

THE DGH TEAM STRIVES TO BUILD RESILIENCE

CIVIL

STRUCTURAL

MECHANICAL

ELECTRICAL

INDUSTRIAL

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Last Thursday marked the first day of Sustainable Building Manitoba's "Building Resilience Gathering: Pathway to Progress" gathering and webinar series! DGH was pleased to spend time at the event and we look forward to attending other events in the series!

If there was one take away from yesterday's presentations, it's that we all have to work together to build climate resilient buildings and achieve climate goals. Here are some talking points to discuss and ponder

BENEFITS

✓ *The upfront costs of new green buildings are often higher, but the Total Cost of Building Operations (TCBO) is significantly lower over the projected lifetime of a building, and the initial higher cost can often be recouped in operating costs in the first six years of a building's life*

✓ *Deep retrofits of existing buildings can also see upfront costs recouped over time, but generally not until nearly the end of a thirty-year period, which may be less attractive to residential homeowners*

✓ *Practices such as SEEFAR evaluations are working towards giving property appraisers tools for adding to a building's appraised value based on energy efficiency upgrades, which will help owners recoup costs by adding value to their homes upon sale*

✓ *Due to current low interest rates, it is difficult for banks to offer incentives to Manitobans when borrowing for projects such as deep retrofits or purchasing more*

energy efficient homes; however, in the future, borrowers may be able to negotiate lower interest rates when borrowing for energy efficiency projects and purchasing energy efficient buildings, as these borrowers will be less likely to default due to increased costs related to a building's energy costs

✓ *There are a number of sustainable projects being put forth by Climate Action MB's Climate Action Team that could help Manitoba further reduce its dependency on fossil fuels, such as district based geothermal projects that would remove the burdens of geothermal projects from homeowners by adding geothermal energy to provincial and municipal energy portfolios*

Sustainable projects make sense because everybody wins. Builders and designers generally have higher profit margins when it comes to sustainable buildings; Financial institutions benefit because borrowers are less likely to default on loans when energy prices increase; building owners benefit from decreased operating costs; finally, residents and occupants benefit from living and working in high-quality, high-performance environments.

If we all work together to advocate for at least some of these innovations, we all win!

You can **contact the DGH team** for help with your resilient building project today. If we don't provide the service you need, we will always help you find someone that does.

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