

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON JANUARY 8, 2019
FROM:	KELLY SCHERR, P.ENG., MBA, FEC MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES & CITY ENGINEER JOHN FLEMING, MCIP, RPP MANAGING DIRECTOR, CITY PLANNING & CITY PLANNER GEORGE KOTSIFAS, P.ENG. MANAGING DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT & COMPLIANCE SERVICES & CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL SCOTT STAFFORD MANAGING DIRECTOR, PARKS & RECREATION
SUBJECT:	COMMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL REGISTRY OF ONTARIO (ERO): A MADE-IN-ONTARIO ENVIRONMENT PLAN

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Directors of Environmental & Engineering Services & City Engineer; City Planning & City Planner; Development & Compliance Services & Chief Building Official and Parks & Recreation; the comments (Appendix A) **BE ENDORSED** and submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks' Environmental Registry of Ontario posting (013-4208) titled *Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations: A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan*. The due date for comments is January 29, 2019.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

Civic Works Committee and Planning & Environment Committee have dealt with numerous reports that are pertinent to this matter.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2019

Municipal Council has recognized the importance of environmental protection and sustainability in its 2015-2019 - Strategic Plan for the City of London ([2015 – 2019 Strategic Plan](#)). Specifically, actions undertaken by the provincial government can support London's efforts in environmental protection and improvement and address all four Areas of Focus, at one level or another, as follows:

Strengthening Our Community

- Vibrant, connected and engaged neighbourhoods
- Healthy, safe, and accessible city

Growing our Economy

- Urban regeneration
- Local, regional, and global innovation
- Strategic, collaborative partnerships

Building a Sustainable City

- Robust infrastructure
- Convenient and connected mobility choices
- Strong and healthy environment
- Responsible growth

Leading in Public Service

- Proactive financial management
- Collaborative, engaged leadership
- Excellent service delivery

BACKGROUND

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide Committee and Council with:

- A summary of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP) proposal titled, “Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations: A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan”; and
- The City of London’s comments (Appendix A) on the proposed plan for approval and forwarding to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO), formerly the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) Registry.

CONTEXT:

Preserving and protecting London’s environment is connected to many City of London programs, strategies and initiatives that are delivered across several Services Areas including Environmental & Engineering Services; City Planning; Development & Compliance Services; and Parks & Recreation. Much of this work is also done in collaboration with other Service Areas that have less direct responsibilities related to the environment, such as Neighbourhood, Children & Fire Services, and includes:

- The London Plan
- Active & Green Communities and other CityGreen community engagement activities
- Active Transportation and Transportation Demand Management activities
- Bus Rapid Transit
- Community Energy Action Plan
- Corporate Energy Conservation & Demand Management (CDM) Plan
- 2030 Transportation Master Plan (Smart Moves)
- London On Bikes Cycling Master Plan
- London Invasive Plant Management Strategy
- NeighbourGood London: London Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy
- Parks & Recreation Master Plan
- Smart City Strategy
- Stormwater and watershed management programs
- Urban Agriculture Strategy
- Urban Forest Strategy
- Waste reduction and diversion (60% Waste Diversion Action Plan, Resource Recovery Strategy and Waste Disposal Strategy, the latter two under development)
- Water conservation and efficiency programs

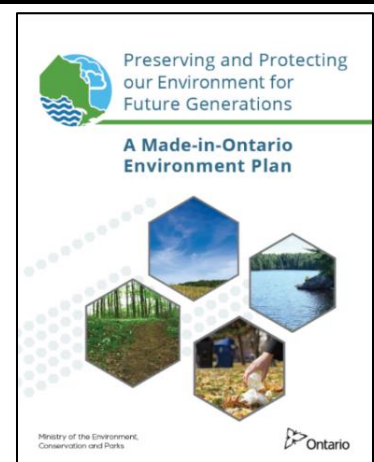
Many actions from the above list (and those not listed) will occur in 2019 and beyond. Some actions will be part of the developing Council Strategic Plan; others are part of annual services.

DISCUSSION

Part A - Overview of the Proposed Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan

The proposed Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan (referred to as the Plan in the rest of this report) is a 53 page long document that outlines the Provincial Government’s holistic approach to managing all the environmental aspects that it is now responsible for:

- Protecting Our Air, Lakes and Rivers
 - Clean Air
 - Clean Water



- Addressing Climate Change
 - Building Resilience: Helping Families and Communities Prepare
 - Continuing to do Our Share: Achieving the Paris Agreement Target
 - Make Polluters Accountable
 - Activate the Private Sector
 - Use Energy and Resources Wisely
- Doing Our Part:
 - Government Leadership
- Reducing Litter and Waste in Our Communities & Keeping Our Land and Soil Clean
 - Reduce Litter and Waste
 - Clean Soil
- Conserving Land and Greenspace

Appendix B contains a list of the majority of the Plan's proposed strategies and actions of higher interest and benefit to City of London programs and projects.

