

**Subject:** Sparking Sustained Community Action: Greenhouse Gas Emission Discussion Paper More Than a Lot of Hot Air

**From:** "Spence, Debbie" <Debbie.Spence@hamilton.ca>

**Date:** Tue, 1 Jun 2010 17:01:37 -0400

**To:** "DL - News Media (Local)" <dl-newslocal@hamilton.ca>

## **Sparking Sustained Community Action:**

### **Greenhouse Gas Emission Discussion Paper More Than a Lot of Hot Air**

**HAMILTON, ON** – June 2, 2010 – Hamilton is committed to taking action on climate change. The City recently released “Taking Stock: Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Hamilton” to inform and engage citizens about climate change in the City. Now that the information and facts have been compiled; the City is looking for community involvement through the development of partnerships and input from citizens and business on taking action.

“Hamilton is proud to be a municipal leader taking action related to reducing the impact of climate change,” says Hamilton Mayor Fred Eisenberger. “We understand the pressing need to address the impact of greenhouse gases by working with our community partners. We also know that government and big business cannot do it alone and therefore, we are encouraging the ordinary citizens in our community to take action on climate change everyday.”

The City of Hamilton is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions levels by 10% by 2012, and 20% by 2020 through its Corporate Air Quality and Climate Change Plan. Hamilton has been recognized as a leader in the use of advanced fleet technology that reduces fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change. It has the second-largest fleet of hybrid and other clean and efficient vehicles in Ontario and actively promotes new fleet technology. The City has also reduced energy consumption in its buildings through the Corporate Energy Policy. Blue Box recycling and Green Cart programs also reduce greenhouse gases such as methane in the community by diverting waste from landfills.

“There is an increasing number of cities and regions from around the world that are developing their own action plans to deal with climate change,” states Brian Montgomery, Air Quality and Climate Change Coordinator, Sustainability Section, City of Hamilton. “We are educating our community on local climate change emissions and want to partner with the Hamilton community to tackle our emissions together. As a community we need to take stock and go further to reduce our emissions. The intent of the discussion paper is to trigger discussion and insights and then have these conversations translate into tangible action from citizens to address climate change as a community.”

In 2009, the City undertook an Air Pollutants and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory to keep track of how much pollution is being released by the City. Community emissions were 12,758,652 tonnes of greenhouse gases in 2006, and these emissions rose to 13,131,097 tonnes by 2008, an increase of 2.9%. By 2020, if there are no programs put in place to enhance greenhouse gas emission reductions, the community's forecasted emissions will rise to 17,349,621 tonnes. This forecast is 36% above the emission levels calculated for 2006 and 56% above target of 20% reductions of 2006 levels by 2020. For more information and to access the Discussion Paper

please go to [www.hamilton.ca/climatechange](http://www.hamilton.ca/climatechange)

-30-

**Media Contacts:**

Brian Montgomery  
Air & Climate Change Coordinator  
Planning & Economic Development  
City of Hamilton  
T: 905-546-2424 Ext.. 1275  
F:905-643-7250  
E: Brian.Montgomery@hamilton.ca  
[www.cleanair.hamilton.ca](http://www.cleanair.hamilton.ca)

Reference:  
Debbie Spence  
Communications Officer  
General Manager's Office  
Planning and Economic Development Department  
[www.hamilton.ca/pednewsupdates](http://www.hamilton.ca/pednewsupdates)  
City of Hamilton  
71 Main Street West, 7th Floor  
Hamilton, ON  
T: 905.546.2424 ext. 5541  
F: 905.546.2764  
E: Debbie.Spence@hamilton.ca