



Climate Change Action Town Hall

Hamilton, Ontario

March 3, 2011 – 1 to 5pm

Liuna Station (360 James Street North)



FACT SHEET: HOUSING & BUILDINGS

Discussion Points

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

Facts

- Buildings and their construction account for 25% of Canada's overall greenhouse gases emitted through the processing of new construction, combustion of fossil fuels to meet water and space-heating requirements and electrical consumption in lighting and air conditioning.
- Another aspect is for the building to adapt to a changing climate. Climate change may lead to potential increases in the amounts of precipitation as well as the frequency of extreme weather events, including storms. Damage to buildings from weather can be caused by: storm damage; rain penetration; poor durability of construction materials; flood damage; and foundation movement.
- The Hamilton GHG Inventory identified 2008 GHG emissions from local residential and commercial sources as 17% (886,530 tonnes) and 25% (1,298,469 tonnes). The majority of this energy and emissions is used in space heating.
- City Housing was estimated at 8,578 tonnes of GHGs in 2008 based on the age of buildings.
- Energy efficient buildings, while limiting the growth of carbon dioxide emissions, can also improve indoor and outdoor air quality, improve social welfare and enhance energy security.
- Preserving natural capital and green space provides carbon sinks to offset emissions while supporting the tourism industry by creating attractive destinations. Adaptation strategies can be effective in reducing climate-related economic risks associated with damage to buildings and infrastructure. Several studies in Europe have indicated that lower sulphur dioxide (SO₂) levels considerably reduce replacement and maintenance costs of buildings and other constructions (Aunan et al, 2004).
- Hamilton is poised for significant growth over the next 30 years especially since the amalgamation of the six municipalities (Hamilton, Stoney Creek, Glanbrook, Dundas, Ancaster, and Flamborough)

- Infrastructure is aging and decisions are now required on locating and designing new infrastructure.
- There is a need to accommodate growth. There are opportunities to create compact growth given the need for downtown core rejuvenation and the significant brownfield lands potentially available for re-development.
- Increasing population is analogous with increased demands on infrastructure and resources.

