

TEN POINT PLAN ISSUED: EH URGES MORE CITY ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Environment Hamilton is asking city council to make an urgent effort in 2009 to implement ten recommendations to reduce and mitigate climate-forcing greenhouse gas emissions. These steps build our 2006 'first steps' recommendations on and on our recent evaluation of the city's implementation of those steps.

In addition to reducing local greenhouse gas emissions, our recommendations also seek to contribute to poverty reduction, local economic development, and the enhancement of community resilience and self-reliance in response to the threat of escalating energy costs.

Global climate change is now widely acknowledged by all levels of government as a grave threat to human civilization and well-being that requires very urgent attention. Atmospheric carbon dioxide levels have risen nearly 40 percent to a level unseen in human history and appear to be approaching or even already exceeding critical tipping points that could impose uncontrollable changes on the biosphere.

Already we are seeing global melting of glaciers that provide much of the world's

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THE MAP IS BACK!

Our 3rd farm map and local food directory is now available after a very successful launch on May first at Skydragon Community Centre. See page 7 for all the details.



EH LAUNCHING GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

Environment Hamilton is thrilled to report that we have received a 3-year, \$193,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

The grant will support an initiative aimed at engaging Hamiltonians in an exploration of the potential for green jobs and green economic development right here in Hamilton.

The timing couldn't be better, as our community struggles with serious questions about where our economic future lies. The project will support our ability to bring in guest speakers to provide people with more understanding of what green jobs are and what green economic development could mean for our city.

The project will also involve setting up several stakeholder groups to explore the potential for green economic development in the food and energy sectors.

The funding will also enable us to direct some staff time to outreach and engagement efforts for both EH members and volunteers.

Environment Hamilton members will be hearing more from us on this front as we work to improve our newsletter based on your feedback, and to better engage you in our work.

The grant also provides Environment Hamilton with funding to acquire new audio-visual equipment and office equipment that will help us to enhance our existing project work.

The project officially starts in July of this year and runs until June of 2012.

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ENVIRONMENT MINISTER PAYS A VISIT

The Honourable John Gerretsen, Ontario's Minister of the Environment, visited Hamilton on March 31st at the invitation of EH and community members who live near the industrial core.

During his visit, EH staff and members of other organizations had an opportunity to discuss concerns with the Minister and make suggestions regarding how we might move forward.

EH staff and residents affected by industrial emissions originally met the

Minister at Queens Park in January, as part of efforts to increase provincial enforcement of air pollution rules. The promise made by Gerretsen at that time, was fulfilled by the March 31 meeting.

Minister Gerretsen also visited McAnulty Neighbourhood resident Lorna Moreau for tea at her home, providing him with an opportunity to see one of the neighbourhoods most affected by black fallout and learn more about the community's air quality concerns.



Pictured from L to R are: Lynda Lukasik (EH), Lorna Moreau (Community Residents Against Pollution), Brian McCarry (Clean Air Hamilton), the Honourable John Gerretsen - Minister of the Environment, Paul Miller (MPP for Hamilton East-Stoney Creek), Debbie Levo (Hamilton Beach Preservation Committee) and Dwayne Brown (Community Residents Against Pollution).

KIRKENDALL WALKS WINNERS

The winner of the VIA Rail return tickets to Montreal is Ken Stone of Hamilton Mountain, while Alan Ernest of Carlisle was selected for the GO Transit prize package which includes one 10-ride pass.

Remember, if you completed a vehicle log you are eligible to receive a free pedometer. Just email us and we can make arrangements for you to pick one up or you can pick yours up at the Environment Hamilton office at 1130 Barton St E suite 207 (opposite the Centre Mall).



Phone 905 549 0900 or email environmenthamilton@gmail.com

Thanks to our partners and participants.

JOURNALISM INTERN

EH was lucky to have Laura Szakacs, a Mohawk College journalism student, intern with us for the month of May. Laura not only helped with day-to-day activities at EH, she did some great writing for us as well. Her work includes articles in this issue on the Eat Local map launch and the launch of our Greening Sacred Spaces initiative. Thank you to Laura for all of her help!

Join Us!



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HAMILTON JOINING OCTOBER 24 GLOBAL ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Mark Saturday, October 24 on your calendar. That's the global day of action on climate change supporting a reduction of atmospheric carbon dioxide to a safe level of no more than 350 part per million – and EH is committed to making Hamilton part of it.

