



## what's in the air?

March 2011 Issue | Clean Air Partnership E-Newsletter

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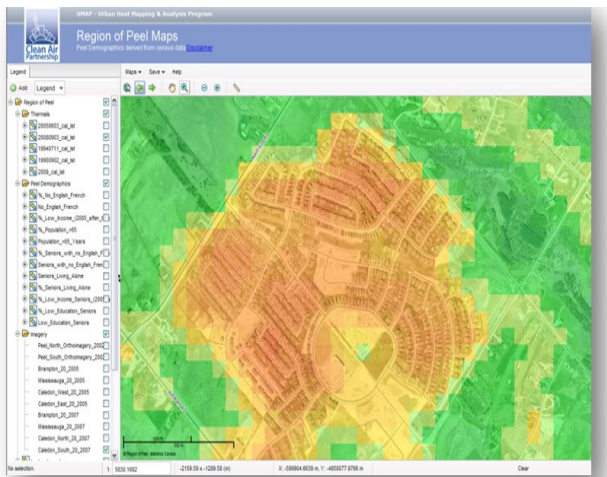
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### Clean Air Partnership's (CAP) Urban Heat Island Mapping Tool

We have all heard it said that "a picture speaks a thousand words". Pictures allow us to absorb large amounts of data quickly through visualization, the creation of images to convey a message. When applied to geographic information, visualization refers to the procedure of creating maps that represent spatial data. Turkish cartographers were developing maps as far back as 6200 BCE. There have been a few developments since then to say the least.



With the rapid progression of Internet technologies, web-based maps have emerged as the optimal medium for the distribution of mapping products. A proliferation of web-based mapping in recent years has resulted in increasing familiarity with mapping and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) that can capture, store, analyze, manage, and present data that are linked to location. Even users unfamiliar with GIS technologies and mapping concepts can navigate products such as Google Maps and Google Street View with relative ease.

Clean Air Partnership (CAP) uses mapping to examine complex issues in urban environments. UMAP, the Urban Heat Mapping and Analysis Program was developed by CAP in 2010 as a tool to study the urban heat island effect in the GTHA. This web-based mapping system allows users to assess vulnerability to heat for both populations and places in the GTHA, to examine the relationship between "hotspots" (locations where temperatures are consistently hotter) and other variables, and to develop heat-related communication materials for a variety of audiences.

UMAP achieves this using remotely sensed thermal imagery, captured by the Landsat 7 satellite as it passes over the region every 16 days. Combining this powerful dataset with municipal and other statistical data, UMAP can generate reports on correlations between vulnerable populations and hotspots. This information can then be used by cities to identify areas that may require cooling centres or additional tree planting, to spatially allocate human resources for optimal use during a heat wave or in the identification of areas that would benefit from permeable paving and cool roofing.

View the [Urban Heat Mapping and Analysis Program \(UMAP\) presentation](#) by Kevin Behan, Researcher & Program Manager at CAP.

### Ontario Regional Adaptation Collaborative (ORAC) Municipal Adaptation Training Programs

As part of the Ontario Regional Adaptation Collaborative (ORAC), the Clean Air Partnership is delivering a series of intensive Municipal Adaptation Training Programs in climate change adaptation planning for municipal officials in Ontario. The Training Programs will address the key steps and considerations for municipal climate change adaptation planning and how municipalities can build on their strengths to integrate climate change adaptation measures into existing goals, plans and programs.

This project has received funding support from the Government of Ontario and Natural Resources Canada. Such support does not indicate endorsement by the Government of Ontario or Natural Resources Canada.

Municipal officials who would like to register to attend and for more information, please contact Nick Weigeldt at 416.392.0255 or [nweigeldt@cleanairpartnership.org](mailto:nweigeldt@cleanairpartnership.org).

