

Public Health Actions - Climate Change, Clean Air and Sustainable Energy Action Plan and Environment Plan



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Parks and Environment Committee

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Health Protection and Promotion Act gives Board of Health service mandate and MOH legal authority.

Ontario Public Health Standards on Environmental Health:



To prevent or reduce the burden of illness from health hazards in the physical environment

- TPH's work on the environment includes:
 - Investigations (potential indoor and outdoor environmental hazards)
 - Health impact assessment - including comments on site-specific human health risk assessments
 - Health promotion activities to increase awareness of environmental hazards and ways to protect health
 - Development and evaluation of environmental policies that protect health

- As an organization TPH's environmental impacts come from:
 - buildings (FRE)
 - vehicles
 - office equipment
- Staff are encouraged to use public transit for work travel whenever feasible
- TPH participates in corporate policies that foster energy conservation and sustainable transportation

TPH initiatives highlighted today:



Health Promotion

- Air Quality Health Index
- 20/20 Campaign
- Hot Weather Response Plan

Policy Research & Development

- Sustainable Transportation
- Environmental Reporting Disclosure and Innovation
- Toronto Food Strategy

Air Quality Health Index

Toronto



Current

Observed at
9:00 AM EDT
Wednesday 2 May 2007



At-risk population:

- Enjoy your usual outdoor activities.
- Follow your doctor's advice for exercise.

General population:

- Ideal conditions for outdoor activities such as sports, biking or walking.

Forecast Maximums

Issued 6:00 AM EDT Wednesday 2 May 2007



Who is at risk?

People with heart and lung conditions are most affected by air pollution.

To find out if you are at risk, consult www.ec.gc.ca/AQHI, your physician or Toronto Public Health at www.toronto.ca/health/aqhi.

Did you know...?

Riding your bike, walking or rollerblading to work is healthy for you and keeps the air clean.

- TPH collaborator in development of AQHI
- 2007 – Pilot in Toronto
- 2008 – AQHI extended to GTA
- Promotion of AQHI to continue throughout 2009
- Better measure of health risk
- Reduce health risks from current air quality
- Promote action to prevent air pollution



CUTTING ENERGY USE
at home and on the road
by 20%



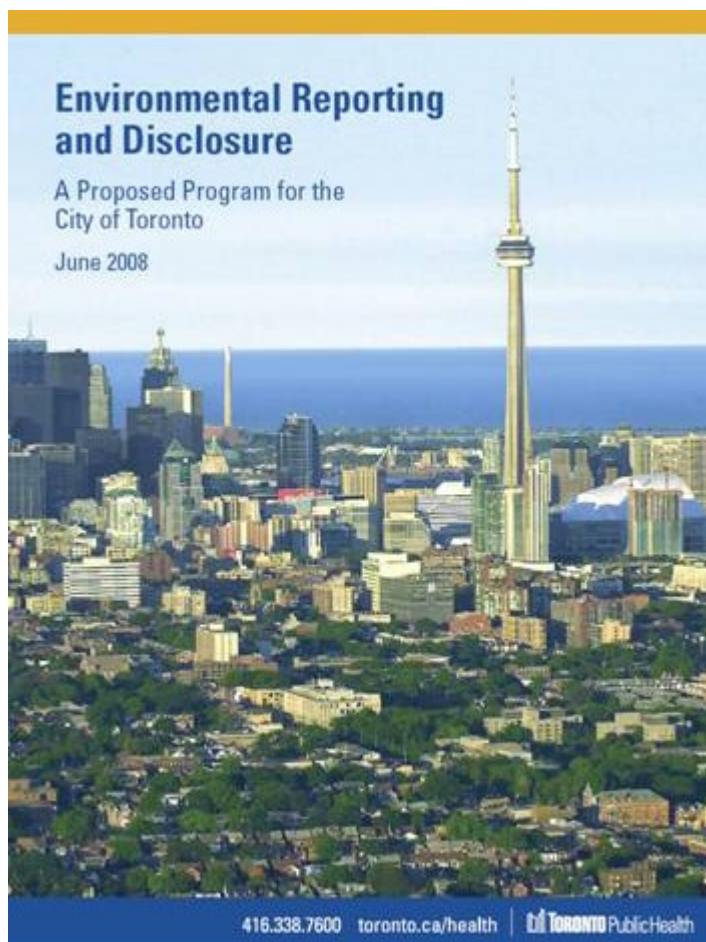
- Promotes actions to reduce home energy and motor vehicle use
- Collaborate with Live Green Toronto, the Clean Air Partnership, Eco-schools, and others
- On average, households using 20/20 planner have achieved 1.2 tonnes reduction in GHG
 - 20% reduction in home energy use
 - 15% reduction in vehicle kilometres travelled



