

Sustainability Report

HIGHLIGHTS 2016-2017



FortWhyte Alive
HUMAN. NATURE.

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Sustainability Statement

FortWhyte Alive (FWA) believes that sustainable communities are built on three essential and interdependent cornerstones: a healthy natural environment; a healthy, vibrant economic environment; and a healthy and equitable social environment. As a place that celebrates interconnectedness of society, economy and environment, FWA is rooted in sustainability.

With approximately 640 acres of diverse habitat that include lakes, forests, meadows, and prairie grasslands, FWA is well-equipped to provide leading-edge programming, natural settings, and facilities for environmental education, outdoor recreation and social enterprise programming. Given its unparalleled natural, built and intellectual assets, FWA is positioned to become a national leader in sustainability.

FWA is committed to adopting best practices in sustainability, and will continue to work with its staff, volunteers, and broader community to strive for its vision of becoming a national leader in sustainability.

Table of Acronyms

Alloway Reception Centre (ARC)
Buffalo Stone Cafe (BSC)
FortWhyte Alive (FWA)
FortWhyte Farms(FWF)
Interpretive Centre (IC)
Siobhan Richardson Field Station (SFRS)

Introduction

This report will highlight the impact of sustainability initiatives from January 2016 – December 2017.

The scope includes improvements to buildings and grounds, public and educational programs, special events, operations, and infrastructure.

The FortWhyte Alive Sustainability Committee is comprised of six staff members, each representing a different department at FWA. All sustainability initiatives reported are implemented by a committee member, or within the appropriate department, and monitored by the Committee. Since establishing the Plan, targets and actions were determined by the Committee in consultation with staff, volunteers, as well as academic sustainability experts, and the public and private sectors.

The Committee recognizes that this strategy may require modifications as other opportunities, risks and challenges arise, or are identified. To ensure resiliency, a critical review of action items and targets will continue to be undertaken on an annual basis, allowing for updates or modifications to be made.

In February 2017, the committee developed a policy limiting terms to 2 years. In March, two new representatives from FortWhyte Farms and visitor services joined the committee.

Principles of Sustainability

The purpose of the strategy is to inform and guide FWA's sustainability initiatives from 2015-2020. Performance indicators in this report are based on the 2016/2017 Action Plan identified within the Five-Year Sustainability Strategy (2015-2020). Actions are framed by six key principles that also function as FWA's theoretical and practical framework for sustainability.

1. Energy, Emissions & Transportation

» We believe in infrastructure, practices, and partnerships which limit the institutional and individual dependency on non-renewable energy sources.



4. Procurement & Products

» We prioritize the usage of products which are environmentally and socially responsible.



2. Water

» We commit to acting as leaders of water stewardship through self-sufficiency, water quality, and the promotion of water conservation.



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Principles of Sustainability



3. Waste

» As part of our commitment to a reducing overall greenhouse gas emissions, we strive to decrease the volume of organic and inorganic waste produced on site, and divert waste from the landfill wherever possible.



5. Site & Facilities

» We ensure our existing and future buildings will adhere to the principals of green building standards wherever possible, and make certain that our site is developed and maintained in a sustainable manner.

6. Social & Governance

» We provide tools and resources for staff, volunteers, and visitors, to support sustainable lifestyles and promote a culture of sustainability through collaboration and community.

Key Successes for 2017

- > FWA officially designated as a Fair Trade Workplace
- > Partnered with Compost Winnipeg, a social enterprise of Green Action Centre, to collect all organics and paper towels from the Alloway Reception Centre (ARC), Interpretive Centre (IC) and Siobhan Richardson Field Station (SFRS) and paper towels were collected at FortWhyte Farms (FWF). From mid-October to the end of December, 274.3 kg (605 lbs) of organic waste was collected from FWA.
- > FWA staff completed an in house waste audit of the ARC, IC, SFRS and FWF in October. Materials were collected over a two day period and sorted over one day at FWF
- > Installed 57 kilowatts of photovoltaic panels on the north side of Sam Fabro Way, which will off-set 50% of electrical usage at FWF. The panels are expected to save FWA approximately \$350,000 in energy costs during their 30-year lifespan
- > In March 2017, received one-year of funding from RBC Blue Water and WWF-Loblaw Water Fund which included promoting post-secondary research onsite and establishing an Aquatic Advisory Board consisting of researchers and consultants in the field of aquatic science
- > Secured an electric fleet vehicle, a Chevy Bolt, in partnership with Vickar Chevrolet. The vehicle is the mandatory first choice mode of transportation for staff going off-site for meetings and errands and is also available for staff person use.
- > Commissioned Heart and Hammer to build an additional two waste stations for the Main and Lower Theatres in the IC. The stations include collection bins for compost, recycling and garbage
- > Installed two Tesla electric charging stations in the ARC parking lot with funding from Tesla
- > Completed LED lighting retrofit at FWF
- > Worked with WRENCH to build 10 fleet bicycles for FWA; 8 bicycles for FWF and two for the IC
- > Installed a Water IQ water tracking unit in the Interpretive Centre. Because toilet water is part of the lake loop system, the IC uses less potable water than the average two person household per day
- > Hosted a willow and tree planting workshop to mitigate shoreline erosion in September, 2017. Forty-five people participated including FWA volunteers, members of the public, as well as volunteers from the Seine-Rat River Conservation District and the Manitoba Master Gardeners
- > Developed a FWA Alive Pesticide Policy to mitigate and monitor the products used on-site
- > Expanded FWA's recycling program to include storage and drop-off schedules for hazardous waste, electronics, aerosol cans, and pen recycling
- > Conducted an aerator census of all taps on site and replaced out any taps that did not have low flow
- > Hosted four brown bag lunches to educate staff on topical issues related to sustainability at FWA and in Winnipeg

