



## REPORT

**REPORT TO:** Mayor R. Bonnette and Members of Council

**REPORT FROM:** Damian Szybalski, Sustainability Coordinator

**DATE:** April 26, 2010

**REPORT NO.:** PDS-2010-0046

**RE:** Greater Toronto Area – Clean Air Council  
2010 Inter-Governmental Declaration on Clean Air and  
Climate Change

File No.: D27-GT GTA-Clean Air Council

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Report No. PDS-2010-0046, dated April 26, 2010, regarding the *Greater Toronto Area Clean Air Council 2010 Inter-Governmental Declaration on Clean Air & Climate Change* be received for information purposes;

AND FURTHER THAT Council endorse the Mayor's attendance at the 2010 Clean Air and Climate Change Summit on June 2, 2010 as well as the signing of the *Greater Toronto Area Clean Air Council 2010 Inter-Governmental Declaration on Clean Air & Climate Change* on behalf of the Town of Halton Hills;

AND FURTHER THAT Town staff be directed to take all appropriate and feasible actions to implement the *Greater Toronto Area - Clean Air Council 2010 Inter-Governmental Declaration on Clean Air & Climate Change*, while recognizing resource limitations and local sustainability priorities;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to the Region of Halton, the City of Burlington, the Towns of Oakville and Milton, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Greater Toronto Area – Clean Air Council (Clean Air Partnership), and ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) for their information.

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an overview of the contents of the draft *Greater Toronto Area Clean Air Council 2010 Inter-Governmental Declaration on*

*Clean Air & Climate Change* prior to its official public release and signing at the upcoming 2010 Clean Air and Climate Change Summit to be held at Toronto City Hall on June 2, 2010. A copy of the draft Declaration is attached as Appendix 'A' to this report. The draft Declaration will likely be subject to further refinements prior to its public release.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Since becoming a member of the GTA-Clean Air Council (GTA-CAC), the Town has attended the 2008 and 2009 Smog Summits, and signed the 2008 and 2009 Inter-Governmental Declarations on Clean Air.

Established at the 2001 Smog Summit (now called the Clean Air and Climate Change Summit), the GTA-CAC is a program of the Clean Air Partnership. The GTA-CAC is an inter-governmental working group composed of federal, provincial and municipal government representatives who are committed to tackling air pollution and climate change, and to working collaboratively towards developing healthy and sustainable communities. This work is facilitated through monthly meetings of the GTA-CAC members.

The Town is represented at the GTA-CAC by the Office of Sustainability. At present, the GTA-CAC has 26 members, including 24 Greater Toronto Area municipalities, plus the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada.

## **COMMENTS:**

At the 2010 Clean Air and Climate Change Summit, the eleventh such summit, federal, provincial and municipal government leaders will announce new initiatives that they will be taking and collaborating on in order to address air pollution and climate change.

The Summit is an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of the GTA-CAC members as well as to commit to taking further actions. It is a venue where GTA-CAC members commit to working collaboratively to develop healthy and sustainable communities. It is also an opportunity to exchange ideas and learn from best practices.

The 2010 Summit will focus on providing an update on the progress made with respect to the actions and targets specified within the 2008 and 2009 Declarations. GTA-CAC member municipalities that have achieved the Declaration's targets will be recognized at the Summit with 'recognition certificates'. The recognition certificates are planned to be awarded in the following areas:

- Development of Action Plans outlining actions aimed at reducing energy use and mitigating air pollution and climate change.
- Development of community Bicycle/Pedestrian Plans aimed at increasing a modal shift from single occupancy vehicle use to active transportation.

- Corporate/Community green development and green roof policies and practices.
- Green Energy Purchasing and Production Actions.
- Conversion of traffic signals to light emitting diode (LED) technology.

With respect to the above, the Town may potentially qualify for up to two 'recognition certificates'. The first certificate could relate to the Town's Cycling Master Plan which is now nearing completion. The efforts of the Cycling Master Plan in increasing the modal shift from single occupancy vehicle use to active transportation will be complemented by the Town's existing Pedestrian Charter.