General City Staff Perspectives

The Plan represents a different approach for the Provincial Government in that it attempts to integrate the broad purview of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation & Parks (MECP). Traditionally, individual plans and strategies have been produced to address specific programs or issues within the Ministry's larger mandate. In general, the proposed holistic approach closely aligns with similar approaches and synergies being taken with City of London Service Areas.

The Plan's frequent use of words and imagery connected to Ontario's parks and natural environment could be useful to get Ontarians with a high affinity for enjoying the outdoors to make the connection with human activity's impact on the natural environment. The Plan also notes the value of reconnecting residents with nature through enhanced trails and raising awareness of the environmental, financial and health impacts of individual transportation choices. The Plan also makes a number of insightful connections, such as the role that district energy and energy storage can play in both climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as the role that organic waste diversion can play in producing renewable natural gas. Even the focus on simpler issues like "picking up litter" can be used as a starting point to get Ontarians on a path towards taking action to protect the environment as a whole.

The Plan recognizes the growing impact of invasive species on natural systems and proposes a more comprehensive strategy to address them. London's city-wide invasive species strategy fits squarely with that vision.

The Plan also recognizes the growing impact of plastic pollution in waterways and lakes and proposes steps to reduce such pollution. London's steps in 2008 to reduce single use, plastic water bottles sold in municipal facilities started a conversation about drinking water perceptions and purchasing habits. Provincial initiatives that support litter understanding, prevention and cleanup will provide added value to programs such London Clean & Green (over 20 years of operation).

The Plan recognizes the many years of work undertaken by municipalities to seek extended producer responsibility to reduce, reuse and recycle products and packaging, including a move to full financial responsibility for producers to provide relief to taxpayers. As the Plan notes, new projects and technologies are required to recover the value of waste, as promoted for many years by the London Waste to Resources Innovation Centre.

The Plan also recognizes that logical, easy to understand steps to adapt to extreme weather events caused by climate change are needed. The inclusion of 10 ways to prevent basement flooding is consistent with the programs offered by London providing incentives and programs to prevent basement flooding.

The Plan includes direction to preserve and protect wildlife habitats and other significant natural areas, which is consistent with existing City policies and values. However, the report does not provide details with regards to funding for government purchasing and setting aside these valuable natural heritage resources.

The Plan does have its unusual aspects as well. There is no mention of the role that cycling, walking, and transit can play in reducing air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions. For example, providing the means for Ontarians to walk and cycle more can contribute to the Plan's environmental preservation and protection goals. Green transportation infrastructure that supports all means of travel, such as that identified in the Bus Rapid Transit Initiative and the London ON Bikes Cycling Master Plan, can help reduce energy use in the province's largest emission-producing sector. Investments in green active transportation infrastructure, such as London's Thames Valley Parkway multi-use pathway, also contribute to the Plan's goal of conserving urban greenspace by exposing more Londoners to nature and building their appreciation of the Thames Valley.

Another important consideration that is missing from the Plan is the linkage between environmental protection and city planning policies. In London, the approach to sustainability and resilience includes planning for a built form that reduces the need for urban expansion and facilitates movement throughout the city by transit and active transportation. City design policies ensure that built form is transit-oriented and supportive of high quality walking environments that support and encourage pedestrian activities. Planning principles such as intensification, providing a mix and range of land uses throughout the city, strategic growth management and protecting natural heritage resources are well established in the City's Official Plan, the Provincial Policy Statement (2014) and the provincial growth plans. These planning principles reduce the impact of urban centres on the environment and must be factored into a comprehensive strategy for preserving and protecting the environment for future generations. The role of protecting and increasing urban tree cover to help mitigate climate change impacts is also a gap in the document.

The proposed climate change mitigation actions in this Plan are less ambitious than those outlined in the previous Ontario Climate Change Action Plan. Rather than using the combination of carbon pricing and related revenue for incentives that the former Cap & Trade program provided to encourage action, this Plan relies primarily on proposed tax policy tools and a provincially-funded Ontario Carbon Trust to leverage private sector capital to support actions. In particular, there are few proposed actions that focus on reducing emissions associated with personal transportation, such as a proposal to increase ethanol content in gasoline by 5 percent and public education regarding the impact of transportation choices. Further, term "renewable energy" is not included in the document, which is a major omission for a Plan meant to address both air quality and climate change.

