

AIR QUALITY ENERGY MANAGER POSITION SAVED

By Ed Corrigan
Councillor, Ward 7

London City Council on Tuesday February 11, 2003 came up with the \$100,000 necessary to save the Air Quality Energy Manager position by reallocating budget monies and not increasing taxes. However, the position was transferred from the Middlesex London Health Unit to the City Engineering Department.

This change was a compromise that saved the Air Quality Energy Management program. It will keep the air quality, energy conservation and green house gas emission reduction programs. These programs made London a national leader. This change will give the local taxpayer more control and direct benefit. What follows is a copy of a letter I sent to my fellow members of City Council in support of retaining the Air Quality Energy Manager position.

Ed Corrigan
Councillor, Ward 7

Letter to fellow London City Councillors

Dear Fellow Member of Council

There is a City budget proposal to cut \$120,000 from the London Middlesex Health Unit by eliminating the position of Air Quality Energy Manager. As a responsible member of Council I am opposing this budget cut. Council is being penny wise and dollar foolish. The direct savings in cutting energy costs by retrofitting municipal, industrial and other structures will be substantial and by having someone like James Moore, with his leading edge expertise on air quality and energy management issues, will more than off set the costs of his salary. Having this expertise available is an economic development benefit.

There will be a substantial cost incurred as part of terminating this position which will off set any immediate cost savings. This position Will allow the City of London to access federal funding now that the Kyoto Agreement on global warming has been ratified by the Canadian Parliament.

We also have to meet the terms of the Canada-U.S. Smog Agreement signed in 2000. Without specialized staff we have no hope of honouring these International accords.

London needs an Air Quality Energy Manager to implement these agreements and to meet our targets to save energy, reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality. The health benefits and reduced costs on the medical side of improving air quality will also be significant.

London was in a position to be a leader in this field. This budget cut will cause us to lose this opportunity, lose related spin off economic benefits, lose new government funding and lose the substantial energy cost savings as well.

Ed Corrigan
Councillor, Ward 7