The second recognition certificate could potentially relate to the use of LED technology in the Town's traffic signals. By the end of 2010, approximately 75% of the Town's traffic signals will be converted to the more energy efficient LED technology. Compared to traditional incandescent traffic signals, an LED unit reduces energy use by approximately 90% with a savings of about 50% per intersection.<sup>1</sup> Depending on available funding, the objective is to replace all Town traffic signals to LED technology by the end of 2011. In addition, the Town installed 22 LED pathway lights as part of a pilot project to study the effectiveness of LED technology.

With respect to the remaining areas, the need for action plans aimed at reducing energy use, and mitigating air pollution and climate change are anticipated to be addressed through the Town's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan. The structure for the development of such a Plan is currently being explored by the Town Sustainability Advisory Committee. In addition, Halton Hills Community Energy Corporation intends to develop a Community Energy Plan which may assist with green energy purchasing and production related actions. Lastly, the issue of green development policies/practices has been identified by the Staff Sustainability Team as one of its action priorities for implementation (at least partially) during the remainder of 2010 – resources permitting.

The draft 2010 Clean Air and Climate Change Summit agenda consists of:

- An update on the 2008 and 2009 GTA-CAC Declaration actions and targets;
- Awarding of the recognition certificates;
- Highlight of the GTA-CAC member actions aimed at improving air quality and addressing climate change;
- Signing of the 2010 Declaration; and
- Network opportunity for municipal political representatives.

### **2010 Declaration**

The final *Greater Toronto Area Clean Air Council 2010 Inter-Governmental Declaration on Clean Air* will be officially released publicly and signed at the upcoming 2010 Summit

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<sup>1</sup> Although the LED units decrease energy use by about 90%, the savings per intersection are about 50% since the controller cabinets' electricity consumption does not change.

on June 2, 2010. As a member of the GTA-CAC, the Town of Halton Hills has been invited to sign the 2010 Declaration.

The 2010 Declaration builds upon the 2008 and 2009 Declarations. Therefore, some of its content is the same. Some of the actions contained within the 2008 and 2009 Declarations are being carried forward in the 2010 Declaration. Many of these actions align well with the recommendations of the Green Plan, and the work plans of the Office of Sustainability, Staff Sustainability Team and the Town Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Key contents of the draft 2010 Declaration include:

- A common understanding shared by the GTA-CAC members. This includes recognizing that air pollution has adverse human health, ecosystem, economic and quality of life impacts. Air quality and climate change issues are closely tied to land use and transportation planning.
- Actions which GTA-CAC members commit to taking in order to address air pollution and climate change, and to develop healthy and sustainable communities. Among other things, Declaration signatories (including the Town of Halton Hills) would be committing to:
  - Develop an integrated map of bicycle lanes, paths and trail systems across the GTA.
  - Develop implementation, monitoring and reporting Action Plans that specify actions that can serve to reduce energy use, and mitigate air pollution and climate change.
  - Research financing options to support energy efficiency and green energy actions.
  - Explore the role of sustainable food initiatives in reducing the amount of energy used throughout the food-system.
  - Research the role of urban forests in reducing air pollution and climate change impacts.
  - Identify opportunities for reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector.
- List of previously agreed upon actions from the 2009 and 2008 Declarations, including commitments to:
  - Develop a Green Procurement Toolkit.
  - Develop a Sustainability Performance Matrix to rank new developments on their ecological footprint.

- Prepare a Local Food Solutions Paper to provide guidance for the implementation of a local food procurement policy.
- Identify barriers to phasing out disposable water bottles.
- Prepare actions plans to reduce energy use, and mitigate air pollution and climate change.
- Develop community Bicycle/Pedestrian Plans.
- Convert traffic signals to light emitting diode (LED) technology.
- Pilot test LED technology for street, pathway and garage lighting.

