

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.

ARTICLE 4 –INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT ON 2008 AND 2009 GTA CLEAN AIR COUNCIL INTER-GOVERNMENTAL DECLARATION ON CLEAN AIR AND CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIONS AND TARGETS

2009 DECLARATION ACTIONS

2009 Action Planning

- 4.1 Development of a Green Procurement Toolkit and Training program to support the implementation of Green Procurement Policies.

Update: Toolkit available on Green Procurement Intranet. Green procurement actions and lessons learned shared via webinars on an on-going basis. Green Procurement Policies and Actions Scan in development.

- 4.2 Development of Sustainability Performance Matrix to rank new developments on their ecological footprint.

Target: 1 GTA-CAC municipal jurisdiction commits to pilot testing the use of the Sustainability Performance Matrix into their development application process and 10 GTA-CAC jurisdictions provide input and guidance into the development of the Sustainability Performance Matrix to ensure its practicality and transferability.

Update: City of Brampton in partnership with City of Vaughan and Town of Richmond Hill approved for FCM Green Municipal Funds in 2010 to undertake project, project completion set for 2012.

- 4.3 Development of a Local Food Solutions Paper that provides guidance and lessons learned on the development and implementation of local food procurement policies.

Update: Local Food Procurement Actions and Reports Scan developed, **Local Food Procurement Policies Approved in:** Markham, Toronto, Halton Region.

- 4.4 Research and reporting on case studies of financing mechanisms that encourage energy conservation.

Update: Municipal energy conservation and green energy financing strategies promoted via webinars and CAC working in collaboration with the Ontario Power Authority's Financing Community of Practice.

2009 Taking Action

- 4.5 Working collaboratively to take action on identifying barriers to phasing out disposable water bottles from GTA-CAC member's government facilities, identifying barriers to building awareness within the community on the benefits of municipal tap water.

Target: 10 municipalities have committed to phasing out disposable water bottles within municipal facilities by 2010.

Update: Bans/phase outs within city halls approved in: Ajax, Burlington, Caledon, Durham Region, East Gwillimbury, Hamilton, Mississauga, Newmarket, Oakville, Toronto, and Vaughan.

Restrictions in place in: Halton Region, Markham, Oshawa, Pickering, Richmond Hill, York Region.

2009 Monitoring and Reporting

- 4.6 The Clean Air Partnership and GTA-CAC members work collaboratively to update the GTA-CAC Green Development Standards and Green Energy Scans.

Update: See item 4.14 and 4.15 below.

- 4.7 The GTA-CAC will work in partnership with CAP and geoConnections to provide data and guidance on the applicability of the Urban Heat Island Decision Support System in their planning processes.

Target: 5 members have signed formal agreements to support, provide data and/or otherwise participate in this project by 2010.

Update: Ajax, Region of Peel, Hamilton, Toronto (Planning Department and Public Health department). The Urban Heat Mapping and Analysis Program (UMAP) completed in May 2010 and is built with established technologies and frameworks, providing an extensive set of optional base features. The three primary functions of the decision support system are: to assess vulnerability to heat of both populations and places in the GTHA; to examine the relationship between 'hotspots' and other variables; and to support heat-related communications activities.

- 4.8 The GTA-CAC continues to report back on progress related to targets and actions outlined in the *GTA Clean Air Council Inter-governmental Declaration on Clean Air and Climate Change*.

2009 Emerging Issues

- 4.9 The Federal, Provincial and Municipal members of the GTA-CAC agree to work collaboratively to identify opportunities and benefits of maintaining and increasing the health of urban forests in order to reduce air pollution impacts, the urban heat island effect and to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Update: GTA-CAC October 2009 meeting focused on strategies to increase, protect and maintain urban forests. Ajax, Brampton, Oakville, Pickering and Toronto working in partnership with Toronto Region Conservation Authority to undertake urban tree inventories. Trees for Tomorrow Program in Markham, Tree Preservation Policy in Newmarket, Greening Strategy in York Region, Urban Forestry Strategy approved in Oakville, Toronto, Vaughan, York Region. Urban Forestry Strategy in progress in Burlington. An Urban Forestry Strategy and Actions Scan in development. An Urban Forestry Community of Practice developed in order to share experiences, actions and lessons learned.