Simultaneous actions being organized across the globe are timed to influence government decision-makers heading for Copenhagen to negotiate a replacement for the Kyoto protocol. As of late May, 839 actions in 55 countries have been registered with 350.org – a group led by Bill McKibben, Vandana Shiva, David Suzuki, George Monbiot, Dr James Hansen and many other well-known environmentalists.

Hansen is the NASA scientist credited with getting US congressional recognition of climate change in 1988. He is also the source of the 350 target, along with a number of other scientists, who co-authored a major paper a year ago.

"If humanity wishes to preserve a planet similar to that on which civilization developed and to which life on Earth is adapted, paleoclimate evidence and ongoing climate change suggest that CO₂ will need to be reduced from its current 385 ppm to at most 350 ppm," reads the paper's abstract.

EH is calling on other local groups and



organizations to join us in planning and participating in the October 24 action in Hamilton. For more information, call the EH office at (905) 549-0900 or email us at contactus@environmenthamilton.org.



Civilization is what grows up in the margins of leisure and security provided by a workable relationship with the natural world. That margin won't exist, at least not for long, as long as we remain on the wrong side of 350. That's the limit we face. – Bill McKibben

GREENING SACRED SPACES WORKSHOP

Environment Hamilton, working with Faith and the Common Good, launched the Greening Sacred Spaces project at the Anshe Temple Shalom on Earth Day.

Members of several different Hamilton area faith groups came together for a little kitchen workshop on cleaning products that are environmentally safe. Environment Hamilton's Beatrice Ekwa Ekoko demonstrated how to clean dishes, among other things, using harmless ingredients that can be found in any home.

Rabbi Jordan Cohen graciously hosted the event, inviting people of all faiths to be better stewards of the Earth. He recognizes, that since many places of worship, like his, are older

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structures, they need some updating to become more environmentally sustainable.

Member of the Local Grant Review Team, Mike Kirk, presented Greening Sacred Spaces with a \$56 thousand grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. He says that it is important to support local grass-root organizations in order to achieve a greater goal.

Joining in the effort of conservation, Sapphire Singh from Green Venture offered energy audits for faith buildings through the ecoENERGY program, and Lisa Ryder from CAERAN introduced a nature-friendly line of home cleaning products and personal care products.

Demonstrating environmental commitment, Greening Sacred Spaces brings together all local faith communities to 'Renew the Sacred Balance' of the world.

ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR AT EASTGATE



Climate Change Champions recently took its exclusive Green Bingo game out to Eastgate Square – the first time we've tried outreach at a mall. Over the three-day environmental event, several hundred shoppers (of all ages) took part and learned ways to shrink their carbon footprint while having fun at the same time.

You can sign up online with more than 60 lifestyle shifts you can make to shrink your own footprint. And by joining the Hamilton team, you can help us as we compete with cities across Canada. Google climatechangehamilton.ca and look for the EcoAction Teams Calculator!

POET FUNDING FOR EH WORK

The Hamilton Community Foundation has provided EH with a special grant of \$20,000 to strengthen our work in several ways. The monies from the Protecting Our Environment Together (POET) fund will cover administrative costs including a membership drive, a larger office (in the same building), website enhancement, and the professional development of EH staff.

A portion will also cover some of the salary costs for our executive director and a new position of volunteer and member outreach coordinator. And some of the dollars ensure that our successful fruit tree project will continue to gather unused fruit from backyard trees and supply most of it to local food banks and social service agencies.

The HCF has made similar grants to the Hamilton Naturalists Club, Green Venture and the Bay Area Restoration Council.

FIELD TO FORK GOES TO SCHOOL

A class of nutrition students at Sir Allan Mac Nab High School has been learning about food as a 'field-to-fork' experience with the help of EH's Hamilton Eat Local staff. The four-part program running from March through May will begin with a screening of the new 'food for thought' classic, "Tableland".

The kids then had a chance to experience a chef-hosted locavore lunch with Chef Sam Robertson of the new and daring Tapestry Bistro (in the Staircase Theatre on Dundurn).

Inspired by Sam's lunch, the students experienced their own cooking class including a printed recipe booklet and a bagful of ingredients, to help them share the learning and the local bounty with their families.

The final step was a bus trip to a real organic farm, to meet real local farmers.



