

Mayoral Candidate: Lisa Kearns



Question 1		Flood Infrastructure & Stormwater: Burlington has faced repeated severe flooding, including the 2024 storm that impacted over <u>1,600</u> homes and businesses. Will you support accelerating the City's stormwater planning, flood-mapping and infrastructure investments needed to reduce the risk and impacts of future flooding?
Response:	Yes	The City is actively upgrading all infrastructure mitigating future flooding. However, there is a large infrastructure deficit that requires systemic remediation on an as needed basis. Flood plain mapping is the responsibility of Halton Conservation. The City works with CH to provide up to date flood mapping for the community.
Question 2		Transit Investment & Emission Reductions: With vehicle emissions generating <u>over 40%</u> of Burlington's greenhouse gases, improving and expanding public transit is central to reaching the target to be a net carbon neutral community by 2050. Will you commit to supporting increased funding investments and service enhancements – such as fleet electrification, increased frequency, route reliability, and network connectivity – to make transit a competitive alternative to driving?
Response:	Yes	Transit expansion and enhancements are an essential part of the City's Climate Action Plan. Council is on record as supporting the modal split shift towards a greater share of transportation to transit and active transportation. BurlingtonGreen was commissioned by the City to produce a Mobility Plan. It's all in there.
Question 3		Climate Equity & Vulnerable Communities: While every resident in the city of Burlington will be impacted by climate change, not every resident will be impacted equally. The most vulnerable residents who are facing financial, social, mental and physical barriers will experience compounding effects and bear disproportionate impacts of the climate crisis. (<u>Burlington Climate Plan 2026-2031</u>) Will you commit to supporting the budget investments required for the implementation of the City's climate mitigation, adaptation, and emergency response plans to protect these disproportionately impacted communities, and all residents?

Response:	Yes	It is well known that climate change affects low income and vulnerable communities through poor planning, ignored regulations, lack of representation and discrimination. I am categorically opposed to these discriminating factors. Climate action must take all residents into account. My approach to budgeting for any city endeavour is to understand the impacts placed upon different segments of our community. Climate action must respond to numerous causes and effects.
Question 4		Biodiversity Action Plan: Burlington currently has no municipal Action Plan to protect and care for local nature, and yet the implications of the biodiversity crisis (such as the acceleration of invasive species) continue to grow. Will you commit to directing staff to develop a Biodiversity Action Plan by 2028 with associated budget investments required for its implementation?
Response:	Yes	Municipalities have limited powers to enact biodiversity plans. It remains the responsibility of the province. To that end, I will continue to advocate for stronger protections, increased lists of not only endangered species but those also 'at risk' and whole-heartedly have the city continue actions such as the closure of King Road to protect the Jefferson Salamander and other species.
Question 5		Aggregate Moratorium: To safeguard Burlington's groundwater, air quality, and the Escarpment ecosystem, will you commit to support the <u>Reform Gravel Mining Coalition's call for a provincial moratorium</u> (temporary pause) on new and expanding aggregate operations? (The purpose of a moratorium is to allow time to conduct a broad consultation process, with Indigenous Nations, affected communities, independent experts and scientists, to chart an improved path forward.)
Response:	Yes	I applaud Reform Gravel's call for a moratorium. The facts increasingly point out the needless over-extraction of aggregate when we have enough in the pipeline to serve our needs for a long time. A moratorium only places a temporary hold on expansion. I believe we need to support a longer term examination of the aggregate sector – beginning with the proper inspections and monitoring of existing quarries so that companies live up to their promises and mitigating actions.
Question 6		Green Building & Development Standards: Provincial legislation <u>restricts municipalities' authority to mandate green building performance beyond the Ontario Building Code</u> . Consistent with the <u>City's Horizon 2050 net -zero commitments</u> , will you proactively advocate for stronger energy-efficiency and sustainability standards in Burlington's new developments, with associated incentives, planning processes, and legal tools available to the City?
Response:	Yes	It is unfortunate that the City of Burlington could only ask for voluntary green building codes. I will work with each developer to encourage, and show the benefits of, modern green building codes. With support from the federal government on increasing incentives for advanced building techniques using less waste and efficient heating/cooling/energy use systems.

Question 7		Accountable Reporting: To ensure all Council members receive staff reports that are consistently accountable to the City's <u>Horizon 2050 Vision and 25-year Strategic Plan</u> guiding principles, will you direct staff to adopt an environmental, social, and economic lens to all reports, starting 2027? (example: <u>UN Sustainable Development Goals Framework</u>)
Response:	Yes	Horizon 2050 and 25-year Strategic Plans are good for long term thinking but we must realize that our world is changing on a much shorter cycle. Therefore it is imperative that the City begins today to examine every budget line item for efficiencies using all lenses. Our Climate Emergency only matters if we step up and view everything through a climate lens. A climate lens automatically examines programs and services through the social and economic impacts that take place and affect our daily lives. By taking steps today, we preserve our natural heritage, our environment, and our quality of life (100 word limit reached).
Question 8		Personal Commitment: What are some actions you personally take to minimize your environmental footprint?
Response:		Every action we take has an impact on the earth, it's important to start with the basics and only use what we need while making choices to the best of our circumstances to live sustainably and with our planet in mind. Teaching our children how to be good stewards of the earth can make an impact when we all work together.