



Fraser Basin Council Awards Hamilton First-Ever Rating for Fleet Excellence

For immediate release

Vancouver, BC (May 24, 2007) The City of Hamilton's Public Works Department was today awarded a Silver Rating for excellence in "greening" its vehicle fleets under a new national program known as E3 Fleet. The Fraser Basin Council, which oversees the E3 Fleet program, made the announcement Thursday, and Ontario MPP for Hamilton East, Andrea Horwath, is paying tribute to the City at a Green Fleet Expo in Hamilton.

Between 2005 and 2006, City of Hamilton fleets increased fuel efficiency by 5% for every kilometre travelled, and decreased Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2% per kilometre. The City's E3 Fleet Silver Rating was based on these accomplishments and best management practices, such as the City adopting a green fleet plan, an idling reduction program, fuel data management and a green vehicle purchasing policy.

"The City of Hamilton can be proud of its fleets," said Chair Charles Jago for the Fraser Basin Council, a non-profit organization in British Columbia that advances sustainability. "They have been quick out of the gate to meet E3 Fleet criteria and capture a silver rating. It's an impressive accomplishment, and we expect other public and private sector fleets to step up to the challenge."

"The Public Works Department is extremely pleased to receive this award," said Scott Stewart, General Manager of the City of Hamilton's Public Works Department. "We take our environmental responsibility very seriously and we hope that we can inspire other municipalities to transition their fleet to greener alternatives as well."

The E3 Fleet program offers a concrete way for owners and operators of public and private sector fleets to show they are committed to "Environment, Energy and Excellence." E3 Fleet is a unique program in Canada, and a first in North America. Green ratings are already recognized in the design, construction and operation of buildings, such as LEED™ (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification standards. Since the transportation sector accounts for 40% of Greenhouse Gas emissions, the Fraser Basin Council decided to take a similar rating concept to the street. E3 Fleet is now attracting attention across the country and in the United States.

Hamilton's key accomplishments in earning a Silver Rating under the E3 Fleet program include:

- Developing a comprehensive Green Fleet Plan to set priorities for greening its fleet, with endorsement and support from Mayor and Council
- Engaging employees in an idling reduction program, to reduce unnecessary idling and create a healthier work environment
- Introducing 56 hybrid cars within the light duty fleet. Vehicles are selected using a purchasing policy that ensures that vehicles are "right-sized" and appropriate for the work they need to do
- Maintaining the right data to make decisions, by tracking fuel data consumption for each vehicle, and using weekly and monthly exception reports to resolve problems quickly
- Making better use of existing vehicles by eliminating vehicles that are not used often
- Replacing more often vehicles that put on significant mileage each year, such as bylaw enforcement vehicles. This reduces operating costs and emissions

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- Using alternative fuels, such as biodiesel, thereby reducing the Greenhouse Gas intensity of the fleet
- Using route and trip planning to minimize the number and length of trips.

What is E3 Fleet?

E3 Fleet is an innovative Canada-wide program that assists public and private sector fleet vehicles meet green standards for performance. The E3 Fleet program, launched in 2006, recognizes achievements in green fleet performance through a rating system, the first of its kind for fleet in North America. Fleets are rated through a third-party fleet audit, and awarded an overall rating of Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum.

Under the E3 Fleet Rating System, fleets are rated on several criteria, including their fleet action plan, training and awareness, idling reduction, vehicle purchasing, fuel data management, operations and maintenance, trip and route planning, utilization management, fuel efficiency, and Greenhouse Gas performance.

E3 Fleet currently has 17 member fleets in Canada, including municipalities, utilities and urban delivery companies. Together, these members operate more than 15,000 vehicles.

E3Fleet.com also features Canada's Green Fuels Map

More information on the E3 Fleet program, including tools and resources, fleet reviews and fleet ratings, is available at e3fleet.com.

One feature with broad appeal is Canada's Green Fuels map. Developed by the Fraser Basin Council, the map shows fuel stations across the country where drivers can buy biodiesel, propane, natural gas, hydrogen and ethanol.

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For more information on E3 Fleet, contact:

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