### **RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:**

Signing the Declaration will assist the Town in meeting its Strategic Plan objectives, in particular, the Strategic Directions of: (i) Foster a Healthy Community; and (ii) Preserve, Protect and Enhance Our Environment.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Although the Town's continued involvement with the GTA-CAC aligns well with the Office of Sustainability's workplan, additional resources will likely be required to implement specific Declaration actions (e.g. the development of Green Development Standards). Future reports pertaining to specific actions committed to by the Town in signing the GTA-CAC 2010 Declaration may be brought to Council for its consideration. The timing and extent to which the actions specified within the 2010 Declaration will be acted upon will, to a large degree, hinge on the priorities of the Town, and staff and financial resources available towards implementation.

### **COMMUNICATIONS IMPACT:**

There is no direct communications impact associated with this report, aside from a copy of this report and associated Council recommendation being forwarded to the relevant stakeholders as per the recommendation of this report.

In addition, official invitations to attend the 2010 Declaration have been forwarded by the GTA-CAC to political representatives. All interested members of the public will also be encouraged to attend.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:**

The Town's involvement with the GTA-CAC and its participation in the 2010 Smog aligns well with the recommendations of the Green Plan and the Office of Sustainability's workplan.

For example, Recommendation #42 of the Green Plan calls for the development of a policy whereby Town staff will automatically source green products whenever possible. Recommendation #66 recommends building on the knowledge gained by working with other proactive organizations such as the GTA-CAC. The Office's workplan calls for the implementation of Green Development Standards. Therefore, by working towards the implementation of the Green Plan and the Office's workplan, the Town will simultaneously implement parts of the 2010 Declaration.

In signing the *Greater Toronto Area Clean Air Council 2010 Inter-Governmental Declaration on Clean Air & Climate Change*, the Town will once again be accepting a leadership role on behalf of Halton Hills as to a commitment to sustainability. It will also continue to fulfill the Mayor's Green Plan Task Force's recommendation which called for the Town to become an active member of the GTA-CAC.

### **CONSULTATION:**

There is no direct consultation impact associated with this report.

### **CONCLUSION:**

The purpose of this report was to provide Council with an overview of the contents of the draft *Greater Toronto Area Clean Air Council 2010 Inter-Governmental Declaration on Clean Air & Climate Change* prior to its public release and signing on June 2, 2010 at the 2010 Clean Air and Climate Change Summit in Toronto.

This report recommends that Council endorse the signing of the final Declaration by Mayor Rick Bonnette on behalf of the Town of Halton Hills. Importantly, the report also recommends that Town staff take all appropriate and feasible actions to implement the actions contained within the Declaration, while recognizing resource limitations and local sustainability priorities.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sustainability Coordinator

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B.D. MacLean, BA, MCIP, RPP  
Director of Planning, Development &  
Sustainability

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Dennis Y. Perlin  
Chief Administrative Officer

**APPENDIX 'A' to Report No. PDS-2010-0046**

**-DRAFT Greater Toronto Area Clean Air Council  
2010 Inter-Governmental Declaration on Clean Air & Climate Change-**

**GREATER TORONTO AREA CLEAN AIR COUNCIL  
2010 INTER-GOVERNMENTAL DECLARATION  
ON CLEAN AIR & CLIMATE CHANGE**

**PREAMBLE**

WHEREAS the GTA Clean Air Council has been working collaboratively from 2001 – 2010 to deliver on annual GTA-CAC Inter-governmental Declarations, convene annual Summits, to pursue issues raised at previous Summits, to explore opportunities for joint initiatives, and to liaise with other municipalities to share best practices information on smog reduction and climate change;

AND WHEREAS annual Summits are a part of the on-going efforts of our respective governments to address air pollution and climate change opportunities and challenges;

AND WHEREAS the GTA Clean Air Council has determined that its work will concentrate on moving along an Awareness Building → Knowledge Transfer → Leadership & Action → Promotion, Recognition & Transfer → Monitoring & Reporting approach to clean air and climate change actions made by members of the GTA-CAC;

