



Biboon 2016/2017

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Climate Change Planning in the 1854 Treaty Area

By Phil DeFoe, Air Quality Technician

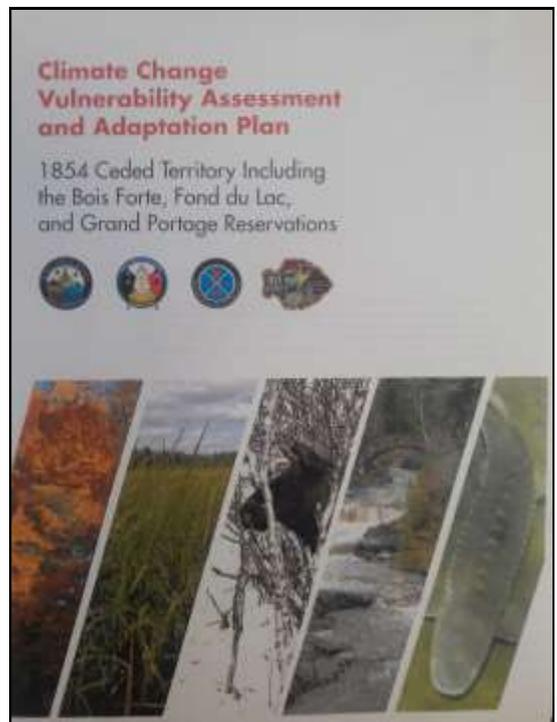
Aaniin,

We would like to announce that staff from Fond du Lac Resource Management, Grand Portage, Bois Forte, and 1854 Treaty Authority recently finished our Climate change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan. Climate change not only affects the living things around us but, also our landscapes and traditions as Anishinaabeg.

Tribes are restricted by boundaries within reservations and the ceded territory and are unable to move or follow changes that will and have occurred due to Climate change. Because traditional harvesting practices still rely heavily on natural resources it is very important to the bands to be able to plan for these changes.

The three bands and 1854 Treaty Authority partnered with Adaptation International and Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments to come up with a living document that not only investigates climate change and how it is affecting our reservations and the 1854 ceded territory but, also has strategies on how we can address changes due to climate. The vulnerability assessment and adaptation plan assesses climate change in over 30 different species and habitats that fall within wildlife, air quality, fisheries, wetlands, water quality, resource access, aquatic and terrestrial plants, and forestry. There are adaptation strategies to apply for current changes included as well as strategies to help plan for future projections of climate change.

If you are interested in viewing the document, it is posted on the Fond du Lac Resource Management Division main page:
<http://www.fdlrez.com/rm/index.htm>
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Home Energy Check-Up

Keep your family cozy and save money at the same time!

By Jesse Godbold, FdL GreenCorps Member

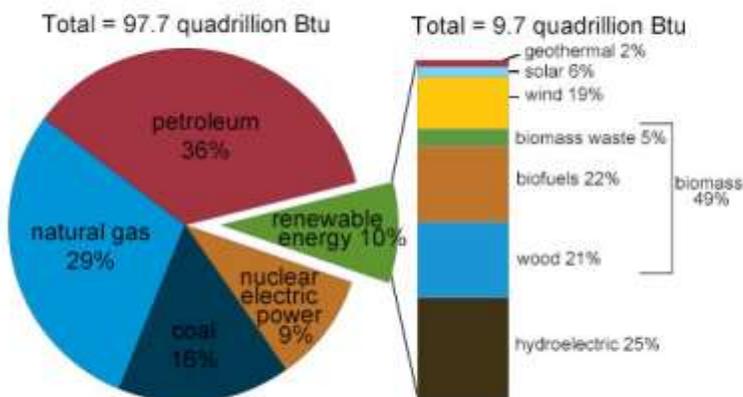
Why Does Energy Efficiency Matter?

With dipping temperatures and cold winds already with us and even more frigid conditions on the forecast, now is the time to prepare your home for toasty conditions. Winter can be a challenging time, not only for your home heating system, but on your wallet too!

Energy efficiency means using less energy (input) to provide the same level of performance for products and services (output). For example, some light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs last 35 to 50 times longer and use at least 75% less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs¹. When you do make the switch to LEDs, be sure to find bulbs with the ENERGY STAR Program label so you get the most effective lights. Carpooling, let's say to all those holiday get-togethers, is a great example of **energy conservation**, which is a change in behavior that results in the use of less energy. Carpooling not only saves fuel (energy), it also reduces traffic congestion, decreases vehicle emissions, keeps miles off your odometer, and it promotes community. Walking and biking are even better examples of energy conservation!

