

City of Mississauga
Memorandum



Date: 2020/10/22
To: Environmental Action Committee
From: Leya Barry, Climate Change Specialist
Meeting Date: 2020/11/03
Subject: Clean Air Council Declaration: 2019-2023 Intergovernmental Declaration on Clean Air and Climate Change

Addressing air quality and climate change is complex and requires the collaboration of multiple sectors. The Clean Air Council is an intergovernmental working group that has worked collaboratively to develop and implement clean air and climate change actions since 2000.

The goals of the Clean Air Council are to:

- Address air quality and climate change challenges through a dynamic network that expands knowledge and encourages practical policies and actions;
- Promote a better understanding of air quality and climate change challenges and opportunities among municipalities and public health units to improve their ability to address problems in a cost-effective way;
- Explore opportunities for joint initiatives to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increase climate change adaptation and resilience actions;
- Develop and report on progress of Intergovernmental Declarations on Clean Air and Climate Change, tracking the implementation, transfer and scale up of clean air and climate change actions across jurisdictions; and,
- Liaise with municipalities in Ontario, and internationally, and with organizations and stakeholders that are committed to sharing efforts and best practices for reducing air pollution and GHG emissions and increasing community livability and resilience.

The Clean Air Partnership is the secretariat for the Clean Air Council. The Clean Air Council is currently comprised of 27 municipalities from across southern Ontario, including The Region of Peel, City of Brampton, Town of Caledon and City of Mississauga. The City of Mississauga has been a member municipality since 2001.

The Intergovernmental Declaration on Clean Air and Climate Change serves as the Clean Air Council's workplan. Member jurisdictions sign on to the Declaration, making a commitment to work collaboratively with partners. The Region of Peel recently approved the 2019-2023 Declaration in February, 2020. Similarly, staff are recommending that the City of Mississauga continues to work with the Clean Air Council and become a signatory to the 2019-2023

Declaration. The City of Mississauga has been a signatory to the Declaration since 2001. Article 4 of the 2019 - 2023 Intergovernmental Declaration on Clean Air and Climate Change (see Appendix 1) provides a high-level progress report on commitments made in past Declarations.

The Declaration is aligned with Ontario's four-year municipal election cycle and for each Declaration item, targets are set, and progress reports are published. At the start of a new municipal Council term, each Clean Air Council member, including the City of Mississauga, provides their jurisdiction's priority environmental actions related to air quality and climate change. Through a prioritization exercise, the commonly identified actions become renewed Clean Air Council Declaration commitments.

The commitments identified in the 2019 - 2023 Intergovernmental Declaration on Clean Air include:

1. Demonstrating corporate leadership in sustainable municipal operations.
2. Advancing financial mechanisms for a resilient low carbon economy.
3. Accelerating the transition to low carbon in new and existing buildings.
4. Value propositions and business cases for green infrastructure.
5. Maximizing reductions in air pollution and carbon emissions from transportation.
6. Incorporating climate change mitigation and resilience considerations into municipal decision making.
7. Working collaboratively with a diverse stakeholder base.

The Declaration aligns well with the City of Mississauga's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP), which was unanimously endorsed by Council in December, 2019. The CCAP identified five Action Pathways to advance low carbon resilience:

1. Buildings and Clean Energy
2. Resilient and Green Infrastructure
3. Accelerating Discovery and Innovation
4. Low Emissions Mobility
5. Engagement and Partnerships

The full 2019 - 2023 Intergovernmental Declaration on Clean Air and Climate Change can be found in Appendix 1. The City's participation on the Clean Air Council provides Mississauga with numerous benefits and helps to advance the City of Mississauga's work on climate change. It is recommended that the City sign on to the 2019 - 2023 Intergovernmental Declaration and continue to work with CAC members to improve air quality and address climate change.

Attachments

Appendix 1: 2019 – 2023 Intergovernmental Declaration on Clean Air and Climate Change

Leya Barry, Climate Change Specialist