



May 30th, 2014

Dear Regional Chair Fisch and York Regional Councillors:

The Clean Air Partnership, secretariat for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area Clean Air Council, would like to thank and recognize York Region for your contribution in forwarding the development, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the GTHA Clean Air Council Declaration on Clean Air and Climate Change actions and targets. Declaration actions are determined by member staff representatives who work collaboratively with various departments within your municipality and municipal peers across the Region to advance the implementation of clean air and climate change actions. Please see attached for York Region's Recognition Certificate highlighting your jurisdiction's contribution to the Clean Air Council actions and targets. Also attached is the Clean Air Council 2014 Progress Report highlighting the collective achievements of the GTHA region.

The Clean Air Council (a network of municipalities and health units from across the Greater Toronto & Hamilton Area) was established in 2001 to work collaboratively on the development and implementation of clean air 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; limit emissions that impact health; make the movement of people and goods more efficient; and make communities more livable, competitive and resilient. Municipalities have shown significant leadership in addressing clean air, climate change and urban sustainability opportunities and are quick to recognize the synergies between environment, health, community livability, resilience and economic prosperity.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your municipality's staff representatives in the future to support and build on implementation and share lessons learned across the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Kalapos".

Gabriella Kalapos
Executive Director, Clean Air Partnership
gkalapos@cleanairpartnership.org
Tel: 416.338.1288

c.c Helen Doyle, Manager, Environmental Health, York Region Public Health

Certificate of Recognition



York Region

has met the following targets of the Clean Air
Council 2012-2014 Inter-Governmental
Declaration on Clean Air and Climate Change:

- ♦ Active Transportation Plan
- ♦ Corporate Green Development Standard
- ♦ Community Green Development Program
- ♦ Green Energy Purchasing
- ♦ Green Energy Production
- ♦ Community Action Plan
- ♦ i-Tree Urban Forest Study
- ♦ Urban Forest Infestation Plan



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Kalapos".

Gabriella Kalapos,
Executive Director, Clean Air Partnership
May 30th, 2014

CLEAN AIR COUNCIL 2012 – 2014 INTER-GOVERNMENTAL DECLARATION ON CLEAN AIR & CLIMATE CHANGE MAY 2014 PROGRESS REPORT

PREAMBLE

Based on strong scientific evidence linking air pollutants to various illnesses and breathing problems, in 2000 the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) declared air pollution "a public health crisis". In addition to the respiratory and cardiovascular health impacts of exposure to air pollutants, there is also research linking them to adverse birth outcomes, neurodevelopment, cognitive function and chronic diseases such as diabetes. In 2013 the World Health Organization classified air pollution as carcinogenic to humans, and the 2014 Toronto Public Health update to their Burden of Illness report found that air pollution results in 1,300 premature deaths and 3,550 hospitalizations in the City of Toronto alone.

Climate change is the most pressing environmental, social and economic problem facing the planet. The consequences of climate change are global and long-term. The synergies between the 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 air pollution and climate change challenge and foster the Greater Toronto Area's competitiveness and livability.

Since 2001, the Greater Toronto Area Clean Air Council (a network of 24 municipalities and health units from across the Greater Toronto Area) was established to work collaboratively on the development and implementation of clean air 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 livable, competitive and resilient.

The members of the Clean Air Council work collaboratively on agreed upon priorities; track, analyze and determine the outcomes of actions; and bring 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 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 MANDATE OF CLEAN AIR COUNCIL IS 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 *Clean Air Council Inter-governmental Declarations on Clean Air and Climate Change*.

ARTICLE 1 – STATEMENT OF COMMON UNDERSTANDING

1. Evidence based research has linked air pollution levels commonly experienced in the GTA 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, the elderly and those with pre-existing respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses.
2. Climate change scenarios project an increased risk of 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 a major source of the emissions that contribute to both air pollution and climate change. Transportation is responsible for approximately 24% of PM_{2.5}, 71% of NO_x, 26% of VOCs, 87% of CO and 34% of CO₂ emissions in the Province of Ontario. Building energy use is also a significant contributor accounting for 39% PM_{2.5}, 8% of VOCs, and 18.6% of CO₂.¹
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. Actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are often associated with reductions in other atmospheric emissions that contribute to smog and its associated health, economic and ecosystem effects. In some cases, a co-benefit of reducing smog precursors is to reduce some greenhouse gas emissions.

