

GREATER TORONTO AND HAMILTON AREA CLEAN AIR COUNCIL 2012 INTER-GOVERNMENTAL DECLARATION ON CLEAN AIR & CLIMATE CHANGE

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA) Clean Air Council has been working collaboratively from 2001 – 2012 to deliver on annual Inter-governmental Declarations, convene annual Summits, to pursue issues raised at previous Summits, to explore opportunities for joint initiatives, and to liaise with other municipalities to share best practices information on smog reduction and climate change;

AND WHEREAS Summits are a part of the on-going efforts of our respective governments to address air pollution and climate change opportunities and challenges;

AND WHEREAS the Clean Air Council has determined that its work will concentrate on moving along an Awareness Building → Knowledge Transfer → Leadership & Action → Promotion, Recognition & Transfer → Monitoring & Reporting approach to clean air and climate change actions made by members of the Clean Air Council;

AND WHEREAS this **2012 Summit** marks the evolution of the previous Summits, with much having been accomplished, and much remaining to be done;

AND WHEREAS Clean Air Council representatives of the local and regional municipal governments and the Government of Ontario, have gathered on October 26th, 2012 to pursue opportunities to foster greater collaboration on green policies and green economic development across the Region; to report on progress of past Declarations and to sign onto the 2012 Inter-governmental Declaration and commit to continuing to undertake action on clean air and climate change issues;

ACKNOWLEDGING the City of Toronto and Greater Toronto and Hamilton area Clean Air Council member jurisdictions for providing financial and in-kind support for the Clean Air Council work program and assistance in developing and implementing annual Summits and the ***Clean Air Council Inter-governmental Declarations on Clean Air and Climate Change***; and

THANKING the City of Toronto, Clean Air Council member municipalities and Enbridge Gas Distribution for supporting the Summit, the non-governmental organizations and other partners who assisted in planning the Summit, and thanking the Clean Air Partnership and the City of Toronto for organizing the Summit.

WE DO HEREBY DECLARE:

ARTICLE 1 – STATEMENT OF COMMON UNDERSTANDING

- 1.1 Scientists and physicians have linked air pollution levels commonly experienced in the GTA to premature deaths, hospitalizations, increases in chronic heart and lung diseases including lung cancer, and acute respiratory diseases. Even a small increase in air pollution elevates the risk of health impacts, particularly among those who are vulnerable and sensitive to air pollution such as young children, the elderly and those with pre-existing respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses.
- 1.2 Climate change scenarios project an increased risk of extreme weather and other climate-related events in Canada such as floods, drought, forest fires, increased air pollution and heat waves – all of which increase health risks to Canadians.
- 1.3 Research has also indicated that air pollution has a detrimental impact on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
- 1.4 Air pollution, through health effects, environmental degradation, building and property damage and reduced visibility, adversely impacts the economy and quality of life.
- 1.5 Land use and transportation planning decisions that encourage sustainable urban development can have multiple benefits on air quality and human health.
- 1.6 A number of sources are responsible for a large proportion of the emissions of major air pollutants in the GTA. The major air pollutants include nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), fine particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) and carbon monoxide (CO). The primary sources of these pollutants are:
 - On-road vehicles and off-road equipment that use diesel and gasoline;
 - Residential and commercial use of oil, natural gas and wood;
 - The generation of electricity;
 - Industrial operations;
 - Road dust and construction activities; and
 - Use of solvents and surface coatings such as paints.
- 1.7 Transportation is a major source of the emissions that contribute to both air pollution and climate change. Transportation is responsible, according to 2005 Environment Canada data, for about 27% of PM_{2.5}, 18% of SO₂, 75% of NO_x, 34% of VOCs, 87% of CO and 30%¹ of CO₂ (carbon dioxide) emissions within the area represented by the member jurisdictions of the GTA Clean Air Council.
- 1.8 Air pollution and climate change are two atmospheric problems sharing common sources. For example, fossil-fuel combustion is a key contributor to air pollution, producing smog precursors and greenhouse gas emissions.

¹ Carbon dioxide percentages are based on 2003 Environment Canada data.

- 1.9 Actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are often associated with reductions of other atmospheric emissions that contribute to smog and its associated health, economic and ecosystem effects. In some cases, a co-benefit of reducing smog precursors is to reduce some greenhouse gas emissions.
- 1.10 Addressing key sources of major air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions requires collaboration between all orders of government. By sharing the best practices from jurisdictions across the GTA, southern Ontario and beyond, we can support one another in achieving improvements in air quality and climate change at a local and regional level for the benefit of all.

