

ROADMAP TO NET-ZERO

The Ontario Greens' Climate Plan



Authorized by the CFO of the GPO





Letter from GPO leader, Mike Schreiner

Climate affects everything.

It affects our health, it drives the economy, it makes life possible.

Unfortunately, the climate crisis is here. Immediate action and a real plan is required to tackle the climate emergency and to avoid the costs of delay and inaction.

The good news is that we can make different choices. Choices that lead to a healthy climate and protect people and the places we love.

Choices that build livable communities and a better economy. Choices supporting green innovations that lead to new businesses, careers and better jobs. Choices that confront systemic discrimination and environmental racism. Choices that leave no one behind. These are the choices we need to make now.

I know Ontarians are ready to make the right choices because we don't back down from big challenges. We quickly transformed our lives to protect people during Covid. Ontarians are resilient, and we can lead the way on climate action if we have the political will to do so.

Greens are ready to provide the leadership Ontario needs to bring people together to solve the climate crisis and build the world we want.

Our plan emphasizes the connections we all share. It values your quality of life and the quality of life of all Ontarians.

As a father, I want a better future for my children, and I know you do too.

I want to live in a province that gives families the financial help they need to make more environmentally responsible choices. I want to live in a place where the air is clean to breathe, where farmland and water are protected for generations to come.

To get there, we need to build a prosperous green economy with new careers and better jobs that reduce pollution immediately, so that we are at net-zero emissions in two decades. I know we can do it.

Climate change is the biggest challenge of our lives. The solutions aren't always easy, but they are clear. By being honest about the challenge and pushing for change we can create a future that looks brighter than ever before.

This is the future we want. The future we deserve. Greens are providing the leadership that we need to get us there.

I invite you to take a look at our climate and environment plan and discover how we can make a better future together.



Mike Schreiner

Leader, Green Party of Ontario



Letter from GPO Deputy Leader, Dianne Saxe

CODE RED.

We may not feel ready, but the planetary crisis has arrived. The planetary crisis is no longer an “issue” - it defines the era in which we live.

“The life of every child born today will be profoundly affected by climate change... Without accelerated intervention, this new era will come to define the health of people at every stage of their lives.”

Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change, 2019

The truth is that we still have a safe way forward to a better life, but its window is closing fast. That path is laid out in this climate and environmental plan.

We don’t have a choice any more to do nothing. Climate change is widespread, rapid, and intensifying; and some trends are already irreversible¹. Biodiversity is collapsing. The threats and opportunities of

¹ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/08/1097362>

the planetary crisis get bigger, faster and more uncontrollable the longer we drag our feet. Human and natural systems are becoming explosively brittle. Our world is drifting terrifyingly close to irreversible tipping points. When sliding towards catastrophe, the pragmatic, reasonable thing to do is to get up and get out of the way.

For most people, especially the young and the vulnerable, it is no longer possible to act too fast to protect planetary health. Every day's delay in getting off fossil fuels is dangerous for those alive today. Every additional tonne of climate pollution means more and faster damage. For all of us, once we count human health, swift action to crush climate pollution is an opportunity, not a cost. And rebuilding a cleaner economy is already creating trillions of dollars of financial opportunity. So much will be better in a greener world.

But the hour is very late. If we do not slash climate pollution, climate chaos will cause enormous disruption. At the same time, it has become too late for climate action to be orderly, gradual and incremental, while everything else stays the same. By now, preserving even a 50/50 chance of a stable climate requires an unprecedented fifty percent emissions reduction per decade. And at the same time, we must prepare everything we depend on to withstand the massive human and natural disturbances we have already set in motion.

Fifty percent a decade means a radically different world, within the lifetimes of most people now alive – a better world, if we fight hard enough, but new and strange, with logics and patterns few of us yet fully understand. – Alex Steffen²

Everyone I know wants to keep their family safe, especially the young people that we love. But what is “safe” has changed. There is no safety any more in delay, or in the past. The fossil fuel economy was never safe for everyone; now it is dangerous for everyone. The only safety available to us now is to build a bridge to a better future, together.

Around the world, individuals, companies and countries are turning away from fossil decline and competing to win in the new economy. Ontario has the innovative businesses, the natural wealth, the geography and the people to be among those winners. It's time to start now. This plan shows how.



Danielle Saxe

Deputy Leader, Green Party of Ontario





GPO Vision

In the world we could be building, all of us protect a stable climate. We use clean energy, not fossil fuels. Safe, healthy and livable communities work with the environment; not against it. Empowered neighbourhoods support local businesses, use resources efficiently, and create greenspaces for everyone to enjoy.

Companies using green energy and technology support a wave of satisfying new careers and better jobs, while keeping our air clean, our water drinkable, and our future bright. In a prosperous sustainable economy, every Ontarian has the resources they need to live the life they want.

The result will be an Ontario that grows and thrives, providing clean jobs, environmentally responsible and affordable housing, inclusive and caring communities, and a better way of life for everyone.

This is the world we all want.

This plan sets the standard, showing what any responsible provincial government should be doing now that the climate crisis has arrived.

With Green leadership this future is possible.

Our climate and environment plan leaves no one behind, providing a fair and equitable roadmap to get us to a zero-waste, net-zero carbon economy with help for both businesses and workers, without lining the pockets of the one percent at the expense of Ontario's most vulnerable.

Action on climate change needs to be strong, and it needs to be immediate. The Green plan is that bold, doable action.

