

Victoria A. Reinhardt

Ramsey County Commissioner, Minnesota

Ramsey County Board Chair Victoria Reinhardt has a long history of environmental activism working on policy at the local, state and regional level for over 20 years. She is a founding board member and served as chairperson of the Recycling Association of Minnesota from 1989 to 1991, chairperson of the City of White Bear Lake Recycling Advisory Committee and worked on product stewardship issues for the State of Minnesota. She currently serves as Chairperson of the Ramsey/Washington Resource Recovery Board and Chair of the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board for the Twin Cities region. She is also currently the Chair of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee and Vice-Chair of the Extension Committee for the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC). In 2008 she was elected as Vice-Chair of the Minnesota Clean Water Council. Commissioner Reinhardt holds a Doctorate of Public Administration from Hamline University.

Tom Keep

Environmental Initiative Manager, City of Brandon

Tom is a long time Brandon resident originally from Winnipeg. Tom is the Environmental Initiatives Manager for the City of Brandon and has been in that position for 5 years. The City of Brandon is a partner in the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program and has completed a greenhouse gas inventory (GHG) for both the community and for the City of Brandon as a corporation. The City of Brandon has set a goal for 2013 to reduce its GHG's by 20% for the corporation and 6% for the community. One of the biggest programs under Tom's direction is the landfill gas recovery project at its Eastview Landfill Site. Tom is also involved with a pilot project for curbside organics recovery program where 500 households are participating in this 18 month project. Tom is also involved with the recycling program that started in October of 2008. There are approximately 15,000 recycling carts in the community along with 5 depots in various parts of the city.

Tom Ethans

Executive Director, Take Pride Winnipeg!

Tom Ethans is the Executive Director of Take Pride Winnipeg, a registered charitable organization dedicated to inspiring community pride, raising public awareness and promoting citizen responsibility in making the City of Winnipeg clean and beautiful.

Take Pride Winnipeg has educational programs that they run in schools around the city - a Mentor Program for high school and university students who teach four, one hour classes on litter, graffiti, environment and civic pride to grades four and five students; PAWS -Pride and Action in Winnipeg Schools - for middle school students to do positive things in their community, including litter abatement,

graffiti removal and murals; and Take Pride – Take Action, where motivational speakers visit high schools to motivate students in making a difference in their community.

The Team Up To Clean Up campaign, where volunteers help to pick up litter around the city in the spring and fall, is the keystone program of the organization. Over 35,000 volunteers (over 160 schools and community groups) pick up litter in May and June, and another 10,000 in the fall. Garbage bags are provided for the groups by Take Pride.

Bag Up Manitoba is one of the newer programs, where students are asked to bring in plastic bags. This year 136 schools participated in the program. One rural school collected 19,000 bags. The schools receive recycled plastic Frisbees, and the top schools receive a bench made from plastic bags.

Tom also started a mural program in Winnipeg for local artists and since 1998, Take Pride has commissioned over 200 murals throughout the city, and the city won an international award from Keep America Beautiful for its mural program in 2005.

Dwight Mercer

Eco Research, Regina

Eco Research formed in March 2007 and is the company of Dwight G. Mercer from Regina. Based on 30 years experience, the company restricts its consulting services to: small urban and regional strategic land use planning, municipal capacity building, sustainable development and sustainable subdivisions, solid waste management with emphasis on waste minimization, and aquifer protection and comprehensive floodplain management with emphasis on land use controls. DGMercer Eco Research currently operates under contract with several urban and rural municipalities in Saskatchewan and completed the original conceptual plans for what is becoming the multi-model complex west of Regina. In addition, the company also has partnerships with other private consultants for special projects including land development, house construction and commercial real estate development.

Specific to solid waste management, DGMercer Eco Research is currently completing five solid waste management contracts for the City of Regina as part of the implementation of Waste Plan Regina 2010. Previously, Dwight Mercer was the waste diversion officer for the City of Regina from 1998 until the end of 2006 when he started his own consulting business – during this time he managed ten separate internal and contracted programs. Prior to the move to Solid Waste, he was a Senior City Planner in the Urban Planning Department, City of Regina. Other work experience includes Saskatchewan Environment, Saskatchewan Water Corporation and the Centre for Sustainable Communities at the University of Regina.