



London
CANADA

300 Dufferin Avenue
P.O. Box 5035
London, ON
N6A 4L9

To the members of CWC,

This submission is a follow up on the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) update we received on May 30th 2023, where we learned that GHG intensity of Ontario's grid in 2022 is estimated to have increased by over 40% from 2018 levels which has resulted in an increase in local emissions. I would like to submit a three-part motion address the ongoing planned use of natural gas in our electricity grid, both provincially and locally, and ensure we are consistent with the direction of the Federal Government and its proposed Clean Electricity Regulations (CER).

On Dec. 23, 2022, Minister Smith directed the IESO to ensure municipal approval for new gas projects. On May 12, Toronto City Council passed a motion opposing any new or expanded fossil gas power generation in the city. On May 16th, the IESO announced almost 600 megawatts of new gas-fired generation projects in communities including Toronto, Brampton, Halton Hills, Thorold, Windsor and St. Clair Township. I'm unaware of any plans for expanded fossil gas power generation in London, but I'd like to ensure we are doing our due diligence to indicate we don't support more gas-powered electricity generation to ensure we achieve our CEAP targets.

In London, there are currently numerous co-generation facilities that cause emissions. Collectively they account for around 3-11% of our emissions in London. These facilities are more efficient than standard natural gas to heat or power installations, but overall, they do contribute to our emissions. I am to understand that the various facilities are working on reducing emissions, but I would like to fully understand their plans to align to our community target of net-zero by 2050.

Therefore, I seek your support on the following motions.

Whereas: The Government of Ontario is planning to increase electricity generation and greenhouse gas pollution from Ontario's gas-fired power plants by more than 300% by 2030 and by 700% by 2043, reversing approximately 60% of the greenhouse gas pollution reductions achieved by phasing out our coal-fired power plants;

And whereas: Greenhouse gas pollution is causing temperatures in Canada to rise at more than double the rate of the rest of the world, causing impacts to the operations and citizens of London;



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And whereas: London is taking measures to mitigate and adapt to the climate impacts caused by increasing greenhouse gas pollution;

And whereas: The planned increase in electricity-related greenhouse gas pollution will reduce the effectiveness of London's greenhouse gas reduction efforts;

And whereas: There are feasible, cost-effective alternatives to increasing gas-fired electricity generation without increasing greenhouse gas pollution at costs well below the current price for Ontario's nuclear energy (10.9 cents/kWh)

Therefore, I'd like to move the following:

- Motion to direct the Mayor of the City of London to submit a letter to request the Government of Ontario to develop and implement a plan to move Ontario to a net zero-carbon electricity grid by 2035, consistent with the 2035 date of the proposed Federal Government Clean Electricity Regulations (CER), to help Ontario and London meet our climate targets **BE APPROVED**. And that this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Energy, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, all local MPPs and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.
- Motion to direct Civic Administration to reach out to London facilities currently reporting emissions publicly through the joint federal/provincial Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program to request details on their greenhouse gas reduction plans to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 and include in a future Climate Emergency Action Plan update **BE APPROVED**.
- Motion to direct Civic Administration to contact Enbridge and London Hydro to discuss the implementation requirements, roles, responsibilities, and potential impacts of CER in London and area **BE APPROVED**.

Thank you for your continued support on climate action.

Councillor Skylar Franke



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Background

The Government of Ontario is planning to ramp up the greenhouse gas pollution from Ontario's gas-fired power plants by more than 300% by 2030 and by 700% by 2043¹ to meet rising electricity demand and to replace the output of the Pickering Nuclear Station, whose operating license expires in 2024. This plan will eliminate approximately 60% of the greenhouse gas reductions Ontario achieved by phasing-out its dirty coal-fired power plants.

The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) [announced](#) on May 16, 2023 that it is contracting for almost 600 megawatts of new gas-fired generation capacity to meet our summer peak hour demands.

Greenhouse gas pollution is causing temperatures in Canada to rise at more than double the rate in the rest of the world, causing adverse impacts for the citizens of London, such as heat waves, rain, flooding and winter storms with related property damage and public health impacts.

The current direction of the Provincial Government appears to be in the opposite direction of the Federal Government which is developing the Clean Electricity Regulations (CER) with the desire of being a net-zero electricity grid by 2035. The CER can help transition Canada to a net-zero electricity grid by 2035 while ensuring a reliable and affordable electricity system. The three core principles guiding the Canada-wide consultations on CER are:

1. Maximize greenhouse gas reductions to achieve net-zero emissions from the electricity grid by 2035;
2. Ensure grid reliability to support a strong economy and ensure Canadians are safe by having energy to support their cooling needs in the summer and warmth in the winter; and,
3. Maintain electricity affordability for homeowners and businesses.

This work on clean electricity will be key to reaching Canada's 2030 and 2050 climate targets. Electricity is fundamental to the Canadian economy. The Federal Government describes this important work as a joint effort with provinces, territories, Indigenous partners, utilities, non-government organizations, academics, industry, and interested Canadians. It will also require a number of interrelated actions across the economy.

London has declared a Climate Emergency, adopted GHG reduction goal of net-zero by 2050 and approved a Climate Emergency Action Plan.

¹ Relative to 2017 levels, found in the [2022 Data Tables for the IESO's 2022 Annual Planning Outlook](#)



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The planned increase in GHG pollution associated with electricity will reduce the effectiveness of London's climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. It will decrease the effectiveness of electrification programs (deep building retrofits, EV programs) due to increased GHGs associated with electricity, discourage development of distributed renewable energy initiatives, delay municipal transition to the clean economy of the future, and prevent Ontario from meeting its GHG reduction commitment. **We have already seen this impact our efforts to reduce emissions locally.**

Ontario can phase-out the use of its gas-fired power plants for electricity purposes by 2035 by an integrated combination of energy efficiency investments, demand response (load shifting from peak to off-peak periods), wind and solar energy, Quebec waterpower and energy storage. The costs of the alternatives to gas-fired generation are [less than](#) Ontario Power Generation's current price per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for power from nuclear plants (10.9 cents per kWh).

Ontario can increase its investments in quick-to-deploy and low-cost energy efficiency programs. Ontario can cost-effectively maximize its energy efficiency efforts by paying up to the same price for energy efficiency measures as it is currently paying for power from nuclear plants. Ontario can become a leader in developing increasingly low-cost renewable energy. Ontario should support renewable energy projects that have costs that are below what we are paying for nuclear power and work with communities to make the most of these economic opportunities.

For example, [Great Lakes wind power](#) could meet more than 100% of our electricity needs at a cost that is 40% lower than the cost of new nuclear reactors. While Ontario's demand for electricity peaks on hot summer days when our air-conditioners are running full out, Quebec's demand for electricity peaks on cold winter nights. As a result, [Hydro Quebec has a huge surplus of water power available for export to Ontario](#) during summer months.

In 2030, the total capacity of Ontario's electric vehicle batteries will be more than double the capacity of Ontario's gas-fired power plants. EVs are parked for 95% of the hours of the day on average. EV batteries can be charged during off-peak hours (nights and weekends), and they can supply power back to the grid during peak demand hours.

The phase-out of Ontario's gas-fired power plants for electricity purposes will help London and the Province of Ontario to achieve their greenhouse gas pollution reduction goals.