- 4.10** Work in collaboration to build awareness of Green Buildings in GTA communities via the www.ontariogreenbuildings.org web site.

Update: Promoted via GTA 2009 Doors Open Events. Will be promoted via social marketing strategy being developed for CAC.

2008 DECLARATION ACTIONS

In progress means likely to be approved by end of 2010 or closely thereafter unless otherwise noted in brackets.

2008 Action Planning

- 4.11 Development of Action Plans¹ outlining actions aimed at reducing energy use and mitigating air pollution and climate change.

Target: 20 members have approved corporate Action Plans by 2010.²

Update: Approved Corporate Plans: Ajax, Aurora, Burlington, Caledon, East Gwillimbury, Halton Hills, Hamilton, Mississauga, Oakville, Pickering, Richmond Hill, Toronto, York Region.

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

Target: 15 members have approved Community Action Plans by 2010.

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

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

¹ 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.

² Targets vary due to jurisdictional responsibilities and local identification of priority opportunities.

- 4.12 Development of corporate Green Procurement Policies that increase the implementation of energy efficiency criteria in purchasing, lease and contract decisions.

Target: 15 members have approved green procurement polices by 2010.

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

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

Green Procurement Practices in Place: A GTA-CAC Green Procurement Policy, Procedure, and Practice Scan in development.

- 4.13 Development of community Bicycle/Pedestrian Plans aimed at increasing a modal shift from single occupancy vehicle use to active transportation.

Target: 15 members have approved Bicycle/Pedestrian Plans by 2010.

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

Bicycle/Pedestrian Plans In Progress: Aurora, Clarington, East Gwillimbury, Oshawa, Region of Peel, Whitby.

2008 Taking Action

- 4.14 Establishment of a Community of Practice to increase the implementation of renewable energy purchasing or production.

Target: 15 members are producing or purchasing renewable power by 2010.

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

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

- 4.15 Establishment of a Community of Practice to increase the implementation of green development policies and practices and identification of best practices.

Target: 15 members have corporate green development polices/standards in place by 2010.

Update: 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 polices/standards in progress: Aurora, Region of Halton, Halton Hills, Hamilton, King, Region of Peel.

Target: 10 members have community green development policies/standards/incentives in place by 2010.

Update: 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.

Target: 10 members have green roof policies/standards/incentives in place by 2010.

Update: Approved green roof policies/standards/incentives: Brampton, Clarington (as part of community development), Oakville (as part of community development), Markham (Markham Centre region), Toronto (mandatory green roof policy).

Green roof policies/standards/incentives in progress Ajax, Hamilton and jurisdictions listed above with community green development policies in progress.

- 4.16 Development of a checklist and toolkit that supports the analysis of land use planning proposal applications using air pollution, transportation demand management and public health perspective.

Target: Toolkit completed by 2009. Update: Guidance document developed by: Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Ontario Professional Planners Institute. Land Use and Public Health Resources Scan developed and delivering webinars on Land Use Planning toolkits, resources and actions.

- 4.17 Conversion of traffic signals to light emitting diode (LED) technology³.
Target: 15 members have converted at least 75% of all traffic signals to LED technology by 2010. Update: All GTA-CAC jurisdictions listed in Article 2 responsible for traffic signals⁴ have achieved this target.

- 4.18 Pilot testing of light emitting diode (LED) technology for street, pathway, and garage lighting.

Target: 5 members participating in LightSavers LED technology pilot by 2009.

³ LED traffic signals require approximately 80 – 90% less energy than regular incandescent traffic signal bulbs. LED traffic signals are more energy efficient because they do not emit heat and do not require filtering to produce colored lights.

