



**CLEAN AIR COUNCIL 2015 – 2018
INTER-GOVERNMENTAL DECLARATION
ON CLEAN AIR & CLIMATE CHANGE**

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PREAMBLE

In 2001, the Clean Air Council (a network of municipalities and health units from across the Greater Toronto, Hamilton and more recently Southwestern Ontario Area) was established to work collaboratively on the development and implementation of air pollution and climate change mitigation and adaptation actions. The Clean Air Council is based on the premise that municipalities benefit from actions to reduce energy use in order to save money and limit emissions; make the movement of people and goods more efficient; and make communities more healthy, livable, competitive and resilient.

The Clean Air Council was created in response to strong scientific evidence linking air pollutants to various illnesses and breathing problems when in 2000 the Ontario Medical Association declared air pollution "a public health crisis". More recently the World Health Organization has classified air pollution as a carcinogen and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stated that the warming of the climate system is unequivocal and that human influence on the system is clear. In addition, the central findings of a 2015 report by the Lancet Commission on Health and Climate Change highlights the many health and social benefits of action on climate change, stating that action to address climate change could be "the greatest health opportunity of the 21st Century".

Synergistic actions that address air pollution and climate change enable communities to address the two problems with common solutions. The creation of lower carbon communities that are more efficient, sustainable and resilient are one of the main tools that will enable us to tackle the joint challenge of air pollution and climate change and foster our communities' competitiveness and livability.

Clean Air Council members work collaboratively to tackle air pollution and climate change through agreed upon priorities; tracking, analyzing and determining the outcomes of actions; and bringing experts and practitioners in the various activity areas together to share experiences and lessons learned.

There are many benefits to a collaborative approach to addressing air quality and climate change issues. Having multiple jurisdictions and multiple disciplines at the same table enhances networking and the exchange of resources and information. It ensures that no one group is working in isolation, and that efforts are not unnecessarily duplicated. Inter-governmental and inter-regional cooperation also provides an opportunity to leverage scarce resources for research, outreach and other air quality and climate change

mitigation and adaptation initiatives. Working together, the Clean Air Council enables members to achieve far more with fewer resources and reduced risk.

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 and successful policies and actions;
- Promote a better understanding of air quality and climate change problems and opportunities among municipalities, public health and policy makers to improve their ability to address these problems in an economically effective way;
- Explore opportunities for joint initiatives to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and increase climate change adaptation and resilience actions;
- Develop and report on progress of Inter-governmental Declarations of Clean Air and Climate Change;
- Track and monitor the implementation and transfer of clean air and climate change actions across the jurisdictions; and
- Liaise with municipalities in Ontario, Canada and internationally, and with organizations that have compatible mandates to share best practices for reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and increasing community livability and resilience.

ACKNOWLEDGING AND THANKING the City of Toronto, Clean Air Council member jurisdictions, provincial, federal and other partners for providing financial and in-kind support for the Clean Air Council work program and assistance in developing, implementing and reporting on progress on actions listed in the various Clean Air Council Inter-governmental Declarations on Clean Air and Climate Change.

ARTICLE 1 – STATEMENT OF COMMON UNDERSTANDING & COMMITMENT

1. Evidence based research has linked air pollution levels commonly experienced in southern Ontario to premature deaths, hospitalizations, increases in chronic heart and lung diseases including lung cancer, and acute respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. Even a small increase in air pollution elevates the risk of health impacts, particularly among those who are most vulnerable and sensitive to air pollution such as young children, older adults and those with pre-existing respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses.
2. Climate change scenarios project an increased risk from 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.
3. Research has also indicated that air pollution has a detrimental impact on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
4. Air pollution, through health effects, environmental degradation, building and property damage, adversely impacts the economy and quality of life.
5. Land use and transportation planning decisions that encourage sustainable urban development can have multiple benefits on air quality and human health.

