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Toronto Gets a C+ on Smog Report Card

Wed, 2007-10-31 11:31.
Amber Gero

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The Toronto Environmental Alliance released its annual Smog Report Card Wednesday, giving the City of Toronto a C+.

Although the city did better than the C- it was given last year, it would have received a B or B+ if the new vehicle registration and land transfer taxes the city recently implemented weren't deferred back in July.

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"This Council's tax trickery hurt the city's smog-busting efforts dearly and undermined some extremely impressive actions such as passing the Smog and Climate Change plan as well as passing the Transit City plan." said Franz Hartmann, Executive Director of the Toronto Environmental Alliance.

TEA says the delay lead to TTC service cuts and stalled necessary TTC service improvements.

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TEA has released some key recommendations it's calling on the City of Toronto to adopt.

The Recommendations include:

- 1. Commit to signing a long term contract with Toronto Hydro Energy Services Inc. by October 2008 to purchase 50-100 MW of green power.
- 2. Provide comprehensive detail about how and when the \$84 million set aside in "Change is in the Air" will be spent.
- 3. Put a moratorium on further TTC fare increases until the end of this City Council term.
- 4. Ensure planned service improvements for 2008, addressing overcrowding and implementing the Ridership Growth Strategy (RGS), happen as scheduled.
- 5. Adopt a Community Right to Know Bylaw by October 2008.
- 6. Earmark appropriate funds in the 2008 operating budget to engage Toronto through the Live Green Program.
- 7. Direct staff to publish an annual "State of Toronto's Air" report. This report should provide Torontonians with a summary of actions taken by the City on reducing smog over the past twelve months including: status of city targets related to smog reduction; how air quality has been affected by these actions; money invested in improving air quality.

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