AND WHEREAS this 2010 GTA Clean Air and Climate Change Summit – From Words to Actions marks the evolution of the previous ten Summits, with much having been accomplished, and much remaining to be done;

AND WHEREAS GTA Clean Air Council representatives of the local and regional municipal governments in the GTA, the Government of Ontario, and the Government of Canada, have gathered on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 to provide an interim report on the 2008 -2010 Inter-governmental Declaration, to highlight GTA-CAC member clean air and climate change actions and to commit to continuing to undertake action on clean air and climate change issues;

THANKING the City of Toronto, the Toronto Atmospheric Fund and Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc, for providing financial support for the Summit;

THANKING the non-governmental organizations and other partners who assisted in planning the Summit, and thanking the Clean Air Partnership and the City of Toronto for organizing the Summit; and,

ACKNOWLEDGING the member jurisdictions for providing financial and in-kind support for the GTA Clean Air Council work program and assistance in developing annual *GTA Clean Air Council Inter-governmental Declarations on Clean Air and Climate Change*.



## WE DO HEREBY DECLARE:

### ARTICLE 1 – STATEMENT OF COMMON UNDERSTANDING

- 1.1 Scientists and physicians have 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 diseases. Even a small increase in air pollution elevates the risk of health impacts, particularly among those who are vulnerable and sensitive to air pollution such as young children, the elderly and those with pre-existing diseases.
- 1.2 Research has also indicated that air pollution has a detrimental impact on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
- 1.3 Air pollution, through health effects, environmental degradation, building and property damage and reduced visibility, adversely impacts the economy and quality of life.
- 1.4 Land use and transportation planning decisions that encourage sustainable urban development can have multiple benefits on air quality and human health.
- 1.5 A number of sources are responsible for a large proportion of the emissions of major air pollutants in the GTA. The major air pollutants include nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), fine particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and carbon monoxide (CO). The primary sources of these pollutants are:
  - On-road vehicles and off-road equipment that use diesel and gasoline;
  - Residential and commercial use of oil, natural gas and wood;
  - The generation of electricity;
  - Industrial operations;
  - Road dust and construction activities; and
  - Use of solvents and surface coatings such as paints.
- 1.6 Transportation is a major source of the emissions that contribute to both air pollution and climate change. Transportation is responsible, according to 2005 Environment Canada data, for about 27% of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, 18% of SO<sub>2</sub>, 75% of NO<sub>x</sub>, 34% of VOCs, 87% of CO and 30%<sup>1</sup> of CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) emissions within the area represented by the member jurisdictions of the GTA Clean Air Council.
- 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, producing smog precursors and greenhouse gas emissions.
- 1.8 Actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are often associated with reductions of 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.
- 1.9 Addressing key sources of major air pollutants 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.

<sup>1</sup> Carbon dioxide percentages are based on 2003 Environment Canada data.

**ARTICLE 2 – SIGNATORIES TO THE 2010 INTER-GOVERNMENTAL  
DECLARATION ON CLEAN AIR**

Ajax, Town of  
Aurora, Town of  
Brampton, City of  
Burlington, City of  
Caledon, Town of  
Clarington, Municipality of  
Durham, Region of  
East Gwillimbury, Town of  
Halton, Region of  
Halton Hills, Town of  
Hamilton, City of  
King, Township of

Markham, Town of  
Mississauga, City of  
Newmarket, Town of  
Oakville, Town of  
Oshawa, City of  
Peel, Region of  
Pickering, City of  
Richmond Hill, Town of  
Toronto, City of  
Vaughan, City of  
Whitby, Town of  
York, Region of

Government of Ontario

Government of Canada

DRAFT

## ARTICLE 3 – CALL FOR GTA CLEAN AIR COUNCIL ACTION

In view of the long-term nature of the air quality problems in our common airshed, the GTA Clean Air Council agrees to on-going work on the commitments made in the Inter-governmental Declarations signed at previous Summits.

