

GETTING STARTED WITH LAKE FRIENDLY

Deteriorating water quality poses a significant environmental, social and economic threat in Manitoba and across the globe. Although there are many efforts, there is a big opportunity for local leaders to take action. Getting started with Lake Friendly will allow local governments to make easy changes to their operations that will protect water. Local governments can demonstrate good stewardship and provide their communities an opportunity to follow their lead in:

- ✓ nutrient reduction and recycling;
- ✓ increasing infrastructure capacity for drought and flood resilience;
- ✓ enhancing ecosystem health;
- ✓ reducing greenhouse gases; and,
- ✓ information sharing and engagement with our communities.

HERE'S HOW TO TAKE ACTION TODAY...

1. SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

- Purchase cleaning products are certified Green Seal or EcoLogo. (www.ecologo.org
www.greenseal.org)
- Buy paper and wood that products come from responsibly managed forests such as Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) certified products. www.fsccanada.org
- Buy electronics that have the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment (EPEAT) certification. These are manufactured with less hazardous materials. www.epeat.ca
- Ensure that all actions underway are part of your municipal sustainable procurement policy.
 For more information see: <https://manitobasustainableprocurement.com>

2. WASTE & WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

- Provide proper signage at all waste transfer stations on what goes where.
- Work with Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba to ensure proper product stewardship.
www.stewardshipmanitoba.org
- Work with Recycle Everywhere (CBCRA) to ensure beverage containers are collected and properly recycled in all communities. <http://cbcra-acrcb.org>
- Research and develop a business case for a composting program.
- Hire a summer student to be the Recycling Ambassador at your waste management facility.
- Provide education to residents about the importance of maintaining septic systems annually to ensure proper function.
- Slow the flow on storm water runoff from all publically owned facilities or properties.
- Promote the use of building and landscape technologies that recycle greywater, rainwater and snow melt.
- Review your road maintenance plans to reduce impacts to waterways including dust control or de-icing products.
- Review your municipality's ability to contain spills of hazardous materials from highways and public facilities.
- Develop a policy for ditch maintenance that considers removing vegetation only when the flow is blocked.

3. SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES

- Ensure all shrubs and plants on municipal lands are drought tolerant.
- Look for opportunities to use native plants and ground covers.
- Ensure all publically owned lands are free from invasive species and eradicate if necessary.
- Municipal lands that are adjacent to waterways should maintain a 3-ft buffer strip to prevent debris from entering receiving bodies.
- Ensure all construction and maintenance programs use proper erosion control to ensure sedimentation.
- Conduct an inventory of publically owned facilities and identify where storm water and snow melt are captured to reduce runoff.
- Provide information and training to all Public Works staff on the 4R Nutrient Stewardship Program. <https://fertilizercanada.ca/nutrient-stewardship/>
- Ensure wetlands and natural shorelines are protected in development plans, secondary plans and municipal policy.
- Ensure Zoning Bylaws and Development Agreements are consistent with your community's goal to protect water.

4. PROMOTE GOOD STEWARDSHIP IN YOUR COMMUNITY:

- Include an education section on water and waste management in every issue of your community newsletter.

- Ensure proper signage and education is available at all municipal boat launches and in the general community about aquatic invasive species (AIS) <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especies/ais-eae/index-eng.html>
- Ensure municipal website has a link to www.lakefriendly.ca to encourage constituents to adopt the Lake Friendly best practices and utilize the resources.
- Create a Stewardship Committee of engaged residents to get involved in the promotion of good stewardship.

5. ACTIONS FOR A LOW CARBON GOVERNMENT

- Ensure all indoor and outdoor lights are on a timer where applicable.
- Hold training seminars on proper disposal of oils, lubes and hazardous waste to ensure all Public Works employees are aware of the policy for safe disposal.
- Ensure landfill has a program for specialty waste items (white goods, mattresses, batteries, oil, empty pesticide containers). www.stewardshipmanitoba.org
- Introduce a tree planting program in your community. <https://treecanada.ca/plant-with-us/apply-for-a-grant/>
- Contact Efficiency Manitoba to identify program opportunities to reduce energy use. <https://efficiencymb.ca>
- Lead your community in developing an emergency plan for extreme weather events.

CONGRATULATIONS! YOUR COMMUNITY IS ON THE WAY TO BECOMING...



For more information on Lake Friendly for Local Governments, please visit www.lakefriendly.ca