

APRIL 22ND

EARTH DAY PRESENTATION – LOW CARBON LIVING

Approximately 60 people attended a session on what we can do to reduce carbon emissions. The speaker is a public health doctor who is celebrating 10 years of a 'carbon fast' – not getting in cars, or planes – and eating a low carbon budget.

TRANSFORM TO CONSULTATION

We spent our last half hour on ideas for the city:

Here are the ideas for the City Transform TO Vision 2050..

New building standards in accordance with 80% reduction in CO2

Solar panels on all new housing (as in France, and San Francisco)

Bike Lanes

Parks with gardens and wild parts/wild in the city

recycling waste and producing biogas

Financial incentives to hasten change

Grow at least 10% of Torontp food within the city.

Make every neighbourhood walkable "complete streets" for daily weekly needs

Turn Green P spaces into parks

Rip up 25% of pavement and turn it green

Ban cars from downtown

More hugging. (with a nice sketch of 2 people smiling and hugging!)

AT OUR CLIMATEFAST MEETING following the April 22nd event we added the following ideas:

benchmarks to measure progress and annual reduction goals for the city, (as Project Neutral does now)

funding local resource centres that would offer energy audits, advice on retrofits, and help with financing. Could these be in schools or in post offices? or Community centres or libraries? Using community infrastructure already in place seems to be a good idea.

One of our members also suggested this: faith communities, libraries, schools and municipal buildings like community centres should host electric car charging stations in their parking lots. These are already being rolled out by the province. The city and the faith groups and school groups should coordinate with the province, offering locations for these charging stations. If they become ubiquitous, this will encourage more people to make the switch to the increasingly more affordable electric car and make the internal combustion engine cars the dinosaurs that they should have been quite a few years ago already. These new charging stations take only about 40 minutes to charge the car. It may be a great idea for retail business to offer spots in their lots as well. Grocery stores, coffee shops, malls and even laundromats and hair salons could use them as a way of drawing in customers. If I had a fully electric car (I just have a hybrid right now), I'd love the chance to get it charged while I shopped for groceries or got my hair cut. Perhaps this is something neighbourhood BIAs could take on with the help of the city and province.