ARTICLE 2 – SIGNATORIES TO THE 2012 CLEAN AIR COUNCIL INTER-GOVERNMENTAL DECLARATION ON CLEAN AIR AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Ajax, Town of
Aurora, Town of
Brampton, City of
Burlington, City of
Caledon, Town of
Clarington, Municipality of
Durham, Regional Municipality of
East Gwillimbury, Town of
Halton, Regional Municipality of
Halton Hills, Town of
Hamilton, City of
King, Township of

Markham, City of
Mississauga, City of
Newmarket, Town of
Oakville, Town of
Oshawa, City of
Peel, Regional Municipality of
Pickering, City of
Richmond Hill, Town of
Toronto, City of
Vaughan, City of
Whitby, Town of
York, Regional Municipality of

Government of Ontario

Government of Canada

ARTICLE 3 – CALL FOR CLEAN AIR COUNCIL ACTION

In view of the long-term nature of the air quality problems in our common airshed, the Clean Air Council agrees to on-going work on the commitments made in the Inter-governmental Declarations signed at previous Summits.

The Clean Air Council commits to continue its work to address smog and greenhouse gases, to share information and, where possible, to share resources and undertake appropriate research and actions.

The 26 members of the Clean Air Council commit to work collaboratively to develop healthy, lower carbon and sustainable communities through the following:

Community Planning and Public Health

1. Monitor progress on the implementation of community Bicycle/Pedestrian/Complete Streets Plans and Policies to create a modal shift from single occupancy vehicle use to active transportation.

RAISING THE BAR TARGET - RESULTS: Progress reports on implementation of Bicycle/Pedestrian Plans, review of Provincial requirements and guidelines

Approved Plans: Ajax, Brampton, Burlington, Caledon, Durham Region, Halton Hills, Halton Region, Hamilton, Markham, Mississauga, Newmarket, Oakville, Pickering, Richmond Hill, Toronto, Vaughan, Whitby, York Region.

Plans In Progress: Aurora, Clarington, East Gwillimbury, Oshawa, Region of Peel.

2. Work collaboratively with members and partners to identify the connection between public health and land use planning to share, document and act on opportunities to improve public health via land use planning and development.

RAISING THE BAR TARGET – Public Health and Planning Training Program; Healthy Development Index Tracking Program

Greening Development

3. Monitor progress on the implementation of corporate and community green development policies and practices and identify results and best practices.

RAISING THE BAR TARGET - RESULTS: number, square feet and/or percentage of green municipal buildings; resulting energy and water savings.

Approved corporate green development policies/standards: Ajax, Burlington, Durham Region, East Gwillimbury, Halton Hills, Markham, Mississauga, Newmarket, Oakville, Pickering, Richmond Hill, Toronto, York Region.

Corporate green development policies/standards in progress: Aurora, Caledon, Region of Halton, Halton Hills, Hamilton, King, Region of Peel.

Approved community development policies/standards/incentives: Brampton, Caledon, Clarington, East Gwillimbury, Halton Hills, Hamilton, Markham, Mississauga, Pickering, Toronto, Vaughan (residential), York Region.

Community development policies/standards/incentives in progress: Ajax, Aurora, Burlington, King, Oakville, Region of Peel, Richmond Hill.

RAISING THE BAR TARGET: number, square feet and/or percentage of new buildings that are “green” (above and beyond building code/LEED);

RAISING THE BAR TARGET: Action on energy efficiency retrofits

4. Provide recommendations and keep informed on energy and water efficiency updates to the Province of Ontario’s Building Code standards.

Energy

5. Participate in an Energy Efficiency, Green Energy and Emissions Inventory Community of Practice to share resources, experience, expertise and lessons learned.

RAISING THE BAR TARGET: Report on actions of COP annually.

6. Work collaboratively with the Province of Ontario, the Ontario Power Authority and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to develop a more efficient mechanism for gathering energy use data.

RAISING THE BAR TARGET: Annual corporate inventories; Community inventories every 2 – 4 years; Regional community inventories every 2 – 4 years

7. Corporate and Community energy Inventories, Plans and Reduction Targets.

RAISING THE BAR TARGETS: Inventories/Plans approved/In progress/Implementation results

8. Increase the implementation of renewable energy purchasing or production.

RAISING THE BAR TARGETS: Amount of green energy produced/percentage of green energy purchased

Green Energy Purchasing: Aurora, Caledon, Mississauga, Oakville, Region of Peel, Toronto, York Region.

Green Energy Production: Ajax, Brampton, Burlington, Caledon, Region of Halton, Halton Hills, Hamilton, King, Markham, Mississauga, Oakville, Region of Peel, Richmond Hill, Vaughan, Toronto, York Region.

Air Quality

9. Monitor progress and outcomes of the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada's proposed Air Quality Management System.

Action Planning and Policy Development

10. Develop and implement Corporate and Community Action Plans² outlining actions aimed at reducing energy use and mitigating air pollution and climate change.
Approved Corporate Plans: Ajax, Aurora, Burlington, Caledon, East Gwillimbury, Halton Hills, Hamilton, Mississauga, Oakville, Pickering, Richmond Hill, Toronto, Whitby, York Region.

