

Appendix #3

Province of Ontario

Actions to Improve Air Quality 2003

Transportation

1. SuperBuild: Provincial Transit Investment Plan

In the 2003 Ontario Budget, the government announced that it is providing \$3.25 billion over ten years for the Provincial Transit Investment Plan, including \$67 million over two years toward the new GO Transit Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) network.

2. Ontario's Drive Clean Program

On April 25, 2003, the Ontario government proposed improvements to the heavy-duty component of the Drive Clean Program, including tightening emission standards for all diesel heavy-duty vehicles for 2004 and again in 2005, tightening emission standards for diesel school buses, and phasing in an incentive for vehicle owners to surpass standards. The proposed improvements would result in Ontario having the strictest emission standards for big trucks and buses in North America.

3. Ontario's Smog Patrol

The Ontario government has increased the Smog Patrol staff complement to 30 full-time positions to give it greater capacity to inspect polluting vehicles from Ontario and from out of province.

Energy

4. Incentives for New Clean Capacity for Ontario

The Ontario government has announced a wide range of incentives to support the development of alternative and renewable electricity generation. These include a 10-year holiday on property taxes and income taxes for these facilities, a 100 per cent corporate income tax write-off for qualifying assets, rebates of the retail sales tax on building materials, and an additional 100 per cent corporate tax write-off for self-generation equipment. Individuals can claim a retail sales tax rebate on solar panels.

5. New Clean Power

Ontario is working quickly to investigate new sources of clean power, including working with Manitoba and the federal government on the possibility of bringing hydro-electric power into Ontario from the Conawapa site in northern Manitoba. The Ministry of Energy is also undertaking an independent study to evaluate the feasibility of the Beck 3 generating project in Niagara Falls, and Ontario Power Generation has been directed to accelerate its assessment of the proposed Portland natural gas generating station in Toronto.

6. Reduction of Electricity Use

The Ontario government continues to receive applications for its retail sales tax rebate on energy-efficient household electrical appliances that meet ENERGY STAR® requirements.

7. Closing Coal-Fired Power Stations

The Ontario government will continue to work toward a target of phasing out the use of coal-fired power plants no later than 2015.

8. Centre of Excellence for Electricity and Alternative Energy Technology

The Ontario government will contribute \$20 million over five years to establish a new Centre of Excellence for Electricity and Alternative Energy Technology. This centre will bring together universities and the private sector to coordinate education initiatives, applied research and commercialization projects for environmentally-friendly energy technologies.

9. Alternative Energy and Fuel Strategy

The Ontario government has committed to an alternative energy and fuel strategy that will be structured around key themes from the final report of the all-party Select Committee on Alternative Fuel Sources. The government has already taken actions on more than 70 of the recommendations in the report, and will continue to roll out its strategy on alternative fuels.

10. Tax Rebate Program for Vehicles Powered by Alternative Fuels

In its 2003 Budget, the Ontario government announced that it would double to a maximum of \$2,000 its retail sale tax rebate for qualifying alternative fuel vehicles. This announcement builds on the 2002 Ontario Budget for clean air when the government announced an exemption for bio-diesel fuels from the 14.3 cents per litre fuel tax and an extension of the sales tax rebate for hybrid-electric automobiles to cover sport utility vehicles and light trucks.

11. Tax Credit for Fuel Conservation

The Ontario government commits to providing a maximum \$100 tax credit for fuel conservation, available to people who buy, rent, lease or import new passenger cars that use less than six litres of gasoline or diesel fuel per 100 kilometres of highway driving. The credit does not apply to sport utility vehicles.

12. Emissions Reduction Trading

The electricity sector caps will reduce emission limits for nitrogen oxides (NO_x) by 53 per cent and sulphur dioxide (SO₂) by 25 per cent by 2007. Ontario's Emissions Trading regulation extends to Independent Power Producers (IPPs) in 2004. The Ontario government commits to using the regulation to ensure that a strong and reliable power supply is available and stringent environmental protection is maintained.

13. Development of Clean Electricity Generation

The Ontario government has proposed that the threshold for the Environmental Assessment (EA) exemption for clean generation be raised to 100 megawatts. The province commits to continuing its efforts to reduce barriers to the development of clean generating capacity, including the introduction of a requirement for net metering and connection arrangements for small-scale generation that uses renewable technology.

14. Continue Implementing the Lakeview Regulation

The Ontario government will continue to oversee the implementation of the Lakeview Regulation to ensure that the station complies with emission limits and ceases to burn coal by April 2005.

