

Innovation Fund

Innovative thinking requires innovative support. IISD's unique Innovation Fund is a program designed to provide the nurturing necessary for that seed of knowledge to sprout.

Since the fund was launched in 2003, funders have committed over \$400,000 to the creation of new ideas and research by IISD's staff and associates. Whether it's a project addressing the effects of climate change in the Sudan or the development of community-based natural resource management systems, IISD is ready to help promote the new thinking that will be required for our new world.

The Innovation Fund is only one of the many opportunities in which organizations can partner with IISD. Some of our larger, international projects require a multi-year commitment while other smaller projects can be funded on a one-time basis. Many governments and companies recognize that their concerns about their own sustainability are part of a more global concern and ask IISD to research the issue and provide recommendations.

And even individuals are recognizing the need to encourage new policies, new actions and new thought to address planetary concerns. So with the assistance of CanadaHelps.org, IISD now provides an easy click through donation point on the website.



Sustainable development means more than simply cleaning up our environment. A new world requires a new plan integrating environmental stewardship, economic development and the well-being of all people on our planet.

The International Institute for Sustainable Development nurtures the seeds of new growth by seeking new ideas and approaches that will help combat and adapt to climate change; promote effective stewardship of natural resources; and otherwise advance policy directions that move the world forward sustainably. We seek a prosperous world where people can escape abject poverty, breathe clean air and drink clean water. A planet that will be vibrant and healthy for future generations.

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There's something about Manitoba-based companies

Environmental stewardship seems to be a closely treasured value in the corporate climate of Manitoba. Whether it is a company producing windows or hydrogen hybrid fuel cells for busses, it appears that Manitoba's extreme weather attracts extreme thinkers, innovators and planners.

Loewen Windows

It's not surprising, really, that Loewen Windows is so committed to the environment. Built on the firm foundations of a traditional Mennonite family the company has pioneered new technologies based on fundamental respect for the Manitoba prairie. Utilizing the naturally tough elements of Douglas Fir wood, Loewen manages to create doors and windows that not only repel the environment but protect it, as well. Manufacturing wood products, using a renewable resource, means Loewen uses production methods that consume less energy than PVC products.

Earlier this year, Loewen was the first North American window and door manufacturer to receive Forest Stewardship Council chain of custody certification (SW-COC-1739) for using Douglas Fir wood in their manufactured products. This certification has opened the door for Loewen to supply certified Douglas Fir windows and doors for building projects seeking LEED green building accreditation status. The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) promotes environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests. Chain of custody certification provides a guarantee of the sustainable path taken by raw materials from the forest to the consumer, including all successive stages of processing, transformation, manufacturing and distribution.

Loewen also began the implementation of a Lean manufacturing model this year, including the use of a PowerSmart lighting system that not only saves on cost but on energy as well. Even Loewen's manufacturing plant is heated by sawdust and the company sells the remainder to local farms for bedding.

In addition to their commitment to environmental stewardship, the Loewen family wanted to be sure to follow their ethical values into the community in which their 1500 employees live and work. The CP Loewen Family Foundation was established as a non-profit to provide support to a wide range of charitable causes, including poverty alleviation, education, faith, and the environment in southeastern Manitoba.



Charles Loewen and former Mayor Les Magnusson at Loewen Windows plant in Steinbach.
Photo courtesy of The Carillon, Steinbach, MB.

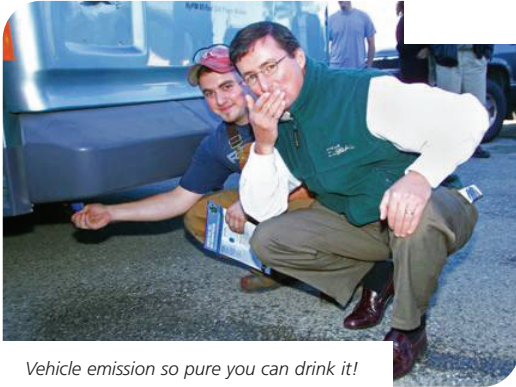
“Manitoba companies recognize the intrinsic and the financial benefit of sustainable development.”

For another Winnipeg-based company, the energy crisis is an opportunity in the making.

