Date of Approval: 2004

Date of Revision:

Category: Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED:

- that the Green Party of Manitoba will work toward ensuring that provincial parks be kept pristine, protected, and free of industry.
- that the Green Party of Manitoba will work toward developing a comprehensive conservation plan for Manitoba's East Shore wilderness area in full consultation with the area's First Nations communities, preserving First Nations' livelihoods. This plan is to include large contiguous tracts of land preserved free of industrial development.

Policy Title: **Conservation**

Date of Approval: 2002

Date of Revision:

Category: Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS:

Irresponsible land use planning, degradation of land through human activity, and changes in land quality and availability due to climate change mean that land must be managed in such a way as to ensure sustainable human development and safeguard biodiversity.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party of Manitoba supports a restructuring of our towns and cities in such a way as to maximize resource conservation. Technologies which promote reuse and recycling of materials and products are to be given priority over the production of goods from newly generated resources.

Policy Title: **Watershed Management – Restoration of Private Wetlands**

Date of Approval: 2015

Category: Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS:

- Manitoba is experiencing higher levels of precipitation year- round likely due to climate change;
- the disappearance of wetlands over the last century and the construction of drainage ditches has resulted in higher and faster flows of water off the land into rivers and lakes which, in turn, flood their banks and cause damage to property and the lands flooded;
- the restoration of wetlands on privately owned farmland would reduce the likelihood and degree of flooding in rivers and lakes;
- farmers would require financial incentives to convert some of their farmland back to wetlands;

BE IT RESOLVED:

- that the Green Party of Manitoba supports policies and practices that provide farmers with incentives to create and maintain wetlands on their property. This includes reducing the current farmland municipal assessment portioning rate of 26% on farmland converted and maintained as wetlands, and increasing it on land left in production. It also includes providing farmers with grants to build water control and dam structures.

Section 14 – Income Security

Policy Title: **Guaranteed Annual Income**

Date of Approval: 2015

Category: Social Sustainability

WHEREAS:

- income poverty has increased in Manitoba since 2008 and is particularly high among non-elderly single persons and single parent households;
- a form of guaranteed annual income, the Old Age Pension and Supplement, has helped to substantially reduce poverty rates over the last 40 years;
- Manitoba has a patchwork system of income supports for non-elderly low-income households that provide an inadequate level of benefits and are expensive to operate;

- the federal Employment Insurance program provides inadequate protection to adults who experience job loss;
- a secure source of income can reduce the demand for costly health, justice, and child welfare services;

BE IT RESOLVED:

- that the Green Party of Manitoba, within one term of forming the government, will implement a guaranteed annual income for all Manitobans, to replace most non-refundable and refundable income tax credits and all income-tested benefits currently administered by the provincial government;

Policy Title: **Pension Protection in Case of Bankruptcy**

Date of Approval: 2013

Date of Revision:

Category: Social Sustainability

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED:

In order to protect the pension benefits which workers have earned and the capital and earnings of the pension trust funds created by their contributions and the contributions of their employers required in law, the Green Party of Manitoba calls upon the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Canada to revise bankruptcy laws, so as to prevent any employer in bankruptcy from gaining possession of the Pension Trust Fund, its capital, and its earnings which that employer administers in trust.

Policy Title: **Protection of Pension Benefits**

Date of Approval: 2013

Date of Revision:

Category: Social Sustainability

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED:

In order to protect and secure the pension benefits which workers have earned:

- the Green Party of Manitoba recommends that the Government of Manitoba enact new legislation to prohibit any employer or trustee from taking possession of the Pension Trust Fund or the earnings thereof which it administers in trust; and

- the Green Party of Manitoba recommends that the Government of Manitoba enact new legislation to require their courts and the Pension Commissioner and the Pension Commission of Manitoba to apply trust law to protect pension trust funds and earnings on behalf of the beneficiaries as defined by those pension plans and pension trust agreements.

Section 15 - Road Safety

Policy Title: **A Vision Zero Policy for Manitoba's Roads**

Date of Approval: 2013

Date of Revision:

Category: Social Sustainability

WHEREAS:

- any loss of life or severe injury in traffic is both unacceptable and preventable;
- people make mistakes, therefore an effective road safety system must take human fallibility into account;
- traffic-related death and injury are preventable and their occurrence is often the result of ineffective public policy;
- the Swedish Vision Zero Initiative and Dutch Sustainable Safety Vision laws have been successful in saving lives and reducing road collisions.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party of Manitoba proposes that the provincial government instruct Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation and Manitoba Public Insurance to develop a road safety strategy based on the principal that human life and health take priority over other objectives of the road traffic system, taking the Swedish Vision Zero Initiative and Dutch Sustainable Safety Vision as their guides.

