

Eco-West to get its wings

The AMBM announced recently that in the wake of its many successes in the green economy sector Eco-West could very well become an independent entity as soon as the spring of 2017.

The news was made public on October 6 to an audience of approximately 100 people who attended the public meeting that followed the AMBM's annual general meeting. The AMBM is the parent organization of the Conseil de développement économique des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba (CDEM) (the latter currently oversees Eco-West's operations throughout Western Canada).

Eco-West was initially created a few years ago to help rural municipalities with fewer than 20,000 residents to become more environmentally friendly and also assist them in the implementation of a green economy infrastructure.

"No one else in Canada has developed an expertise similar to that of Eco-West," said AMBM executive director Louis Tétrault.

Eco-West has already engaged over 100 municipalities across Western Canada, in a variety of sectors such as energy, transportation, waste and wastewater management, as well as the conducting of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventories.

According to Mr. Tétrault, three municipalities in Saskatchewan recently requested the services of Eco-West.

"I believe that there are also six municipalities in Alberta. In addition to this, there is a Francophone community in Alberta that is currently setting up an organization very similar to the AMBM to promote the French language, among other things. It will be interesting to see if other associations of bilingual municipalities are created in the other provinces as well," Tétrault concluded.