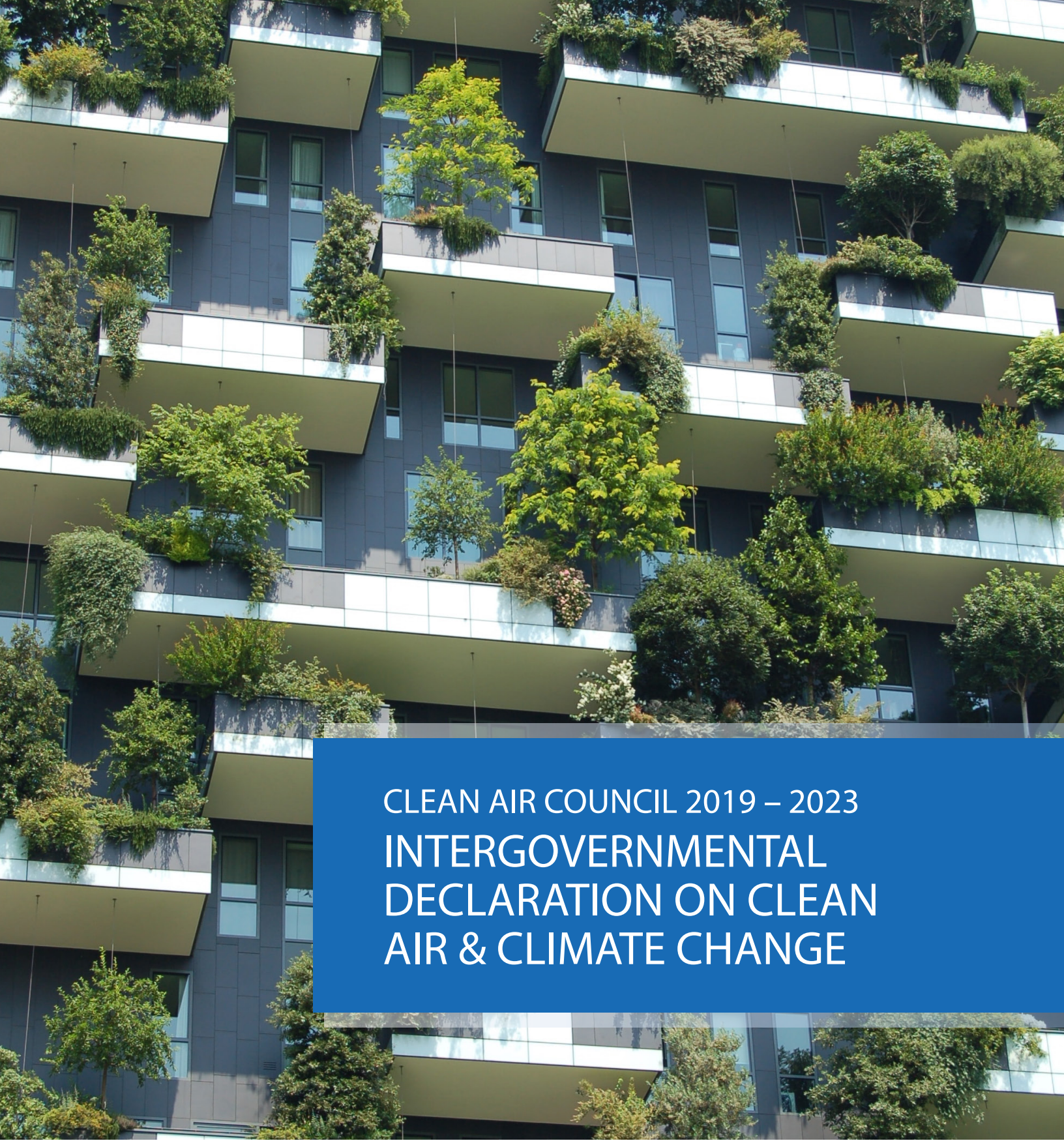

CLEAN AIR COUNCIL 2019 – 2023

INTERGOVERNMENTAL DECLARATION ON CLEAN AIR & CLIMATE CHANGE

CLEAN AIR COUNCIL

Clean Air Partnership

PREAMBLE

The Clean Air Council (CAC) is a network of municipalities and health units that work collaboratively to combat air pollution and climate change. Since 2001, CAC members have worked to make our communities more livable, competitive, and resilient through actions that reduce energy use, minimize greenhouse gas (GHG) and air pollution emissions, and make the movement of people and goods more efficient.

Air pollution in Ontario is linked to premature deaths, hospitalizations, increases in chronic heart and lung diseases including lung cancer, and acute respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. In Ontario, air pollution results in over 5000 annual premature deaths, costing the province over $500 million yearly in direct health care costs.

Climate change adversely affects Ontario municipalities through rising temperatures and increased severe weather events which result in impacts to public health, infrastructure, industry, food production, and natural resources. Immediate action is required to mitigate GHG emissions and minimize these impacts.