The most controversial aspect of the Plan is the weakening of Ontario's greenhouse gas emission reduction targets through the proposed re-alignment with the national targets for Canada. Canada's target framework was developed to take into account Alberta and Saskatchewan's plans for increasing oil and gas development alongside the planned reductions from Ontario and other provinces. Ontario's Plan will make it less likely that Canada will meet our Paris Agreement greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, unless Alberta and Saskatchewan also agree to scale back their plans for oil and gas development.

The Plan is also light in describing the role Ontario's Conservation Authorities play in protecting rivers, drinking water, and greenspace. Despite watershed management continuing to be recognized as the most effective resource management tool for Ontario's rivers, the Conservation Authorities that have historically led these efforts are only mentioned once in the Plan. That reference is for the Muskoka watershed where no Conservation Authority exists. Continued coordination and engagement with Conservation Authorities by the Province will be important in accomplishing many of the Plan's objectives.

Part B - Comments to be Submitted to the ERO (#013-2083) (Appendix A)

The City of London's comments on the proposed guideline for approval and forwarding to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) are contained in Appendix A. The comments were prepared with input from:

Gregg Barrett, Manager - Long Range Planning and Research
 Pat Donnelly, Urban Watershed Program Manager
 Andrew Henry, Director, Regional Water Supply
 Mike Losee, Manager, Solid Waste Management
 Andrew Macpherson, Manager - Environmental & Parks Planning
 Doug MacRae, Director, Roads & Transportation
 Scott Mathers, Director, Water & Wastewater
 Jennie Ramsay, Project Director, Rapid Transit
 Jamie Skimming, Manager, Air Quality
 Jay Stanford, Director, Environment, Fleet & Solid Waste
 Paul Yeoman, Director, Development Services

RECOMMENDED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
SCOTT STAFFORD MANAGING DIRECTOR, PARKS & RECREATION	JOHN FLEMING, MCIP, RPP MANAGING DIRECTOR, CITY PLANNING & CITY PLANNER
RECOMMENDED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
GEORGE KOTSIFAS, P.ENG. MANAGING DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT & COMPLAINE SERVICES & CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL	KELLY SCHERR, P.ENG., MBA, FEC MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES & CITY ENGINEER

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Appendix A: Comments to be Submitted to the ERO (#013-2083)

Appendix B: List of Proposed Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan of Higher Interest to City of London Programs and Projects

Appendix A

Comments to be Submitted to the ERO (#013-2083)

City staff recommend that the following comments be submitted to the ERO posting:

General

1. The Province of Ontario is to be commended for recognizing the role that municipalities have been playing in community energy planning and greenhouse gas emission reduction planning. The City of London encourages the province to continue to work in partnership (e.g., technically, knowledge transfer, financially) with municipal governments in order to achieve our mutual emission reduction goals. The City of London also encourages the Province to continue to work with Ontario municipalities through active and ongoing participation in existing organizations and programs such as the Clean Air Council, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Partners for Climate Protection, and Quality Urban Energy Systems for Tomorrow (QUEST).
2. More connection is required with programs and projects for Ontarians to walk, cycle and use public transit. Active transportation and public transit infrastructure that supports all means of travel and help reduce energy use in the province's largest emission-producing sector. Investments in active transportation infrastructure also contributes to the plan's goal of conserving urban greenspace by providing Ontarians convenient and low impact access to natural areas.
3. The City of London encourages the Province to work with Ontario municipalities on highlighting the big picture economic benefits of taking action on climate change, such as reduced spending on fossil fuel energy products imported into Ontario, job creation from energy-efficiency and clean energy products and services, reduced health care costs from both active transportation and improved air quality, reduced traffic congestion, and deferring future expenditures on expanding energy distribution infrastructure.

Protecting our Air, Lakes and Rivers

4. The City of London recommends that the Province support reforestation efforts in municipalities to help clean our air.
5. The City of London encourages the Province to continue to work with municipalities and industries in reducing the plastic pollution that has now become a substantial issue in the Great Lakes.