- > Participated in Sustainability Month in October - promoted the hashtag 'get sustainable', featured sustainability minded volunteers on FWA's social media pages, posted relevant articles and blogs, promoted the Commuter Challenge to staff and volunteers and offered prize incentives to both staff and the public for participating
- > Expanded the lake monitoring program by adding chlorophyll sampling

Key Successes for 2016

- > Acquired four (4) carpool parking signs, two of which have been installed in priority parking areas at ARC and in the staff parking area at the IC. The other two (2) signs will be installed in the ARC parking area.
- > A custom program around water quality was developed for students from the Asper School of Business. FWA showcased its sustainable water strategies including on-site water treatment and water monitoring program
- > Developed a temporary 'Waste Reduction Station' in the rear vestibule of the Interpretive Centre. This temporary station with signage, recycling bins and "Trash Can Jam" video station will be made permanent as part of the pending IC Renovation with funding from TD Friends of the Environment
- > Four Brown Bag lunches were held:
 - o Tales from Trash (Waste Reduction Strategies) - April 8th
 - o Sustainable Food Procurement - August 5th
 - o Sustainable Holidays - November 25th
 - o Staff Holiday Potluck - December 12th
- > In September, a PD Day was held in partnership with Manitoba Education and FWF which outlined experiential opportunities for Education for Sustainability. The education team, public programming, and Farm staff in particular continue to integrate sustainability formally into programs. An Outdoor Educator session was offered as well as workshops focusing on the life cycle of sustainable food, including composting and seed saving
- > Participated in, and hosted, public engagement events for Sustainability Month (October), hosted by Manitoba Education for Sustainable Development Working Group and Manitoba Eco-Network.
- > Continued ongoing work on Commercial Composting Pilot Project with support from Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention Program (WRAPP)
- > Created a sustainability bulletin board in the volunteer lounge communicating topics of interest and information about sustainability
- > Developed a FWA Health and Safety Committee
- > Hired EcoLogic to conduct an Environmental Assessment at FWF
- > Developed a tracking and incentive program for staff to make sustainable choices in the workplace

- > Secured a budget of \$2,000 for the Sustainability Committee
- > FWA received a \$5,000 grant from Honda Canada towards lake monitoring and education program
- > Shortlisted for the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce “Spirit of Winnipeg Awards” in the Environment Category for our Sustainability Initiatives. Awards ceremony took place March 2017
- > Continued to have representation on the Manitoba Sustainability Managers ad-hoc group, as well as representing FWA on the Climate Change Connection advisory committee
- > FWA signed a memorandum of understanding with the University of Winnipeg to facilitate research at FWA

Key Recommendations (2016/2017)

1. Energy, Emissions & Transportation

- > Conduct only 2 online transportation surveys per year, 4 surveys was suggested as being unnecessary and impractical by the Transportation Coordinator at Green Action Centre (GAC) (2018-ongoing)
- > Replace all halogen and compact fluorescent bulbs in the Cafe with Energy Star LEDs throughout the facility, including refrigerators and freezers (2018-ongoing)
- > Install on demand technology in the kitchen areas, such as capture jet systems, LED lighting (2018-ongoing)
- > Ensure that all refrigerants used in the Cafe are non-HFC based (2018-ongoing)
- > Install a no-idling sign at the Cafe loading dock (2018)
- > Offer employees incentives to use public transportation (2018-ongoing)
- > Incentivise cycling for summer camp counselors (2018-ongoing)

Key Recommendations (2016/2017)