Ontario municipalities are working to address climate change and air pollution while also strengthening their economies. The policies needed to fight air pollution and climate change can also produce health benefits and economic growth, reduce costs, and improve social equity in our communities. The CAC presents an opportunity to take a cohesive approach, pooling research findings, expertise, and lessons learned, while enabling actions that benefit our communities and beyond.

THE GOALS OF THE CLEAN AIR COUNCIL ARE TO:

- Address air quality and climate change challenges through a dynamic network that expands knowledge and encourages practical policies and actions;
- Promote a better understanding of air quality and climate change challenges and opportunities among municipalities and public health units to improve their ability to address these problems in a cost-effective way;
- Explore opportunities for joint initiatives to reduce air pollution and GHG emissions and increase climate change adaptation and resilience actions;
- Develop and report on progress of Intergovernmental Declarations of Clean Air and Climate Change, tracking the implementation, transfer and scale-up of clean air and climate change actions across jurisdictions; and
- Liaise with municipalities and other partners in Ontario, Canada and internationally to share efforts and best practices for reducing air pollution and GHG emissions and increasing community livability and resilience.

Clean Air Partnership (CAP) would like to acknowledge and thank the City of Toronto, CAC member jurisdictions, and provincial, federal and other partners for providing financial and in-kind support for the CAC. These partners have provided invaluable assistance in developing, implementing and reporting on progress on actions listed in the various CAC Intergovernmental Declarations on Clean Air and Climate Change.

CAP is a charitable environmental organization whose mandate is to work with municipalities and their partners to reduce air pollution and GHGs, increase resiliency to extreme weather, and advance a low carbon economy. CAP serves as the secretariat for the CAC.

ARTICLE 1 – STATEMENT OF COMMON UNDERSTANDING & COMMITMENT

1. Air pollution adversely affects human health, the economy, and quality of life through its impacts on health, degradation of the environment, and damage to buildings and property.

2. Climate change projections predict increased extreme weather events in Ontario such as floods, drought, forest fires, increased air pollution and heat waves – all of which increase health risks and economic costs to Canadians.

3. Municipalities, having significant influence on development, land use and transportation are fundamental to achieving our local, provincial and national air pollution and GHG emission reductions.

4. Greater authority and support from provincial and federal governments is needed to enable municipalities to reduce air pollution and GHG emissions.

5. In recognizing and understanding the value of ecosystem services to human health, CAC members aim to improve the health of their residents and resilience of their communities through a collective EcoHealth approach, reducing pollution and GHGs while also protecting urban forests, green space, natural heritage systems, watersheds and biodiversity.

6. CAC members recognize air pollution and climate change do not impact all populations equally. Socially and economically disadvantaged community members will be affected first and most severely. CAC members commit to applying an equity lens to air pollution and GHG reductions, resilience and green infrastructure policies and actions.

7. CAC members recognize the importance of future climate scenarios and their impacts on local communities for building resilience into current decision making processes. CAC members' commitment to undertaking actions to reduce air pollution and GHG emissions will make their communities more efficient and livable through improvements to our health, economies and ecosystems.

8. CAC members commit to monitoring and reporting on their progress and outcomes achieved related to present and past CAC declaration actions.

ARTICLE 2 – SIGNATORIES TO THE CLEAN AIR COUNCIL INTER-GOVERNMENTAL DECLARATION ON CLEAN AIR AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Town of Ajax By the Lake

Aurora You're in Good Company

Flower City Brampton

City of Burlington

Town of Caledon

Clarington

Durham Region

City of Guelph

Halton Region

Hamilton

King

Kingston

London Canada

Markham

Mississauga

Newmarket

Northumberland County

Oakville

Oshawa Prepare To Be Amazed

Region of Peel Working for you

City of Pickering

Richmond Hill

Toronto

Vaughan

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Region of Waterloo

The City of Windsor Ontario, Canada

Whitby

York Region

ARTICLE 3 – CALL FOR FUTURE CLEAN AIR COUNCIL ACTION

While GHG emissions and air pollutants have been reduced in Ontario over the past decade, CAC members ensure that commitments made under the current and past Intergovernmental Declarations support continuous improvement. CAC members commit to advancing the development of a sustained collaborative process with the Province of Ontario and Government of Canada to advance the actions and policies listed in Article 4 and below.

Clean Air Council members commit to advancing healthy, lower carbon, sustainable communities through[1]:

1. Demonstrating Corporate Leadership in Sustainable Municipal Operations through continuous improvement and progress reporting related to implementation of municipal energy conservation, green procurement, green fleets, community energy, and climate mitigation and resilience plans.

2. Advancing Financial Mechanisms for a Resilient Low Carbon Economy as they relate to expanding and scaling up proven mechanisms, and leveraging intergovernmental and private sector opportunities.

3. Accelerating the Transition to Low Carbon New and Existing Buildings through the uptake and transfer of green development standards, energy efficiency retrofits, air quality improvements, resilient building measures, and building energy disclosure and labelling.

4. Strengthening municipal capacity to consider and develop Value Propositions and Business Cases for Green Infrastructure.

