

PUBLIC TRANSIT FOR A HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT



Although the public in general appreciates the value of using an environmentally friendly means of transportation such as walking, cycling or public transit, automobiles are by far still the most popular mode of travel... as well as the most polluting since they are the primary source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Because our planet's ecosystem has been weakened in the last few years, it is becoming increasingly urgent that we modify our lifestyle and modes of transportation.

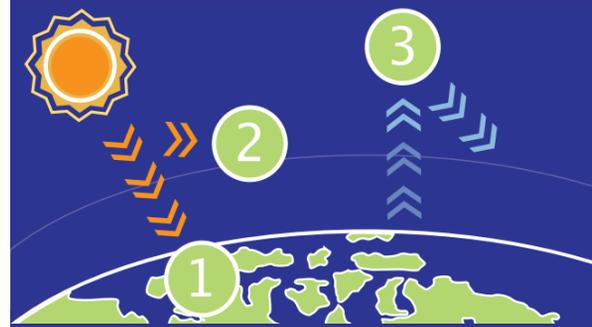
WHAT IS SMOG ?

Smog is created mainly by combustion of the fuel used by vehicles. It is a fog composed of air pollutants consisting primarily of ozone that collects at ground level, and is formed by the interaction of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds that react when exposed to sunlight.

ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE KYOTO PROTOCOL

The use of public transit or another form of green transportation is one of the best solutions for reducing polluting emissions, combating climate change and achieving the objectives set by Canada as part of the Kyoto Protocol.

WHAT ARE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION (GHG)?



- 1 The sun's rays are naturally absorbed by the earth's surface to maintain a suitable air temperature for all the life forms on earth.
- 2 However, an excessive amount of GHGs prevent some of the heat from dissipating.
- 3 Thereby trapping it at the earth's surface and causing the air temperature to rise. This phenomenon is responsible for global warming.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

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| <p>01. Per person, an automobile pollutes 6 to 18 times as much as a bus?
* Source: STM, Le transport en commun : un choix pour l'environnement (February 2003)</p> | <p>05. The use of public transit instead of private vehicles reduces the amount of GHGs emitted into the air by 65%?
* Source : CUTA, Towards Kyoto : Public Transit's Role (November 2002)</p> |
| <p>02. The transportation sector represents 38% of all GHG emissions in Quebec?
* Source : Vivre en ville – Regroupement québécois pour le développement urbain, rural et villageois viable.</p> | <p>06. Buses are responsible for only 0.3% of GHGs produced in the country?
* Source : CUTA, Towards Kyoto : Public Transit's Role (November 2002)</p> |
| <p>03. In Canada alone, there are more than 25 million vehicles on the road?
* Source : Statistics Canada</p> | <p>07. The bus replaces 40 to 50 cars on the roads?
* Source : STO</p> |
| <p>04. In 2004 alone, more than 84 million tonnes of GHGs were emitted into the atmosphere by cars and light trucks?
* Source : La Presse, April 2005</p> | <p>08. Hybrid buses would represent an annual reduction of 3, 128 tonnes of CO2 in Gatineau and Montreal, or the equivalent of 626 fewer vehicles on the roads?
* Source : STO</p> |

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR PLEASE!

In Canada alone, close to 16,000 premature deaths* are caused by the poor air quality created by vehicles.

* Source : David Suzuki, scientist, professor, environmentalist, genetist, speaker and host of the broadcast The Nature of Things

WORKING TOWARDS A CLEANER FUTURE TOGETHER

To promote and increase bus use, the Société de transport de l'Outaouais (STO) regularly highlights various activities to encourage residents to choose public transit.

The increase in ridership that the STO has seen over the last 10 years, which reached 16 million trips in 2004, means that every year, more than 35,000 additional tonnes of pollutants are not emitted into the air.

APPEALING PUBLIC TRANSIT

Every year, various improvements are made to the services provided or the STO's infrastructures. By increasing the appeal of public transit, the potential ridership also rises, and with it, the beneficial effect on the quality of our environment.

- More than 20 kilometres of **reserved lanes** to offer faster service, especially during rush hours, thereby reducing traffic congestion.
- More than 2,000 free parking spots in 14 **park-and-ride** facilities, and **terminuses** that are constantly being adapted to meet user needs.
- **InfoPlus**, a new electronic information system that gives the exact time of the next two buses on the routes serving a stop.

THE STO SUPPORTS "IN TOWN, WITHOUT MY CAR!" DAY AND "CLEAN AIR DAY"

It is sometimes hard for motorists to trade their vehicles for the bus. To allow citizens to try this means of transportation, every year the STO encourages the public to participate in special days organized to promote a cleaner environment. For instance, on "Clean Air Day" and "In Town, Without My Car!" day, the STO gives riders a chance to invite someone else to use the entire system for free. Not only does this activity help to promote good living habits, it also encourages greater use of public transit, thereby reducing the number of polluting vehicles on our roads.

Buses that are more fuel efficient and pollute less

The STO is currently renewing its fleet with new low floor buses that are much more fuel efficient and environmentally friendly. Regular engine maintenance, installation of catalytic converters on existing buses and the SmartDriver training program are additional activities that help to reduce polluting emissions to create a healthier environment.

Rapibus

The rapid transit system with its exclusive right-of-way that the STO plans to implement in the near future will use existing railway rights-of-way linking the City of Gatineau from east to west. The STO anticipates that this infrastructure will increase daily ridership to 25,400 passengers by 2011. This will lead to a decrease in the number of vehicles on our roads, thereby also reducing greenhouse gases. Furthermore, a utilitarian bicycle path along the corridor will help to encourage the public to take advantage of a green means of transportation.

Hybrid buses : from dream to reality

Selected by Transport Canada, the STO's experimental project with electric-diesel hybrid buses conducted jointly with the Société de transport de Montréal could soon be implemented. Since this technology results in fuel savings, it helps to safeguard a healthier environment that aligns with the objectives of the Kyoto Protocol.



ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC TRANSIT

BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE ! POSITIVE IMPACTS FOR YOU AND YOUR CITY

Public transit reduces the cost of travel per individual and also traffic congestion.

Public transit is considered an investment. Operating and capital expenditures represent a major economic activity, namely through bids awarded to Quebec suppliers.

Public transit is a community structuring tool with respect to socio-economic, cultural, family and other aspects. It has a major impact on the quality of life of residents and the vitality of a city.

Because the costs related to public transit are lower than those related to running a car, it is easier for individuals to spend a smaller share of their budget on transportation, thereby giving them greater spending power.

The proximity of public transit service increases real estate values.

Public transit means a reduction in pollution, accidents, fuel consumption and the space used on roads.

To find out more about the STO, visit the Web site at www.sto.ca or contact Information at **770-3242**.

Publication date: Fall 2005
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