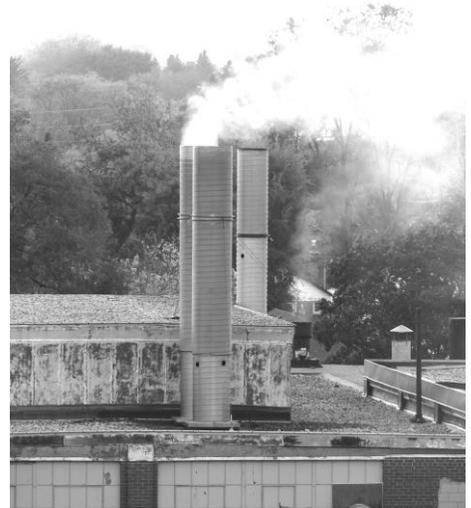


Preventing Pollution in Toronto

We have a right to know

You deserve a toxic-free environment. Toronto is the only city in Canada with a 'Right to Know' bylaw requiring companies to report on toxic substances. Toronto Public Health (TPH) publicly lists this information each year through the ChemTRAC Program.

- TPH has identified 25 substances that are found in Toronto's air at levels that may affect our health (e.g. cancer, asthma).
- In 2013, 8 of these chemicals were prioritized for pollution prevention: Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), Nitrogen Oxides, Particulate Matter, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), Cadmium, Mercury, Lead and Tetrachloroethylene.



What TEA has done

- Won a Cosmetic Pesticide Ban for Toronto in 2003, which led to a Provincial ban in 2009.
- Ran a Secrecy is Toxic campaign that identified polluted areas and pressed for the public's right to know about local sources of toxic substances.
- Convinced City Council in 2008 to pass the 1st Community Right-to-Know legislation in Canada: the Environmental Reporting & Disclosure by-law.
- Successfully led a Good Neighbour Campaign in Scarborough, which improved local conditions and led to green leadership from Atlantic Packaging Products Ltd.
- Won a 2011 City Council vote to maintain industrial water pollution penalties in the Sewers By-law.
- Developed a free resource guide, the Toronto Toxics Reduction Tool Kit, with key Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition (TCPC) partners in 2012.
- Advocated for pollution prevention at Highland Creek Treatment Plant throughout 2010-14 City Council term to protect air & water quality in Scarborough.



Help us deTOx Toronto!

- Learn how to turn local polluting businesses into Good Neighbours at www.goodneighbourcampaigns.ca
- Download the Toronto Toxic Reduction Tool Kit at torontoenvironment.org/campaigns/toxics/TTRTK
- Contact TEA's DeTOx Toronto Campaigner: heather@torontoenvironment.org | 416-596-0660

Find out where toxic chemicals are used and released in your neighbourhood at toronto.ca/chemtrac

Ward 44 – Scarborough East

Ever wondered what is actually in the air you breathe?

In your neighbourhood (Ward 44), 11 local companies release toxic chemicals into your air:

Chemicals Released In Air (2010)	Total Release in the Air (Kg)	Ward Ranking for Chemical Release	# of Companies Releasing	Potential Health Impact
Cadmium	4	1 st	2	1. Causes cancer 2. Damages the lungs and kidneys
Lead	33	1 st	2	1. Possibly causes cancer 2. Affects nervous and reproductive systems 3. Can cause child development & learning problems
Mercury	11	1 st	1	1. Irritates the nose, throat and lungs 2. Adversely affects the nervous system 3. May cause reproductive problems
Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM 2.5)	27,673	2 nd	5	1. Irritates the eyes, throat and lungs 2. Aggravates asthma, bronchitis, lung conditions
Acetaldehyde	401	2 nd	1	1. Possibly causes cancer 2. Can also irritate the eyes and the lungs
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)	349,278	6 th	9	1. Combines with NOx to create ozone & smog; linked to asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema 2. Increases the risk of heart & respiratory problems 3. Damages liver, kidney, central nervous system
Nitrogen Oxides (NOx)	74,863	5 th	6	1. Affects the respiratory system 2. High levels in urban air; associated with higher hospital admissions, premature deaths
Manganese	1	3 rd	1	1. Affects the nervous system 2. Impairs motor skills and can make fast movements and balance more difficult
Formaldehyde	2	9 th	2	1. Causes Cancer

Ward 44 - Scarborough East ranks 1st or 2nd place for many toxic substances in Toronto. The City-owned Highland Creek Treatment Plant, which burns sewage in an incinerator, is one of the largest polluters in Toronto. The plant emits the largest amounts of heavy metals *Cadmium*, *Mercury*, and *Lead* and significant amounts of *Particulate Matter 2.5* and *Nitrogen Oxides*. Fortunately, the City is doing an Environmental Assessment to select a new treatment option for this plant. TEA is promoting non-toxic, burn-free solutions to protect Scarborough's air quality & waterfront. Review the plans online at <http://bit.ly/HCTPEA>

Chemical & product manufacturers also release chemicals in Ward 44. Chemtura is the largest source of *Volatile Organic Compounds* and the paint company Rohm and Haas releases *Acetaldehyde*.

- ❖ Learn more about the companies using and releasing chemicals in your community by visiting the City of Toronto's ChemTRAC Program website: toronto.ca/chemtrac
- ❖ Get involved with TEA's DeTOx Toronto Campaign to help reduce emissions and exposures in your community! Visit our website: torontoenvironment.org/campaigns/toxics