5. Maximizing Reductions in Air Pollution and Carbon Emissions from Transportation through the increased uptake of electric vehicles, implementation of active transportation/Complete Streets/Vision Zero plans, and integrated transportation and land use planning.

6. Incorporating Climate Change Mitigation and Resilience Considerations into Municipal Decision Making.

7. Working Collaboratively with a Diverse Stakeholder Base to increase the understanding of the links between climate action, public health, equity, community livability and financial sustainability.

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1 The numbering sequence does not correlate to a prioritization of Declaration Actions.

ARTICLE 4 - PROGRESS REPORT ON PAST CLEAN AIR COUNCIL DECLARATION ACTIONS

AS OF FEBRUARY 2020

	DECLARATION ACTIONS																	
MUNICIPALITY	Active Transportation	Green Development Policies - Corporate	Green Development Policies - Community	Community GHG reduction targets	Community Energy Plans	Corporate Energy Plans	Corporate Green Energy Production	Community Climate Action Plan	Green Procurement Policies/ Procedures	Urban Forest Plans	Urban Infestation Plans	Community Gardening Policies	Urban Agriculture Plans	Local Food Procurement Policies	Climate Change Adaptation/ Resilience Plans - Community	Climate Change Adaptation/ Resilience Plans - Corporate	Green Fleet Action Plan	Community Climate Change Action/ Environment Funds
Ajax	Approved	Approved	In Development	Approved		Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved			Approved	Approved	Approved	
Aurora	In Development		In Development	In Development	In Development	Approved	Approved		In Development		Approved					In Development	In Development	
Brampton	Approved		Approved	Approved	In Development	Approved	Approved	Approved	In Development	In Development		Approved	In Development				Approved**	
Burlington	Approved**	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved			In Development		Approved**	
Caledon	Approved	Approved**	Approved	Approved**	In Development	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved		In Development		Approved	In Development	In Development	In Development	In Development
Clarington	In Development					Approved			In Development			Approved					In Development	
Durham Region	Approved	In Development		Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	In Development						Approved	Approved		Approved
Guelph	Approved			Approved	Approved	Approved				Approved	Approved	Approved		Approved	In Development	In Development		
Halton Region	Approved	Approved		In Development	In Development	Approved**	Approved	Approved	Approved					Approved		In Development	Approved	
Halton Hills	Approved**	Approved**	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	In Development					In Development	In Development	In Development	Approved
Hamilton	Approved			Approved	In Development	Approved	Approved	Approved		In Development	Approved	Approved	Approved	In Development	In Development	In Development	Approved	
King	In Development	In Development	In Development	In Development	In Development	In Development	Approved	Approved	In Development						In Development	In Development	In Development	
London	Approved	Approved	In Development	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved		In Development	In Development	In Development	Approved
Markham	Approved	Approved	In Development	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved		Approved	Approved	Approved					Approved
Mississauga	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved		Approved		Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	In Development		Approved	Approved	In Development	
Newmarket	Approved			Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	In Development	In Development	In Development	In Development	In Development		In Development

** in process of updating

CONT. ARTICLE 4 - PROGRESS REPORT ON PAST CLEAN AIR COUNCIL DECLARATION ACTIONS

AS OF FEBRUARY 2020

	DECLARATION ACTIONS																	
MUNICIPALITY	Active Transportation	Green Development Policies - Corporate	Green Development Policies - Community	Community GHG reduction targets	Community Energy Plans	Corporate Energy Plans	Corporate Green Energy Production	Community Climate Action Plan	Green Procurement Policies/ Procedures	Urban Forest Plans	Urban Infestation Plans	Community Gardening Policies	Urban Agriculture Plans	Local Food Procurement Policies	Climate Change Adaptation/ Resilience Plans - Community	Climate Change Adaptation/ Resilience Plans - Corporate	Green Fleet Action Plan	Community Climate Change Action/ Environment Funds
Oakville	Approved	Approved		In Development	In Development	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved			Approved	Approved	Approved	
Oshawa	Approved			Approved		Approved		In Development		Approved	Approved	Approved			Approved			
Peel Region	Approved	In Development		Approved		Approved	In Development	Approved	In Development	Approved	Approved		Approved		Approved	Approved	Approved	
Pickering	In Development	In Development		Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved		Approved	Approved			Approved		Approved	In Development
Richmond Hill	In Development	Approved	Approved	In Development	In Development	Approved	Approved	Approved	In Development	In Development	Approved	Approved				In Development		
Toronto	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved		Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved		Approved	Approved
Vaughan	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved**	Approved	Approved	Approved	In Development	Approved		Approved	Approved		In Development		Approved**	
Whitby	In Development		Approved**	Approved	Approved	Approved**	Approved		In Development	In Development	In Development	Approved			In Development		In Development	
Windsor	Approved			Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved			Approved			In Development	Approved**	Approved	
Waterloo Region	Approved	Approved		Approved	Approved	Approved	In Development	Approved**		Approved					Approved	In Development		Approved
York Region	Approved	Approved	Approved	In Development	In Development	Approved	Approved	Approved		Approved	Approved		Approved		In Development	In Development	Approved	

** in process of updating