Corporate Plans in Progress: Brampton, Durham Region, King, Oshawa, Markham, Newmarket, Peel Region, Vaughan.

Approved Community Plans: Caledon, East Gwillimbury, Halton Hills, Hamilton, Mississauga, Oakville, Oshawa, Peel Region, Pickering, Richmond Hill, Toronto, York Region.

Community Plans in Progress: Ajax, Brampton, Clarington, Durham Region, King Township, Markham, Vaughan, Whitby.

11. Undertake a Monitoring and Reporting Scan to identify strategies being used by CAC members to report on progress of corporate and community Action Plans.

RAISING THE BAR TARGET: Implementation results/Updates: Reported/In Progress

RAISING THE BAR TARGET: CAC identifies and reports on selected common

² A "Plan" must list out actions that the jurisdiction commits to undertaking in order to reduce its corporate/community energy use. Actions must be approved by council and have a department that is responsible for implementation and a mechanism in place to provide updates on implementation.

indicators/strategies that will enable the CAC to report on results/progress collectively.

12. Sustainability Training provided to municipal staff and all municipal departments required to report on sustainability actions and implications on Council reports.

RAISING THE BAR TARGET: Development of a Sustainability Training Program

13. Develop and implement corporate Green Procurement Policies that increase the implementation of environmental, energy efficiency zero-waste and sustainable criteria in purchasing, lease and contract decisions.

Approved Green Procurement Policies/Procedures: Burlington; Brampton (Energy Star and EcoChoice label criteria); Oakville (green procurement procedure); Hamilton (life cycle costing policy), Pickering (built into new purchasing policy), Toronto (green procurement procedure).

Green Procurement Policies in Progress: Brampton, Caledon, Halton Region, Region of Peel, Markham, Mississauga, Oshawa, Richmond Hill, Vaughan, Whitby, York Region

RAISING THE BAR TARGET: Green Procurement actions and results reported annually.

Green Procurement Progress Report based on agreed upon survey/criteria.

Urban Forests

14. Develop Urban Forestry Plans that identify actions aimed at increasing, protecting and maintaining the urban forest.

RAISING THE BAR TARGETS: Canopy cover targets; Standards for soil in new developments; Private tree by-laws; Plants and Insects Infestation Action Plans (Results/Approved/In progress)

15. Work with the Province of Ontario to build awareness of the economic and ecological value urban forests provide and development of mechanisms to ensure the increase, protection and maintenance of urban forests.

Food Sustainability

16. Develop municipal urban agriculture strategies that minimize barriers and actively promote and support increased urban food production.

RAISING THE BAR TARGET: Amount or percentage of public land dedicated to urban agriculture; Report on results of urban agriculture actions

17. Develop Local Food Procurement actions and policies that set local food targets for day cares, long term care centres and/or municipal cafeterias and food services.

RAISING THE BAR TARGET: Local food procurement results/policies/actions.

Climate Change Adaptation

18. Develop Climate Change Adaptation Plans and integrate climate change adaptation into existing and future municipal plans, in order to identify potential climate change risks and incorporate short term and long term opportunities for increasing community resilience into

decision making.

RAISING THE BAR TARGET: Development of a climate change adaptation business case/ climate change adaptation Results/Plans/Actions

Green Economic Development

19. Develop business cases for clean air and climate change actions most likely to move from pilot to mainstream taking into account costs of continuing business as usual as well as externalities.

RAISING THE BAR Target: Develop at least two business cases by end of 2013.

20. Increase coordination and cooperation between economic development and environment/sustainability departments.

RAISING THE BAR TARGET: Development of a Green Economic Development Actions Scan and the development of a Regional Green Economic Strategy

Transportation

21. Identify and prioritize municipal opportunities to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from personal vehicles.

RAISING THE BAR TARGET: CAC members tracking and reporting modal split

22. Develop a Green Fleets Actions and Results Scan to highlight actions aimed at reducing emissions through municipal vehicle purchases, operations and behaviours and to support the transfer of lessons learned and actions.

RAISING THE BAR TARGET: Green Fleets Plans (Results/Approved/In progress) – Amount of fuel used/versus size of fleet/total mileage of fleet vehicles)

Community Engagement

23. Develop and deliver a Clean Air Council social marketing campaign to increase the public's and politician's knowledge of clean air and climate change actions being implemented across the Region.

RAISING THE BAR TARGET: CAC members to promote CAC social media outreach; # of Followers; # of forwards/shares/overall traffic/comments

24. Build collaboration with community partners to engage them in supporting the development and implementation of Actions Plans and share lessons learned with Clean Air Council members on how to develop and foster community partnerships.

RAISING THE BAR TARGET: CAC members engaged in community outreach and partnerships in the implementation of Action Plans; Case studies of strategies used, lessons learned and results of community engagement activities on the implementation of Action Plans.