Business, Industry and Government

15. Ontario's Clean Air Plan for Industry (CAPI)

The Ontario government's Clean Air Plan for Industry proposes to reduce smog and acid-rain-related emissions from the industrial sector by developing regulated emission limits and expanding emissions trading to include industrial emitters. Ontario will develop and propose emission limits and allocation rules for nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and sulphur dioxide (SO₂) for seven industrial sub-sectors: cement, iron and steel, base metals, petroleum, pulp and paper, glass and carbon black. The Ontario government continues to consult on the proposed limits and allocation rules.

16. Sulphur-in-Gasoline Reporting Regulation

The Ontario government has enacted a Sulphur-in-Gasoline Reporting Regulation (O. Reg. 212/02) which requires refiners and importers to report the average sulphur content in gasoline on a quarterly basis. The government commits to continuing to provide timely sulphur-in-gas information on the Ministry of the Environment's Web site to allow consumers to make informed choices.

17. Sulphur in Fuel Oil and Coal

The Ontario government plans to complete a technical feasibility study in 2003 that will provide information on technical options, costs of reductions and requirements in other jurisdictions. This study will assist Ontario in developing regulatory or other measures in this area.

18. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) Codes of Practice

As part of the Clean Air Plan for Industry, the Ontario government is developing a plan to achieve an overall 45 per cent Ontario reduction for VOCs. The government has committed to additional consultation with relevant stakeholders to develop and implement a plan for VOC reduction.

19. Advancing Smog Reduction Target Deadlines

The Ontario government has proposed to advance the target date for NO_x and SO₂ reductions from 2015 to 2010. The government continues to consult with stakeholders on reduction measures to achieve the target date.

20. OPS Carpool Electronic Bulletin Board

The Ontario government will continue to develop and implement an electronic bulletin board to encourage carpooling. Known as “OPS Carpool”, this Web-based application is available to staff in all ministries.

21. Setting New Air Standards in Ontario

The Ontario government is committed to reviewing, updating or developing 145 air standards. Standards for 75 were found to be protective at current levels. Scientific information relevant to setting a further 15 air standards was posted on December 31, 2002 on the Environmental Registry for a 90-day public comment period. The Ministry of the Environment is currently reviewing stakeholder comments received.

22. Selected Targets for Air Compliance Program (STAC)

Ontario will continue to work with emitters throughout the province under the umbrella of the STAC program, which aims to ensure compliance with the General Air Pollution Regulation under the *Environmental Protection Act*.

Natural and Built Environment

23. Smart Growth

The government will continue to implement Ontario's *Brownfields Statute Law Amendment Act, 2001* and the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, 2001* and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan as key components of Smart Growth.

The brownfields legislation will encourage the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields — abandoned, underused or contaminated lands.

Education and Outreach

24. Climate Change and Air Quality Public Education and Outreach

The Ontario government funded the Clean Air Foundation to conduct a workshop on climate change and air quality public education and outreach on April 24, 2003. The government will continue to review best practices and promote the integration and exchange of ideas and strategies among industry, government and non-governmental organizations.

25. Smog Advisory Air Quality Index (AQI) Stations and Reports

The Ontario government is operating a new air monitoring station in Belleville, bringing the number of stations in the Ontario AQI network to 37. The Ontario government has also increased the number of times per day an AQI report is released -- including weekends and holidays -- to a total of seven. These improvements help the people of Ontario make informed decisions to protect their health.

26. COMPAS Electronic Highway Signs

In 2003, the Ontario government will review smog reduction and anti-idling messages for use on COMPAS, the above-highway changeable message signs.

27. Mandatory Monitoring and Public Reporting Regulation

The Ontario government will continue to post reports on Ontario's new online emissions reporting registry, OnAIR, which will make polluters more accountable to the public by providing regular information about what emissions are being put into the air and by whom.

28. Smog Alert Response Program

The Ontario government will continue to operate the provincial Smog Alert Response Program (SARP) and will provide the public and the Ontario Public Service with the information required to take appropriate action to reduce their contribution to smog formation.

29. Community Participation Programs

The Ontario government will continue its support for a number of community participation programs where citizens receive a reward for turning in their outdated, pollution-intensive equipment such as lawnmowers, air conditioners, or old motor vehicles. The lawnmower exchange program "Mow Down Pollution" is expanding across Canada after three successful years in Ontario.