Greater energy efficiency and conservation mean reduced energy costs over the long haul and less demand for fossil fuels. **Fossil fuels** (oil, coal, natural gas) are formed over many years from decaying plant and animal remains that are exposed to extreme amounts of heat and pressure. While it takes many lifetimes for fossil fuels to form, their extraction can happen relatively quickly. The current rate of fossil fuel extraction is unsustainable and continued extraction will lead to greater scarcity. Also, the production of fossil fuels creates large amounts of pollution and can vastly alter the landscape. Extraction machinery, transportation machinery, and the burning of fossil fuels release **greenhouses gases**, e.g., carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases. These act like a blanket around the Earth, causing heat to become trapped in the atmosphere and can have severe effects on the planet's climate.

U.S. energy consumption by energy source, 2015



Note: Sum of components may not equal 100% because of independent rounding.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Monthly Energy Review*, Table 1.3 and 10.1 (April 2016), preliminary data



Renewable energies, such as solar, wind, hydropower, biomass, and geothermal, are those energies that are naturally regenerated over a short time scale. These sources of energy are much more sustainable, never running out and having a much lower environmental impact compared to fossil fuels.

10 Tips for Energy Savings

By Jesse Godbold, FdL GreenCorps Member

- * In-wall air conditioners can be a huge heat suck! Covering those units on both the inside and outside creates an airtight seal that keeps out icy drafts.
- * Make a draft stopper to keep cold air from entering your home. Fill old socks, jeans, tights, or any moldable material with nutshells, rags, package filling, or recycled polyester fiberfill. You can even use balsam needles, which give off a great scent as an added bonus. Once filled, sew or staple your draft stopper closed and put in front of those drafty doors and windows. Not only do they work great for keeping the cold air out and the warm air in, they are a fun craft for all ages!

Spotting Vampire Electronics
Many devices constantly draw power while plugged in, which can quickly add up on monthly electric bills. Keep an eye out for the following clues as to what should be unplugged when not in use:

- External power supplies**
Computers, printers
- Remote controls**
Window AC units, TVs, DVD players
- Digital displays**
Washing machines, microwaves, VCRs
- Rechargeable batteries**
Battery chargers, cordless telephones, power tools

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

- * Turn off room lights AND decorative lights when you're not home and when you aren't in the room.

- * Electronics are energy vampires! Be sure to unplug devices as soon as they are finished charging and turn off power strips when they aren't in use.

- * Although many manufacturers set water heaters to 140 °F, the recommended temperature for most homes is 120 °F. This decreases the amount of energy needed to heat your water, slashes your energy bill, reduces chances of scalding, and slows down mineral buildup within your pipes and water heater. You can also insulate your exposed water lines, a cheap and easy fix, which helps prevent frozen pipes and keeps heat from the warmed water from being lost to the external environment. Basement, bathroom, and kitchen pipes are easy targets!

- * Dial back your thermostat when no one is home, at night while you're sleeping, and when your house is full of people. All those bodies create lots of heat!

- * Plug air leaks with caulk or replace weather stripping around doors and windows.
- * Make sure to keep the fireplace damper CLOSED after use.
- * Keep your curtains open on those sunny days to let the sun warm up your house and keep them closed at night to retain that heat. That's free energy begging to warm your house!
- * Cleaning or replacing your furnace filter on a regular basis keeps your furnace running efficiently and can help reduce your heating bill.

Bonus Tip! You can always add another sweater and pair of socks to stay extra cozy!

Photo: Resource Management staff hard at work stuffing draft stoppers for the Sawyer 4-H Night Out event

Sources: https://www.energystar.gov/products/lighting_fans/light_fixtures/why_choose_energy_star_qualified_led_lighting





Boozhoo,

My name is Jesse Godbold and I am the newest member of Minnesota GreenCorps, a statewide AmeriCorps program dedicated to helping preserve and protect Minnesota’s environment while training a new generation of environmental professionals. I am serving in the Environmental Program at Fond du Lac and am focusing on a wide variety of sustainability initiatives throughout the community. Projects include cultivating the Bimaaji’idiwin Ojibwe Garden, collaborating on establishing a trail connecting the Ojibwe School to the Cloquet Forestry Center, developing a strategic plan for FDL’s food system, providing environmental outreach, evaluating green transportation and waste diversion options, and tracking energy conservation measures.

Ripening in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in rural eastern Kentucky, I gained an awareness and appreciation of the peace of wild things. I received my B.S. in Wildlife Management from Eastern Kentucky University and have worked around the country in a multitude of roles: lavender farmer, cabinetmaker, mooz and waawaakeshi researcher, horseback guide. Living in the Great Lakes region for four years has continued to strengthen my commitment to working for our natural resources. I appreciate the opportunity to serve Fond du Lac and look forward to lending a hand in the community. Miigwech!

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