



# **Southwestern Ontario Clean Air Council**

**2009**

# **Inter-Governmental Declaration on Clean Air**

**Presentation by:  
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Clean Air Partnership**

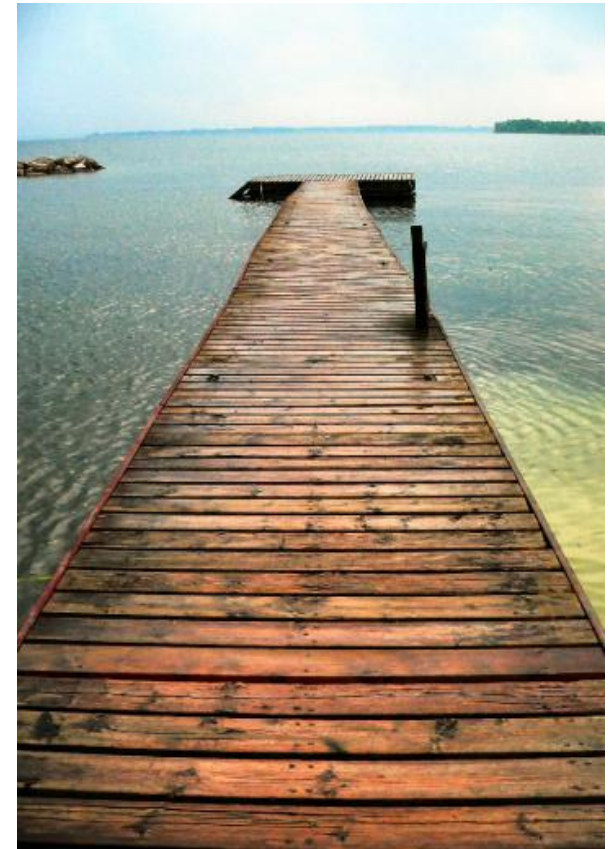
**Clean Air Summit  
May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009  
Woodstock, Ontario**

# Southwestern Ontario Air Quality



## **SWO unique air quality challenges:**

- **distinct Economy and Geography;**
- **highly industrialized parts of region;**
- **proximity to emissions sources in the United States;**
- **Research has consistently shown that South Western Ontario has several 'hot spots' of air quality exposure.**
- **Air quality is best addressed on an airshed basis.**



# GTA Airshed - example



“ Airshed” part of the [atmosphere](#) that behaves in a coherent way with respect to the dispersion of [emissions](#) and for the purpose of management.

- 2000-2009
- 2000, Toronto and Federal and Provincial governments met to respond to illness burden of air pollution.
- 2001: 8 additional GTA municipalities participating.
- 2009: 28 municipal governments, Federal and Provincial government continue collaborate on air quality improvements in the GTA.
- June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009: 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Smog Summit
- Annual Declaration outlines targets for implementation by June the following year.

# Regional Models for Air Quality Improvements in Canada



- Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD)
- Clean Air Hamilton (CAH)
- Alberta's Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA)
- Greater Toronto Area Clean Air Council (GTA-CAC)
  
- **Examples of Similar Networks in the United States  
– with state and federal support**
  - Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG)
  - Regional Air Quality Council of Denver, Colorado
  - St. Louis Regional Clean Air Partnership
  - Bay Area Air Quality Management District, San Francisco Area
  - Partners for Clean Air, Chicago Area

# Engaging Local Agencies and Governments in Southwestern Ontario



# Southwestern Ontario Clean Air Council Background



- Identification of need, mandate and goals of a Southwestern Ontario Clean Air Council (SWO-CAC)
  - 3 meetings in 2008
- Identification of local priorities
- March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Inaugural meeting funded by Environment Canada
- May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 Southwestern Ontario Clean Air Summit funded by Ontario Ministry of Environment
- **Signing of 2009 Southwestern Ontario Intergovernmental Declaration on Clean Air**



# Priorities Identified

- Research and analysis of local Southwestern Ontario Air Quality Emissions Inventories
- Development of Energy Conservation/Clean Air/Climate Change Plans
- Corporate Energy Management
- Community Planning and Public Health Linkages



# Southwestern Ontario Priorities (cont...)



- Engage the public with Clean Air and Energy Conservation Campaigns (20/20 and Idle-Free)
- Green Energy Procurement
- Green Energy Generation Opportunities
- Green Development Standards
- Local Food Promotion
- Identification of Strategies and Actions to Integrate Environmental, Economic and Community Goals



# 2009 Southwestern Ontario Inter- governmental Declaration for Clean Air



## Southwestern Ontario Clean Air Council Commits to:

**2.1 and 2.2 Establish a Southwestern Ontario Clean Air Council including representatives from all orders of government operational within Southwestern Ontario to follow up on key issues identified during the Summit and to establish a series of ongoing Summits to Work on the commitments made in the Inter-governmental Declarations at the Clean Air Summit.**

