



CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
 Health Protection Division

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	May 16, 2016
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Clean Air Hamilton 2016 Programs (BOH16016) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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SUBMITTED BY:	Rob Hall Director, Health Protection Division Public Health Services Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

That the following vendors, identified by Clean Air Hamilton for the delivery of 2016 air quality programs to be funded through the 2016 Public Health Services operating budget, be approved:

- i) **Hamilton-Wentworth Green Venture** for the delivery of Totally Transit for Kids (\$9,000), and Eco Stars Classroom (\$10,000);
- ii) **Corr Research Inc.** for the delivery of Fresh Air Kids (\$12,000) and Air Quality Health Index Map (\$7,500); and
- iii) **Hamilton Conservation Authority** for the installation of idling signs (\$1,500).

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 five initiatives and seeks approval from the Board of Health for the associated funding costs:

1. Totally Transit Kids (\$9,000);
2. Eco Stars Classroom (\$10,000);
3. Fresh Air Kids (\$12,000);
4. Air Quality Health Index Mapping Update (\$7,500);
5. Idling Signage (\$1,500).

If approved, the funding for these programs would come from the 2016 PHS operating budget.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 6

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 2016 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, educate and work with partners to improve local air quality and address climate change. These identified 2016 programs will be supported by the volunteers from Clean Air Hamilton. It is estimated that Clean Air Hamilton's partners provide well over \$200,000 in in-kind support annually.

Staffing: None.

Legal: None.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Chronology of events)

Originated in 1998, Clean Air Hamilton initiates 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 the City of 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 for 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

No policy implications.

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 Division, Public Works – Transportation Division, Energy and Facilities, Planning & Economic Development – Community Planning & Design Division, and Community & Emergency Services – Community Initiatives Division.

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, McKibbon Wakefield Inc., the Hamilton Industrial Environmental Association, ArcelorMittal Dofasco, U.S. Steel Canada, and citizens.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONAL 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 2016:

1. *Totally Transit Kids (\$9,000) – 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. This is a unique “hands on” program that teaches children how to properly use public transit, while at the same time raising their awareness of the positive environmental, health and community impacts they can achieve by choosing sustainable transportation.

The Totally Transit Kids program started in 2007 and has reached over 10,000 elementary school students across Hamilton. The program includes multiple unique options that can accommodate a variety of different schools including on-site presentations. The 2016 program continues this important work and aims to complete six on-site lessons, connecting with over 24 schools and thousands of students.

2. Eco Stars Classroom (\$10,000) – Hamilton-Wentworth Green Venture

The Eco Stars Classroom challenge will engage students in “scavenger hunt” like activities consisting of challenges that teaches students more about air quality and climate change. It will also teach how to improve air quality, mitigate climate change and/or adapt to climate change. By completing these challenges the classes will score points and the top seven participating classes will win a free tour of the EcoHouse during Earth Month in 2017.

The specific goals of the program include, but not limited to, reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the community, improve local air quality and building lasting partnerships within the community. The program will achieve these goals through participation of approximately 875 Hamilton area students that will foster positive behavioural change and promote changing social norms.

3. Fresh Air Kids (\$12,000) – Corr Research

The school air quality program “Fresh Air Kids” began in 2013 and has been undertaken in nine Hamilton schools (St. Brigid, Mount Hope, St. Joseph, 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 Air Quality Health Index. Furthermore, the program will develop local air quality maps that are developed using mobile monitoring data and school children are encouraged to choose low risk commuting methods and routes to school.

The 2016 program is an extension of the 2015 program with three additional schools. Results will also be used to assist the McMaster Institute of Transportation and Logistics research in a two year project modelling children’s exposures due to vehicle idling at schools.

4. Air Quality Health Index Mapping Update (\$7,500) – Corr Research

Clean Air Hamilton provided funding allowing Corr Research Inc. to develop HamiltonAQHI.com, a website that presents Environment Canada’s Air Quality Health Index spatially across Hamilton, Ontario. In December 2015, the website had over three hundred new-user visits. The funding in 2016 will be used for on-going maintenance and costs of the website support, including updating the website with the substantial amount of data collected through “*Neighbourhoods Phase 2: Mobile Air Quality Monitoring to Determine Local Impacts Report*” produced by Corr Research Inc.

Updating the website and including the above-mentioned data, is valuable toward improving the overall reliability of the AQHI map. The project also aims to create a

more interactive website where tools will be developed to allow users to display hourly conditions during the past five years.

5. Idling Signage (\$1,500) – Hamilton Conservation Authority

The Hamilton Conservation Authority is proposing to post anti-idling signs at no less than four Conservation Areas that have parking lots. This will reduce engine idling which will help protect public health and the environment, as well as save money.

The Conservation areas are frequented by a large number of visitors with approximately four hundred visitors to Confederation Park alone. This allows greater opportunity to educate the public.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

(Include Financial, Staffing, Legal and Policy Implications and Pros and Cons for each alternative)

BOH does not approve the funding. This is not recommended as this does not support actions to improve air quality and health in Hamilton.

Financial: If funding is not approved, it will create a financial pressure among community partners that may result in the programs not being implemented.

Staffing: None

Legal: 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).

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Not applicable