

# SMOG

## What is Smog?

Smog is the toxic hazy brownish yellow air that can be seen hanging over the City. It forms when ground level ozone, toxic gases and fine airborne particles mix with heat and sunlight.

## Where does Smog come from?

Chemicals that form smog include: gas and diesel-powered cars, trucks, buses and lawnmowers, factories and industrial processes, oil-based paints, cleaners and other solvents, pesticides and herbicides, road paving and other construction activities.

## What is a Smog Advisory?

The Ontario Ministry of Environment monitors the air and provides a rating of the air quality for that particular day called the Air Quality Index (AQI). If the Ministry predicts that the AQI will rise to 50 or above within the next 24 hours, it issues a Smog Advisory. You will be made aware of Smog Advisory Days by the media or by visiting the Ontario Ministry of the Environment's website at [www.cleanairontario.com](http://www.cleanairontario.com) or call 1-800-387-7768 (toll free).

## During Smog Advisory Days You Should:

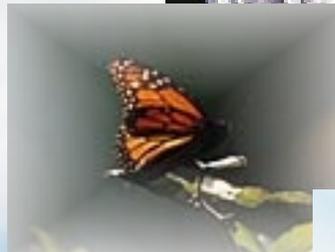
- ☞ Avoid physical exertion and try to stay indoors in a cool place;
- ☞ Schedule any outdoor activities in the morning;
- ☞ Avoid the sun and high traffic areas; and,
- ☞ Drink lots of water to stay hydrated.

## To Help Improve Air Quality You Can:

- ☞ Car pool, walk, bike or take the bus to work;
- ☞ Adjust your air conditioner to a warmer temperature;
- ☞ Do not use oil-based paints or other cleaners;
- ☞ Do not mow your lawn or use liquid barbeque starters;
- ☞ Fill your car's gas tank in the evening only;
- ☞ Turn off your vehicle to avoid prolonged periods of idling.



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# WHAT IS HAMILTON DOING ABOUT SMOG

**The City of Hamilton is committed to becoming a leader in improving air quality.**

Since Councils' direction in 1999, the former City and Region developed a smog management plan for the Corporation. This plan assesses smog, its impact, and activities that can reduce smog over the long term. It consists of two parts:

- ☁ A Smog Response Plan,
- ☁ A Long-term Smog Reduction Strategy

## **Smog Advisory Response Plan:**

Short-term plans implemented in response to a smog advisory. These short-term plans contain a list of actions to be implemented on days when the Air Quality Index is high enough that health is particularly at risk (AQI>50).

## **Long-term Smog Reduction Plan:**

The Long-term smog reduction plan is a commitment by the City of Hamilton to implement actions to reduce smog-forming emissions over the long term. These strategies include:

- ☁ Sponsoring an Upwind Downwind Conference and community network initiative,
- ☁ Approval of an Anti-idling By-law,
- ☁ Approach corporate partners to assist in notifying the public and encourage community and employee participation,
- ☁ Fleet Greening Policies,
- ☁ Regional Tree Planting Program,
- ☁ Pesticide Reduction Strategy,
- ☁ VISION 2020 Survey.

**The smog reduction plan aims to reduce Hamilton's contribution to air pollution and reduce our exposure to poor air quality.**



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## **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Go to: Website: [www.airquality.hamilton.on.ca](http://www.airquality.hamilton.on.ca)  
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