



CLEAN AIR COUNCIL 2019 – 2023 INTER-GOVERNMENTAL DECLARATION ON CLEAN AIR & CLIMATE CHANGE

PREAMBLE

In 2001, the Clean Air Council (CAC), a network of municipalities and health units working collaboratively to combat air pollution and climate change was established. CAC members work collaboratively to make communities more livable, competitive, and resilient through actions that reduce energy use, minimize greenhouse gas (GHG) and criteria air pollutants 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. Annually air pollution is estimated to result in the premature death of over 5,000 Ontarians and costs Ontario's health systems more than \$500 million a year in direct health care costs resulting from hospital admissions and emergency room visits.

Climate change is significantly impacting 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 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, in order to reduce the risk of catastrophic risks to human health and wellbeing.

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, economic growth, reduce costs, and improve social equity in our communities. The CAC presents an opportunity to take a united approach pooling research findings, expertise, and lessons learned, while enabling actions that benefits each municipality 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 Inter-Governmental 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 in Ontario, Canada and internationally, and with organizations and stakeholders that are committed to sharing 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 Clean Air Council Inter-Governmental 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 greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), increase their resiliency to extreme weather and make advancements towards a low carbon economy. CAP serves as the secretariat for the Clean Air Council.

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, and realize pollution reduction and climate change opportunities.
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 that while air pollution and climate change impacts will impact everyone, not all citizens will be impacted 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

Ajax, Town of
Brampton, City of
Burlington, City of
Caledon, Town of
Clarington, Municipality of
Durham, Regional Municipality 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, City of
Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
Toronto, City of
Vaughan, City of
Waterloo, Region of
Whitby, Town of
Windsor, City of
York, Regional Municipality of

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 Inter-Governmental 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.

CAC members commit to work collaboratively to develop healthy, low carbon, resilient and sustainable communities in the following priority action areas¹:

1. **Getting the Municipal House in Order** through continuous improvement and progress reporting related to implementation of energy conservation, green procurement, green fleets, community energy, and climate mitigation and resilience plans.

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

2. **Advancing Air Pollution, Low Carbon and Resilience Financial Mechanisms** especially as it relates to expanding and scaling up proven projects, programs and mechanisms and leveraging intergovernmental and private sector opportunities.
3. **Scaling-Up Low Carbon 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 Businesses Cases for Green Infrastructure**.
5. **Maximizing Transportation Air Pollution and Carbon Reductions** 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 **Broadening Stakeholder Base** to increase the understanding of the **links between climate action, public health, equity, community livability and financial sustainability**.

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

All the actions undertaken by municipalities will be updated here. This chart is being compiled by the Clean Air Partnership.

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