Addressing Climate Change - Adaptation

6. The City of London encourages the Province to recognize the regional nature of the impacts of climate change, the role that municipalities have been playing in planning for and adapting to these changes and to continue to work in partnership (e.g., technically, knowledge transfer, financially) with municipal governments and other organizations such as Conservation Authorities.
7. The City of London recommends that the Province continue to work on providing climate change adaptation tools, share best practices, and fund the development of municipal research and innovation to prepare local resiliency strategies to ensure that municipalities increase their resilience to climate change.
8. The City of London suggests that the Province strengthen the regional expertise and address the unique regional needs without becoming GTA-centric (e.g., meetings need to be held in all regions, financial allocations distributed based on regional priorities).
9. The City of London requests that the Province review and incorporate existing climate change adaptation work completed by several groups including universities (e.g., Western, Waterloo) and insurance funded bureaus (e.g., Institute of Catastrophic Loss Prevention).

10. The City of London encourages the Province to prioritize investment in programs supporting the climate change adaptation and resilience of existing buildings and properties (residential, commercial, and institutional) through programs that look at adaptation measures holistically, rather than separate measures for stormwater management, flooding, and loss of power/water, in order to maximize benefits.
11. The City of London encourages that the Province review the 37 Actions contained in the document titled: Climate Ready; Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (2011-2014) and strengthen them to ensure they are measurable and deliver environmental benefits at a wise economic pace to absorb changes. Ontario has a chance to demonstrate balanced leadership in this area.
12. The City of London supports the Province's plans to build resilience in the province's critical infrastructure through better technology as well as back-up generation and energy storage options, and encourages the inclusion of district energy, combined heat and power, renewable power, energy storage, and other smart grid solutions within these plans.

Addressing Climate Change – Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

13. The City of London encourages the Province to analyze the advantages and disadvantages of retaining the existing greenhouse gas (GHG) targets for Ontario, specifically the 37 percent reduction from 1990 levels by 2030 and 80 percent reduction from 1990 levels by 2050.
14. The City of London would like to emphasize to the Province that personal transportation and building space heating are the largest GHG emission sources in London, as well as in most Ontario cities. Large emitters (those meeting provincial and federal GHG reporting thresholds) only account for 14 percent of London's total GHG emissions. It is important that our citizens also be held accountable for the collective impacts that they have, and that they be supported with dedicated measures to reduce their emissions on the road and at home.
15. The City of London encourages the Province to develop programs that encourage Ontarians and Ontario businesses to purchase fuel-efficient, low/zero emission light-duty vehicles (e.g., compact vehicles, gas-electric hybrid vehicles, and electric vehicles) and discourage the purchase of inefficient vehicles (e.g., vehicles that exceed Canadian Company Average Fuel Consumption standards).
16. The City of London supports the Province's plans for compressed natural gas (CNG) as a vehicle fuel and encourages the Province to develop programs that support the procurement of CNG heavy-duty vehicles and associated "return-to-base" CNG fuelling infrastructure to replace the use of diesel heavy-duty vehicles (i.e., trucks and buses) for both the significant air quality benefits (e.g., eliminating diesel soot, a known carcinogen) and GHG emission reduction benefits.
17. The City of London encourages the Province to develop programs that take advantage of Ontario's clean electricity grid to promote the electrification of transportation in a cost-effective manner that also provides operating benefits for Ontario's electricity grid (i.e., overnight charging to eliminate surplus power generation).
18. The City of London encourages the Province to prioritize investment in programs supporting the retrofit of existing building stock (residential, commercial, and institutional) through programs that look at building energy use holistically rather than separate measures for electricity and natural gas in order to maximize benefits.
19. The City of London encourages the Province to work with Ontario municipalities and business-focussed non-government organizations (e.g., the Ontario municipalities and Ontario businesses that have joined Green Economy Canada) on highlighting the business financial benefits of taking action on climate change, such as reduced operating costs, improved workplace productivity in high-performance buildings, employee recruiting & retention, and demonstrating corporate social responsibility.

20. The City of London encourages the Province to work with Ontario municipalities on highlighting the family financial benefits of taking action on climate change, such as lower utility bills, fewer refills at the gas station, and lower vehicle maintenance costs. Local actions that reduce greenhouse gases are one of the easiest ways to keep more money in families' pockets.