6. Transportation is the most significant source of emissions that contribute to both air pollution and climate change. Building energy use is also a major contributor.
7. Air pollution and climate change are two atmospheric problems sharing common sources. For example, fossil-fuel combustion is a key contributor to air pollution and climate change, producing smog precursors and greenhouse gas emissions.
8. Municipalities are fundamental to achieving local, community based emission reductions since they have significant influence on development, land use and transportation decisions that shape the pattern of energy use within communities. Municipalities are also the order of government closest to citizens and can most easily engage households and businesses to implement local projects to reduce emissions. Municipal contributions to Ontario and Canada's air pollution and greenhouse gas reduction targets must be considered an essential element to achieving long-term and cost effective emission reductions.
9. Increased recognition and authority from provincial ministries and federal departments regarding the municipal role in influencing community air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions is needed to enable municipalities to meet air pollution and climate change opportunities and goals and create the livable, healthy, resilient and competitive communities Ontarians desire.
10. Public health units, which operate either within a municipal governance structure or report to a stand-alone board of health, have a mandate under the Ontario Public Health Standards to increase awareness of the health impacts of air quality and climate change; and to use a health equity lens to address impacts to our most vulnerable populations.
11. Addressing reductions of major air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions requires collaboration between all orders of government, sectors and jurisdictions. By sharing the best practices from jurisdictions across the GTHA, southwestern 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.
12. Understanding the value of ecosystem services to human health, CAC members aim to improve the health of their residents and their communities via their collective efforts and an ecohealth¹ approach, to reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, manage invasive species, and protect urban forests, green space, natural heritage systems, watersheds and biodiversity.
13. CAC members recognize that they are making decisions that will impact their communities for decades to come and that it is of vital importance to factor in how future climate conditions may affect their community and identify and act on opportunities to build resilience into decision making.
14. CAC members' commitment to undertaking actions to make their communities more efficient and livable will reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and reduce their contribution to smog and climate change and its associated health, economic and ecosystem effects.
15. CAC members commit to monitoring and reporting on their progress and outcomes achieved related to present and past CAC declaration actions.

¹ **EcoHealth** is an emerging inter-disciplinary field of study researching how changes in the earth's ecosystems affect human health. EcoHealth examines changes in the biological, physical, social and economic environments and relates these changes to human health.

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

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
London, City of
Markham, City of

Mississauga, City of
Newmarket, Town of
Oakville, Town of
Oshawa, City of
Peel, Regional Municipality of
Pickering, City of
Richmond Hill, Town of
Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
Toronto, City of
Vaughan, City of
Whitby, Town of
Windsor, City of
York, Regional Municipality of
Government of Ontario

ARTICLE 3 – CALL FOR FUTURE CLEAN AIR COUNCIL ACTION

While greenhouse gas emissions have been reduced and air pollution has improved in Ontario over the past decade, the Clean Air Council ensures that commitments made under this and past Inter-governmental Declarations supports continuous improvements on air pollution and climate change issues.

The Clean Air Council members commit to advancing the development of a long-term collaborative process between municipal members and province of Ontario ministries and federal government departments to advance the actions and policies listed below in order to: help further reductions in air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, better prepare for climate change, share information, and where possible, to share resources and undertake appropriate research and actions.

The members of the Clean Air Council commit to work collaboratively to develop healthy, lower carbon and sustainable communities in accordance with the following priority action areas²:

1. Continuous improvement related to implementation of corporate energy conservation, green procurement and green fleets plans.
2. Incorporation of future climate and extreme weather conditions into municipal decision making and identification of opportunities to increase community resilience.
3. Development and implementation of active transportation and transportation demand management into transportation planning, policy and decision making.
4. Identification and integration of health evidence into transportation, land use, climate change, and natural spaces planning decisions.

² The numbering sequence does not correlate to a prioritization of Declaration Actions.

