

Thanks to staff for a very thorough report. Good work has been done, but I want to share my concerns that the GHG reduction milestone targets seem unnecessarily aggressive, that some goals may be unachievable and that the economic climate is not conducive to such accelerated targets.

TECHNOLOGIES SHOULD IMPROVE OVER TIME

It is very encouraging that we have met federal and provincial goals ahead of time. However, the proposed new targets plot a fairly linear path to the 2050 goal, which implies that our technical capacity to reduce carbon emissions won't improve over the next 28 years. To the contrary, we should see considerable improvements as new technologies emerge. This can be subjectively represented by the added curve below with the X symbol. By comparison, the proposed new targets seem unnecessarily aggressive.

Figure 3: Proposed GHG Reduction Milestone Targets for 2030, 2035 and 2040



Source: City of London + MvH

SOME GOALS APPEAR UNACHIEVABLE

While I appreciate that staff are trying to hit IPCC targets, a goal like reducing dependence on natural gas for heating by 50% in 8 years seems unachievable. This is especially true since, many homeowners have already made significant investments in high-efficiency natural gas furnaces (with the help of recent incentive programs). Increasing the ratio of kilometers driven by electric vehicles by 100 times in 8 years may also be a non-starter given the supply chain challenges of getting a new car of any type. With 28 years to reach the goal of net-zero, government investment in more innovation may be a better initial approach than relying on large short-term investments from the average citizen.

FINANCIAL CHALLENGES WILL HINDER THE PLAN

The milestones rely heavily on personal investment in technologies like EVs and heat pumps. Unfortunately, this will be difficult when people are trying to recover economically from COVID measures which have caused a reduction or loss of income for many. In addition, increasing carbon taxes and high inflation reduces the disposable income necessary for these investments. Unless we offer more low barrier ways to participate in the plan, many people may reject it entirely. The option of purchasing carbon offsets may be important to recommend until other cost-effective solutions become available.