⁴ For example King and East Gwillimbury do not have responsibility for Traffic Signals

Update: Caledon, Hamilton, Mississauga, Region of Durham, Toronto participating in LightSavers. Vaughan (LED streetlight retrofits approved); Halton Hills (pilot testing LED pathway lighting); Aurora, Burlington, Mississauga, Oakville, Richmond Hill (LED street lighting pilot projects). Oshawa (solar powered LED in use at airport).

- 4.19 Continued support and development of transportation demand management initiatives and programs to reduce and shift travel to more sustainable and lower emissions modes.

Target: 20 members operating or supporting the operation of trip reduction programs by 2010.

Update: Listing of Smart Commute offices. **Smart Commute Markham, Richmond Hill, York Region. Smart Commute Brampton Caledon, Region of Peel. Smart Commute Central York:** Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Newmarket, York Region. **Smart Commute Durham,** Durham Region, Oshawa, Pickering and Whitby. **Smart Commute Halton:** Region of Halton, Burlington, Halton Hills, Oakville. **Smart Commute Hamilton. Smart Commute Mississauga. Smart Commute North Toronto – Vaughan. Smart Commute Toronto.**

2008 Monitoring and Reporting

- 4.20 Continued support for Phase II of the Air Pollution Modeling project to improve the accuracy of base case and future scenario estimations of concentrations of air contaminants.

Target: 5 members having signed formal agreements to financially support and/or otherwise participate in Phase II by 2010. Update: Based on new satellite air quality monitoring opportunities GTA-CAC jurisdictions are reviewing opportunities to identify mechanisms to better monitor and model air quality conditions across the GTA.

- 4.21 Provide the Clean Air Partnership with updated information on the progress related to their jurisdiction's implementation of clean air/climate change actions announced at annual Smog Summits and progress related to their jurisdiction's implementation of priority declaration items. The Clean Air Partnership will compile GTA-CAC progress and promote results and priority activities through networks and partnerships.

ARTICLE 4 Scans: available for download at www.cleanairpartnership.org

- Green Energy Purchasing Scan
- Green Energy Production Scan
- Green Development Scan
- Corporate and Community Action Plan Scan (outlining Actions aimed at reducing energy use and mitigating air pollution and climate change).
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Scan
- Local Food Procurement Actions and Reports Scan
- Land Use and Public Health Resources Scan
- Urban Forestry Strategy and Actions Scan (in development)

- Green Procurement Policies and Actions Scan (in development)

2008 Emerging Issues

- 4.22 Support promotion of the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI).

Target: 7 members are participating in AQHI outreach.

Update: City of Toronto, Government of Canada and Province of Ontario launched the AQHI in Toronto in 2007. Region of Peel, York Region, Durham Region, Halton Region, launched the AQHI in the GTA in 2008. The City of Hamilton is set to launch the AQHI in June 2011.

- 4.23 Co-operation on assessing vulnerability to climate change impacts and identification of policies and programs aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Update: Hamilton, Oakville, Oshawa, Region of Peel, Toronto, Vaughan, York Region are members of the Alliance for Resilient Cities (ARC). ARC is a national network of decision-makers that supports the efforts of local governments to protect their communities from the impacts of climate change. The Clean Air Partnership is facilitating the Ontario Regional Adaptation Collaborative (ORAC), and the Community Adaptation Initiative (CAI) and is developing and delivering resources and training to help communities adapt to climate change. Heat vulnerability research undertaken by Toronto Public Health.

- 4.24 Co-operation and sharing of information and best practices with municipalities in Southwestern Ontario through a Southwestern Ontario Clean Air Council.

Update: The GTA-CAC has been working in coordination with the SWO-CAC to share resources, meeting presentations, webinar, learnings and experiences.

- 4.25 Promoting best practices through effective public messaging to improve air quality in response to wood stove and open burning air issues.

Update: GTA-CAC provided guidance to the Province of Ontario's Model Municipal Code of Practice for Wood-Burning Appliances and Open Air Burning in Ontario: Model presently under final review.

- 4.26 Investigation of the role of local sustainable food systems to reduce energy use and identification of practices and programs aimed at increasing local food production and consumption.

Update: See Item 4.3