

February 9, 2022

City of London Mayor Ed Holder City Hall, 300 Dufferin Avenue London, ON N6B 1Z2

**RE: City of London Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP)** 

Dear Mayor Holder and Members of City Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the City's Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP).

As you know, Enbridge Gas has had a longstanding positive relationship with the city, and a proven record of accomplishment of serving London's residents and businesses safely, reliably, and affordably for over a century. We are excited by the possibilities for collaboration with the city on the goals and objectives outlined in CEAP as a continuation of our ongoing productive discussions with the city on numerous low carbon initiatives. Past discussions with City Staff have led to direct action in the low carbon space, a recent success being the London Hybrid Heating pilot program.

On November 6, 2020, Enbridge Inc. announced a plan to reach net-zero emissions in its operations by 2050, and a 35 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 2030. In addition to reducing the carbon footprint of our own operations, Enbridge Gas is focused on helping Ontario communities meet their carbon reduction goals, while keeping energy affordable and reliable for energy consumers, including our over 130,000 customers in the City of London.

Enbridge Gas is actively supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy by advancing energy conservation, carbon neutral fuels like renewable natural gas and renewable hydrogen, and leading innovative energy solutions through collaborations with municipalities and stakeholders. We are confident we can support the city in achieving its CEAP objectives in ways that keep energy affordable and reliable, while reducing environmental impact and sustaining consumer choice.

Customer adoption of electric solutions can be enhanced by a relentless focus on cost effectiveness, reliability, and customer experience. London's underground natural gas network provides unparalleled resilience to weather events and three times the peak capacity of the electric network at a very affordable cost. The natural gas industry will continue to decarbonize as new renewable natural gas and renewable hydrogen supplies are developed which can be blended into the current natural gas pipelines. This will result in Ontario having both a low carbon electricity system and a low carbon natural gas system.

To highlight one example of a local innovative solution, Enbridge Gas launched a successful pilot project, the first of its kind in Ontario, in partnership with London Hydro and the City of



London, to install hybrid heating solutions for London customers. Hybrid heating offers cost savings and carbon reductions without increasing peak load on electric infrastructure. Hybrid heating optimizes gas and electric infrastructure with furnaces, assuring comfort on cold winter days and resiliency during climate related weather events, while heat pumps provide shoulder season heating using spare capacity on the electric grid. This project is a notable example of our strong collaboration with the city.

Enbridge has a wealth of experience in the energy transition space, including:

- Long standing energy conservation programs that have delivered over 55 MT of carbon reductions since 1995.
- Carbon neutral renewable natural gas projects in partnership with Ontario municipalities.
- A North America first hydrogen blending project in the City of Markham.
- Working with municipalities on low carbon transportation solutions.
- Several other innovative energy solutions that deliver emissions reduction at lower cost.

Building heat, transportation, and industry, collectively accounts for more than 80 percent of Ontario's emissions. Decarbonizing these areas will provide the greatest return on our energy transition efforts, and Enbridge Gas is partnering with many municipalities across the province to implement low-carbon initiatives in these sectors today (please see Appendix A).

We applaud the City of London for its leadership and look forward to ongoing collaboration that will deliver our collective goal of a greener future.

Sincerely,

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### **APPENDIX A**

Enbridge Gas (Enbridge) is committed to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and is actively engaged in innovative partnerships to advance the transition to a zero-carbon future.

## **Transportation**

Transportation generates the largest amount of GHG emissions in Ontario. Electrification of light duty vehicles will play a significant role in decarbonizing this sector; however, this will take time. To put this into perspective, Ontario has roughly nine million light duty vehicles on the road, and electrification is estimated to add 50 to 60 TWhs of demand to the electricity system. Meeting this added demand will require significant investment in the Ontario grid, which will happen over time.

Heavy duty vehicles however, present a unique challenge, as electrification is prohibitive due to battery size and recharging requirements.

The good news is these can be cost-effectively decarbonized today through compressed natural gas (CNG), which offers up to 20 percent GHG reduction and up to 40 percent savings in fuel costs. By adding renewable natural gas (RNG) to the CNG, zero emissions can be achieved, a solution which many Ontario municipalities are using today, including Toronto and Hamilton.

The City of London is a leader in this regard with 6 refuse trucks currently powered by CNG.

In the longer term, hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles are another option for zero-emission vehicles. Enbridge is working to advance hydrogen-ready pipelines, and is currently piloting hydrogen blending at our power-to-gas facility in Markham.

## **Project Examples:**

- The City of Toronto and Enbridge Gas have partnered to generate RNG from organic waste diverted from landfills to fuel the city's solid waste collection trucks. This process converts more than 55,000 tonnes of organic waste into RNG, which will eliminate more than 9,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions each year. A similar project in the City of Hamilton uses RNG to fuel city buses. Additionally, these initiatives contribute to a circular economy—converting waste to energy.
- Enbridge Gas has partnered on three CNG stations along the 401 corridor (including one in London), the most heavily travelled corridor in Ontario. These same CNG refueling stations along Ontario's Highway 401, are "roughed in" for hydrogen. Leveraging these stations would enable Highway 401 to become a "green hydrogen corridor" from Quebec City to Windsor and can be deployed in short order.
- Enbridge Gas also has a CNG station at its London office on Commissioners Road.

### **Building Heat**

Heating our homes and business generates roughly a quarter of Ontario's GHG emissions. There are solutions available today that can help to decarbonize heating including conservation, low-carbon heating systems and greening the gas supply.

