

CACOR AGM 2014 - CLIMATE CHANGE BREAK OUT GROUP

(SPONSORED BY THE CACOR ACTION GROUP)

CLIMATE AND YOU

Increased extremes: hotter summers; snowier winters; bigger thunder storms; droughts and floods. The more aware also have an understanding of the catastrophic effects of the global warming already ensured by the elevated levels of CO₂, which has reached 400 parts per million.

CLIMATE AND THE CITY

Over 80% of the earth's CO₂ is generated within cities. In Ottawa, approximately 90% of our total CO₂ emissions are generated by transportation and by heating or cooling buildings and residences. In both cases, the City itself generates less than 3% of the total from its facilities and vehicle fleet.

OTTAWA'S AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2014

The City did not meet its targets for the 2004 to 2012 plan, although it claimed some reduction from using provincial averages, which was due to the provincial phase out of coal-generated electricity. Since the figure is known and applied in the Plan but never stated, the suspicion (conviction in some of us) remains that it was responsible for the majority if not all of the City's claimed 8% reduction for the community.

The proposals to reduce CO₂ in the 2014 plan appear to be minimal (only 1.2 % per year versus the 2 to 3% really required) and barely touch on the two major sources: commuting by over 500,000 registered private vehi-

cles and heating and cooling of over 250,000 private residences and buildings. Any meaningful reduction is unlikely with these major sources excluded.

Due to a population that doubles every 30 years, the City would like to consider only per capita emissions as its goal, rather than absolute emissions. As the Earth's atmosphere only recognizes total CO₂ emissions, and not the human term, per capita emissions, this position is ludicrous and must be rejected as the working target.

WHAT ACTIONS CAN, AND/OR SHOULD, CACOR AND CACOR MEMBERS UNDERTAKE?

In the light of the inadequately implemented 2014 plan, and considering the fudged reduction figures (by counting the reduction achieved by another jurisdiction) in the 2004-2012 plan, how should we react? What can we do to influence City Council and, through it, the citizens at large to address global warming in a meaningful fashion?

BEFORE OR AFTER THIS MEETING

There is a tool on the web for assessing the results of various carbon reduction scenarios. Try it; you'll be astounded at how hard (or easy) it is to reach climate stability. It is at: <http://my2050.decc.gov.uk/>