

Request for Decision City Council





Type of Decision											
Meeting Date		January 31, 2007				Report Date		January 9, 2007			
Decision Requested		x	Yes		No	Priority		x	High		Low
		Direction Only				Type of Meeting		x	Open		Closed

Report Title
Clean Air Sudbury - School Yard Air Quality Monitoring Project

Budget Impact / Policy Implication		Recommendation	
X	This report has been reviewed by the Finance Division and the funding source has been identified.		
<p>If approved, the \$15,000 request will be funded from the EarthCare Sudbury Program budget.</p>		<p>THAT Council approve the funding for revising the local air quality report 'Clearing the Air' and a portion of the School Yard Air Quality Monitoring Project to be undertaken by Clean Air Sudbury under the oversight of MIRARCO (Laurentian University) and</p> <p>THAT funding be provided through the EarthCare Sudbury Program budget.</p>	
Background Attached		Recommendation Continued	

Recommended by the Department	Recommended by the C.A.O.
 Doug Nadrozny General Manager/Growth and Development	 Mark Mieto Chief Administrative Officer

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Report Prepared By	Division Review
 Stephen Monet Manager of Environmental Planning Initiatives	 Bill Lautenbach Director of Planning Services

In April 2006, Clean Air Sudbury (CAS) partnered with MIRARCO, a non-for-profit applied research corporation owned by Laurentian University, to submit an application to the Ontario Trillium Foundation to undertake a research project that monitors community air quality in school yards in the Sudbury area. The project will incorporate aspects of research including monitoring, data gathering, statistical analyses and report production combined with an educational component which entails student/teacher interaction, curriculum enhancement and presentations by local air quality professionals. Through the Center for Environmental Monitoring at MIRARCO, a research scientist and graduate students will plan and execute the project which will allow students to become familiar with state-of-the-art air quality and meteorological monitoring equipment and how that equipment is used by professionals to measure air quality and ultimately link it to impacts on humans and the surrounding ecosystem.

The project will be undertaken in two sessions. Throughout February 2007, monitoring equipment will be operational at two Sudbury schools - Lockerby Composite High School and Confederation High School and will run for a period of one month. A second monitoring session will be held in the Spring (April) at two different schools in the Sudbury area.

Through this hands-on learning experience, students will gain sound research, critical thinking and communication skills as they utilize the analytical equipment, which will be loaned from the collaborating partners. They will also gain an understanding of why data is collected and will discuss the implications of that data for the community. This program will also be invaluable for those students who are interested in a future career in ecological monitoring and evaluation. Through their participation in the program, students will learn about their contribution to the ecosystem and build a sense of stewardship for local ecosystems. Students will also develop practical skills that can easily be transferred to the workplace.

Clean Air Sudbury is a local committee comprised of air quality professionals from industry, academia, government and the general public who act as a forum for the citizens of Sudbury by promoting awareness on local air quality issues, provide public education, and initiate programs on how individual citizens, businesses, industry and public sector organizations can help do their part in improving local air quality. Clean Air Sudbury brings together stakeholders, engages the public in discussion, education and actions, and provides access to relevant air quality information.

In 2007, CAS will also commission an update of the document 'Clearing the Air' – a locally produced state of community air quality report. The original report was completed in 2004 and gave a historical review of air quality trends in the City of Greater Sudbury over a 50 year period. An update of that report will be produced every three years. Funds gathered from CAS partners, including the City of Greater Sudbury, will support the production of this document, support Clean Air Sudbury for 2007 and contribute to the School Yard Air Quality Monitoring

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project. For these endeavours, MIRARCO is requesting support totaling \$15,000 from the City of Greater Sudbury through its EarthCare Sudbury Program.