[View the flyer](#) | [Read more](#)



### Complete Streets Forum

First day of the Complete Streets Forum: April 28, 2011  
Venue: University of Toronto's Hart House, [7 Hart House Circle](#), Toronto, ON, M5S 3H3



Transportation is more than just a hot conversation topic these days. It is an urgent issue that impacts the prosperity, health, and livability of the entire Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA). The challenges facing us are multifaceted, transcend municipal boundaries, and affect all of us, regardless of how we choose to get around - by car, bike, transit, or our own two feet.

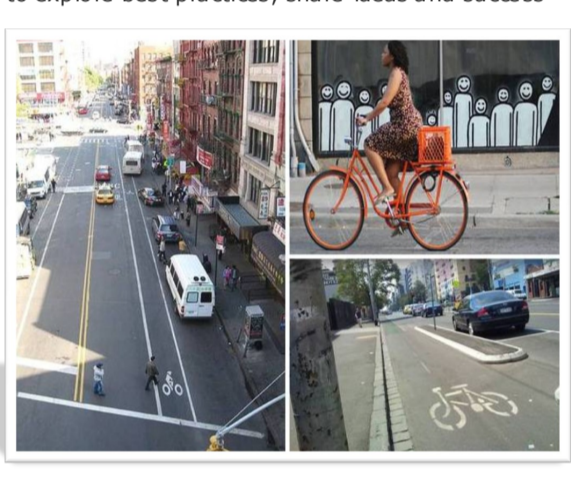
To confront these challenges head-on, the theme for this year's Complete Streets Forum is "Building Alliances". The Forum brings together a diverse group of professionals, policy-makers, researchers, advocates, and thought-leaders from across the GTHA. It will be of particular interest to those in the transportation, public health, urban planning/design, public policy, and non-profit sectors.

The 2011 Complete Streets Forum will allow us to explore best practices, share ideas and success stories, and showcase research and technical solutions on how to better plan and design complete streets that will embrace and protect cyclists and pedestrians while accommodating all road users, including transit and cars.

We invite everyone who is working to improve our communities, cities, and urban landscape to join us in this important conversation. We all need to get around - we're all in this together.

For more information, please contact TCAT Director, Nancy Smith Lea at 416.392.0290 or [info@torontocat.ca](mailto:info@torontocat.ca).

[Register to attend](#) | [Read More](#)



### CAP's TCAT Director Recipient of TCF Vital People Grant

Clean Air Partnership is pleased to announce that Nancy Smith Lea, Director of Active Transportation, has been awarded the prestigious Vital People grant from the Vital Toronto Fund at the [Toronto Community Foundation](#). The Vital People grant program supports and recognizes valued leaders who are making outstanding contributions working at not-for-profit organizations.

The funds from the Vital People grant will be used to develop new leadership and media skills to deepen and enhance TCAT's impact leading it to be more effective, dynamic and wide-reaching. The impacts of the grant have the potential to go far beyond organizational benefits. The implementation of complete streets in Toronto results not only in improved conditions for cyclists and pedestrians but also leads to vibrant, healthy communities.



Read the full media release [here](#).

### Community Adaptation Initiative

The Community Adaptation Initiative is designed to encourage climate change adaptation in Ontario communities. With funding support from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Clean Air Partnership (CAP) and the Ontario Centre for Climate Impacts and Adaptation Resources have partnered to develop and deliver case studies, videos and expert-led technical workshops for municipalities and community members, building adaptive capacity for the benefit of all urban residents in Ontario.

The case studies and videos will highlight planned and ongoing adaptation efforts in communities across the province. These resources will be made available to any interested party on CAP's [website](#).

