

Green Dream: Fact or Fiction

April 16, 2008

Katrina Miller

Campaigns Director,
Toronto Environmental Alliance



The Green Dream

- The planet's biggest environmental threat (global warming) is humanity's biggest opportunity to transform our economy into a true green economy.



Presentation Overview

- About the Toronto Environmental Alliance
- The threat of global warming at a local level
- What the City of Toronto is doing
- Economic Opportunities
- Building the green economy



About TEA

- For 20 years, we've been working for a greener, healthier Toronto.
- We have over 5,000 members.
- Our successes include:
 - Green Bin;
 - ban on the cosmetic use of pesticides;
 - Transit City Plan;
 - Smog and Climate Change Plan

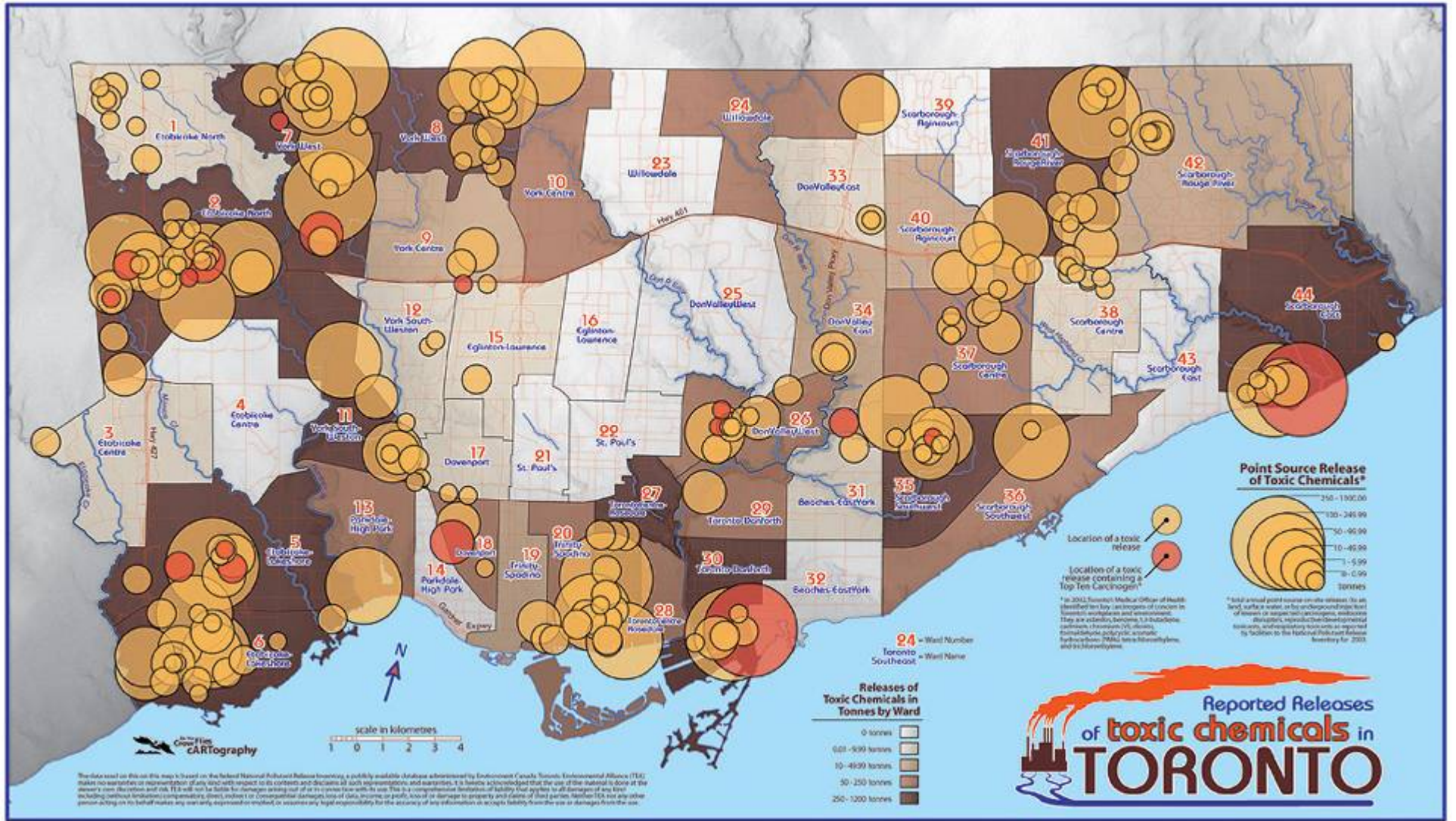


About TEA

– Current Campaigns:

