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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hamilton First in Ontario with Climate Charter

HAMILTON, ON – October 12, 2011 – Hamilton introduces the first community Climate Change Charter in Ontario. Clean Air Hamilton, Green Venture, Environment Hamilton and other community groups have team up to introduce and endorse Hamilton's Climate Change Action Charter in the community.

"There is an increasing number of cities and regions from around the world that are developing their own actions to deal with climate change" states Brian McCarry, Chair of Clean Air Hamilton. "Climate change is increasingly being tackled at a local level. We are pleased to partner with organizations and individuals in the community of Hamilton to support and introduce this Charter".

The Charter has won support from a number of business, academic and environmental groups including McMaster University, Mohawk College, the Hamilton Conservation Authority, Union Gas, The First Unitarian Church of Hamilton, McKibbin Wakefield Inc., Green Venture, Environment Hamilton, Dundas in Transition, Sustainable Hamilton, Eco Churches of West Hamilton, Corr Research, Greening Marketing Inc., Hamilton 350, CHASE Canada, as well as Clean Air Hamilton. The Community Climate Change Action Charter is a voluntary statement that acknowledges the reality of climate change and asks commitment to measure and set targets for the reduction of emissions at the personal, organizational and community level. The Charter is available online at: <http://climatechangehamilton.ca/>

On October 17, the Charter will be introduced at Liuna Station (360 James Street North) from 8am - 11am at Liuna Station as part of Climate Change Action month in Hamilton. Organizations who have endorsed the Charter will sign and share their experiences as part of the breakfast launch. October is Hamilton's third official Climate Change Action Month, so residents and businesses are encouraged to get educated and active in addressing climate change.

Hamilton has been recognized by the World Wildlife Fund as one of the top cities in Canada addressing climate change. Community greenhouse gas emissions in 2010 were estimated at 12,891,371 tonnes, a reduction of 26% from 2006 emissions levels (estimated at 17,382,000 tonnes). These changes occurred due to the downturn in the economy, reduced energy demand due to a cooler summer, improved energy efficiency and conservation actions in the community, and the shifting of energy from coal as part of the Province's actions towards the phasing out of coal in Ontario's energy mixture sources by 2014.

Clean Air Hamilton is a community-based action committee composed of representatives from government, academic institutions, industry, environmental organizations and residential associations. For more information visit: www.cleanair.hamilton.ca

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