Technical workshops will be delivered to climate change adaptation practitioners in five key sectors including:

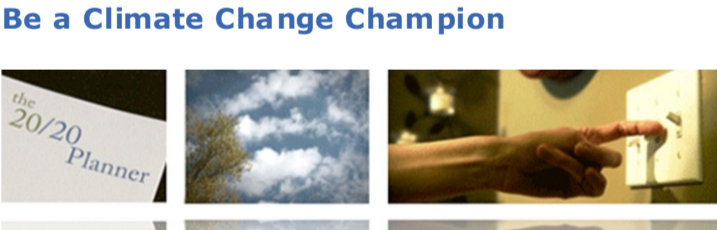
- ◆ Health
- ◆ Emergency management
- ◆ Electricity
- ◆ Urban forestry
- ◆ High-rise residential buildings

Refer to CAP's website for updates on case study and video topics as well as technical workshop details.

For more information, please contact Caroline Rodgers at [croddgers@cleanairpartnership.org](mailto:croddgers@cleanairpartnership.org).



### Be a Climate Change Champion



The energy Canadians use to power their vehicles, equipment and their homes generates three-quarters of the greenhouse gases emitted in Canada. Is there a way to reduce that figure? Yes! We can all help by cutting back on the energy we use in our homes and at work.

Includes your very own personalized DailyWebTV Video!

Clean Air Partnership encourages everyone to participate in Halton Region's Climate Change Champions contest.

**20/20 The Way to Clean Air Partners:**  
Clean Air Partnership  
Toronto Public Health  
York Region  
Durham Region  
Halton Region  
Region of Peel  
Simcoe Muskoka  
District Health Unit

Watch the following video clips:

HOME & GARDEN: [Energy Reduction at Home](#)

IN MOTION: [Energy Reduction on the Road](#)

[View the 20/20 Planner](#) | [Read more](#)

For more information visit: [www.cleanairpartnership.org/2020](http://www.cleanairpartnership.org/2020)

### Donate your Vehicle Registration Tax Refund to TCAT!

A big **"thank you!"** to a kind supporter named Stewart who surprised us by donating his \$60 personal vehicle tax refund to TCAT.

His donation was accompanied by a simple message: "I thought you folks could use the \$60 more than I could. Maybe you'd like to ask others to do the same?"

In December, Toronto City Council approved the termination of its [Personal Vehicle Tax](#) effective January 1, 2011. Doing away with the tax is expected to cost the city about \$64 million annually. Vehicle owners who pre-purchased will receive a refund for the 2011 year. Approximately 147,000 refund cheques will be mailed out over the next few weeks.

The contributions of our supporters is especially important in this political climate that does not fully recognize the important contribution that active transportation can make to the health and vitality of our cities. At TCAT we are committed to continuing to promote our vision of cities that are safe, convenient, and enjoyable communities to walk and bike. Please consider joining Stewart and [donate to TCAT today!](#)

Our mission is to transform cities into sustainable, vibrant, resilient communities, where the air is clean to breathe and greenhouse gas emissions are minimized. Over the past ten years, CAP has fulfilled its mission to work with partners to achieve clean air, facilitate the exchange of ideas, advance change and promote and coordinate implementation of actions that improve local air quality.

**What's in the air?** keeps you connected to the Clean Air Partnership community and informed about the latest news, events, reports and developments at Clean Air Partnership.

If you would like to learn more about our clean air and climate change initiatives, visit [www.cleanairpartnership.org](http://www.cleanairpartnership.org).

### Contact Us

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### Make a Donation



[Click here](#) to make a secure donation.

We invite you to forward this newsletter to anyone who might be interested.

Note: [e-mail addresses above](#) (if any) have been masked to reduce spam. To form the correct address, rejoin the two portions, separated with @.

### Copyright 2011 — Clean Air Partnership

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### About what's in the air? e-newsletter

We apologize for any cross-postings. You have received **what's in the air?** because you signed up for Clean Air Partnership's electronic newsletter or because you received it from a colleague or friend. If you have received this in error and do not wish to receive our electronic newsletter, simply click [unsubscribe](#).

Clean Air Partnership (CAP) is a registered charity that works in partnership to promote and coordinate actions to improve local air quality and reduce greenhouse gases for healthy communities.

Charitable registration number: 890469562RR0001