- Smog and climate change
- Toxics
- Greenbelting Toronto
- Transit
- Green Jobs





About TEA

Dr. Suzuki
backs TEA's
call for a
CRTK bylaw



toronto **environmental** alliance

Global Warming

“The average temperature of the earth's surface has risen by 0.6 degrees C since the late 1800s. It is expected to increase by another 1.4 to 5.8 degrees C by the year 2100 -- a rapid and profound change. Even if the minimum predicted increase takes place, it will be larger than any century-long trend in the last 10,000 years.”

Source: UNFCCC “Feeling the Heat”



Global Warming

Local Consequences:

- Severe weather (floods, high winds, etc...): leads to property and infrastructure damage
- New diseases
- Hotter days, more smog
- Water shortages
- Brown-outs



Global Warming

Global Economic Consequences:

Sir Nicholas Stern, October 2006:

“if we don’t act, the overall costs and risks of climate change will be equivalent to losing at least 5% of global GDP each year, now and forever. If a wider range of risks and impacts is taken into account, the estimates of damage could rise to 20% of GDP or more.”



Global Warming

Provincial Economic Consequences:

- In terms of Ontario, not acting to stop global warming could cost the Ontario economy between \$27 billion and \$108 billion each year, measured in today's dollars. In contrast, acting now could cost around \$5.4 billion per year.



Local Action

Toronto

- City's climate change, clean air and sustainable energy action plan adopted July 2007.
- Key targets: 6% reduction in ghg by 2012; 20% by 2020; reduce smog by 20% by 2012.



Highlights of Change is in the Air

Engage Torontonians:

- “establish the Live Green Toronto program to support individuals, residents' groups, Business Improvement Areas and other neighbourhood agencies and community organizations to take action in their own neighbourhoods.”



Highlights of Change is in the Air

Promote green business:

- Support green roofs
- Foster green economic clusters
- Support local food production
- Establish an Enviro business working group
- Nurture pollution prevention



Highlights of Change is in the Air

Promote Renewable Energy:

- Meet 25% of Toronto's energy demand with renewable sources by 2020
- Invite bids to develop renewable energy systems on city-owned properties
- Expand deep lake water cooling program
- Adopt bylaw to make it easy to install renewable power



Highlights of Change is in the Air

Energy Efficiency:

