



2011 Manitoba Election Survey #3

Hydro & Energy



Green Party Response – Received August 18, 2011

If elected, will your party:

- 1) **By listening to Manitobans, fulfill the NDP commitment to arrive at a long-term energy plan for Manitoba?**

Yes, we desperately need an energy plan for Manitoba. Such a plan would need to be arrived at in consultation with the public. Greens believe we need much greater investment in conservation and micro-generation.

- 2) **Make sure Manitoba Hydro – now exempt from Planning Act – is also governed by Planning Act requirements?**

Yes.

- 3) **Make sure generation stations/dams in Manitoba's Hydro system have environmental licenses?**

Yes.

- 4) **Require Manitoba Hydro to disclose funds spent on future projects?**

Yes.

- 5) **Ensure open and transparent access to Manitoba Hydro information?**

Yes, access to information from Manitoba Hydro has been particularly problematic. As a crown corporation the highest degree of transparency and accountability standards should apply.

- 6) **Require Manitoba Hydro to provide technical reports when filing proposals, and during proceedings for a new project, under the Environment or Water Acts?**

Yes, full access to, and transparency of, information is vital.

- 7) **Require Manitoba Hydro to regularly post water levels for any lake or river for which it holds a power reserve?**

Yes.

- 8) **Require Manitoba Hydro to make public its long term development intentions, including all transmission corridors/systems?**

Yes.

- 9) **Ensure advance notification about water level changes are timely, public and accessible?**

Yes.

- 10) **Expand Manitoba's wind generated electrical capacity beyond those projects presently built or licensed?**

Yes, we have projects already licensed that could be operational in short order, and we need to explore the potential of micro-generation on our homes and businesses for true energy security.

- 11) **Move forward with power purchase agreements for wind projects licensed, but not yet developed?**

Yes, depending on negotiation outcomes – many opportunities have been lost due to NDP inaction.

- 12) **Produce a public wind resource atlas for Manitoba?**

Yes, this would help spur the wind industry in Manitoba.

- 13) **Assess transmission needs in relation to potential wind projects?**

Yes.

14) Establish public environmental standards for new renewable energy proposals in Manitoba (wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, etc.)?

Yes.

15) Investigate potential developers, users, and benefits for solar energy in Manitoba?

Yes.

16) Determine how a feed in tariff would work in Manitoba?

Yes.

17) Create a separate crown agency/corporation to guide the new and alternative renewable energy sector in Manitoba?

We would create a new mandate for Manitoba Hydro, rather than creating a separate agency. The utility renamed Manitoba Energy, would remain publicly owned. The new mandate would be to seek to reduce energy consumption first, and then secondly, explore and implement renewable energy forms beyond hydroelectric power.

18) Make public in Manitoba documents, standards, and other reports Manitoba Hydro provides to other utilities, other governments, including in the US?

Yes.

19) Put in place further measures to enhance energy efficiency in Manitoba?

Yes. Measures need to go beyond efficiency, ensuring overall demand is decreasing.

20) Increase the ceiling for Power Smart upgrades per residence to \$10,000?

Yes. We must also find ways to encourage energy upgrades for those who cannot necessarily afford the up front capital costs.

- 21) Set interest rates on Power Smart loans 1% above prime?**

Yes, in addition loan programs need to be accessible (i.e. many of the people who might be able to benefit from loans may not qualify, and/or loans may not cover entire cost of project).

- 22) Build Conawapa generation station?**

No, not until a full assessment on the potential for energy conservation has taken place.

- 23) Build the Keeyask generation station?**

No, not until a full assessment on the potential for energy conservation has taken place.

- 24) Keep Manitoba Hydro publicly owned for the benefit of all Manitobans?**

Yes, and we also are the only party ensuring that hydro does not needlessly expand export operations to the detriment of Manitobans.

- 25) Commission an independent agency to review environmental impacts, social and economic costs, and benefits from our hydro system, since the first dam?**

Yes, and such a review must consider the impacts on Manitoba's northern and aboriginal people, and the impacts of water regulation.