

Ward 3 Candidate: Kyle Hutton



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	Many of my neighbours and Ward 3 residents, particularly around Rambo Creek & Cavendish and in Palmer, have suffered from flooding over the years, and have rightfully pointed out the City only seems to be reacting to these events instead of getting ahead of them. I want to ensure we take a proactive approach so we avoid further flooding to the best of our abilities in the future.
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	I believe Burlington Transit needs a full system-wide overhaul with a focus on reliability and access across the city. The best way for us to get local vehicle traffic off the road (and thereby reduce emissions, as well as traffic congestion) is to ensure we have a transit system fulfilling our community's needs.
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	Climate change is ultimately a societal issue, which means all members of the community will be impacted, and all members will need to take part in efforts to reduce harm and protect each other - otherwise we'll all end up worse off in the long-term. I'm committed to ensuring no community is left behind or sacrificed as we adapt to the reality of our changing climate.
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	A biodiversity action plan not already being implemented to me is a failure of governance, particularly as we see other levels (federal and provincial) start to pull back on their own previous commitments to protecting our unique ecosystems.
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	In all my active roles politically, I have and will continue to support a moratorium on new or expanding aggregate operations (including at Nelson) until we overhaul the current processes.
Question 6		Green Building & Development Standards: Provincial legislation <u>restricts municipalities' authority to mandate green building performance</u> beyond the Ontario Building Code. 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	I will not only use what tools we have municipally to promote energy-efficient and sustainable standards in new developments (and retrofits for existing residents and commercial owners too), I will actively push the province to rethink its terrible policies and restrictions on local mandates, or adopt its own proactive ones province-wide.
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	These are common-sense additions for our city reports, honestly not sure why it isn't already done consistently.
Question 8		Personal Commitment: What are some actions you personally take to minimize your environmental footprint?
Response:		While I've personally over the years moved to reduce my environmental footprint (installing heat pump for my home, switching to biodegradable products, sourcing more items locally, etc.), I consider climate change to be a problem primarily tackled by society and industry. Governments and the politicians claiming to lead them must be held responsible for actions taken to reduce emissions and impacts, and held accountable when they fail to take the problem seriously. So, my personal commitment beyond what choices I've make as an individual has always been to add my voice to the chorus demanding action from our electeds (100 word limit reached).