¹ Source: Air pollutants emissions are from NPRI 2012 and CO₂ emissions are from Environment Canada's 2013 National Inventory Report.

9. Addressing key sources of major air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions requires collaboration between all orders of government. By sharing the best practices from jurisdictions across the GTA, southern 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.

ARTICLE 2 – SIGNATORIES TO THE 2012 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

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

Toronto, City of

Vaughan, City of

Whitby, Town of

York, Regional Municipality of

Government of Ontario

Government of Canada

ARTICLE 3 – CALL FOR CLEAN AIR COUNCIL ACTION

In view of the long-term nature of the air quality problems and climate change in our common airshed, the Clean Air Council agrees to on-going work on the commitments made in past Inter-governmental Declarations.

The Clean Air Council commits to continue its work to address smog and greenhouse gases and better prepare for climate change, to share information and, where possible, to share resources and undertake appropriate research and actions.

The 24 members of the Clean Air Council commit to work collaboratively to develop healthy, lower carbon and sustainable communities through the following:

Community Planning and Public Health

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, Oshawa, Pickering

2. Work collaboratively with members and partners to identify the connection between public health and land use planning to share, document and act on opportunities to improve public health via land use planning and development.

The goal of this Declaration action is to identify the connections between infrastructure, built form

and public health and community livability. Some of the actions undertaken include: development of Land Use Planning and Public Health Report and Toolkit Scan; working with Ontario Public Health Association Public Health and Planning Working Group; Development of Public Health Training Program for Planners; Development and use of Healthy Development Index and Sustainability Metrics; Complete Streets Policies and Visualizations.

Greening Development

3. 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, Markham, Mississauga, Newmarket, Oakville, Pickering, Richmond Hill, Toronto, Vaughan, York Region

Corporate Green Development Polices/Standards in Progress: Aurora, Brampton, King, Oshawa, 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, Clarington, King, Oakville, Oshawa, Region of Peel

4. Provide recommendations and keep informed on energy and water efficiency updates to the Province of Ontario's Building Code standards.

The goal of this Declaration action is to work with the Canada Green Building Council and the Municipal Leaders Forum to provide municipal input into opportunities to incorporate energy efficiency and climate change adaptation into updates of the Ontario Building Code.

Energy

5. Participate in an Energy Efficiency, Green Energy and Emissions Inventory Community of Practice to share resources, experience, expertise and lessons learned.

Clean Air Council members work in collaboration to share experiences and expertise on energy efficiency, green energy and community energy planning opportunities and lessons learned.

6. Work collaboratively with the Province of Ontario, the Ontario Power Authority and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to develop a more efficient mechanism for gathering energy use data.
7. Community Energy Inventories, Plans and Reduction Targets.

Community Energy Inventories

Community Energy Inventories undertaken: Ajax, Brampton; Burlington, Caledon, East Gwillimbury, Halton Hills, Hamilton, Markham, Mississauga, Oakville, Oshawa, Region of Peel, Pickering, Toronto, Vaughan

Community Energy Inventories in Progress: Richmond Hill

Community Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target

Approved Community Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets: Ajax, Burlington, Caledon, Halton Hills, Hamilton, Markham, Mississauga, Oakville, Oshawa, Region of Peel, Pickering, Richmond Hill, Toronto, Vaughan

Community Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target in Progress: Brampton, York Region

Community Energy Plans

Approved Community Energy Plans: Burlington, East Gwillimbury, Halton Hills, Hamilton, Oakville, Toronto

Community Energy Plans in Progress: Markham, Vaughan

8. 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, King, Markham, Mississauga, Newmarket, Oakville, Region of Peel, Pickering, Richmond Hill, Toronto, Vaughan, Whitby, York Region

Air Quality

9. Monitor progress and outcomes of the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada's proposed Air Quality Management System.

The goal of this Declaration is to foster coordination and collaboration between federal, provincial and municipal governments to ensure an air quality management system that will result in continuous improvements in air quality by incorporating interventions and policies to address emission reduction opportunities and reduce air pollution exposure in order to protect the health of residents.