Doing Our Part

21. The City of London commends investments in transit infrastructure which is identified as a Government Leadership Action of improving public transportation to expand commuter choices and support communities. This action can effectively contribute to the climate change goals of the Plan by supporting transit improvements across the province. London's Bus Rapid Transit project aims to expand commuter choices in a growing community.
22. The City of London encourages the Province to maintain its province-wide strategy for cycling and continue to assist Ontario municipalities with the development of safe cycling infrastructure.
23. The City of London encourages the Province to continue to work with Ontario municipalities and employers on programs (e.g., Commute Ontario, Smart Commute) that encourage Ontarians to reduce the use of personal vehicles for routine travel.
24. The City of London encourages the Province to establish a regional public transit service that connects London with other Southwestern Ontario communities, as well investing in a system that provides a more time-efficient and reliable connection between London and the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA).
25. The City of London encourages the Province to support the development of a common sets of municipal energy planning tools (e.g., GHG cost-abatement calculation tools) and resources (e.g., access to datasets on an annual basis for energy commodity use by major sector, vehicle registration data, local electricity generation, etc.) to reduce the amount of municipal staff time and financial resources spent on climate change mitigation planning activities.
26. The City of London recommends that the Province's new Plan provide innovative solutions to support municipalities through a known funding stream each year to allow for longer term planning to implement projects and programs that require behaviour change and community and business collaboration. For many municipalities, the "easy to implement" programs and projects have already been undertaken. The next generation of emissions reduction programs and projects will be more complex and challenging, yet potentially more impactful.
27. The City of London supports the Province's plans to modernize the Building Code to better equip homes and buildings to be better able to withstand extreme weather events and encourages the Province to maintain high standards for new buildings (residential, commercial, and institutional) working towards net-zero energy and low-impact development (either at the building scale or development-wide scale) by 2030. Consideration should be given for public sector buildings to meet these requirements by an earlier date to lead by example.
28. The City of London recommends that the Province support reforestation efforts in municipalities to help address the growing impacts of urban heat islands and to provide maximum shade for our residents.
29. The City of London recommends that existing provincial policies, including the Provincial Policy Statement (2014), include planning principles that should be considered in the Plan. Support for intensification, the regeneration of urban neighbourhoods, strategic growth management, and planning for transit-oriented development and pedestrian-supported built environments should be addressed in the Plan."

Reducing Litter and Waste in Our Communities & Keeping Our Land and Soil Clean

30. The City of London supports the direction in this section of the Plan. It clearly builds on years of solutions that have been implemented and actions that are still required to be implemented. The simple theme of “reduce litter and waste” has an enormous amount of complexities that require strong Provincial direction with implementation by municipalities and businesses coupled with actions by citizens and employees.
31. The City of London supports the need to reduce and divert food and organic waste from households and businesses as it generally represents 20 to 35% by weight of the residential waste stream as well as a significant component in many businesses waste streams (e.g., restaurants, food processing operations, hospitality industry, etc.).
32. The City of London supports plastic waste reduction strategies that are comprehensive and have consistency across provinces and municipalities but also recognize differences and solutions that may exist in some regions.
33. The City of London supports the goal of enhanced programs to clean-up litter in communities. We welcome the opportunity to work with Provincially-sponsored programs to build long-term local leaders in this area.
34. The City of London supports quick action on extended producer responsibility and shifting recycling costs to businesses that create packaging, products and printed materials. Municipalities have an important role to play in helping businesses be successful and cost effective in expanded recycling systems.
35. The City of London supports exploring opportunities to recover the value of resources in waste and recommends that the Province ensures that all resource recovery options that maximize the value of unwanted materials are available for municipalities and businesses to implement. The ultimate goal is materials of value should not go to a landfill and all materials should never end up as litter or illegally dumped.
36. The City of London encourages the Province to work with Ontario municipalities, the Ontario Waste Management Association, and the Canadian Biogas Association to develop clean fuel programs that supports both the production of renewable natural gas (RNG) from landfill gas and/or organic waste.

Conserving Land and Greenspace

37. The City of London encourages the Province to support planning on a watershed basis to be able to identify and protect key natural areas and green infrastructure required to wisely manage our rivers and shorelines.
38. The City of London supports the creation of broader trail systems that allow residents to be more active and connect with their neighbours and neighbouring communities. Such trails should be accessible to all users, wherever possible.
39. The City of London is encouraged to see the support of reconnecting our residents with parks and nature through enhanced trails systems – not just at provincial parks, but ones that are accessible locally.
40. The City of London encourages the Province to also support sustainable urban forests for all of the inherent benefits they offer our residents.
41. The City of London supports the Plan’s direction to preserve and protect wildlife habitats and other significant natural areas. Additional information should be included with regards to funding for government purchasing and setting aside these valuable natural heritage resources.

