Joint Initial Actions to Reduce Pollutant Emissions That Contribute to Particulate Matter and Ground-level Ozone

Ministers Agree on the set of initial actions to reduce the pollutants that cause particulate matter (PM) and ground-level ozone presented below.

These initial actions will be undertaken jointly by provincial/territorial and federal governments. Sectors included in the initial joint actions have been selected because: based on current emission inventories, they are significant emitters of the precursor pollutants that cause PM and ozone; they are common to most jurisdictions and affect many communities across Canada; effective action requires a multi-jurisdictional approach; and; effective action can be initiated in the near-term. Some of these initiatives will build upon programs currently under way, such as the Strategic Options Processes (SOPs) under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act for reducing toxic substance releases from certain industrial sectors, and sectoral greenhouse gas reduction measures.

For each of the initiatives, a lead jurisdiction will be identified whose role will be to act as the national point of contact and champion for carrying forward the initiative though it is understood that all interested jurisdictions will participate. Initial actions that are sectoral in nature will be developed in consultation with the sector and other interested non-government stakeholders. Delivery dates for each of the initial actions will be established taking into account possible sequencing of activities to reduce the burden on government resources. It is intended that the full set of initial actions will be completed by 2005.

While these joint initial actions provide a core program for development of PM and ozone reduction measures in the near term, individual jurisdictions may wish to identify other initial actions that they plan to take in their jurisdiction. Also, they do not preclude the need for individual jurisdictions to develop the additional measures that may be needed in their implementation plans to meet the PM and ozone CWSs.

Specifically, the joint initial actions that Ministers agree to undertake are:

1) Provide more thorough and timely air quality information to governments, industry and the public by:

   a) Linking jurisdictional databases of ambient air quality data

   b) Facilitating access to existing public information
2) Establish new initiatives to reduce emissions from transportation including:
   
a) implementation of anti-tampering measures in all jurisdictions
   (provincial/territorial governments as appropriate)

   b) compilation of existing programs to encourage employees to use alternative
      transportation to get to work, and recommendations on how major employers in
      urban areas could adopt similar measures.

   c) review the experiences of jurisdictions in the application of motor vehicle
      Inspection and Maintenance programs or programs to improve the environmental
      performance of in-use vehicles, summarize key findings and make them broadly
      available.

3) Participate in new initiatives to reduce emissions from residential wood burning
   appliances including:

   a) an update of the CSA standards for new wood-burning appliances;

   b) development of a national regulation for new, clean burning residential wood
      heating appliances;

   c) national public education programs;

   d) an assessment of the option of a national wood stove upgrade or change-out
      program.

4) In consultation with industry and other stakeholders, identify and develop
    comprehensive, national multi-pollutant emission reduction strategies initially for the
    following sectors:

    ■ Pulp and Paper
    ■ Lumber and Allied Wood Products
    ■ Electric Power
    ■ Iron and Steel
    ■ Base Metals Smelting
    ■ Concrete Batch Mix and Asphalt Mix Plants
In addition to addressing the pollutants that contribute to PM and ozone, these strategies will take into account measures being undertaken to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants.

5) Building on the best jurisdictional approaches, compile, in consultation with industry and other stakeholders, model emission management measures or codes of practice for use by all Canadian jurisdictions as appropriate, applicable to the construction and demolition sector, for example including:

(a) codes of good practice which reflect the best current dust minimization and suppression methods for use across Canada by authorities which regulate construction and demolition activities

(b) a model by-law requiring dust mitigation and suppression at major construction and demolition sites for adoption by responsible authorities

6) Based on the best jurisdictional practices, assemble a model alternative energy (e.g. Green Power) program to aid all jurisdictions as appropriate in promoting and enhancing the availability, development and use of energy alternatives that have the potential to reduce emissions that contribute to PM and ozone.

7) Enhance the mechanisms for coordination of science activities related to PM and ozone that will assist in information exchange among jurisdictions, identification of science uncertainties and gaps, establishing science priorities and where appropriate coordination of jurisdictional research programs, and provide an update on the PM and ozone environmental and health science within a time frame required to enable completion of the 2005 PM and ozone CWS review.