5. Increase and strengthen recognition of municipal authority to implement community green development standards based on performance metrics that are monitored, reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis.
6. Continuous efforts towards encouraging public engagement and facilitation of community actions on municipal environmental, climate change, clean air and sustainability priorities and efforts.
7. Identification and prioritization of opportunities to better manage green infrastructure to meet community infrastructure, health and ecosystem service needs.
8. Development of a community objective for energy use and planning that recognizes the role energy plays in local economic development, energy security and resilience, addressing air pollution and climate change, and building healthier and more resilient, livable and competitive communities.
9. Integration of sustainability considerations and opportunities into all municipal strategies, plans, departments and council reports.
10. Work with the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada on the implementation of an Air Quality Management System to ensure continuous improvements in air quality by incorporating interventions and policies that address emission reduction opportunities and reduce air pollution exposure in order to protect the health of residents.

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

1. **Monitor progress on the implementation of community Active Transportation and/or Complete Streets Plans and Policies to create a modal shift from single occupancy vehicle use to active transportation.**
 - Approved Active Transportation Plans: Ajax, Aurora, Brampton, Burlington, East Gwillimbury, Halton Hills, Hamilton, Markham, Mississauga, Newmarket, Oakville, Region of Peel, Richmond Hill, Toronto, Vaughan, Whitby, York Region
 - Active Transportation Plans in Progress: Clarington, Halton Region, London, Oshawa, Pickering
2. **Monitor progress on the implementation of corporate and community green development policies and practices and identify results and best practices.**
 - Approved corporate green development policies/standards: Ajax, Burlington, Caledon, East Gwillimbury, Halton Region, Halton Hills, Hamilton, London, Markham, Mississauga, Newmarket, Oakville, Pickering, Richmond Hill, Toronto, Vaughan, York Region
 - Corporate Green Development Policies/Standards in Progress: Aurora, Brampton, King, Region of Peel
 - Approved community green development policies/standards/incentives: Brampton, Caledon, East Gwillimbury, Halton Hills, Hamilton, Markham, Mississauga, Pickering, Richmond Hill, Toronto, Vaughan, York Region
 - Community Green Development Policies/Standards/Incentives in Progress: Ajax, Aurora, Burlington, Clarington, London, King, Oakville, Oshawa, Region of Peel

3. Community Energy Inventories, Plans and Reduction Targets.

- Community Energy Inventories undertaken: Ajax, Brampton; Burlington, Caledon, East Gwillimbury, Halton Hills, Hamilton, London, Markham, Mississauga, Oakville, Oshawa, Region of Peel, Richmond Hill, Pickering, Toronto, Vaughan, Windsor
- Approved Community Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets: Ajax, Burlington, Caledon, Halton Hills, Hamilton, London, Markham, Mississauga, Oakville, Oshawa, Region of Peel, Pickering, Richmond Hill, Toronto, Vaughan
- Community Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target in Progress: Brampton, Windsor, York Region,
- Approved Community Energy Plans: Burlington, East Gwillimbury, Halton Hills, London, Oakville (update planned for 2016), Toronto
- Community Energy Plans in Progress: Markham, Vaughan, Newmarket, Windsor

4. Increase the implementation of renewable energy purchasing or production.

- Green Energy Purchasing: Aurora (2008-12), Caledon, Hamilton, Mississauga (2008 -2013), Oakville, Region of Peel, Toronto, Vaughan, York Region
- Green Energy Production: Ajax, Aurora, Brampton, Burlington, Caledon, Halton Region, Halton Hills, Hamilton, London, King, Markham, Mississauga, Newmarket, Oakville, Region of Peel, Pickering, Richmond Hill, Toronto, Vaughan, Whitby, Windsor, York Region

5. Develop and implement Community Action Plans outlining actions aimed at reducing energy use and mitigating air pollution and climate change.

- Approved Community Action Plans: Ajax, Brampton, Burlington, Caledon, Durham Region, East Gwillimbury, Halton Hills, London, Markham, Mississauga, Oakville, Region of Peel, Pickering, Richmond Hill, Toronto, Vaughan, York Region
- Community Action Plans in Progress: Clarington, Hamilton, King Township, Markham (Bayview Glen Neighbourhood Action Plan), Whitby, Windsor

6. Monitor and Report on progress related to the implementation of Community Action Plans.

- Approved Community Action Plan Implementation Progress Reports: Ajax, Burlington, Halton Hills, London, Mississauga, Oakville, Region of Peel, Toronto, Vaughan

7. Develop and implement corporate Green Procurement Policies that increase the implementation of environmental, energy efficiency zero-waste and sustainable criteria in purchasing, lease and contract decisions.