42. The City of London notes that the timing of the Plan coincides with other Provincial consultations regarding housing and land use planning (e.g. Increasing Housing Supply in Ontario, MMAH). The City of London encourages the Province to coordinate these initiatives in order to address multiple Provincial and municipal interests. In the “Conserving Land and Greenspace” section of the Plan it is identified that Land Use Planning will be reviewed to update policy direction regarding climate change. In addition to this, the City of London encourages the Province’s Plan to identify and respond to the connection between land use planning, urban growth patterns (development forms) and their implications on transportation (e.g. commuting) and the environment (including emissions and natural area conservation). The City of London also encourages the Plan to recognize the connection between the preservation of agricultural lands, urban land use forms, and their implications on the environment, including emissions production and fostering sustainable, resilient Ontario communities.

Appendix B

List of Proposed Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan of Higher Interest to City of London Programs and Projects

The following is a list of proposed strategies and actions by the Province that are of higher interest to City of London programs and projects.

Protecting our Air, Lakes and River - Clean Air

- Work in partnership with municipalities, industry, public health units, other community stakeholders and Indigenous communities to address local air quality concerns and achieve clean air objectives.
- Redesign the emissions testing program for heavy-duty vehicles (e.g. commercial transport trucks) and strengthen on-road enforcement of emissions standards.
- Increase road-side monitoring of traffic pollution and expand road-side monitoring of pollutants beyond the Greater Toronto Area to other heavily urbanized communities such as Sarnia, Sudbury and Hamilton.

Protecting our Air, Lakes and River - Clean Water

- Build on previous successes and continue efforts to protect water quality and ecosystems of the Great Lakes by continuing partnerships and negotiations with the federal government under agreements and plans such as the Canada-Ontario Great Lakes Agreement (COA) and the Canada-Ontario Lake Erie Action Plan.
- Review and update Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy to continue to protect fish, parks, beaches, coastal wetlands and water by reducing plastic litter, excess algae and contaminants along our shorelines, and reducing salt entering waterways to protect our aquatic ecosystems.
- Build on the ministry's monitoring and drinking water source protection activities to ensure that environmental impacts from road salt use are minimized.
- Work with municipalities, conservation authorities, the private sector and other partners to promote best management practices, certification and road salt alternatives.
- Thoroughly review the province's water taking policies, programs and science tools to ensure that vital water resources are adequately protected and sustainably used.
- Enhance how we manage water takings to ensure we have sustainable water resources in the face of a changing climate and continued population growth. We will do this by examining approaches to assessing and managing multiple water takings, establishing priorities for different water uses, and preparing and responding to drought conditions.
- Ensure the knowledge gained through the drinking water source protection program helps inform our water management programs.
- Promote the use of technologies and practices to ensure water is used more efficiently. This includes water conservation planning; water use tracking and reporting; improving standards for household fixtures and appliances, such as dishwashers or washing machines; and profiling provincial and broader public sector leadership in this area.
- Increase transparency through real-time monitoring of sewage overflows from municipal wastewater systems into Ontario's lakes and rivers. Work with municipalities to ensure that proper monitoring occurs, and that the public is aware of overflow incidents.
- Update policies related to municipal wastewater and stormwater to make them easier to understand. We will consider how wastewater and stormwater financing could be updated to improve investment and support new and innovative technologies and practices.
- Encourage targeted investment and innovation in managing wastewater that overflows into our lakes and rivers.

Addressing Climate Change - Building Resilience: Helping Families and Communities Prepare

- Undertake a provincial impact assessment to identify where and how climate change is likely to impact Ontario's communities, critical infrastructure, economies and natural environment.
- Undertake impact and vulnerability assessments for key sectors, such as transportation, water, agriculture, and energy distribution.
- User-friendly online tool that makes practical climate change impact information available for the public and private sectors.
- Support communities by demonstrating how climate science can be applied in decision making to improve resilience.
- Modernize the Building Code to better equip homes and buildings to be better able to withstand extreme weather events.
- Review the Municipal Disaster Recovery Assistance program to encourage municipalities to incorporate climate resilience improvements when repairing or replacing damaged infrastructure after a natural disaster.
- Consult on tax policy options to support homeowners in adopting measures to protect their homes.
- Work with the real estate and insurance industries to raise awareness among homeowners about the increasing risk of flooding.
- Review land use planning policies and laws to update policy direction on climate resilience
- Build resilience in the province's critical infrastructure, through better technology as well as back-up generation and energy storage options.
- Continue to support programs and partnerships intended to make the agriculture and food sectors more resilient.

