

Corporate Clean Air Task Force Working Groups' Promising Initiatives

Energy and Green Procurement Working Group

- Corporate Energy Conservation Policy: comprehensive plan to conserve or reduce energy use in Regional buildings (including Housing York Inc.) and leased facilities through practices such as Building Automation Systems, Smart Meters, programmable thermostats, humidity controls, and restriction on unnecessary electrical loads.
- Employee Energy Conservation Policies, such as turning off task lighting and computer monitors at end of day.
- Ongoing energy audits on Existing Buildings (including Housing York Inc.) to identify potential energy savings and set time frames to implement audit recommendations.
- Light Emitting Diode (L.E.D.) and Alternative Energy Technologies such as solar and wind to power road illumination, signals, flashing beacons, bus stops and bus shelters.
- Green Procurement Policy for acquisition of goods and services. This might include minimum Energy Star rating for office equipment, lighting and appliances; performance-based procurement; and including reference to green principles, such as Governments Incorporating Procurement Policies to Eliminate Refuse (GIPPER) and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), in tender documents.
- Energy management initiatives in buildings and processes, such as Water and Wastewater operational modifications and retrofits of motors, pumps, and aeration systems to ensure most efficient energy use and energy conservation measures.
- For all new and existing buildings, exploring certification standards such as LEED.
- Adopting a Life Cycle Cost Analysis approach to costing of new Regional facilities, programs or groups of facilities.
- Exploring a Regional Alternative Energy Strategy, including researching the best renewable resource and development of a green energy purchasing policy.

Regional Fleets Working Group

(Transportation & Works, Transit, Emergency Medical Services, Police)

- Anti-Idling Policy for Regional Fleets, tailored to specific fleet & incorporating operational and safety issues.
- New technologies to reduce emissions, such as engine and fuel controls to improve fuel efficiency and auxiliary batteries to power flashing lights so vehicles can be turned off when parked on side of road.
- Exploring and piloting alternative or hybrid vehicles.
- Enlarging number of fleet units utilizing Transportation & Works bulk fuel outlets to ensure low-sulphur diesel fuel usage.
- Alternative fuels, such as E10/E85 ethanol, biodiesel, ultra low sulphur diesel.

Transportation and Works – Infrastructure and Planning Working Group

Transit

- Volume Incentive Pass Program (VIPP)/Business Partnerships: Expansion of VIPP, which is being piloted to allow businesses to purchase discount YRT passes for their employees, and initiating other business partnerships, sponsorships and programs.
- VIVA York Region Transit Annual Service Planning Review to continually improve customer service.
- Pursuing exclusive Rapid Transit transitways in all 4 corridors, with potential funding from the federal government.

Infrastructure Planning

- Transportation planning review of development applications to ensure efficient collector roads and transit services.
- Great Regional Streets (7 Lane Design Study): Design of a seven lane cross section ensures that different modes of transportation are incorporated into design including High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes, cycling lanes and pedestrian facilities.

Transportation Demand Management (TDM)

- Exploring opportunities to expand Transportation Management Associations, non-profit, member-controlled organizations that promote a variety of transportation options to reduce single occupant vehicle trips.
- Seeking ongoing funding for the Smart Commute Initiative, the GTA-Hamilton wide TDM project to promote and provide alternative modes of transportation through a network of Transportation Management Associations.
- Developing Employee Trip Reduction Program for Regional employees. Initiatives may include ride matching service, preferred carpool parking spots, parking charge/cash out, transit passes, bike facilities, telework policy.
- Regional Bicycle Policy to encourage and promote bicycling within the Region.

Roads Expansion and Operations

- Annual arterial reviews of Regional Roads to identify problem areas, improve progression and decrease delays and congestion.
- Traffic Adaptive Program: traffic signal control system to automatically adjust signal timings in frequent, small increments to match traffic flow conditions on-street, thereby increasing progression.
- Traffic Signal Coordination through proper spacing of signals, with a goal of establishing platoons or tight groups of vehicles that can move easily from one intersection to another, reducing stop and idling time.
- Develop short- and long-term capital work projects to diverge and/or decrease the number of transports at the intersection of Highway 7 and Keele Street (vicinity of CN transfer station)

Solid Waste:

- Explore expansion of the Source Separated Organics Program to remove household organic waste from landfill – potential of 60,000 tonnes per year. This program is approved but only implemented in Markham (18,000 tonnes per year)
- Evaluate technologies that are alternatives to landfills, within the geographic boundary of York and/or Durham, through the Durham York Residual Waste Environmental Assessment Study – potential 300,000 tonnes per year (jointly)

Natural & Built Environment & Greening Strategy Working Group

- Enhanced Street Tree planting program
- Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP) management plan grant
- Property securement afforestation initiative
- Urban Forest tree planting incentive program

Smog Alert Response Plan Working Group**Regional Department Actions**

- Internal notification of smog alerts to all regional employees, including dissemination of relevant smog-related information through smog hotline, website and posted signs on entrances and exits to all facilities.
- Exploring expansion of Employee Trip Reduction initiatives.
- Exploring expansion of Corporate Energy Conservation Plan and Employee Energy Conservation Policies.
- Exploring suspension or reduction of regional operations and activities, such as use of gasoline or diesel powered equipment, non-essential motor vehicle use, pavement resurfacing, street sweeping, and use of oil-based paints, solvents, cleaners and pesticides.
- Stepping up anti-idling policy for regional fleets.

Contract Agreement Considerations

- Encouraging and/or including specifications in contract tenders relating to activities during smog alerts.
- Encouraging contractors to register with the Ministry of the Environment's Smog Alert Notification Network.

Community Action Considerations

- Expansion of public communication for smog advisories and extreme heat events.
- Notification of child care centres, long term care facilities, hospitals, school boards and local sports organizations to encourage reduction of outdoor activities or adjustment of schedules during smog advisories and heat alerts.
- Assisting area municipalities in the development of Smog Alert Response Plans.
- Expansion of the 20/20 The Way to Clean Air Program in schools, workplaces and in the community.