Action Planning and Policy Development

10. Develop and implement Community Action Plans² 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, Markham, Mississauga, Oakville, Region of Peel, Pickering, Richmond Hill, Toronto, Vaughan, York Region

² A "Plan" must list actions that the jurisdiction commits to undertaking in order to reduce its corporate/community energy use. Actions must be approved by council and have a department that is responsible for implementation and a mechanism in place to provide updates on implementation.

Community Action Plans in Progress: Clarington, Halton Region (Implementation Plan Update), Hamilton, King Township, Whitby

11. Undertake a Monitoring and Reporting Scan to identify strategies being used by CAC members to report on progress of corporate and community Action Plans.

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

12. Sustainability Training provided to municipal staff and all municipal departments required to report on sustainability actions and implications on Council reports.

The goal of the Declaration action is to work collaboratively to develop, update and evaluate sustainability training resources and activities in order to better enable CAC member jurisdictions to build the ability of staff to understand how sustainability relates to municipal planning and service delivery and how they can better integrate sustainability into their responsibilities, decision making and reporting.

13. 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 Region, Hamilton (life cycle costing policy), Pickering (built into purchasing policy), Oakville (green procurement procedure), Toronto (green procurement procedure), York Region

Green Procurement Policies in Progress: Aurora, Brampton, Clarington, Markham, Mississauga, Region of Peel, Oshawa, Richmond Hill, Vaughan, Whitby

Urban Forests

14. 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), 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, Mississauga, Oakville, Oshawa, Region of Peel, Toronto, Vaughan

Urban Forestry Plans in Progress: Richmond Hill, York Region

Approved Infestation Plans: Ajax, Aurora, Burlington, Hamilton, King Township, Markham, Mississauga, Oakville, Oshawa, Richmond Hill, Toronto, York Region

Infestation Plans in Progress: Region of Peel

15. Work with the Province of Ontario to build awareness of the economic and ecological value urban forests provide and development of mechanisms to ensure the increase, protection and maintenance of urban forests.

The goal of this Declaration action is to work with partners including provincial ministries, municipalities, conservation authorities and community groups to build the connections between economics, public health, and ecological value of urban forests and prioritize policy actions to protect, maintain and expand urban forests.

Food Sustainability

16. Develop municipal urban agriculture strategies that minimize barriers and actively promote and support increased urban food production.

Approved Community Gardening Policies: Brampton, Clarington, Hamilton, Mississauga, Oshawa, Toronto, Vaughan

Community Gardening Policies in Progress: Caledon, Richmond Hill

Approved Urban Agriculture Plans: Toronto

Urban Agriculture Plans in Progress: Caledon, Hamilton, Richmond Hill

17. 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

Climate Change Adaptation

18. 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), Region of Peel (in partnership with Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga), Toronto

Climate Change Adaptation Plans in Progress: Ajax (Implementation Plan), Durham Region (community plan and working collectively with local area municipalities), Oakville, Vaughan, York Region

Green Economic Development

19. Develop business cases for clean air and climate change actions most likely to move from pilot to mainstream taking into account costs of continuing business as usual as well as externalities.

The goal of this Declaration action is to build capacity and expectations to incorporate the true costs of energy, ecological valuation and public health into business cases, asset management and decision making.

20. Increase coordination and cooperation between economic development and environment/sustainability departments.

The goal of this Declaration action is to increase capacity to quantify the economic development associated with green policies and to identify opportunities to better act on synergies between green policies, economic development and growth management.

Transportation

21. Identify and prioritize municipal opportunities to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from personal vehicles.

Work in partnership with partners (ex. Metrolinx, Smart Commute, Civic Action, Toronto Centre for Active Transportation) on regional transportation and electric vehicle infrastructure.

22. Develop a Green Fleets Actions and Results Scan to highlight 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, Markham, Mississauga, Oakville, Toronto, Vaughan

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

Community Engagement

23. Develop and deliver a Clean Air Council social marketing campaign to increase knowledge of clean air and climate change actions being implemented across the Region.

Clean Air Partnership and Clean Air Council social media via blog and twitter. Blog: <http://cleanairpartnership.wordpress.com/>; and Twitter: @CleanAirGTA.

24. 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, Markham, Oakville, Pickering, Toronto

Community Climate Change Action Funds in development: Vaughan

For more information on the above listed actions please visit the Clean Air Council section of the Clean Air Partnership website @ http://www.cleanairpartnership.org/gta_clean_air_council