



Climate Change Action Town Hall

Hamilton, Ontario

March 3, 2011 – 1 to 5pm

Liuna Station (360 James Street North)



FACT SHEET: LOCAL ECONOMY & BUSINESS

Discussion Points

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

Facts

- As global economies get transformed into low-carbon economies, businesses are getting aware about opportunities being thrown up by climate change and energy.
- Climate Change presents two main challenges to businesses. Business may be expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to prevent further changes, and to deal with existing, unavoidable changes to the climate.
- The Hamilton GHG Inventory identified 2008 GHG emissions from local commercial and industrial sources as 25% (1,298,469 tonnes) and 33% (1,660,499 tonnes). The addition of the local Steel sector (at 58% or 6,960,083 tonnes), commercial becomes 11% and industrial becomes 14%.
- The main risks of climate change to business and the local economy is increased costs (higher energy prices, carbon taxes, rising insurance premiums, more expensive raw materials, higher production costs) and potential revenue loss.
- Some assets may increase in value such as energy efficiency, while other assets such as inefficient fleets may decrease in value.
- Climate change and energy is likely to affect all industry sectors although the scale of the effects on local business will depend on factors such as its activities and location.
- Even if the business is not directly affected by the impacts of climate change, it is possible that suppliers or customer base may be affected. If your business operates globally you should start thinking about the possible impact of climate change on your supply chain and customer base because certain regions will be affected more than others.
- You may need to change your working practices to adapt to climate change. For example, if you have staff that work outside you may need to change their hours during periods of hot weather or encourage home working during periods of extreme weather.

- Big snowstorms cost Ontario's economy roughly \$473 million per day, with \$205 million of that coming in direct losses, and the rest coming from spinoff effects. The hardest-hit businesses are service companies such as restaurants and gas stations which are dependent on people actually getting out of their houses. The study estimated \$152 million in lost wages and salaries caused directly by the storm, and \$204 million indirectly. Governments also lose a total of \$68 million in sales and income taxes on lost wages and retail purchases for each day a major snowstorm disrupts Ontario business.
- SMEs' venture into the low carbon economy can come from analyzing the costs of doing business. A great place to start looking for opportunities is in resource and energy efficiency, where significant cost savings can be found relatively simply.
- Climate Change risks and high energy prices may create local market preferences. Economic localization and buying locally has been suggested and used by communities in various forms to combat the risks of increasing energy and food prices, financial meltdowns, climate change, and create community self sufficiency.