- **Hot Weather Response Plan**
 - Heat and extreme heat alerts warn those at risk to take precautions
 - Partnership with community and other service agencies
- **Vulnerability assessment**
(first phase to be completed in 2009)
 - Will identify places and people that are at most risk
 - Will help better target interventions



- TPH supports sustainable transportation initiatives
- TPH advocates for improved provincial and government policies and regulations
- October 2007 reported on Air Pollution Burden of Illness from Traffic in Toronto



- New TPH initiative
- Implementation of a recommendation in the Environmental Plan
- Improved data on air pollution sources
- Stimulates pollution prevention
- Reduce release of 25 priority chemical hazards

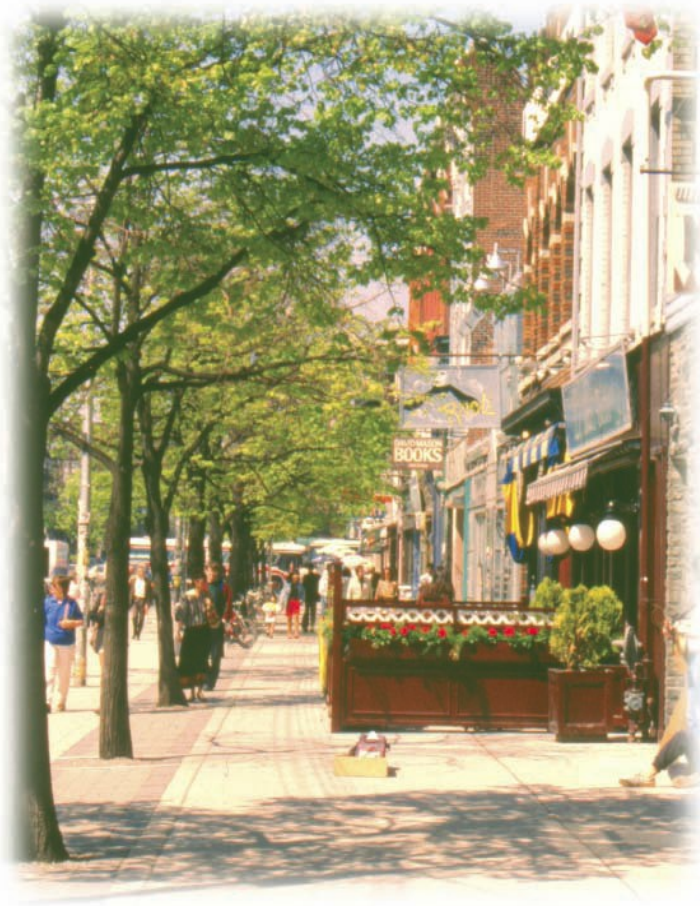


- Food Systems determine:
 - Nutrition and health
 - Food security
 - Economic development
 - Culture and celebration
 - Environment
- A more local and sustainable food system promotes local economy and protects the environment



- Developing updated Air Pollution Burden of Illness Estimates
- Extensive participation in development of enhanced provincial air quality standards
- Proposing improvements to Idling Control Bylaw to BOH and Council
- Development of AQHI tool kit for community and public health partners

Collaboration between TPH and other City ABCDs:



- Emergency response (e.g. Sunrise Explosion)
- Sustainable transportation – Transportation burden of illness
- Environmental Reporting and Disclosure Program - EDCT
- Health Impact Assessment - Toronto Water, Solid Waste
- Food Strategy – PFR, TEO, EDCT
- EET, TEO, others