



# Climate Change Action Town Hall

Hamilton, Ontario

March 3, 2011 – 1 to 5pm

Liuna Station (360 James Street North)



## FACT SHEET: CONSUMPTION

### Discussion Points

- What do you think we, as a community, could do to deal with consumption and climate change?
- What is happening in Hamilton on consumption and climate change?
- How should we move forward and what do we need to have in place?

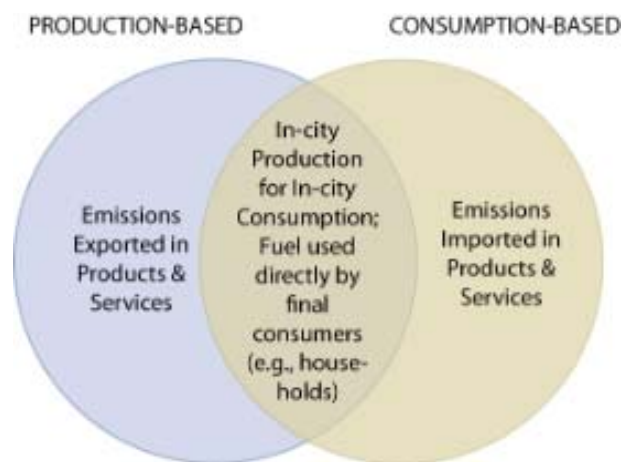
### Facts

- There is a distinction between the elimination of emissions within the geographic boundary of a city, and the elimination of emissions for which the city and its citizens are responsible, wherever in the world they occur.
- The Hamilton GHG Inventory is a traditional sector based GHG inventory, which identified local energy use (residential, commercial and industrial) and transportation emissions as the primary sources of community GHGs.
- While the GHG inventory accounts for emissions that physically originate within the community, a carbon footprint takes a broader view of all of the ways in which the community contributes to emissions



- One traditional example used to support a consumption-based approach is this: imagine a cement plant operating within the city limits, with significant GHG emissions. If we attempt to reduce those emissions while accounting only for what's emitted within city limits, then we simply move the cement plant! It's now operating in another city, and no longer our problem.

- Consumption based inventories attempt to estimate all emissions - both inside and outside the community - that arise as a consequence of consumption activities within that community.
- Two popular alternatives to "traditional" (geographic) GHG inventories are called "consumption-based inventories" and "systems-based inventories".
- The term "systems-based inventory" refers to an emissions inventory where "systems" represent and comprise all the parts of the economy working to fulfill a particular need. For example, the provision of food system includes all emissions from the electric power, transportation, industrial, and agricultural sectors associated with growing, processing, transporting, and disposing of food. The systems view is helpful for framing opportunities to reduce GHG emissions through prevention - oriented mitigation strategies that act across an entire system.
- A consumption-based inventory covers the total global GHG emissions occurring from economic consumption within a set region (e.g., a country). Consumption based inventories attempt to estimate all emissions - both inside and outside the community - that arise as a consequence of consumption activities within that community
- Consumption-based inventories may assign emissions to categories using several different logic rules. For example, emissions might be assigned to categories of commodities as consumed. Alternatively, emissions might be assigned to categories of commodities as produced.



*Greenhouse gas emissions sources in both Production and Consumption-based inventories.*

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- As of 2010, relatively few consumption-based inventories have been performed, and no standard has been set for assigning emissions to different categories. However, many people find it more intuitive to assign emissions based on the category of final demand (commodities as *consumed*).