



Minutes

Coordination Committee
Monday, May 12, 2025, 3:00 – 4:30 pm
Microsoft Teams

Present:

Bruce Newbold, McMaster University
Beatrice Ekoko, City of Hamilton
Charles Hostovsky, McMaster University
Danielle Murphy, CANSTOREnergy
Edward Gondar, Citizen
Gas Gebara, AMD
Geoffrey Knapper, HEIA
George McKibbon, McKibbon Wakefield
Hannah Bradley, University of Toronto
Julie Wedzinga, Stelco
Liesel Knight-Messenger, Green Venture
Lucas Neil, Stantec
Matthew Parsons, ECCC
Natalie Stacey, MECP
Nathan VanBelois, BASES
Shelley Rogers, City of Hamilton
Stephen Burt, MECP
Tim Hung, MECP
Trevor Imhoff, City of Hamilton
Zobia Jawed, Chair
Zoe Davis, ECCC

Rebecca Saari, University of Waterloo
Emma Kichiy, University of Waterloo

1. Land Acknowledgement

The City of Hamilton is situated upon the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas. This land is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, which was an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We further acknowledge that this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

Today, the City of Hamilton is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island (North America) and we recognize that we must do more to learn about the rich history of this land so that we can better understand our roles as residents, neighbours, partners and caretakers ([source](#)).

2. Approval of April 2025 meeting minutes

Approved (13 yes, 0 no)

Presentations:

3. Air Quality Alerts and Equity, Rebecca Saari Emma Kichiy, University of Waterloo (20 minutes)

- Integrated Climate and Air Impacts Research (ICAIR).
- Goal of lab to understand how efforts to reduce harmful emissions affect health and economy.
- Data shows health benefits when reducing emissions.
- In Ontario, Infrastructure and Transportation are important to focus on.
- Air Quality Alerts to limit time outside are an adaptive action for reducing negative health impacts.
- Indoor air quality can be poor due to building HVAC and construction (leaky buildings).
- Research shows how Air Quality Alerts align with equity in Canada.
- Equity reviewed and correlation between higher risk groups and AQHI values.

Note: Presentation cannot be shared publicly

Questions/Discussion

It was mentioned that team was working in Northeastern United States area had connections with informing policy. Has the team's research come across solid policy too what the science is showing in terms of reducing emissions and maybe we can focus on traffic related policies? Are there zero-emission policies?

The lab has worked with NESCOM and is cited in over 80 policy documents. The team is optimistic that there are cases where true evidence-based policy is being enacted, the team's goal is to estimate damages to try to find what the incentive should be for, going ZEV trucks so.

When presenters describe the interrelationship between climate adaptation and air quality, the actions for climate have collateral benefits to air quality. If one is concerned on air quality, they should focus on that, and if they want to focus on climate, should focus on mitigation and adaptation?

World Health Organization's health case for climate change and also the way that they are considering the complex systems chapter of the national climate assessment and the 6th Assessment report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Those interactions are unavoidable. Conversations are emerging about interactions and about cascading risks and confounding risks and cascading failures. The optimal air quality policy is not a climate policy, but if you ignore the interactions, are you going to end up in a suboptimal world.

As things get worse, hydro climate whiplash, dust from forest fires and drought, will become more important as transboundary. Will this be addressed in the future?

A lot of the natural sources, especially dust, are very difficult to model well. Work is being done to improve modelling of dust. The presentation slide did not include wildfires.

EU has increased load limits on existing trucks but seeing reduction in pollution due to increased load limits. Is this something they have looked at?

They haven't looked at it specifically. When they look across countries with different load limits, they do see this. There are safety issues with this.

How can we focus on marginalized communities with this work?

Risk communication needs to be in the right language, appropriate and targeted to reach the right people.

Noted that climate change mitigation efforts can reduce air quality vs. benefits. For example, the focus on using lower-carbon or zero-carbon fuels can lead to using fuels that produce more NO_x. The use of hydrogen as a fuel for marine and aviation could also increase NO_x emissions. This is just to say that it's helpful to coordinate /inform efforts between air quality and climate change efforts.

Need to look at low carbon and zero carbon fuels.

Asked if presenters could share a list of documents where their work has been used.

