



CITY OF HAMILTON
Hamilton Public Health Services
Health Protection

TO:	Mayor and Members of Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	April 1, 2015
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Clean Air Hamilton 2015 Programs (BOH15001) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Brian Montgomery (905) 546-2424 Ext. 1275 Matt Lawson (905) 546-2424 Ext. 5823
SUBMITTED BY:	Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC Medical Officer of Health Public Health Services Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

(a) That the Board of Health approves funding to the following vendors identified by *Clean Air Hamilton* for delivering air quality and/or climate change programs in 2015:

- **Hamilton-Wentworth Green Venture** for the delivery of Totally Transit for Kids (\$5,500), and Climate Change Champions (\$9,000);
- **Corr Research Inc.** for the delivery of Fresh Air Kids (\$11,500) and Downtown Active Transportation Super Highway (\$6,000); and
- **Trees for Hamilton** for the delivery of Trees for Hamilton (\$8,000)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hamilton Public Health Services (PHS) provides approximately \$40,000 in annual base funding to *Clean Air Hamilton* for the purpose of funding community programs and projects that inform and educate citizens about the quality of air in our City, as well as programs that aim to directly improve air quality in Hamilton.

This report describes the following 5 initiatives and seeks approval from the Board of Health for the associated funding costs:

1. Totally Transit Kids (\$5,500);
2. Climate Change Champions (\$9,000);
3. Fresh Air Kids (\$11,500);
4. Downtown Active Transportation Superhighway (\$6,000);
5. Trees for Hamilton (\$8,000).

If approved, the funding for these programs would come from the 2015 PHS Operating budget.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 6 of 7

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (for recommendation(s) only)

Financial: A budget base amount of \$55,700 has been established for air quality and climate change related projects identified by *Clean Air Hamilton*. The programs identified by *Clean Air Hamilton* for delivery in 2015 total \$40,000. The remaining \$15,700 is used by *Clean Air Hamilton* and City staff for activities including, but not limited to: community outreach, communication, annual progress report to Council and the public, and membership into organizations such as the Greater Toronto & Hamilton Area Clean Air Council to continue research and educate and work with partners to improve local air quality and address climate change. These identified 2015 programs will be supported by the volunteer and advisory time from Clean Air Hamilton members which was equivalent to \$88,885 in 2014 and expected to increase in 2015.

Staffing: No new positions are required. The City has an Air Quality and Climate Change Co-ordinator within PHS - Health Hazards, who supports the work of *Clean Air Hamilton* in the City and to the community.

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Chronology of events)

Initiated in 1998, *Clean Air Hamilton* instigates research on air quality issues; provides policy advice to all levels of government; encourages emission reductions among organizations operating in Hamilton; and promotes behavioural changes among individuals living and working in Hamilton.

Every year, *Clean Air Hamilton* identifies programs that will further the goal of improving air quality and addressing climate change in Hamilton. Programs are selected by members that address one or more of the ten strategic areas identified by *Clean Air Hamilton* (BOH14019), as well as programs that address the ten recommendations of the Air Quality Task Force (BOH13029).

In collaboration with partners, *Clean Air Hamilton* has identified ten strategic issues related to air quality improvements and climate change that the committee will focus on over the next two to three years (BOH14019):

