

GREATER TORONTO AREA CLEAN AIR COUNCIL 2010 INTER-GOVERNMENTAL DECLARATION ON CLEAN AIR & CLIMATE CHANGE



PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the Greater Toronto Area Clean Air Council (GTA-CAC) has been working collaboratively from 2001 – 2010 to deliver on annual GTA-CAC 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 GTA 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 GTA-CAC;

AND WHEREAS this **2010 GTA Clean Air and Climate Change Summit – Moving From Words to Actions** marks the evolution of the previous ten Summits, with much having been accomplished, and much remaining to be done;

AND WHEREAS GTA Clean Air Council representatives of the local and regional municipal governments in the GTA, the Government of Ontario, and the Government of Canada, have gathered on June 2nd, 2010 to provide an interim report on the 2008 -2009 Inter-governmental Declaration, to highlight GTA-CAC member clean air and climate change actions and to sign onto the 2010 Inter-governmental Declaration and commit to continuing to undertake action on clean air and climate change issues;

THANKING the City of Toronto, the Toronto Atmospheric Fund and Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc, for providing financial support for the Summit;

ACKNOWLEDGING the member jurisdictions for providing financial and in-kind support for the GTA Clean Air Council work program and assistance in developing annual **GTA Clean Air Council Inter-governmental Declarations on Clean Air and Climate Change**; and

THANKING 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 diseases.
- 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 2010 INTER-GOVERNMENTAL DECLARATION ON CLEAN AIR

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

Government of Ontario

Government of Canada

Markham, Town 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

ARTICLE 3 – CALL FOR GTA CLEAN AIR COUNCIL ACTION

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

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

2010 DECLARATION ACTIONS

- 3.1 Continue to share lessons learned and report back on actions related to past GTA-CAC Declaration Actions and Commitments outlined in Article 4.
- 3.2 Work collaboratively on the implementation, sharing of lessons learned and transfer of Green Procurement, Green Development and Green Energy actions via Communities of Practice.
- 3.3 Collaborate with the Ontario Public Health Association's and the Coalition Linking Action and Science for Prevention Working Groups to help create healthier communities.
- 3.4 Where existing data is available, develop an integrated map of bicycle lanes and paths and trail systems across the GTA to identify and promote opportunities for integration of path and trail systems between GTA-CAC member jurisdictions.
- 3.5 Develop Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting Action Plans outlining actions aimed at reducing energy use and mitigating air pollution and climate change.
- 3.6 Develop a Complete Streets Community of Practice that will work collaboratively to identify and implement strategies designed and operated to enable safe, attractive, and comfortable access and travel for all users.
- 3.7 Develop and deliver a Go-Green Video and Case Study series and social marketing campaign to highlight and promote clean air and climate change actions being implemented by GTA-CAC jurisdictions.
- 3.8 Research and prioritize financing strategies available to Ontario municipalities to finance energy efficiency and green energy actions and work collaboratively with the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada to pilot test financing initiatives.
- 3.9 Identify common priority actions/policies to increase understanding of the role sustainable food initiatives have in reducing the amount energy used throughout the food-system.
- 3.10 Identify gaps and barriers in increasing protection, long-term health and viability of urban forests in order to reduce air pollution impacts, the urban heat island effect and to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- 3.11 Identify and prioritize municipal opportunities to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from personal vehicles.
- 3.12 Collaborate with Municipal Green Fleet initiatives to highlight actions aimed at reducing emissions through municipal vehicle purchases, operations and behaviours and to support the transfer of learnings and actions.