- Approved Green Procurement Policies/Procedures: Ajax, Brampton (Energy Star and EcoChoice label criteria), Burlington; Caledon, Halton Hills (sustainable procurement procedure), Halton Region, Hamilton (life cycle costing policy), London (built into purchasing policy), Pickering (built into purchasing policy), Oakville (green procurement procedure), Toronto (green procurement procedure), Windsor, York Region
- Green Procurement Policies in Progress: Aurora, Brampton, Clarington, Markham, Mississauga, Region of Peel, Oshawa, Richmond Hill, Vaughan, Whitby

- 8. Develop Urban Forestry Plans that identify actions aimed at increasing, protecting and maintaining the urban forest.**
 - i-Tree/Urban Forest Studies undertaken: Ajax, Burlington (street trees), London, Markham, Oakville, Region of Peel (in partnership with Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga), Pickering, Richmond Hill, Toronto, Vaughan, Whitby, York Region (including financial support for York municipalities)
 - i-Tree/Urban Forest Studies in Progress: Aurora
 - Approved Urban Forestry Plans: Ajax, Burlington, London, Mississauga, Oakville, Oshawa, Region of Peel, Toronto, Vaughan
 - Urban Forestry Plans in Progress: Richmond Hill, York Region
 - Approved Infestation Plans: Ajax, Aurora, Burlington, Hamilton, London, King Township, Markham, Mississauga, Oakville, Oshawa, Pickering, Richmond Hill, Toronto, York Region
 - Infestation Plans in Progress: Region of Peel

- 9. Develop municipal urban agriculture strategies that minimize barriers and actively promote and support increased urban food production.**
 - Approved Community Gardening Policies: Brampton, Burlington, Clarington, Hamilton, London, Markham, Mississauga, Oshawa, Toronto, Vaughan, Windsor
 - Community Gardening Policies in Progress: Richmond Hill
 - Approved Urban Agriculture Plans: Toronto
 - Urban Agriculture Plans in Progress: Hamilton

- 10. Develop Local Food Procurement actions and policies that set local food targets for day cares, long term care centres and/or municipal cafeterias and food services.**
 - Local Food Procurement Policies in Place: Halton Region, Markham, Toronto

- 11. Develop Climate Change Adaptation Plans and integrate climate change adaptation into existing and future municipal plans, in order to identify potential climate change risks and incorporate short term and long term opportunities for increasing community resilience into decision making.**
 - Approved Climate Change Adaptation Plans: Ajax, Durham Region (corporate), Oakville, Region of Peel (in partnership with Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga), Toronto, Windsor (corporate)
 - Climate Change Adaptation Plans in Progress: Ajax (Implementation Plan), Durham Region (community plan and working collectively with local area municipalities), Hamilton, London, Vaughan, York Region.

- 12. Develop a Green Fleets Action Plan that identifies actions aimed at reducing emissions through municipal vehicle purchases, operations and behaviours and to support the transfer of lessons learned and actions.**
 - Green Fleets Plans Approved: Ajax, Brampton, Burlington, Halton Region, Hamilton, London, Markham, Mississauga, Oakville, Toronto, Vaughan, Windsor
 - Green Fleets Plans in Progress: Clarington, Halton Hills, Richmond Hill, Whitby, York Region
 - Green Fleets Progress Reports Approved: Brampton, Hamilton, Mississauga, Oakville, Toronto
 - Green Fleets Progress Report being developed: Ajax, London

13. Build collaboration with community partners to engage them in supporting the development and implementation of Actions Plans and share lessons learned with Clean Air Council members on how to develop and foster community partnerships.

- Community Climate Action Funds in Place: Ajax, Caledon, Halton Hills, London (Active & Green Communities – pilot program), Markham, Oakville, Pickering, Toronto
- Community Climate Change Action Funds in development: Vaughan