**Sign Declaration today**

**or**

**following Summit, present to Council and notify Clean Air Partnership when ready to participate.**

# Prioritization of Clean Air and Climate Change Actions



- 2.3 Work to address smog and greenhouse gases, to share information and, where possible, to share resources and undertake appropriate research and actions.
- **High priority areas include:** emissions inventory analysis; energy management; green procurement; green energy; and green development



# 2.4 Participate in the implementation of 20/20 – The Way to Clean Air



- **Social marketing campaign developed, tested and regularly updated by TPH and EC, helps householders reduce home and vehicle energy use by 20%**
- **Delivered by municipalities and/or regional public health units, coordinated by CAP, through schools and community outreach**

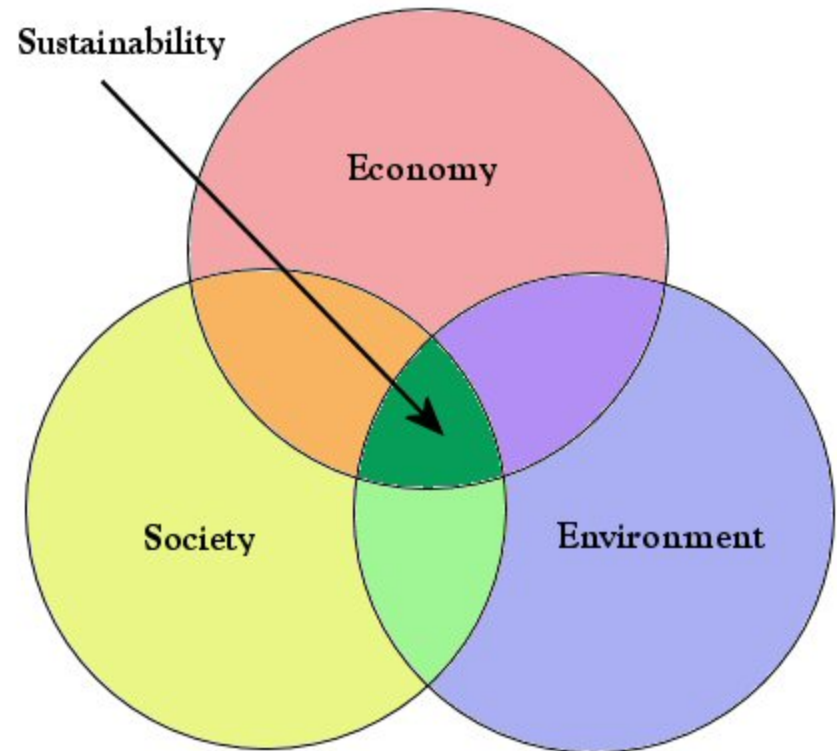


**CUTTING ENERGY USE ON THE ROAD BY 20% – tips to get you started**  
For better health and a cleaner environment.



# Sustainable Community Planning and Revitalization

**2.5 Explore and collaborate on ways to better integrate environmental, economic and community goals. For example: exploring emerging issues and opportunities regarding sustainable community planning, land use, community revitalization, green economy.**



**2.6 Investigate 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. For example: local food policies and charters, local food procurement, and local food consumption.**



# SWO Clean Air Council Inventory



- **2.9** Develop an inventory of municipal development standards in the region and explore best practices.
- **How to:** this afternoon's Roundtable will seek input and information to share experiences, learning and expertise across SWO-CAC. Ongoing development of a SWO-CAC Inventory.