Link: <https://policyprofiles.sagepub.com/>

Can-Marg data was also used. There is a user guide which provides more information concerning how the marginalization data is generated:
<https://www.ontariohealthprofiles.ca/canmargCAN.php>

Can contact at: rsaari@uwaterloo.ca, enkichiy@uwaterloo.ca

4. Subcommittee on Public Education and Outreach, Zobia Jawed and Geoffrey Knapper (15 minutes)

Building a sub-committee to engage with Hamilton Community, focusing on communities at higher risk.

One of the first priorities is to raise awareness and educate the public on air quality and public health. This could be through individual actions and policy. Can create a network with other groups.

Advocacy for policy change is an option. This can help with formation of other sub-committees.

This will lead to more discussion around what the committee does and include reaching out to groups who may not necessarily receive this information.

There is funding that could be used for this initiative from HIEA.

Question of the risks involved with public education. The goal of the committee is to decide on what information is meaningful to share, or if there is meaning to have workgroups to have dialogue. The sub-committee can assess the risks involved.

In the past, there have been members of the public presenting to CAH about issues around air quality. There have times when there have been people on both sides of an issues. These are productive and education and wouldn't want to discount them.

Concern about going out and "educating" people because people have a sense of where they are at. Could be putting issues on the table and constructively resolving.

This is more about raising capacity of the public. Good for public outreach. Has benefit of the value that this committee has.

Volunteer members of the sub-committee: Zobia Jawed, George McKibbon, Trevor Imhoff, Geoffrey Knapper, Lisel Knight-Messenger /Green Venture, Ed Gondar, Julie Wedzinga.

Manal to set up meeting for subcommittee#1 - Public Education and Outreach

Discussion Items:

5. Presenting Clean Air Hamilton report to Public Health Subcommittee in November 2025, Shelley Rogers (5 minutes)

The report can go forward on November 10, 2025, if the group is up for it.

The report is drafted and contained the 2022 data. It was suggested that due to the delay, that the report be updated to be a 2022/2023 report. Possible to go forward in November with 2023 data. MECP will release their 2023 report soon. MECP will need to confirm the availability of data. Timelines can be discussed.

In the earlier report, there was a history of CAH, and a group of people on the call worked on it.

ACTION: Manal to circulate the History portion of the report to members.

This is the annual report where we provide MECP data as well as CAH projects related to Air Quality.

ACTION: Manal to set up meeting with report committee.

Group to take steps to present at the November 10, 2025, Public Health Sub-Committee meeting. Draft will likely be due at the beginning of October to the City.

6. Community Experiences: an opportunity for anyone to share local air quality experiences, All (10 minutes)

Brush burning and bonfires are continuing in the Battlefield Community. Curious about if this is happening throughout the community. Wants monitoring in the area. Asks about Purple Air Monitors

Monitoring is happening not far from Battlefield area, however, there are no feasible sites on the area for the City's air pointers. Purple Air Monitors have proven useful, not Supported for regulatory purposes, but can be reliable for this purpose.

Can view here [US EPA PM2.5 by PurpleAir](#)

In addition, ECCC has a low-cost sensor project using Purple Air, and other brands. Some additional Canadian-based information can be found here: <https://aqmap.ca>

In Sarnia, can be used to drive location selection for other areas.

In terms of urban area air burning, there is a by-law. Can call Fire and they would be able to address.

7. Roundtable Updates: an opportunity for everyone to share with CAH participants events or updates that relate to CAH and that you are engaged in, All (10 minutes)

Liesel Knight-Messenger, Green Venture

Clean Air Day will be on June 4th. Lawfield Elementary school 4:30 PM – 7:00 PM.

Open invitation for Clean Air Hamilton to join. Asks to share with anyone who would be interested.

Two weeks after Clean Air Day, planning on an Air Quality 101 session targeted at adults.

ACTION: Manal to share Clean Air Day on CAH Website.

Next meeting
June 9th, 2025

3:00- 5:00 pm

Microsoft Teams

ACTION ITEMS

1. Manal to circulate the History portion of the report to members.
2. Manal to set up meeting with report committee.
3. Manal to share Clean Air Day on CAH Website.
4. Manal to set up meeting for subcommittee#1 - Public Education and Outreach