- **Public Health Protection:** With an Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) now in Hamilton, encourage widespread use of the AQHI and produce communications to aid citizens in understanding what actions they can take to mitigate the health effects of poor air quality, particularly on smog and inversion days.
- **Risk Communication:** Aid citizens in understanding the health risks of poor air quality.
- **Active and Sustainable Transportation:** Encourage the use of active and sustainable means of energy-efficient transportation and encourage emissions reductions by moving away from single occupancy personal transportation.
- **Smart Drivers:** Reduce unnecessary idling of vehicles, reduce impacts of vehicle emissions, and reduce emissions from driving.
- **Land Use Planning:** Encourage actions by the City through land use policies to promote reductions of emissions and improvements in air quality and climate change through better planning tools.
- **Air Monitoring:** Monitor local air quality, sources and health conditions to identify sources and track progress. Introduce an airshed approach to Hamilton to model sources and emissions in the local airshed.
- **Emission Reductions Strategies:** Identify and reduce sources of local fugitive dust. Encourage actions to reduce emissions from small, medium and large-scale sources in Hamilton.
- **Climate Change:** Provide a forum to discuss the linkages between climate change and air quality and encourage strategies and actions that industries, government and citizens can take to reduce emissions and climate change impacts in Hamilton.
- **Energy Conservation:** Encourage energy conservation by promoting best practices in energy efficiency and renewable energy, and by encouraging reductions in wasteful use of electricity. Reduction of energy usage through conservation leads to reduction of air pollutants and GHGs that come from polluting energy sources (i.e., coal, natural gas).
- **Communication:** Continue to communicate on the impacts and sources of poor air quality and climate change, encourage positive behavioural changes, and increase support for the work of *Clean Air Hamilton*.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

None.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

The programs identified for funding through *Clean Air Hamilton* were approved by members of the Clean Air Hamilton Coordination Committee. City staff on *Clean Air Hamilton* are from; Public Health Services - Health Protection, Public Works – Transportation, Energy and Facilities, Planning & Economic Development – Community Planning & Design, and Community & Emergency Services – Community Initiatives.

Other members of *Clean Air Hamilton* include the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, Environment Canada, Health Canada, Green Venture, Environment Hamilton, Hamilton Conservation Authority, Mohawk College, McMaster University, Horizon Utilities, Corr Research, McKibbin & Wakefield Inc., Dundas in Transition, the Hamilton Industrial Environmental Association, ArcelorMittal Dofasco, U.S. Steel Canada, and citizens.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

(Include Performance Measurement/Benchmarking Data if applicable)

Every year, *Clean Air Hamilton* identifies programs that will further the goal of improving air quality and addressing climate change in Hamilton. Programs and projects are selected for funding that address one or more of the ten strategic areas identified by *Clean Air Hamilton* (BOH14019), as well as programs that address the ten recommendations of the Air Quality Task Force (BOH13029) on actions the City can take to reduce air pollution in Hamilton.

Clean Air Hamilton has identified the following five programs to be delivered by local partners to address air quality and climate change in the community in 2015.

(i) Totally Transit for Kids (\$5,500) – Hamilton-Wentworth Green Venture

Since 2007, Hamilton – Wentworth Green Venture has partnered with the Hamilton Street Railway (HSR) to deliver “Totally Transit” to elementary aged students. Totally Transit is a unique bus education program that teaches Hamilton elementary-aged students how to properly utilize the HSR while making the connection between air quality, climate change and transportation. Through hands-on experience, this program empowers students to feel confident about choosing transit and other forms of sustainable and active transportation.

Since 2007, Green Venture has delivered Totally Transit to more than 4,400 students in 60 Hamilton schools and reached an additional 4,200 students with similar bus education in mini-presentations at school environmental fairs. During 2014, Hamilton-Wentworth Green Venture delivered the Totally Transit program to 1,781 students. The 2015 program continues this work and aims to deliver 24 transit lessons to classes and school groups with over 600 participants.

(ii) Climate Change Champions (\$9,000) – Hamilton-Wentworth Green Venture

Hamilton- Wentworth Green Venture, in partnership with *Clean Air Hamilton*, Environment Hamilton, and the City of Hamilton, have been delivering variations of the Climate Change Champions program since 2008. The Climate Change Champions program assists local individuals, businesses, organizations, and community groups in managing the environmental impact of their operation through greenhouse gas reductions and adaptation measures. The program provides on-going support of signatories of the Hamilton Climate Change Action

Charter, providing tools and resources to meet climate change action commitments, as well as communication and promotion of behaviour change leading to reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

The Hamilton Climate Change Charter currently has 453 signatories - 52 of these signatories are organizations and the remaining 401 are individuals. In 2014, the Champions program was displayed at 10 events and reached 939 individuals, 2 public workshops on home weatherization and local climate action reached 230 attendees, and postings on Twitter, Facebook and blogs garnered a total of 453,519 views.

