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Candidate Statement for TREA TALK

FROM: ED CORRIGAN, Candidate for Ward 7

QUESTION:

What is the most important environmental issue facing the city, now and in the future?

What can the City Council do about it?

RESPONSE:

As a past Board Member of the U.W.O. Ontario Public Interest Research Group I know that environmental issues are complex and interrelated. The goal is sustainable development. Past Council's have not given environmental problems priority. For example London's air quality is second worst in Ontario; the poor quality of water in the Thames due to the failure to separate storm and sanitary sewers; the toxic "blob" in the Thames which is leeching cancer causing agents into the environment all need to be addressed on an urgent basis.

As a Ward 7 councillor I will work to clean up the Thames. As Past President of the Lambeth Community Association I helped to work out a compromise on the Southside Pollution Control Plant that should help protect the environment and the community by stopping the raw sewage currently being dumped into Dingman Creek and flowing into the Thames. I also fought for and helped win strong guarantees that the effluent from the new plant will meet the highest environmental standards possible. I will continue to do the same.

I would also support and accelerate the Energy and Transportation Demand Management projects that are languishing at City Hall. This should result in savings to the City. We cannot control airborne particulates from the Ohio valley, but we can address local energy consumption and vehicle emission issues. For example, the City could have purchased more efficient natural gas buses as opposed to diesel. Cost-effective proposals to improve public transit and other ways to help the environment will also be supported.

(255 words)