



November 7, 2020

Dear Mayor Meed-Ward and Members of Burlington Council,

BurlingtonGreen has joined more than 50 groups in Ontario calling for the Government of Ontario to phase out our gas-fired power plants by 2030.

We respectfully request the City of Burlington join the Town of Halton Hills and City of Kitchener in their unanimous support for this issue that will support Burlington's Climate Emergency objectives and ensure that the province can meet its 2030 climate target.

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 2025** and by more than 400% by 2040.

To help fuel this massive increase in fossil fuel electricity and climate threatening pollution, the provincial government recently [purchased 3 gas plants](#) at a cost of \$2.8 billion.

Ontario is set to throw away more than a third of the greenhouse gas reductions it achieved by phasing out its dirty coal-fired power plants due to a power plan built around ramping up gas-fired generation to replace the output of the Pickering Nuclear Station (scheduled to close in 2024).

Fortunately, there is a better way to keep our lights on. We can meet our 2030 climate target and lower our electricity bills by phasing out our gas-fired power plants by 2030 and embracing lower cost and cleaner options.

Here is how we can do it:

- Reverse short sighted cuts to energy efficiency programs and stop under-investing in this quick to deploy and low-cost resource. We can ensure we maximize our energy efficiency efforts by paying up to the same price per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for energy efficiency measures as we are currently paying for power from nuclear plants (e.g., up to 9.5 cents per kWh).
- Return Ontario to leadership in developing increasingly low-cost renewable energy resources. It makes no sense to ignore our lower cost options for keeping our lights on while investing in high-cost nuclear rebuilds. We 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.
- Accept Quebec's offer of [low-cost](#) 24/7 power from its massive water power system. Quebec has offered power at less than one-half the cost of re-building our aging Darlington and

Bruce Nuclear Stations and Ontario can only benefit by making a long-term deal with its green energy-rich neighbour. Quebec's system of reservoirs can be used like a giant battery to back-up made-in-Ontario renewable power, eliminating the need to use gas-fired power plants and ultimately, nuclear power, which carries significant environmental and health risks in the event of malfunction and because of the difficulty of safely storing nuclear waste.

With these points in mind, and given the urgency of advancing massive cuts to our collective carbon output, BurlingtonGreen requests that Burlington Council advance a motion such as the following: ***“to support the goal of the City of Burlington's Climate Action Plan to become a net carbon-neutral community, the City of Burlington requests the Government of Ontario place an interim cap of 2.5 megatonnes per year on our gas plants' greenhouse gas pollution, and develop and implement a plan to phase out all gas-fired electricity generation by 2030 to ensure that Ontario meets its climate targets.”***

Respectfully,



Executive Director
On behalf of The Advocacy Team
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BurlingtonGreen
Environmental Association

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