

Fourth Municipal Leaders Summit on Climate Change

Montreal

December 2005

Presentation to
Markham Council
March 21, 2006

Introduction

- Attended 4th Municipal Leaders Summit on Climate Change in Montreal in December;
- Sponsored by FCM and ICLEI;
- Purpose - share information on global climate change actions and draft a Declaration to the UN Climate Change convention to be endorsed municipal leaders from around the world, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Parties to the Kyoto Protocol

Introduction

- Declaration intended to establish local gov'ts' position on the Climate Change and make a commitment on actions to reduce the GHG emissions that are the biggest contributor to Climate Change in the future;
- The Declaration was presented to the UN Climate Change convention at the conclusion of the conference (Friday, December 9, 2005);

Background

- Kyoto Protocol became international law in February 2005 (141 countries signed on committing to reduce GHG emissions around the world);
- Canada agreed under the Protocol to cut annual greenhouse gases (GHG) by an average of 5.2% below 1990 levels between 2008 and 2012;
- Canada's emissions have instead increased over 20% 1990's.

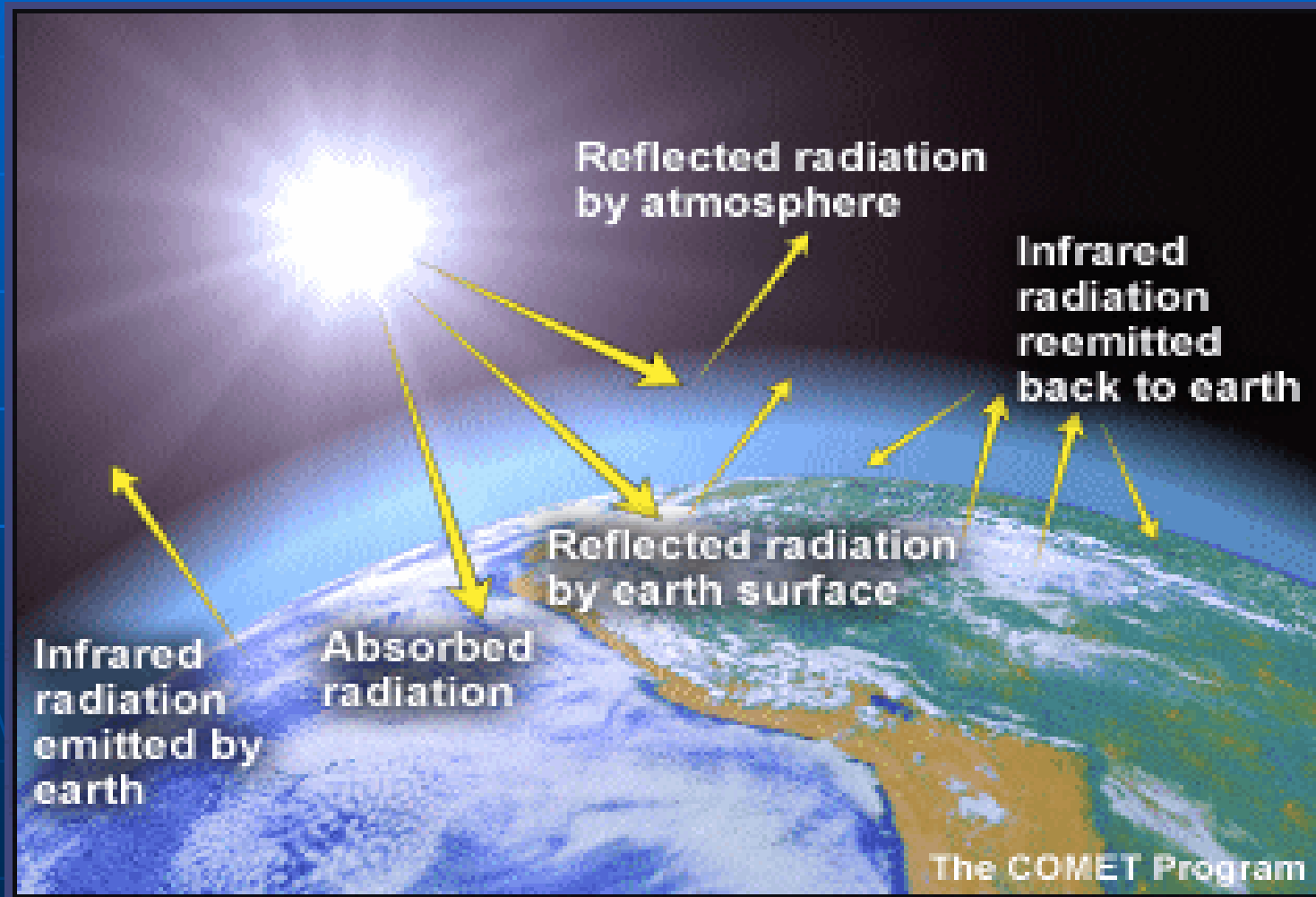
Background

- GHGs primarily include:
 - *Carbon dioxide* – from coal, oil, natural gas, transportation and heating/cooling of buildings;
 - *Methane* – from landfills, wastewater treatment, some agricultural practices and grazing;
 - *Nitrous Oxide* – from chemical fertilizers and burning of fossil fuels.

