

CORPORATE CLEAN AIR TASK FORCE PROGRESS REPORT

Notes on Section 3.2

1. Brief outline of Other Regional Initiatives Incorporating Clean Air Actions

- **VIVA and York Region Transit** - When Viva is fully implemented in 2006, York Region estimates these initial improvements will lead to a 30 percent increase in transit ridership – moving 7,000 car trips a day off the major arterial roads. According to the Canadian Automobile Association, one urban transit bus can take 40 vehicles off the road, save 70,000 litres of fuel and keep 9 tonnes of pollutants out of the atmosphere each year. It is estimated that carbon dioxide emissions can be reduced by 120,000 tonnes per year by 2012. Shifting to public transit will also reduce airborne emissions of hydrocarbons, particulate matter, nitrous oxides and other harmful pollutants that lead to poor air quality.
- **Energy Management Strategies** – involves several measures including emission reduction initiatives due to energy retrofit measures – e.g. Light Emitting Diode (LED) retrofits, reduces energy consumption for traffic signals by 90%; Energy and Environmental and Management System – software tool that calculates energy savings and tracks emissions
- **Growth Management and Community Building Strategy** - York Region's growth management and community building strategy seek development that improves the economy, builds communities and protects and enhances the natural environment. Compact development and Smart Growth initiatives creates communities where residents will be able to live, work, and play resulting in reduced overall transportation requirements.
- **Waste Management Strategy** - York Region's Waste Management Strategy will divert at least 50% of municipally-collected solid waste from disposal. In conjunction with its 9 area municipalities, York Region launched a Source Separated Organics (SSO) collection program. The SSO will result in reduced trips required for waste hauling and methane produced at landfill sites.
- **Greening of York Region Strategy** - The York Region Greening Strategy is a multifaceted initiative intended to ensure that York Region's natural heritage is maintained for future generations. By increasing the region's greenspace this will result increased carbon sequestration.
- **Transportation Master Plan** - The TMP provides strategies to reduce auto dependence and to maximize the use of existing transportation facilities thereby reducing the number of vehicles on the road.
- **Smart Commute Initiative**- The Smart Commute Initiative provides sustainable transportation alternatives such as transit and carpooling to businesses and residents in the GTA.
- **Vision 2026** - As a project that involves sustainable communities, environmental strategies, innovative business practices, health and wellness, liveable communities, cost-effective infrastructure, efficient transportation, and alternative service delivery, the Corporate Clean Air Task Force supports all eight goal areas of Vision 2026. The Task Force's 'clean air action plans' will provide performance measures that will enable the Region to report on Vision 2026 progress as well.
- **20/20 The Way to Clean Air Program** – provides tools for homeowners to reduce energy use at home and on the road by 20%
- **Pesticide Reduction Guidelines** – Guidelines are in place to reduce the region's application of pesticides on region's properties. Pesticides (VOC's) when applied contribute to the formation of smog
- **Water for Tomorrow Program** - Water for Tomorrow Program is designed to save 21 million litres of water a day by promoting water conservation and retrofitting in homes, workplaces and in the community. Water conservation indirectly reduces the demand at the region's water and waste water facilities.

- **Membership in the Partners for Climate Protection Program** - York Region is a member in the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) Program. For phase 1 of the 5-milestone process for achieving reductions of local GHGs, York Region profiled energy use and emissions for municipal operations (2001). While there are no time lines for completing the PCP Program, the Corporate Clean Air Task Force Terms of Reference identify this as an initiative that will be included in our Regional Air Quality Policy and clean air action plans.
- **Membership in the International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives** - York Region is a member of the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability is an international association of local governments and national and regional local government organizations that have made a commitment to sustainable development.
- **Membership on the GTA Clean Air Council (Smog Summit coordination)** – York Region is a member of the GTA CAC (represented by Health Services) and shares municipal clean air best practices with other member across the GTA. The region also participates in the annual smog summit event and signs the Intergovernmental Declaration on Clean Air committing to clean air initiatives jointly and individually.

2. Towards Sustainability In York Region Advisory Group

The Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee was formed last year and is a required component of Minister Dombrowsky's October 1, 2004 letter to York Region on Infrastructure Servicing and on wider issues of sustainable development

The stakeholder group, which has been renamed as the *Towards Sustainability in York Region Advisory Group* has met twice and the direction of the group is becoming more focussed. The Committee was formed and continues to operate under the aegis of the CAO's office.

The members of the TSYR Advisory Group are:

- Regional Municipality of York – Michael Garrett as Chair
- Greater Toronto Home Builders Association
- Environmental Defence Canada
- Urban Development Institute
- Ontario Nature
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
- Staff of the Ministry of the Environment as observers

Regional Council at its meeting of September, 22, 2005 endorsed the stakeholder discussions of the *Towards Sustainability in York Region Advisory Group*. The purpose of these stakeholder discussions is to:

- Provide advice to the Region on how to make the Regional Official Plan a more "sustainable" plan, including next steps;

Provide advice to the Region on the development of a "Sustainable Infrastructure Strategy", including next steps.