Addressing Climate Change - Make Polluters Accountable

- Implement emission performance standards for large emitters, which may include compliance flexibility mechanisms such as offset credits and/or payment to achieve compliance

Addressing Climate Change - Activate the Private Sector

- Launch an emission reduction fund – The Ontario Carbon Trust – and a reverse auction to encourage private investment in clean technology solutions.
 - Create an emission reduction fund to support and encourage investments across the province for initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The fund will leverage an initial investment from the government (\$350 million) to attract funds from the private sector (4:1 ratio) in order to drive investment in clean technologies.
 - Launch an Ontario Reverse Auction (\$50 million), allowing bidders to send proposals for emissions reduction projects and compete for contracts based on the lowest-cost greenhouse gas emission reductions.
- Ontario will parallel federal changes to the Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance, which will make technology investments in clean energy generation and energy conservation equipment more attractive.
- Work with the Ontario Financing Authority to issue Green Bonds by the end of the fiscal year, after realigning the Green Bond program to support our approach to addressing environmental challenges.
- Consider tax policy options to encourage the creation of clean technology manufacturing jobs in Ontario.
- Work with the financial sector to promote climate-related disclosures in Ontario.
- Encourage the Ontario Securities Commission to improve guidance on climate-related disclosures.

Addressing Climate Change - Use Energy and Resources Wisely

- Increase the availability and accessibility of information on energy and water consumption so that households, businesses and governments understand their energy use (e.g. collection of data related to electric vehicles, household-level energy and water consumption data).
- Work with the Ontario Real Estate Association to encourage the voluntary display of home energy efficiency information on real estate listings to better inform buyers and encourage energy-efficiency measures.
- Review the Building Code and support the adoption of cost effective energy efficiency measures that can lower the cost of electricity and natural gas needed to operate buildings.
- Work with the Ontario Energy Board and natural gas utilities to increase the cost-effective conservation of natural gas to simultaneously reduce emissions and lower energy bills.
- Increase the renewable content requirement (e.g. ethanol) in gasoline to 15% as early as 2025 through the Greener Gasoline regulation.
- Encourage the use of heat pumps for space and water heating where it makes sense, as well as innovative community-based systems like district energy.
- Require natural gas utilities to implement a voluntary renewable natural gas option for customers.
- Consult on tax policy options to make it easier for homeowners to increase energy efficiency and save money.
- Support the integration of emerging smart grid technologies and distributed resources – including energy storage – to harness and make best use of Ontario’s clean electricity.
- Improve rules and remove regulatory barriers that block private investors from deploying low-carbon refueling infrastructure that will help increase the uptake of low-carbon vehicles without government subsidies.
- Remove barriers to expanding 24/7 CNG refueling stations for trucks along the 400-series highways, and maintain the existing tax exemption (gasoline and fuel tax) on compressed natural gas.

Doing Our Part - Government Leadership

- Explore opportunities to enhance coordination and guidance for municipalities to help them consider climate change in their decision-making.
- Support the adoption of low-carbon technologies and climate resilience measures by working to reduce costly and time consuming regulatory and operational barriers.
- Work with municipalities to develop climate and energy plans and initiatives to support building climate resilience and transformation to the low-carbon future.
- Encourage local leadership by forming stronger partnerships and sharing best practices with community groups and business associations.
- Establish a public education and awareness program to make people more aware of the environmental, financial and health impacts of their transportation choices.

Reducing Litter and Waste in Our Communities & Keeping Our Land and Soil Clean - Reduce Litter and Waste

- Expand green bin or similar collection systems in large cities and to relevant businesses.
- Develop a proposal to ban food waste from landfill and consult with key partners such as municipalities, businesses and the waste industry.
- Educate the public and business about reducing and diverting food and organic waste.
- Develop best practices for safe food donation.
- Work with other provinces, territories and the federal government to develop a plastics strategy to reduce plastic waste and limit micro-plastics that can end up in our lakes and rivers.

