

Backgrounder Document d'information



Ministry of
the Environment

Ministère de
l'Environnement

June 20, 2006

CLEAN AIR AND CLIMATE CHANGE FUNDING

The McGuinty government has funded a number of key environmental organizations, universities and programs to protect air quality and safeguard the environment and human health.

- The Ontario government has provided a contribution of \$65,000 to Pollution Probe:
 - \$25,000 to develop a Climate Change Guide for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises. This will be a valuable tool to help businesses understand the advantages of addressing climate change and how they can reduce greenhouse gas emissions while remaining competitive.
 - \$15,000 to update their state of emissions trading report *An Assessment of Emissions Trading for NOx and SO2*. Emissions trading is a market-based tool to give companies that lower their emissions a competitive edge.
 - \$15,000 to facilitate Ontario's participation in a national scale scientific assessment of climate change impacts and adaptation in Canada. The resulting report will examine climate impacts and adaptation at the regional level.
 - \$10,000 to update their *Acid Rain Primer* to reflect the latest science on acid rain and to make the publication more accessible to the public.
- The *Toronto Region Sustainability Program* run by the Ontario Centre for Environmental Technology Advancement (OCETA) is aimed at raising the environmental awareness of small and medium enterprises and implementing pollution prevention initiatives. This year, the Ontario government granted OCETA with \$25,000 to continue the focus on the reduction of Volatile Organic Compounds emissions, which are key contributors to smog.
- The Ontario government has provided Laurentian University's *Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Program* with \$5,000. The project will examine the vulnerability of the City of Greater Sudbury to the potential impacts of climate change and will define possible strategies to respond to these changes.
- The Network for Environmental Risk Assessment and Management (NERAM) has organized a *Colloquia Series on Health and Air Quality: Interpreting Science for Decision Making*. The government funded \$10,000 for the final colloquium in the series, which is scheduled for October 16-18, 2006 and will address Strategic Policy Directions for Air Quality Risk Management.

- The Ontario government provided \$22,000 in funding to the Clean Air Partnership to develop an Emissions Reduction Decision Matrix for municipalities to help identify and prioritize emission reduction opportunities.
- The Toronto Atmospheric Fund (TAF) was funded \$15,000 to undertake a research study to identify opportunities for establishing a Greater Toronto Atmospheric Fund (GTAF). The research will provide a strategic assessment of a private-public self-financing fund to help manage climate change and air quality.
- Under the *Best in Science* program, the government has provided funding to support four initiatives related to air pollution research:
 - A \$35,000 grant to the Alberta Research Council for a petroleum refinery site study investigating advanced optical technologies for detecting, monitoring and quantifying fugitive emissions;
 - A \$32,000 grant to Queen's University for a province-wide survey of atmospheric deposition of mercury on Ontario vegetation;
 - A \$200,000 contribution supporting the BIOCAP Canada Foundation for research on greenhouse gas management, forestry management and bioenergy production, to find solutions to mitigate climate change and reduce its impact;
 - \$25,000 in funding, plus *in-kind* contributions including the participation of expert staff as partners, towards a collaborative project between the Ministry of the Environment and Brock University on urban lichen monitoring in Ontario, to measure the biological impact of air pollutants, particularly sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide; and,
 - \$50,000 to support the work of the Southern Ontario Center for Atmospheric Research.

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