Just imagine. Hydrogen-refueling stations instead of gas stations; cars, trucks and busses emitting pure water, clean enough to drink; the silence of transportation provided by electricity rather than combustion.

Kraus Global

If Winnipeg-based Kraus Global has their way this would be the vision of a new world, one fueled by the renewable resources of our environment. And their personal ambition? To provide single source solutions for the transportation refueling needs of the global market. A heady goal for a small plant based in Winnipeg's eastern industrial district. But one that seems achievable for a company that brought us the miracle of the command start system worshipped by winter drivers all over Canada and the rest of the northern globe. Kraus' ability to diversify their refueling equipment to deliver gas, compressed natural gas, propane and hydrogen has allowed them to grow into a Manitoba success story.



Vehicle emission so pure you can drink it!

Kraus Global started as a family business developed in 1962 by Hans Kraus, a German immigrant. Formerly known as the Kraus Group, the business began by developing electronic replacement meters for the mechanical dial registers on gas station pumps. Since then the business has grown into a team of 60 people with a sales office in Beijing and contracts in Thailand, Pakistan, throughout Latin America, Europe and North America. “Many Canadian gas stations you go to will have our equipment,” states Chris Damiani, Business and Product Development Manager for Kraus.

Damiani is cautiously optimistic about the future potential of hydrogen as a transportation fuel source, especially here in Manitoba. “The (provincial) government has taken a good step in purchasing this (dispensing) equipment. Overall, they’ve been very supportive of fuel cell research.”

Indeed, MLAs and the public were able to take a spin in the newest incarnation of a hydrogen hybrid fuel cell bus that stopped by the Legislative Assembly in Manitoba for a demonstration in September. New Flyer Industries, another Winnipeg-based business, built the 40-foot bus as well as

another bus with a hydrogen-hybrid internal combustion engine which had previously been tested in Winnipeg’s cold weather months of February and March.

This winter testing project allowed Kraus to test their refueling infrastructure for the dispensation of hydrogen in extreme weather. The testing demonstrated the need to establish a more permanent testing facility in Manitoba, including storage facilities, a hydrogen refueling station and an emissions testing site. The testing also demonstrated the need for a single source entity, such as a crown corporation or a non-profit agency, to promote and carry out the testing of hydrogen and other alternative fuels in Manitoba.

Kraus Global is poised to deliver the future, today, to those that are willing to invest in a process that has the potential to revolutionize the way we think of fuel, energy and emissions. Practical solutions for difficult global problems; it’s on our Winnipeg doorstep.



Hydrogen refueling station pump.

“Practical solutions for difficult global problems; it’s on our Winnipeg doorstep.”

Programs in action

Climate Change Team

It's been a busy year so far for IISD's climate change team and there's no sign of things slowing down in the future. The Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change created a media furore that has only heightened awareness of the issues around the world. Just in the past two months, IISD's Climate Change team has participated in a number of valuable projects and global conferences.

In October, IISD's Climate Change team, led by John Drexhage, and over 40 experts from across Canada met in Ottawa to launch a 2-year initiative on Canada and post-2012 climate change policy. The aim of this first meeting was to speak with governments, businesses, NGOs and other concerned citizens about Canada's mid-term and longer-term strategies for addressing and responding to climate change. Under the guidance of an advisory group, the IISD team will be providing research, analysis and policy recommendations over the next two years with a final outcomes presentation at an international conference in the winter of 2008.

Shortly afterwards John attended the Make Markets Work for Climate International Conference in Amsterdam. More than 300 representatives of the energy, financial and environmental sectors worldwide gathered to participate in the discussions of markets working for climate. One of the central conclusions was a recognition that governments need to create a stable incentive for the business community to invest in clean energy technologies. Business is ready to invest in clean energy technologies, but a long-term signal is required urgently to maintain a value on carbon.

And at press time, IISD's Climate change team is attending the COP 12 events in Nairobi, Kenya. The Reporting Services branch of IISD is providing detailed coverage of the main conference as well as many of the side events organized by international NGOs.



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Our Donors...

- Share our vision for achieving social equity, environmental health and economic well-being.
- Provide the necessary funding so that we may deliver the ideas that move the sustainability agenda forward.
- Motivate us by their confidence as we continue our global efforts to inform policy-makers and world leaders who have promised human dignity, environmental fitness, vibrancy and overall well-being for today and for future generations.

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