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

The 26 members of the GTA Clean Air Council commit to work collaboratively to develop healthy, lower carbon and sustainable communities through the following:

### 2010 DECLARATION ACTIONS

- 3.1 Continue to share lessons learned and report back on actions related to past GTA-CAC Declaration Actions and Commitments outlined in Article 4.
- 3.2 Work collaboratively on the implementation, sharing of lessons learned and transfer of Green Procurement, Green Development and Green Energy actions via Communities of Practice.
- 3.3 Collaborate with the Ontario Public Health Association's Health and the Built Environment Working Group to help create healthier communities.
- 3.4 Where existing data is available, develop an integrated map of bicycle lanes and paths and trail systems across the GTA to identify and promote opportunities for integration of path and trail systems between GTA-CAC member jurisdictions.
- 3.5 Develop Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting Action Plans outlining actions aimed at reducing energy use and mitigating air pollution and climate change.
- 3.6 Develop and deliver a Go-Green Tours, Video and Case Study series and social marketing campaign to highlight and promote clean air and climate change actions being implemented by GTA-CAC jurisdictions.
- 3.7 Research and prioritize financing strategies available to Ontario municipalities to finance energy efficiency and green energy actions and work collaboratively with the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada to pilot test financing initiatives.
- 3.8 Identify common priority actions/policies aimed at increasing understanding the role sustainable food initiatives have in reducing the amount energy used throughout the food-system.
- 3.9 Identify gaps and barriers in increasing protection, long-term health and viability of urban forests in order to reduce air pollution impacts, the urban heat island effect and to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- 3.10 Identify and prioritize municipal opportunities to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the personal transportation sector.
- 3.11 Collaborate with Municipal Green Fleet initiatives to highlight actions aimed at reducing emissions from municipal vehicle purchases, operations and behaviours and to support the transfer of learnings and actions.

## ARTICLE 4 – PREVIOUS DECLARATION ACTIONS AND TARGETS FOR 2008 & 2009

### 2009 DECLARATION ACTIONS

#### 2009 Action Planning

- 4.1 Development of a Green Procurement Toolkit and Training program to support the implementation of Green Procurement Policies.
- 4.2 Development of Sustainability Performance Matrix to rank new developments on their ecological footprint.  
**Target: 1 GTA-CAC municipal jurisdiction commits to pilot testing the use of the Sustainability Performance Matrix into their development application process and 10 GTA-CAC jurisdictions provide input and guidance into the development of the Sustainability Performance Matrix to ensure its practicality and transferability by 2010.**
- 4.3 Development of a Local Food Solutions Paper that provides guidance and lessons learned on the development and implementation of local food procurement policies.
- 4.4 Research and reporting on case studies of financing mechanisms that encourage energy conservation.

#### 2009 Taking Action

- 4.5 Working collaboratively to take action on identifying barriers to phasing out disposable water bottles from GTA-CAC member's government facilities, identifying barriers to building awareness within the community on the benefits of municipal tap water.  
**Target: 10 municipalities have committed to phasing out disposable water bottles within municipal facilities by 2010.**

#### 2009 Monitoring and Reporting

- 4.6 The Clean Air Partnership and GTA-CAC members work collaboratively to update the GTA-CAC Green Development Standards and Green Energy Scans.
- 4.7 The GTA-CAC will work in partnership with CAP and geoConnections to provide data and guidance on the applicability of the Urban Heat Island Decision Support System in their planning processes.  
**Target: 5 members have signed formal agreements to support, provide data and/or otherwise participate in this project by 2010.**
- 4.8 The GTA-CAC reports back in 2010 on progress related to targets and actions outlined in the *GTA Clean Air Council 2008 - 2010 Inter-governmental Declaration on Clean Air*.