The Hamilton Community Foundation supports EH's ongoing work in North Hamilton neighbourhoods

TEN CITY STEPS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

1. Permanently protect Hamilton's foodlands by freezing the urban boundary and locating 100% of growth within this boundary.
2. Commit to no net increase in surface parking lots and total road space (kilometre lanes) for motor vehicles.
3. Commit now to paying the municipal portion of a light rail system for Hamilton.
4. Use traffic calming to achieve 30 km/hr speed limits in residential areas where there is a demand.
5. Mail 10 free bus tickets to each household for use on HSR or DARTS.
6. Establish 100 new community garden plots each year for the next five years on underused city lands, and support them with equipment, materials and staffing.
7. Begin purchasing EcoLogo-certified green electricity to achieve the goal of powering all city facilities (owned and leased) with renewable energy by 2020.
8. Adopt a municipal buy local purchasing policy, establishing targets and requiring an annual staff report on implementation.
9. Conduct energy audits of all city-owned housing and develop a capital program to implement the recommendations
10. Lobby the provincial government for legislative authority to allow the city to: toll roads, tax parking, impose vehicle taxes, and require green building standards.



CLIMATE ACTION from page one

drinking water; a sharp increase in extreme weather events; major droughts in food producing areas such as Australia and California; and, a dramatic reduction of polar ice cover, especially in the Canadian arctic.

Scientific warnings in the last few months have become much more urgent, revealing acidification in the world's oceans that threaten the aquatic food chain, documenting massive releases of methane from melting tundra, and predicting sea level increases of more than a metre in this century.

A recent feature in the respected *New Scientist* magazine outlines the impact of a 4 degree centigrade rise in global temperatures that would make much of the planet uninhabitable, including the United States, India, China, Africa and much of Western Europe.

In the light of these warnings, our suggestions for immediate civic action may well prove to be far too modest, so we believe these measures are the minimum necessary.

KYOTO STOVE

A Kenya man has developed a solar-powered stove that can be made for \$6 and uses the greenhouse effect to boil water and bake food. It's aimed particularly at the nearly half of humanity that relies on



gathering and burning firewood to survive.

It consists of two boxes, one inside the other, with an acrylic

cover, which lets solar energy in and traps it. Black paint on the inner box and silver foil on the outer help concentrate the heat, while a layer of straw or newspaper between the two provides insulation.

The design has won a Financial Times international award for the year's best climate change-tackling innovation.

EXPLAINING THE FIRST STEP

EH's climate change recommendations are backed up with detailed facts and arguments. Here's what our climate change committee prepared on step one. The full report is on our website. If you'd like to help us press for action, please contact the EH offices right away.

Reaching 350 ppm is a matter of living by my values—which include both 'love your neighbour' and 'try not to wreck every blooming thing on the planet while you're here.' – Barbara Kingsolver

1. Permanently protect Hamilton's foodlands by freezing the urban boundary and locating 100% of growth within this boundary.

Long distance shipment of food is a significant source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Statistics Canada reports that households are responsible for nearly half of Canada's emissions and 19% of household emissions are from food.

A 2005 study by the Region of Waterloo examined imported foods that could be grown in south-western Ontario and found the average item traveled nearly 4500 km. "Imports create on average 161 times more GHG emissions than if sourced in Waterloo Region, or 19 times more emissions than if sourced from South-western Ontario," the study found.

Strong demand for locally-produced food has developed in Hamilton in the last few years, a trend also occurring across the continent, in Europe and elsewhere in response to both climatic threats and concerns about food safety and quality.

Climatic changes, especially those affecting water supplies, have disrupted food production in many parts of the world such as Australia, and are now threatening California production – a major current source of Hamilton's 'fresh' produce. The expected return of much higher fuel prices will also affect our accessibility to non-local sources.

The city's public health department has recognized the challenges of food security and established a multi-stakeholder community food security group to develop adaptation strategies. In its most recent report to council, it stressed the problem of loss of agricultural lands.

Almost all the rural area in Hamilton is prime agricultural lands, but less than 5 percent of Canada is suitable for agriculture and southern Ontario contains 56 percent of the class one land in the country.

Ontario has long-standing – though largely ineffective – policies recognizing the critical importance of preserving agricultural land. Statistics Canada reports that urbanization had consumed 11 percent of the province's class one agricultural land by 2001 – a

doubling over 1971.

It's certain that much more has been lost since 2001. The most recent agricultural profile presented to council earlier this year found that Hamilton's active farmland fell by 5674 acres (2296 hectares) between 2001 and 2006.

Accommodating all new growth within existing urban boundaries is both encouraged by the provincial government and possible in the Hamilton situation.