- Seek federal commitment to implement national standards that address recyclability and labelling for plastic products and packaging to reduce the cost of recycling in Ontario.
- Work to ensure the Great Lakes and other inland waters are included in national and international agreements, charters and strategies that deal with plastic waste in the environment.
- Work with municipal partners to take strong action against those who illegally dump waste or litter in our neighbourhoods, parks and coastal areas.
- Develop future conservation leaders through supporting programs that will actively clean up litter in Ontario's green spaces, including provincial parks, conservation areas and municipalities.
- Connect students with recognized organizations that encourage environmental stewardship so they could earn volunteer hours by cleaning up parks, planting trees and participating in other conservation initiatives.
- Work with municipalities and producers to provide more consistency across the province regarding what can and cannot be accepted in the Blue Box program.
- Explore additional opportunities to reduce and recycle waste in our businesses and institutions.
- Move Ontario's existing waste diversion programs to the producer responsibility model. This will provide relief for taxpayers and make producers of packaging and products more efficient by better connecting them with the markets that recycle what they produce.
- Investigate options to recover resources from waste, such as chemical recycling or thermal treatment, which have an important role – along with reduction, reuse and recycling – in ensuring that the valuable resources in waste do not end up in landfills.
- Encourage increased recycling and new projects or technologies that recover the value of waste (such as hard to recycle materials).
- Ensure new compostable packaging materials in Ontario are accepted by existing and emerging green bin programs across the province, by working with municipalities and private composting facilities to build a consensus around requirements for emerging compostable materials.
- Consider making producers responsible for the end of life management of their products and packaging.
- Cut regulatory red tape and modernize environmental approvals to support sustainable end markets for waste and new waste processing infrastructure.
- Provide municipalities and the communities they represent with a say in landfill siting approvals. While we work to reduce the amount of waste we produce, it is recognized that there will be a need for landfills in the future. The province will look for opportunities to enhance municipal say while continuing to ensure that proposals for new and expanded landfills are subject to rigorous assessment processes and strict requirements for design, operation, closure, post-closure care and financial assurance.

Reducing Litter and Waste in Our Communities & Keeping Our Land and Soil Clean - Clean Soil

- Revise the brownfields regulation and the record of site condition guide to reduce barriers to redevelop and revitalize historically contaminated lands, putting vacant prime land back to good use.
- Recognize that excess soil is often a resource that can be reused. Set clear rules to allow industry to reduce construction costs, limit soil being sent to landfill and lower greenhouse gas emissions from trucking by supporting beneficial reuses of safe soils.
- Work with municipalities, conservation authorities, other law enforcement agencies and stakeholders to increase enforcement on illegal dumping of excess soil.
- Consider approaches for the management and spreading of hauled sewage to better protect human health and the environment (including land and waterways) from the impacts of nutrients and pathogens.

Conserving Land and Greenspace

- Collaborate with partners to conserve and restore natural ecosystems such as wetlands, and ensure that climate change impacts are considered when developing plans for their protection.
- Strengthen and expand grassland habitats by implementing the province's Grassland Stewardship Initiative that supports on-farm conservation activities to benefit grassland birds at risk.
- Work with leaders in land and water conservation, like Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada, to preserve areas of significant environmental and ecological importance.
- Work in collaboration with municipalities and stakeholders to ensure that conservation authorities focus and deliver on their core mandate of protecting people and property from flooding and other natural hazards, and conserving natural resources.
- Look to modernize Ontario's environmental assessment process, which dates back to the 1970s, to address duplication, streamline processes, improve service standards to reduce delays, and better recognize other planning processes.
- Protect vulnerable or sensitive natural areas such as wetlands and other important habitats through good policy, strong science, stewardship and partnerships.
- Improve coordination of land use planning and environmental approval processes by updating ministry guidelines to help municipalities avoid the impacts of conflicting land uses.
- Share the responsibility of conserving Ontario's protected lands by continuing to partner with municipalities, conservation authorities, Indigenous communities, conservation organizations and other community groups such as trail groups.
- Increase the use of Ontario timber in building, construction and renovation to reduce emissions and increase long-term carbon storage.
- Reaffirm our commitment to protect species at risk and their habitats, as we mark the 10th anniversary of Ontario's Endangered Species Act. We are committed to ensuring that the legislation provides stringent protections for species at risk, while continuing to work with stakeholders to improve the effectiveness of the program.
- Protect our natural environment from invasive species by working with partners and other governments and using tools to prevent, detect and respond to invasions.
- Support the creation of new trails across the province.
- Provide Ontario families with more opportunities to enjoy provincial parks and increase the number of Ontarians taking advantage of parks by 10% or approximately one million more visitors while protecting the natural environment.
- Look for opportunities to expand access to parks throughout the province, but ensure Ontario Parks has the tools it needs to conduct its business and create a world-class parks experience.
- Promote the link between nature and human health by supporting the worldwide movement for Healthy Parks Healthy People through Ontario Parks' events, education, and the development of a discussion paper to engage the public.