

Brief Synopsis of Presentation

Title: Water Soft Paths – An Innovative Community Approach to Managing Water Availability

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Non-structural approaches to water management are largely social and behavioral decisions and actions, often guided by policy and legislation. Manitoba uses a number of effective non-structural approaches to water conservation and water-use efficiency to ensure that our water availability is managed for current and future generations.

Water Soft Paths is an innovative new approach that has been piloted in Manitoba as a way for local water managers to explore new ways to engage with the public in water conservation behaviours and choices. Water Soft Paths is a new planning approach that seeks to reduce water demand rather than increasing supply. Water Soft Paths analysis is both practical and visionary. It combines the best of community sustainability planning with water efficiency planning and promotes the use of innovative practices such as backcasting, water recycling, rainwater harvesting, and greywater re-use.

Other non-structural approaches being successfully implemented in Manitoba include Integrated Watershed Management Planning, Ecological Goods and Services Incentive initiatives, and the development of a number of new strategies to protect the quality and quantity of water and to support the environmental goals of TomorrowNow – Manitoba's Green Plan.