### Conservation:

Many municipalities across Ontario have identified the need for deep energy efficiency retrofits for homes, businesses and industries. Enbridge is a leader in developing and delivering



conservation programs. We offer proven programs for households, business and industry which have helped customers reduce GHG emissions since 1995. We can work with, or complement, municipalities looking towards conservation as a way to decarbonize building heat. For example in London:

- From 2015 2019, 7,445 London homes participated in Enbridge Gas' Home Efficiency Rebate Program, saving over 4.7 million cubic metres of natural gas.
- From 2015 2019, 630 income-qualified single-family and multi-family London homes participated in Enbridge Gas' Home Weatherization Program or other incentive programs <u>at</u> <u>no cost</u>, saving over 1.5 million cubic metres of natural gas.
- From 2015 2019, over 2,000 custom conservation projects or prescriptive conservation measures were undertaken by London commercial businesses using Enbridge Gas programs, saving over 14.2 million cubic metres of natural gas.
- From 2015 2019, 59 custom conservation projects were undertaken by London industries using Enbridge Gas programs, saving over 13 million cubic metres of natural gas.

# **Low-carbon Heating Technologies:**

Another important way to reduce emissions from building heat is by advancing the adoption of low-carbon heating technologies such as Geothermal loops, heat pumps and hybrid heating systems and Solar Photovoltaic (PV). Enbridge has programs and incentives that are advancing these technologies:

- Heat pumps and hybrid heating systems, with efficiencies greater than 100 percent, are
  emerging technologies that offer a cost effective, efficient, climate-friendly solution to
  decarbonize space heating, cooling and domestic hot water heating. Enbridge is advancing
  a number of pilot programs on this front, including the pilot mentioned earlier in London, the
  first of its kind in Ontario.
- Geothermal loop systems cool a building in the summer and heat it in the winter using thermal energy extracted from the earth, and are three to four times more efficient than traditional heating systems. The Enbridge Geothermal Program helps provide affordable and quality access to a Geothermal System.
- Solar PV generates clean, renewable electric energy, when the sun is shining, and the
  home is still connected to the electricity grid to draw power when it's needed. The Enbridge
  pilot Solar PV rental program for new builds, offers this technology with no upfront cost and
  a monthly rate.
- For commercial buildings, capturing the thermal heat from wastewater is a low-carbon method of heating and cooling buildings by reducing the amount of electricity, natural gas and water required for conventional systems.

### Project Examples:

- Our Hybrid Heating pilot program in London, will replace 100 existing air conditioners with ducted air source heat pumps, integrated with smart controls, creating a hybrid heating solution, through a limited pilot project customer rebate of \$3,200.
- Enbridge Gas recently teamed up with Noventa to support a major project that uses thermal
  energy from wastewater to supply up to 90 percent of the heating and cooling for Toronto
  Western Hospital—this is the largest delivery of the world's largest raw wastewater energy
  transfer project in the city.



# Greening the Gas Supply

Today, about 75 percent of Ontario homes heat with natural gas, and most have a forced-air furnace. Transitioning to lower-carbon heating technologies such as those outlined above, will take time. That's why we're also working to green the gas supply by scaling up the introduction of carbon-neutral RNG and hydrogen.

These technologies offer an effective means to lower the carbon of Ontario's existing energy systems affordably by leveraging existing infrastructure while making productive and economic use of landfill and other organic waste and creating local jobs and new revenue opportunities for municipal governments.

Over the longer term, as costs for hydrogen and RNG continue to decline with innovation and deployment, we will continue to increase the percentage of RNG and hydrogen in the gas supply; decarbonizing our natural gas system—reserving our electricity capacity growth capabilities for other sectors of the economy.

# **Project Examples:**

- Through our voluntary RNG program, OptUp, customers can choose to support the transition to low-carbon energy through a small monthly contribution to help offset the increased costs of acquiring carbon-neutral RNG.
- Enbridge also announced the development of the largest RNG facility in Ontario, located at the site of Walker Environmental's landfill in Niagara Falls, which will reduce GHG emissions by 48,000 tonnes per year.
- Furthermore, recently, we announced a partnership with Walker Industries and Comcor Environmental to jointly develop RNG projects.
- In the City of Markham, Enbridge Gas has partnered to launch the first-of-its-kind hydrogen blending facility, which is already powering approximately 3,600 homes in the area.
   Hydrogen is low or zero-carbon, and this project alone will remove 117 tons of CO2 from the atmosphere annually.

#### Industry

Industry is the third largest contributor to carbon emissions in Ontario. Typically, industrial processes cannot be easily electrified. For these areas, Ontario will need to accelerate the ability to use hydrogen. Resources will be needed towards pilot projects and infrastructure development to allow us to scale this resource to its maximum potential by 2050. Enbridge is actively working to advance this technology through pilot projects such as the Power-to-Gas plant in Markham and related hydrogen blending, and we are working to assess the implementation of hydrogen-ready pipelines.

Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is an immediate solution existing for large point source emitters of carbon. CCS is a proven technology, available now, that offers a significant pathway to achieve GHG reductions for hard to decarbonize industries. Canada is a world leader in CCS with longstanding projects in western Canada.

The geology of southwestern Ontario is suitable for carbon storage, and Enbridge has a long history of safe and reliable underground natural gas storage. Developing carbon capture in Ontario requires a "red tape" reduction plan to amend the Oil, Gas & Salt Resources Act and remove the CO2 injection ban to eliminate the prohibition of CO2 storage in underground geological formations to allow for the needed physical testing and evaluation of this formation to occur and enable private investment to develop this Made in Ontario solution.