Section 16 - Sustainable Agriculture

Conventional farming systems degrade soil and seeds, and undermine the farming communities. Greens want to stabilize and strengthen agriculture with organic farming research, support for family farms, and humane treatment of animals, in conjunction with reduced dependence on the GMOs, factory farms and pesticides which compromise food quality.

Policy Title: **Sustainable Agriculture**

Date of Approval: 2015

Category: Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS:

- farming practices over the last 35 to 40 years have become less environmentally sustainable due to increasing GHG emissions from soils, livestock and farm machinery, loss of wetlands, and an increase in phosphorous and nitrogen run-off into waterways;
- the Province has contributed to these trends through its agricultural programs and policies;

BE IT RESOLVED:

- that the Green Party of Manitoba supports the introduction of policies and programs which will promote the adoption by Manitoba farmers of ecologically based farming practices and discourage the use of unsustainable farming practices. The Greens will:
 - remove impediments to small scale and organic farms;
 - publicly fund research into improved, sustainable farming methods;
 - institute measures to protect local ownership of farmland;
 - reduce chemical pesticide and fertilizer use, with the aim of eliminating these;
 - promote habitat restoration flooding mitigation through tax incentives and other economic instruments;
 - enact laws to ensure the humane treatment of livestock.

Policy Title: **Genetically Modified Crops**

Date of Approval: 2009

Date of Revision:

Category: Environmental and Social Sustainability

WHEREAS:

Growing numbers of genetically modified (GM) crops are being approved in North America without scrutiny, testing or oversight. These crops rely on the use of ever more harmful chemicals. It has been conclusively shown that such chemicals are a factor in the destruction of valuable crop pollinators such as bees.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party of Manitoba advocates that any approval of new GM crops in the province shall occur only after such crops undergo independent, thorough safety evaluations.

Policy Title: **The Canadian Wheat Board**

Date of Approval: 2009

Date of Revision:

Category:

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Green Party of Manitoba advocates the retention of the Canadian Wheat Board.

Section 17 - Waste Management

Policy Title: **Garbage Dumps & Wind Turbines**

Date of Approval: 2011

Date of Revision:

Category: Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS:

- most garbage dumps are located in undesirable locations, suitable for little else than disposal of garbage;
- approval for dumps is a lengthy and complex process. A similar lengthy approval process is required for the installation of wind turbines.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party of Manitoba supports the principle of accelerated approvals for wind turbine installation on already degraded sites such as garbage dumps, when such sites are suitable for wind turbine development.

Policy Title: **Street Lighting & Light Pollution**

Date of Approval: 2009

Date of Revision:

Category: Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS:

LED street lights use considerably less energy than halogen street lights, street lighting can be detrimental to city birds, and excessively bright street and security lighting can disrupt human sleep patterns.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- that the Green Party of Manitoba supports the transitioning from older designed street lights to newer energy efficient LED street lights.
- that the Green Party of Manitoba supports policies that would reduce excessive lighting and light pollution.

Policy Title: **Deposit Return System for Glass Food Containers**

Date of Approval: 2004

Date of Revision:

Category: Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Green Party of Manitoba will work toward mandating a deposit-return system for all glass food and beverage containers.

Policy Title: **Radioactive Waste Storage**

Date of Approval: 2001

Date of Revision:

Category: Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party of Manitoba opposes the importation and storage of high-level radioactive waste created outside of Manitoba and brought into the province.

Section 18 - Workers' Rights

Policy Title: **Respecting the *Labour Relations Act***

Date of Approval: 2009

Date of Revision:

Category: Economic and Social Sustainability

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED:

- that the Green Party of Manitoba will actively encourage collective bargaining.
- that the Green Party supports removing references to discrimination based on union activities from the *Labour Relations Act* and placed them under the *Manitoba Human Rights Act*, to be administered by the Manitoba Human Rights Commission.

Policy Title: **February Holiday**

Date of Approval: 2001

Date of Revision:

Category: Social Sustainability

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party of Manitoba supports legislating the third Monday in February as a statutory holiday.

Policy Title: **Thirty two Hour Work Week**

Date of Approval: 2003

Date of Revision:

Category: Economic and Social Sustainability

WHEREAS:I

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party of Manitoba supports changing the standard hours of work in Manitoba from 40 to 32 hours a week.

Policy Title: **Equal Treatment for Farm Labour**

Date of Approval: 2013

Date of Revision:

Category: Economic and Social Sustainability

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party of Manitoba supports extending minimum employment, labour, safety and workers' compensation protections to farm employees.

Policy Title: **Living Wage**

Date of Approval: 2001

Date of Revision:

Category: Economic and Social Sustainability

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Green Party of Manitoba will work toward making the minimum wage once again be a living wage, tied to a basic economic indicator.