BizforClimate

BizforClimate Presentation to the Public Utilities Board (PUB)

September 2nd, 2026

About BizforClimate

A made-in-Manitoba organization mobilizing the business community to advocate for strong public policies that drive climate action and work to build a sustainable economy. BizforClimate bridges policy and business communities to encourage ambitious climate policy and to unlock the power of business to build a sustainable economy.

We envision a future where strong economic and climate policies unlock private sector innovation to massively deploy low-emission technologies and products that address climate change by lowering costs, creating jobs and growth, and improving people's quality of life.

We believe:

- Climate change is a critical issue and requires urgent action.
- We must transition to clean, resilient, sustainable economies.
- This requires well-conceived public policies to guide action, alongside innovation and at-scale deployment of real-world solutions.

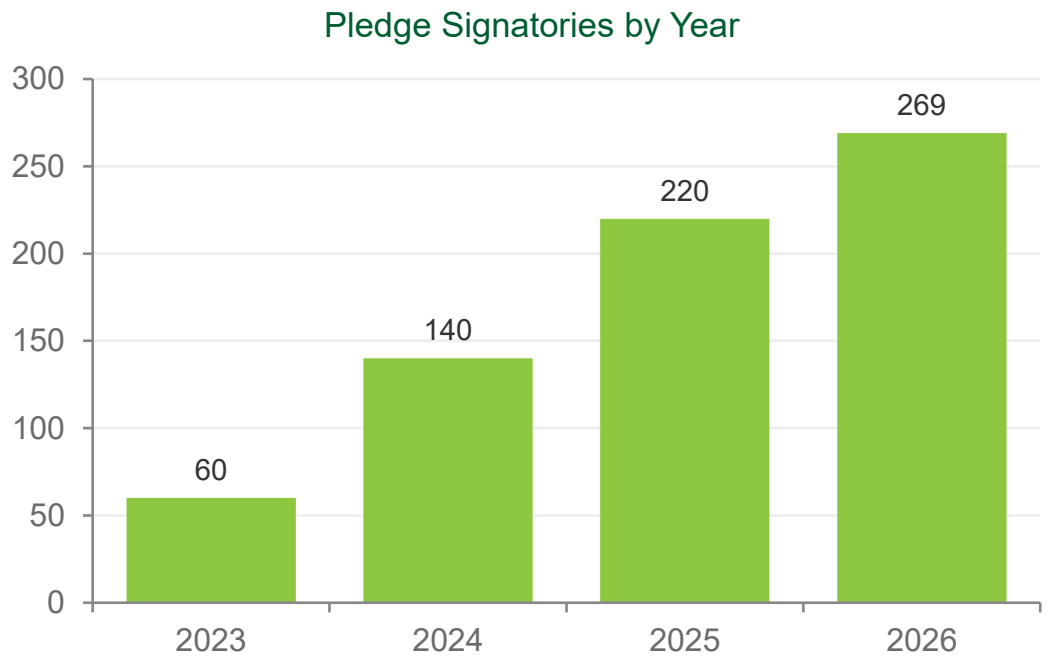
Guiding Principles:

1. **Fact-based**
2. **Pragmatic**
3. **Lightweight and agile**
4. **Collaborative**
5. **Non-partisan, a-political**

Growth & Momentum

From a grassroots pledge campaign to a credible policy voice.

***269** Pledge Signatories — and evolving into a new phase of **Action** and **Impact**.*



After 6+ of growth and proof-of-concept, our movement is attaining a point of maturity and impact.

- We occupy a **strategic niche as a voice for business** at the intersection of climate policy and economic development.
- We have growing **scale and capacity** to influence policy issues and forge partnerships with public and civil society actors.
- Our members are **ready for action** and asking for leadership.

BizforClimate Positions

Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and the proposed Major New Facility (MNF).

OVERARCHING COMMENTS

Risk & Readiness: The IRP Underweighs Key Risk Factors

We reiterate a point expressed by others as well, that a non-emitting grid is a competitive economic asset. Locking in more fossil generation carries risks for Manitoba's future competitive economic position.

- Our worldview is that policy, markets, technology, and business needs are shifting toward more flexible, diversified approaches, and a broader energy transition is underway where emissions profiles matter.
- The IRP's process favours a single dominant strategy at this juncture, over diversified, adaptive alternatives.
- Our concern is that the analysis may be missing or undervaluing key considerations, such as social acceptance, evolving technologies, and future policy risk.

1 — Major New Facility: Cost, Schedule, and Need Require Stronger Discipline

- Manitoba is being asked to commit $3B+ to a combustion facility amid shifting equipment costs, financing conditions, and policy signals.
- As others in this hearing have also noted, credible questions remain on cost estimates, underlying assumptions, and cost controls.

Recommendations:

- Clear stage gates and off-ramps to manage cost/schedule risk as new information emerges, rather than locking in now.
- A more cautious, risk-balanced plan to minimize the need for expanded fossil infrastructure in the first place (i.e., risk of overbuild) to limit future stranded asset risk and fuel switching uncertainty.
- Deeper examination of battery storage and other alternatives for adding flexibility and back-up — also identified by other parties in this hearing.

2 — Enable Indigenous Partners Through Inclusion That Reflects Northern and Remote Realities

- Multiple interveners (MKO, Wa Ni Ska Tan) independently report northern/remote communities are underrepresented in wind power and engagement plans.
- Current consultation sits at “informing,” not real partnership.
- Meaningful inclusion requires engagement and investment models suited to northern/remote realities.

Recommendations:

- Include a near-term action in the IRP defining how Hydro will involve Indigenous partners in IRP implementation — driving investment, innovation, and modernization.

3 — Enable Business Partners to Support a More Investment-Ready Grid

- As the IRP moves to implementation, Hydro should show how the grid and operating model can evolve to leverage more private investment.
- This directly reduces the ratepayer and debt-financing exposure raised above — more private capital absorbed means less cost passed to ratepayers.
- Also requires structural openness for distributed generation, storage, and smart-grid technologies.

Recommendations:

- Hydro to include a near-term action in the IRP that defines concrete mechanisms for business partnership, procurement, and co-investment.
- At the provincial level, implement a plan for legislative reform, renewed mandates for Manitoba Hydro and Efficiency Manitoba, and policies and programs that enable the business partnerships and organizational flexibility needed to support IRP implementation.

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