

Southport, Portage la Prairie – Climate Smart Action to Reduce Carbon and Enhance Resilience



With the average global temperature rise soon to breach the 1.5-degree Celsius limit established by the Paris Climate Agreement back in 2015, and with the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide already completely off the charts relative to the geologic record, the urgency to take climate action has never been greater.

Making matters worse is that temperature rises twice as fast in Canada compared to the global average due to our northerly location, and a whopping four times faster in the Arctic regions.

So, taking climate action, to reduce carbon emissions to help slow global temperature rise, and to enhance our resilience to a changing climate, should be front and center for a successful business. Such is the case at Southport Aerospace Centre Inc. in Portage la Prairie.

Southport is a not-for-profit commercial development and property management company established in 1992 to manage the assets of the former Canadian Forces Base in Portage la Prairie. It operates with approximately 30 employees to manage an array of services including residential housing, accommodations, storage complexes, an indoor recreation facility, outdoor recreation, a 5-pin bowling alley, and a 9-hole golf course. Its commercial tenants span many sectors such as health administration, education and training, manufacturing, addictions counselling, childcare, agriculture, and military flight training through KF Aerospace.

In 2018, under a pilot initiative led by the Manitoba Environmental Industries Association (MEIA), Southport became the first Climate Smart certified company in Manitoba. Climate Smart is a software and training program now operated by BMO Radicle to help companies measure, reduce, and report carbon emissions.

According to BMO Radicle, the Climate Smart program enabled Southport to measure the impact of their operations on the environment and increase the capacity of staff to manage their assets from a sustainability perspective. The program provided insights into future design decisions and operational

impacts, including analysis of return on investment for efficiency improvements.

Southport is aligning its property management approach with net-zero thinking, to ensure that development and operations do not contribute any overall greenhouse gas emissions. This includes efforts such as net-zero builds, LEED Silver certified buildings, switching to electric water and commercial heating, and fleet conversion to electric vehicles, among others.

And to help enhance their resilience to an already changing climate, Southport is burying its power cables to reduce the risk of downed lines due to extreme weather events.

Southport's initiatives exemplify the dual nature of climate action which necessitates enhancing resilience while at the same time aggressively reducing carbon emissions. Their plans for the future involve real-time data collection on buildings emissions to help assess and improve the performance of their many Climate Smart initiatives.

For more information, visit:

- [Southport Community Support](#)
- [Southport Aerospace Centre's sustainability plan takes flight](#)
- [Southport is a Climate Smart Leader](#)