#### 2009 Emerging Issues

- 4.9 The Federal, Provincial and Municipal members of the GTA-CAC agree to work collaboratively to identify opportunities and benefits of maintaining and increasing the

health of urban forests in order to reduce air pollution impacts, the urban heat island effect and to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

- 4.10 Work in collaboration to build awareness of Green Buildings in GTA communities via the [www.ontariogreenbuildings.org](http://www.ontariogreenbuildings.org) web site.

## 2008 DECLARATION ACTIONS

### 2008 Action Planning

- 4.11 Development of Action Plans outlining actions aimed at reducing energy use and mitigating air pollution and climate change.  
**Target: 20 members have approved corporate Action Plans by 2010<sup>2</sup>**  
**Target: 15 members have approved community Action Plans by 2010**
- 4.12 Development of corporate Green Procurement Policies that increase the implementation of energy efficiency criteria in purchasing, lease and contract decisions.  
**Target: 15 members have approved green procurement polices by 2010**
- 4.13 Development of community Bicycle/Pedestrian Plans aimed at increasing a modal shift from single occupancy vehicle use to active transportation.  
**Target: 15 members have approved Bicycle/Pedestrian Plans by 2010**

### 2008 Taking Action

- 4.14 Establishment of a Community of Practice to increase the implementation of renewable energy purchasing or production.  
**Target: 15 members are producing or purchasing renewable power by 2010**
- 4.15 Establishment of a Community of Practice to increase the implementation of green development policies and practices and identification of best practices.  
**Target: 15 members have corporate green development polices/standards in place by 2010.**  
**Target: 10 members have community green development policies/standards/incentives in place by 2010.**  
**Target: 10 members have green roof policies/standards/incentives in place by 2010.**
- 4.16 Development of a checklist and toolkit that supports the analysis of land use planning proposal applications using an air pollution, transportation demand management and public health perspective.  
**Target: Toolkit completed by 2009.**
- 4.17 Conversion of traffic signals to light emitting diode (LED) technology<sup>3</sup>.  
**Target: 15 members have converted at least 75% of all traffic signals to LED technology by 2010.**

<sup>2</sup> Targets vary due to jurisdictional responsibilities and local identification of priority opportunities.

<sup>3</sup> LED traffic signals require approximately 80 – 90% less energy than regular incandescent traffic signal bulbs. LED traffic signals are more energy efficient because they do not emit heat and do not require filtering to produce colored lights.

- 4.18 Pilot testing of light emitting diode (LED) technology for street, pathway, and garage lighting.  
**Target: 5 members participating in LightSavers LED technology pilot by 2009.**
- 4.19 Continued support and development of transportation demand management initiatives and programs to reduce and shift travel to more sustainable and lower emissions modes.  
**Target: 20 members operating or supporting the operation of trip reduction programs for their own employees by 2010.**

#### 2008 Monitoring and Reporting

- 4.20 Continued support for Phase II of the Air Pollution Modeling project to improve the accuracy of base case and future scenario estimations of concentrations of air contaminants.  
**Target: 5 members having signed formal agreements to financially support and/or otherwise participate in Phase II by 2010.**
- 4.21 Provide the Clean Air Partnership with updated information on the progress related to their jurisdiction's implementation of clean air/climate change actions announced at annual Smog Summits and progress related to their jurisdiction's implementation of priority declaration items. The Clean Air Partnership will compile GTA-CAC progress and promote results and priority activities through networks and partnerships.

#### 2008 Emerging Issues

- 4.22 Support promotion of the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) which has been pilot tested in the City of Toronto and expanded into the Greater Toronto Area in the spring of 2008.  
**Target: 7 members are participating in the GTA AQHI pilot.**
- 4.23 Co-operation on assessing vulnerability to climate change impacts and identification of policies and programs aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change.
- 4.24 Co-operation and sharing of information and best practices with municipalities in Southwestern Ontario through a Southwestern Ontario Clean Air Council.
- 4.25 Promoting best practices through effective public messaging to improve air quality in response to wood stove and open burning air issues.
- 4.26 Investigation of the role of local sustainable food systems to reduce energy use and identification of practices and programs aimed at increasing local food production and consumption.