In 2015, the program aims to reach out to neighbourhoods/households and get 5 more organizational champions and 100 individuals in Hamilton to sign on to the Hamilton Climate Change Action Charter.

(iii) Fresh Air Kids (\$11,500) – Corr Research

The school air quality program, “Fresh Air Kids”, aims to raise awareness of the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) among school-age children, to educate these children about air quality issues and to assist children to develop walking routes to school that would have the lowest pollutant exposures. Another aspect of the program is to encourage students to use active modes of transportation and develop a lifelong commitment to physical activity.

This program began in 2013 and has been undertaken in seven Hamilton schools - Holy Name of Jesus, St. Lawrence, St. Marguerite d’Youville, Queen Victoria, Cathy Weaver, Wilfred Laurier and Lake Avenue schools.

Classes in each school are educated in air quality issues and the AQHI, local air quality maps are developed using mobile monitoring data and schoolchildren are encouraged to choose low risk commuting methods and routes to school. Potential benefits include better awareness of school communities about air quality issues, reductions of children’s air pollution exposures, promotion of active transportation, reduction in vehicle idling and better health outcomes. Earlier stages of the program have shown that children and parents have modified routes to schools and in some cases switched to less polluting transportation alternatives, e.g., cars to bicycles.

In 2015, the program will be undertaken in three additional schools and results will also be used to assist the McMaster Institute of Transportation and Logistics (MITL) research in a two year project on modelling children’s exposures due to vehicle idling during pickup and drop-off times at schools.

(iv) Active Transportation Super Highway (\$6,000) – Corr Research

Supporting a preliminary study focussing on existing land uses and trail feasibility for two multiuse cross city trails: one along the foot of the escarpment (DASH - Downtown Active Transportation Super Highway); and one along the top of the escarpment (MASH – Mountain Active Transportation Super Highway). This preliminary study would be led by Mr. Matthew Adams, leader of the recently founded McMaster University chapter of *Geographers without Borders*, with additional work performed by interns and summer students at the Centre for Spatial Analysis at McMaster University.

(v) Trees for Hamilton (\$8,000) – Trees for Hamilton

Supporting the purchasing and planting of native trees in urban areas of need in Hamilton to improve the long-term health of all those living in the community. Trees for Hamilton has been involved in the community in planting approximately 1000 trees and shrubs with Earth Day 2013 in Hamilton, Royal Botanical Gardens as part of the invasive species removal project and various landowner initiatives.

The group has identified that the Hamilton area is in need of 100,000 native trees to even begin to reach a canopy cover target of 27.4%. The funding will assist in increasing tree cover in urban areas of Hamilton that will lead to greater pollution removal, as well as reductions in air temperatures that can help improve urban air quality.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

No BOH approval for funding. This is not recommended as this does not support actions to improve air quality and health in Hamilton.

Financial Implications: Approved funding is available for the recommended projects that are used to advance projects identified by Clean Air Hamilton. Not approving funding will create a financial pressure among community partners that rely on this funding stream.

Staffing Implications: None

Legal Implications: None

Policy Implications: If the recommendation is not approved, PHS staff may be directed to use Procurement By-law Policy 11 (non-competitive procurement) to procure outreach services.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2012 – 2015 STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Priority #1

A Prosperous & Healthy Community

WE enhance our image, economy and well-being by demonstrating that Hamilton is a great place to live, work, play and learn.

Strategic Objective

- 1.4 Improve the City's transportation system to support multi-modal mobility and encourage inter-regional connections.
- 1.5 Support the development and implementation of neighbourhood and City wide strategies that will improve the health and well-being of residents.
- 1.6 Enhance Overall Sustainability (financial, economic, social and environmental).

Strategic Priority #2

Valued & Sustainable Services

WE deliver high quality services that meet citizen needs and expectations, in a cost effective and responsible manner.

Strategic Objective

- 2.2 Improve the City's approach to engaging and informing citizens and stakeholders.
- 2.3 Enhance customer service satisfaction.