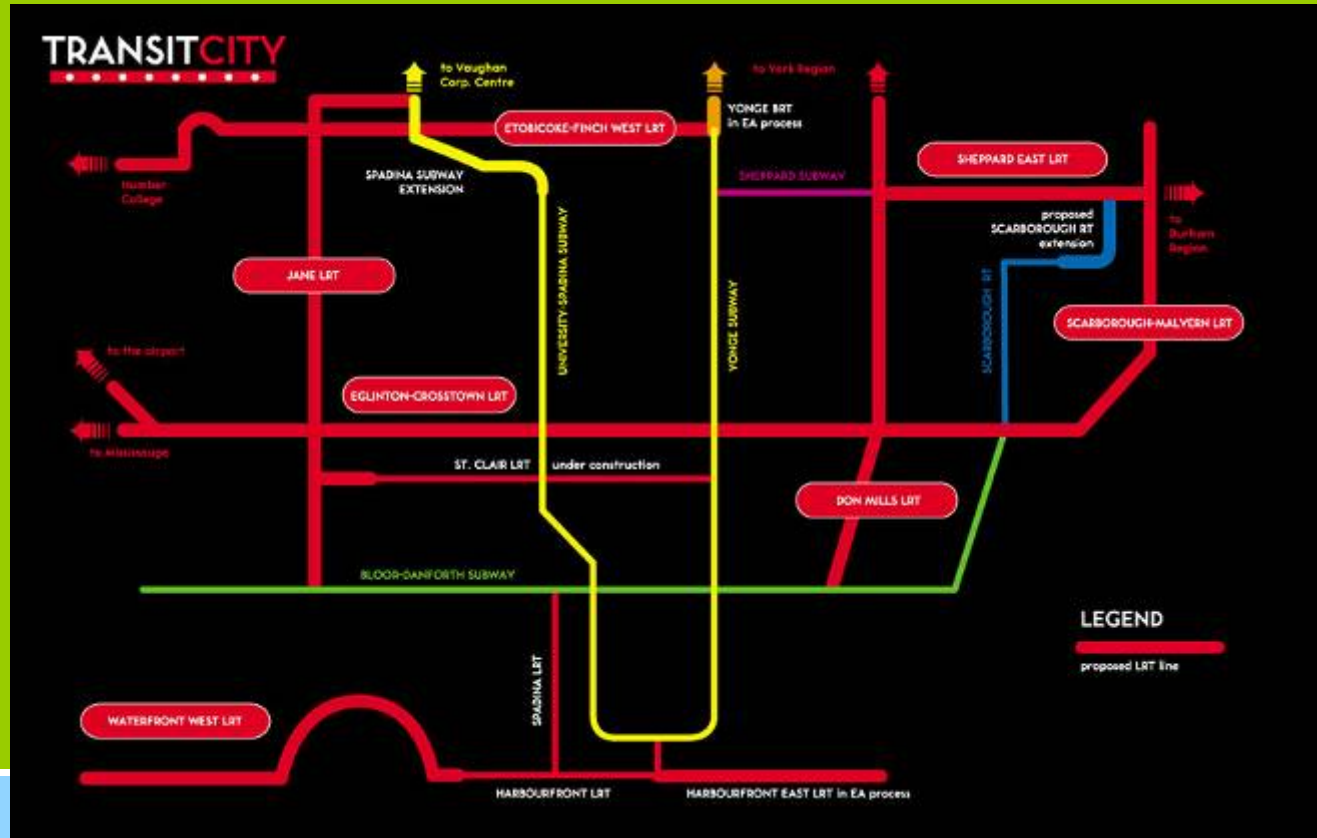
- renew high rise buildings
- Retrofit 50% of single family homes and small businesses by 2020
- Implement Green Development Standards by 2012
- Reduce water use city-wide by 50% by 2020



Highlights of Change is in the Air

Sustainable Transportation

- Transit City



Economic Impact of Change is in the Air

Toronto is contributing to green tidal wave of consumer demand :

- Green power (wind turbines, solar panels, solar hot water, ground source heating)
- Energy efficiency products (energy efficient appliances, energy efficiency HVAC, energy efficient motors, insulation)
- Environmental services (audits, retrofits)



Economic Impact of Change is in the Air

All of these products and services create jobs:

- Service jobs (eg. audits, energy retrofits, green construction)
- Manufacturing jobs (eg. building wind turbines and other green power; energy efficient appliances, energy efficient motors, green building material)



Economic Impact of Change is in the Air

A 2007 study commissioned by the American Solar Energy Society states:

- Currently, 8 million jobs in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
- Could reach 40 million by 2030 with an aggressive deployment strategy (about 1 in 4 working Americans), generating \$4.53 trillion in annual revenue



Economic Impact of Change is in the Air

How many jobs can be created in Toronto?

- A 2004 report by the David Suzuki Foundation calculated how many jobs could be created in Ontario building solar energy units and geothermal heat pumps. Toronto's potential share: over 14,000 new jobs by 2020.



Economic Impact of Change is in the Air

Imagine:

- The City of Toronto embarks on an energy efficiency appliance replacement program for all of its residential Toronto Hydro customers, roughly 590,000 households. That would mean almost 2 million energy star rated appliances.
- What if these appliance were built in a Toronto plant creating jobs for Torontonians who would then take their earnings and spend it in Toronto.
- What if this plant became the source for energy star appliances throughout the GTA, a market over twice the size of Toronto.



Economic Impact of Change is in the Air

Moving forward in Toronto

- Canadian “Blue Green Alliance” between labour and environmentalists
- Weston / Kodak industrial lands a key opportunity for green economic development
- Tax Increment Equivalent Grants may have green economic screen



Economic Impact of Change is in the Air

Conclusion:

- A huge number of jobs will be created by “Change is in the Air” .
- Ontario and the GTA can either watch these jobs go elsewhere OR they can work together to promote local procurement and local jobs
- The key challenge over the next few years will be to ensure Toronto benefits economically from being a Canadian leader in dealing with global warming