2. Water

- > Monitor potable water deliveries on an ongoing basis, not just for 2015 (2018-ongoing)
- > Track all bottled water deliveries on site, not just the IC. Note: water is delivered to the IC then the distributed around the site, so water is already being tracked site wide. However, it's not important to track how many bottles are going to each building (SRFS, Adventure Site and ARC) (2018-ongoing)
- > Replacing existing toilets at the SFRS and FWF with dual flush or ultra-high efficiency a FWF (2020)
- > Include K-12 school programming and nature day camp programming in reporting section (2018-ongoing)
- > Send lake water samples to professional lab for monthly phosphorus and chlorophyll analysis (populate and maintain water data Excel spreadsheet) (2015-ongoing)

- > FWA should continue to market itself as a site for preliminary testing and installation of sustainable water quality remediation options, such as cattail filtration, shoreline protection with willows, and other proposals (2018-ongoing)
- > FWA's Education Coordinator recommends that the aquatic advisory committee continues to meet quarterly to make recommendations regarding aquatic health (2018-ongoing)
- > Increase sand coverage at water's edge to allow goose exclusion fencing to be installed right at the water. Continue to dispose of feces on dock at Adventure Site beach in the forest (2018-ongoing)

Key Recommendations (2016/2017)

3. Waste

- > It is not practical to replace all stand-alone garbage bins with garbage, commingled recycling, and composting bins, as outdoor compost collection will attract wildlife. Instead FWA will, encourage and educate the public to use the indoor compost bins if they are eating outdoors. Additionally, compost bins for organics are not needed at every garbage/recycling location within the IC, ARC, and SRFs, particularly in washrooms. They need to be emptied more frequently so one or two bins per building/office space should suffice (2018-ongoing)
- > Waste audits are time and staff intensive. The committee is recommending conducting them every two years or if there has been a significant change in the waste management system. Or, outsourcing the project (2018-ongoing)
- > Track the weight of organic material picked up by Compost Winnipeg (2018-ongoing)
- > Make online fillable forms for parent feedback from camp instead of paper copies (2018-ongoing)
- > Making fillable forms for camp counselor volunteer evals (can be saved and accessed easily for future reference) (2018-ongoing)
- > Promote and incentivize the Trash Can Jam and Waste Free by 2020 for FWA camps (2018-ongoing)
- > Develop a collection system for hazardous waste and a protocol for delivering it to appropriate disposal sites (2018-ongoing)

Key Recommendations (2016/2017)

4. Procurement

- > The committee has recommended reducing the number of gift shop audits from seasonally to twice a year. These require a lot of research and the merchandise doesn't change that quickly (2018-ongoing)
- > Work with Diversity to substitute all soaps and hand lotions with non-antibacterial and Ecologo certified products (2018-ongoing)

- > BSC does not use any EcoLogo, EPA or Green Seal certified cleaning agents. Kitchen makes use of concentrated cleaning solutions and dilution systems. Work with the cafe to switch to Ecologo/Green seal/EPA certified cleaning agents (2018-ongoing)
- > Eliminate sale of bottled/boxed water from the Cafe (2018-ongoing)
- > Offer training for summer camp director and section coordinators on sustainable procurement, and general sustainable practices (2018-ongoing)

Key Recommendations (2016/2017)

5. Site and Facilities

- > There is a goal to 'decrease use of fertilizer by using compost produced on site as part of the integrated composting program". However, additional compost may need to be ordered since Compost Winnipeg is now picking up a large portion of our organics (2018-ongoing)
- > Site Maintenance plan should be spearheaded by another committee member, as the maintenance department does not have enough time in the office (2018)
- > Add bird strike decals to the SFRS (2018)

Key Recommendations (2016/2017)

6. Social and Governance

- > Ensure that a member of the Management Team sits on the committee, whether as the Chair or as a general member (2018-ongoing)
- > Develop another method for tracking sustainable actions for staff, and potentially volunteers (2018)
- > Provide incentives and recognition for staff and volunteers who succeed in integrating sustainable initiatives into their daily routine, through the Pledge of Sustainability (e.g. composting, Christmas tree drop-offs, active transportation, ethical consumer choices, etc.) should be ongoing, not just for 2015. (2018 - ongoing)
- > Providing shuttle transportation in Winnipeg's downtown on large public programming days from central locations should be ongoing, not just for 2016 (2018-ongoing)

Major Priorities for 2018

Key priorities for 2018, year four of the Sustainability Strategy, will be to focus on what FWA does best – education and communication of sustainability related issues. With the Director of Sustainability on parental leave, the committee will not take on any new major projects but instead continue working on initiatives that have already been identified and budgeted for.