



The Environmental Progress Action Plan

Approved by Caledon Council in June 2005, the Plan identifies and prioritizes environmental initiatives the Town may consider to further its commitment to preserving and enhancing Caledon's environment. The Plan reflects consultations with Councillors, local environmental groups and municipal staff. This is the first iteration of the Plan and as such, it is considered a living document which will continue to evolve in response to municipal and community priorities.



Community Involvement

The Plan's emphasis is on corporate operations, however many of the proposed actions will positively impact the community. To recognize the contribution and commitment of local environmental groups, a section of the Plan is devoted to supporting and strengthening community capacity. In addition, the Plan identifies a number of opportunities for partnerships with these groups.



Municipal Achievements & Actions

Environmental commitments are of high value to staff and Council, and as such the Town of Caledon is a champion of protection and stewardship. Aiming to lead by example in terms of proactive environmental policies, the Town continues to enhance the community's "green" reputation by upholding progressive policies and practices. The Town is dedicated to maintaining a community that appeals to our residents, visitors and businesses.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Planning Achievements

- Growth management
- Ecosystem planning and management
- Wellhead protection
- Aggregate resource management
- Agriculture and rural policies

Regulatory Measures

- Fill By-Law
- Woodlands Conservation By-Law
- Healthy Horticultural Landscapes By-Law
- Environmental Considerations incorporated in internal Purchasing By-Law

General Achievements

- Tree seedling program (distribution of 50,000 trees to residents in the past three years)
- Membership in the *Partners for Climate Protection Program* (COOL Caledon created a greenhouse gas inventory, along with a commitment to greenhouse gas reduction targets)
- Energy retrofits to Town-owned buildings including efficient lighting and upgraded insulation
- Implemented a salt management policy
- Development of a Master Plan for environmental features and trails
- Internal anti-idling policy for fleet drivers; use of biodiesel blend (B5) for turf mowers in summer 2005; recommended purchase of gas with ethanol additives
- Member of GTA-Clean Air Council and participation at annual Smog Summits
- Partner with Caledon Environmental Advisory Council (CEAC) to award Environmentalist of the Year
- Championed Tim Hortons Community Clean Up, Wind Solutions Business Case Committee, Anti-Idling Week
- Council-created environmental committees/groups provide input and comment (CEAC, Citizens for a Clean Caledon, COOL Caledon)

ACTIONS

Immediate (2005)

- Establish a "Green Fund" for community environmental groups
- Develop a smog response strategy
- Investigate options for monitoring air quality
- Establish an energy awareness month for Town Hall
- Work with local environmental groups to identify community greenhouse gas reduction initiatives
- Merge work completed with local groups with the corporate *Environmental Progress Action Plan* to complete a local action plan
- Apply for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Sustainable Community Awards

2006 and Beyond

- Seek financial assistance for energy management software
- Commit to energy efficiency for all new Town-owned facilities
- Explore the energy-savings potential of solar heating (i.e. for pools) and green roofs
- Coordinate trip reduction initiatives for municipal staff
- Create a Caledon green map
- Investigate options and implications related to an anti-idling by-law
- Explore external funding to support initiatives outlined in the Public Works & Engineering Department's Council Report on green fleet
- Determine viability of alternate strategies for staff who use their personal vehicles for work purposes
- Continue working on remaining milestones for the *Partners for Climate Protection Program*
- Consider an environmental newsletter to be distributed to staff and community
- Consider implications of Section 1.8 (Energy & Air Quality) of the Provincial Policy Statement on Caledon's Official Plan



Did You Know?

Caledon residents place high importance on the environment and environmental issues. Facts, definitions and other interesting tidbits are provided below to assist your appreciation of the *Environmental Progress Action Plan*. If you'd like a copy of the Plan, or wish to speak to someone about the Town's achievements or actions, please contact Sara Peckford, Environmental Progress Officer [905.584.2272 x. 4269 or sara.peckford@caledon.ca].

AIR QUALITY

The damaging effects of breathing smog could contribute to 5,800 premature deaths in Ontario this year (*Ontario Medical Association, 2005*)

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is the greatest sustainability challenge of our time. (*Government of Canada, [Moving Forward on Climate Change](#), 2005*)

COMMUNITY CAPACITY

Community capacity is the combined influence of a community's commitment, resources, and skills that can be deployed to build on community strengths and address challenges. Caledon is fortunate to have a solid base of community capacity through its many environmental groups.

EMISSIONS TRADING

Emissions trading is a policy tool that aims to allow reductions in harmful pollutants to be achieved in a cost effective manner. (*GTA Clean Air Partnership, 2005*)

ENERGY

Municipal facilities account for approximately 40% of the total energy used in municipal operations, and roughly 40% of its greenhouse gas emissions. (*GTA Clean Air Partnership, 2005*)

FLEET

Biodiesel is safe to handle and transport because it is as biodegradable as sugar, 10 times less toxic than table salt, and has a high flashpoint of about 125°C compared to petroleum diesel fuel (flash point of 55°C). (*Biodiesel Association of Australia*)

GREEN ECONOMY

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, \$5 - \$25 in health and environmental benefits is realized by every tonne of carbon dioxide that is reduced.

GREEN ENERGY

For every \$1 million invested, an average 36.3 jobs are created in the energy efficiency sector, 12.2 jobs in the renewable energy sector and 7.3 jobs in the development of conventional energy. (*Energy Ottawa - wholly owned subsidiary of Hydro Ottawa Holding Inc.*)

GREEN PROCUREMENT

According to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Canadian municipalities spend about \$42 billion annually on goods and services.

GREEN ROOF

A green roof consists of vegetation and soil, or a growing medium, planted over a waterproofing membrane – used for their stormwater management and energy savings potential, as well as aesthetic benefits.

GREENHOUSE EFFECT

The warming of our atmosphere caused by buildup of carbon dioxide, which allows light from the sun's rays to heat the earth but prevents loss of heat.

IDLING

If every driver of a light duty vehicle in Caledon avoided idling for 5 minutes a day, Caledon could prevent 0.33 tonnes of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere – that's 121.03 tonnes per year or enough carbon dioxide to fill about 405 classrooms. (*Natural Resources Canada's CO₂ Calculator*)

SUSTAINABLE PLANNING

The population of Toronto related regions (City of Toronto, and Durham, York, Peel, Halton and Niagara Regions) will grow from 7.4 million in 2000 to 10.5 million in 2031 – an increase of 43%. (*Pembina Institute, [Building Sustainable Urban Communities in Ontario, A Provincial Progress Report](#), June 2005*).

TRAFFIC VOLUME

The automobile is the single largest emitter of pollutants that degrade quality of air. (*City of Waterloo, Environmental Strategic Plan*)

URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT

In 50 years, one tree can remove 30 tonnes of pollutants from the air; 100 trees can remove five tonnes of carbon dioxide. (*City of Windsor's One Million Trees Program*)