Background

- The “greenhouse” effect is the GHGs preventing heat loss through the atmosphere resulting in the warming of the earth’s surface;
- If uncontrolled, GHG emissions will contribute to an expected global temperature increase of 1.5 – 6 degrees Celsius the rest of the century.
- The ten warmest years ever recorded have all occurred since 1991 and extreme weather conditions are increasing throughout the world.

Diagram showing Greenhouse Effect



Context

- Growing recognition/acceptance from business community, as well as gov'ts and environmental community that:
 - Climate change is detrimental to the world's environment;
 - Climate change is creating tremendous costs;
 - Mandatory GHG regulations are coming;
 - Cost benefits can result from new efficiencies;
 - There is a cultural shift occurring.

The Conference

- Over 400 delegates attended from around the world including Spain, Thailand, Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Kenya, USA and many others;
- Speakers included Mayor of Barcelona, Deputy Mayor of London, Mayor of Seattle, Director of the World Bank, European Union Environment Commissioner and many others;

The Conference – Speaker Highlights

- Peter Hoppe: Head of GeoRisks Research Department, Munich Re (the world's largest reinsurer) identified the changing world weather patterns and their tremendous future cost implications (US \$1,000 bn. btw. 1980 and 2004 loss to the economy);
- Paul Epstein: Associate Director of the Centre for Health and the Global Environment, Harvard Medical School presented the health implications of Climate Change which include increased asthma, malaria and West Nile Virus.

The Conference – Speaker Highlights

- Greg Nichols, Mayor of Seattle described their City's GHG reduction program and noted that despite the Federal gov'ts position, 192 American cities are taking their own actions on climate change;
- Deputy Mayor of the Hague explained that the Netherlands are now investing in improved dyke infrastructure in anticipation of the effects of the rising sea level and severe weather events from climate change;

The Conference – Speaker Highlights

- The Deputy Mayor of London described their actions including setting up an arm's length agency dedicated to climate change actions and putting a traffic congestion charge in place in central London;
- Canada's Energy Minister's message was that municipalities should be making investments knowing we are now entering a "carbon reducing" economy;

Stephene Dion



The Conference – Key Messages

- Need for Senior gov'ts to partner with local gov't to build momentum, goals, protocols, baselines and incentives;
- Need for all levels of gov't to be more adaptable and anticipate change;
- Need to plan for the longer term-adaptive and mitigate initiatives;
- Need for financial assistance at the local level because local level of gov't and NGO's are putting plans into action.

The Conference – Key Messages

- Reducing GHGs will bring:
 - Improved quality of life;
 - Cost savings;
 - Less investment in mitigating/adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Plenary Session 7



Montreal Mayor Tremblay



Markham's Progress

- To date Markham has:
 - Developed land use policies to encourage intensification and support public transit;
 - Developed TDM initiatives and programs;
 - Implemented employee trip reduction program;
 - Set up the MECO office to deliver 6 energy saving programs

Markham's Progress

- Adopted a Smog Alert plan;
- Passed an Anti-idling by-law;
- Greening Our Fleet
- Participated in the Smog Summit

Next Steps

In 2006 we are:

- Considering potential demonstration green roof project(s);
- Preparing a Green Procurement Policy;
- Implementing Bicycle Master Plan;
- Looking at new green building standards for future development.

Next Steps – con't.

- Preparing an Environmental Management Plan;
- Participating in the Transboundary Smog Summit in 2007;
- Developing an understanding of the implications of adaptation and mitigation of the effects of Climate Change.

The Conference – The Declaration



Fourth Municipal Leaders Summit on Climate Change

**5-7 December 2005
Montréal, Canada**

World Mayors and Municipal Leaders Declaration on Climate Change

Fourth Municipal Leaders Summit on Climate Change

**On the Occasion of the
United Nations Climate Change Conference
(COP 11 and COP/MOP 1)
7 December, 2005, Montreal, Canada**

- 1.0 We, mayors and municipal leaders from around the world meeting at the Fourth Municipal Leaders Summit on Climate Change submit a statement of solidarity as stewards of the Earth and agree that:**
 - Climate change is a major global challenge requiring urgent and concerted action and collaboration by all orders of government; and that,
 - Climate change discussions, negotiations and actions are best informed by scientific evidence such as that provided by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) with a particular focus on vulnerable continents and populations; and that,
 - Municipal leaders have the extraordinary ability to change the current trend of global warming; and that,
 - If substantial cooperation is exercised among all orders of government the resulting actions can be leveraged to realize the deep reductions needed to move toward climate stabilization.
- 2.0 We, mayors and municipal leaders, recognize that:**
 - 2.1** Local governments play a critical role to effectively reduce human induced greenhouse gas emissions knowing that the sustainable CO₂ emission rate for human-kind is 0.5 tonnes eCO₂ per capita annually based on six billion inhabitants (IPCC).
 - 2.2** Sustainable development and climate change are interdependent as articulated in the UN Millennium Development Goals.
 - 2.3** Local policies and actions will meet or exceed targets set by sub national and national governments to effect deep reductions and lead other sectors to execute the same.
 - 2.4** Climate change impacts like floods, drought, water availability and quality, extreme heat, air pollution and infectious disease pose grave danger to public health and many local governments are already experiencing these effects.

World Mayors Council