In 2005 Ontario established the Greenbelt in an effort to protect agricultural lands and more recently has created the opportunity for municipal governments to apply to expand that protected area. The Places to Grow Act and supporting documents require a minimum of 40 percent of new growth to occur inside the current built boundary, and encourage municipalities to achieve higher rates of intensification.

Some municipal governments – like Guelph and the Region of Waterloo – are already committed to locating 100 percent of growth to 2031 inside existing urban boundaries.

Hamilton's intensification study found opportunities for at least 42,000 new residential units inside the built boundary limited, even though it only examined selected nodes and corridors, and didn't consider the second suites that now must be permitted in most single and semi-detached residences. With actual growth running well behind projections, these opportunities for intensification may easily accommodate all residential growth to 2031.

Vision 2020, adopted as the guiding document for Hamilton-Wentworth in 1994 and confirmed for the new city in 2004, calls for a firm urban boundary. The most recent Vision 2020 indicator report says that 1130 hectares of agricultural land has been rezoned to urban since 1993. That's an average of 75 hectares a year, but in 2007 the loss was 162 hectares, more than double that average.

The city's growth plan currently projects two major urban boundary expansions that would triple the losses of the last 15 years – 1134 hectares for the aerotropolis and 1225 hectares (mainly in Elfrida) for residential expansion.



EAT LOCAL HAMILTON MAP LAUNCH "LOCAL TO THE CORE"

Farmers, local M.P.P.s and other community members celebrated the launch of the *2009 Hamilton Eat Local Farm Map & Directory* on May 1 at the Bread and Roses Cafe. Chef Lisa cooked up delicious organic spelt pancakes, topped with locally made butter and maple syrup; as well as apple compote made with apples from a local orchard.

The event triggered a great turnout from Hamilton community members; the smells and atmosphere even drew in curious by-passers from the street. Volunteers distributed the new maps around Gore Park, giving people a chance to get a copy before they hit shelves next week.

"The map is a tool to connect the farmers to the consumers," says Juby Lee of Environment Hamilton. She says that people are beginning to see the consequences of having their food travel such great distances to get to their dinner tables.

Karen Burson, project manager of Hamilton Eat Local, is calling the new edition of the map "local to the core". It is a benefit to both Hamilton's environment and it's economy to buy locally grown food. It is also about convenience; making fresh foods attainable to residents in the city who don't

have vehicles. Burson, a non-driver herself, says that she hopes to one day see fresh local produce available in every corner store of the city.

The *2009 Eat Local Farm Map & Directory* features 62 farms and 4 farmers' markets, where vendors sell locally grown products. The new maps will be available at Tourism Hamilton, the Hamilton Public Library and all the Farmers' Markets in the city.



Community Services Minister Ted McMeekin joins the line for pancakes



2009 EDITION:
4 FARMERS' MARKETS
55 FARMS AND OTHER LOCAL FOOD SOURCES
40,000 MAPS
5 YEARS OF THE EH EAT LOCAL PROJECT

EH's Juby Lee poses at the launch with Don Fraser, president of the Hamilton and District Labour Council. That's councillor Bob Bratina in the background digging into the pancake breakfast.



Eat Local is generously supported by Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation and the City of Hamilton

GREENING POLICE SERVICES

Environment Hamilton had a terrific opportunity recently – to provide green lunch-and-learn sessions at all three Hamilton police stations!

EH was contacted by a representative of the Hamilton Police Services Environmental Committee to come to speak to staff at the Central, East End and Mountain stations. We jumped at the chance to go and provide Police Services staff with information about local environmental issues and the work that Environment Hamilton does in the community.

Through this opportunity, we were also



pleased to learn about the Hamilton Police Service's recently launched 'Blue Green' initiative. On Earth Day this year, Chief Brian Mullan unveiled the Service's plans to green up the force.

The list of efforts is considerable and includes everything from setting all office printers on double-printing as default, to exploring the potential for

green roofs on all new facilities or any expansions to existing facilities.

The effort is being driven by an active committee of police force staff who - based on the efforts being pursued - are serious about ensuring that blue goes green!

"Humanity's ecological footprint is at an unsafe level. By achieving 350 ppm, we can return to safety." - Mathias Wackernagel



Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone#: _____ Email: _____

Annual membership \$25.00

Student/Unwaged \$15.00

Membership fee: _____

Donation: _____

TOTAL enclosed: _____

I would like to volunteer

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Please make cheques payable to Environment Hamilton

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