# Partnerships

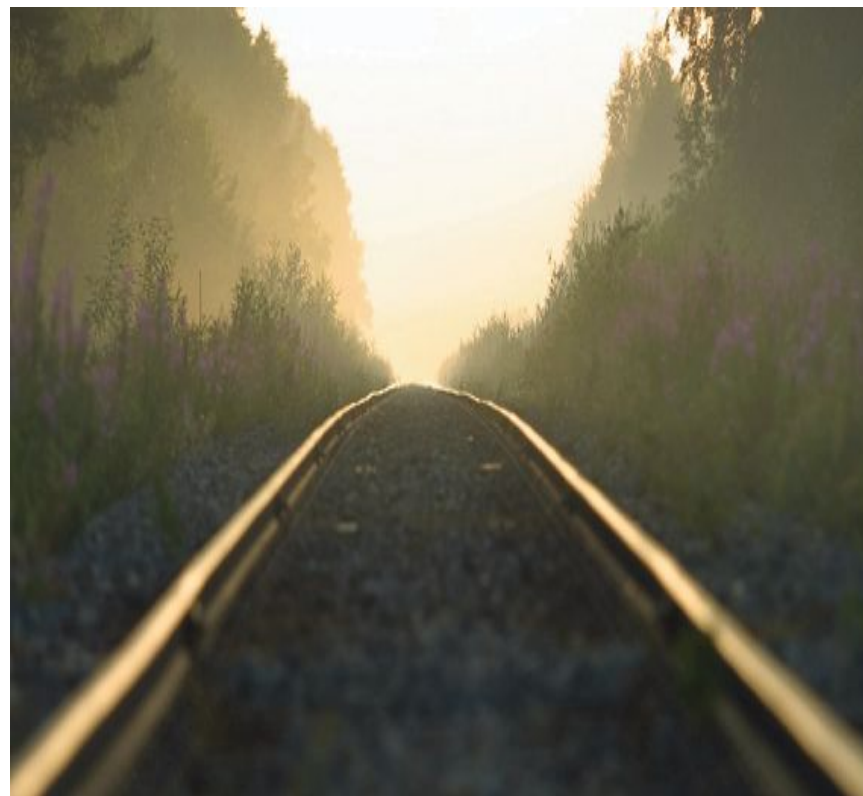


- **2.8** Collaboration with neighbouring U.S. municipalities, information exchange and the potential for joint initiatives.
- **How to:** Best Practices presentations and ongoing coordination and sharing.



# Advocacy

- **2.9** Municipal members of the SWO-CAC advocate for a high-speed rail service linking communities between Toronto and Windsor, as a lower emission alternative to automobile travel and short-haul air travel.



# Local Collaboration



- **2.10** Invite staff of regional Health Units to participate in the Southwestern Ontario Clean Air Council for information exchange and collaboration.
- **How to:** public health staff work together to meet the new Ontario Public Health Standards on air quality and build collaboration between public health, planning, public works, environment, facilities, water and waste.



# Benefits of a Southwestern Ontario Clean Air Council



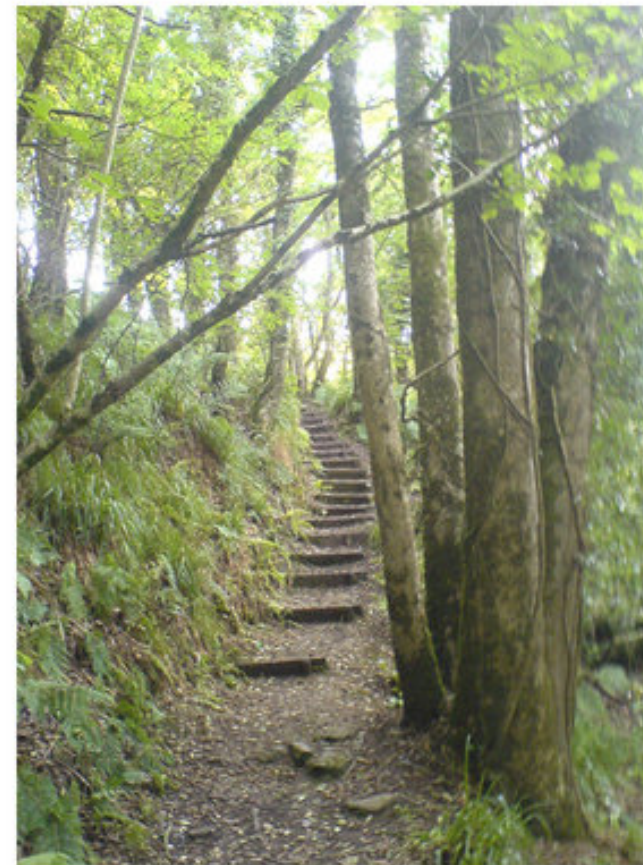
- Develop an iterative inventory of energy conservation, clean air and climate change actions in the region
- Share research, expertise and lessons learned
- Continuous improvement through networking and collaboration
- **No finger pointing!!!**



# Benefits of a Southwestern Ontario Clean Air Council (cont...)



- Focus on practical and doable initiatives that take into account the need for both short term and longer term actions and strategies
- Develop a local expression of air quality issues, challenges and opportunities
- Interact with other local, national and international air quality networks to pool learning



# Next Steps and Goals



- Minimum of two face-to-face meetings per year;
- Maintain local Inventories of Emissions and Actions;
- Access to best practices from Southern Ontario jurisdictions and on both sides of the border (possibly via webinars);
- Collaboration between senior government and municipal government leaders in Southwestern Ontario;
- Development of Communities of Practice to foster local networks to reduce emissions within shared air shed.



**THANK YOU!**

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[www.cleanairpartnership.org](http://www.cleanairpartnership.org)