This is the leadership we need.

Roadmap to Net-Zero: The Ontario Greens' Climate Plan

The problem is clear. Now is the time for action.

Ontarians don't back down from big challenges.

Denial, delay and half measures are not options if we want to succeed.

There is no time to waste. Failure to act urgently threatens the climate and our economy.

*Roadmap to Net-Zero: The Ontario Greens' Climate Plan*³ provides a pathway for Ontario to do its fair share in tackling the global climate crisis.

While other countries are making real progress reducing their climate pollution, Ontario's progress has stopped. Ontario pollutes the climate about as much now as we did in 2014⁴ and more than in 2017⁵. We must change course, dramatically and quickly.

Steering rapid changes in an emergency is the job of government. Government is how we pool our resources to get big tasks done. A government that is serious about the climate crisis will put us all on the path to a green, just, and resilient economy by:

- Setting the rules and the pace
- Building the right infrastructure and institutions, and
- Putting the right resources to work.

Here are our top strategies for getting there:

A. Crush climate pollution:

1. Adopt a Zero Carbon Law that sets a Fair Share Carbon Budget for the rest of the century. Cut Ontario's climate pollution in half by 2030 and to net-zero every year from 2045.
2. Keep money and jobs in Ontario. Replace imported fossil fuels by doubling clean Ontario electricity.

3 "This plan was inspired, in part, by the vision of One Planet Living® – living within the means of our planet and leaving space for land and nature. Details of this framework are available at Bioregional <https://www.bioregional.com/>

4 When Ontario finished its coal-fired power plant shut-down, which began in 2005

5 https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2021/eccc/En81-4-2019-3-eng.pdf

3. Clean the air by replacing fossil fuel used in vehicles (in half by 2030 and to net-zero by 2040) with electric vehicles, transit, active transportation and compact communities.
4. Use energy efficiency upgrades and heat pumps to replace fossil fuel use in buildings 40% by 2030 and to net-zero by 2040.
5. Support Ontario entrepreneurs to build world-leading clean businesses in energy storage (e.g. batteries), electric/ fuel cell mobility, smart transit and low-carbon biomaterials.

B. Restore water and nature:

6. Work with Indigenous Peoples to protect 25% of Ontario by 2025 and 30% by 2030.
7. Clean up toxins in air and water, especially in the most polluted areas.

C. Succeed together:

8. Create new careers and better green jobs for hundreds of thousands of people, and improve business opportunities for thousands of green entrepreneurs.
9. Create a \$2 billion per-year Climate Adaptation Fund to support municipalities with green and resilient infrastructure.
10. Focus 25% of the overall benefits of this plan on disadvantaged communities.

Climate action will benefit everyone, making our communities smarter, healthier and more resilient. Here are just a few of the benefits of taking climate action now.



Clean Air

Less fossil fuel use means cleaner air, making it easier for all of us to breathe.



Good Health

When we count our health, climate action is an opportunity, not a cost.



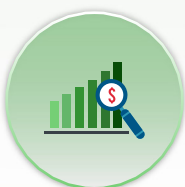
Great Careers

Climate action means a huge number of cleaner, greener careers, right here in Ontario.



Resilient Communities

More resilient communities will be better prepared for what's ahead, including severe weather.



A Green, Fair Economy

Taking the lead in the green transition will make Ontario's innovative businesses, resource wealth and educated people winners in the global race to win the low-carbon economy.



Succeed Together

In a fairer, more equitable economy, no one is left behind as we build a net-zero world.



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PART I: TOP PRIORITIES

1. Crush Climate Pollution

Zero Carbon Law

Fair Share Carbon Budget

The Green Party will adopt a Zero Carbon Law⁶ that sets a Fair Share Carbon Budget for Ontario for the rest of this century. The law will:

- Step 1: Keep Ontario within our fair share of the world's total remaining carbon budget. The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says that to keep a stable climate, the total amount of climate pollution people can release between now and the end of the century can be no more than 10 times what we now emit each year. For Ontario, this could not be more than total net emissions of 1,630 Megatonnes⁷, from now to the year 2100.
- Step 2: Calculate how quickly Ontario must reduce emissions in order to stay within our Fair Share Carbon Budget while making the remaining emissions last as long as possible, ideally to 2045.
- Step 3: Plan how to quickly reduce emissions as much as practicable using existing technology, while producing benefits such as better air quality, more jobs, new careers, stronger green businesses and reduced inequality.
 - Emphasize rapid emission reductions.
 - Count, at most, 10% offsets and sequestration towards our Fair Share Carbon Budget, with 90% achieved through real emission reductions.
 - Steadily increase the price on carbon (climate pollution) by \$25 per tonne per year, until the price reaches \$300 per tonne by 2032.
 - Create incentives for Ontario companies to be global leaders and job creators in the rapidly emerging multi-trillion dollar zero-carbon economy.
- Step 4: Commit to public reports on annual net emissions and the remaining Fair Share Carbon Budget, just as the Ontario government must present an annual financial budget.
- Step 5: Consult on additional measures to keep Ontario within our Fair Share Carbon Budget.

⁶ <https://netzeroclimate.org/sectors/law/>

⁷ In 2018, the IPCC estimated that the remaining global carbon budget was no more than 10 times 2018 GHG emissions. By extrapolation, for a wealthy jurisdiction, in a relatively safe location far from the equator and from sea level, Ontario's fair share of all remaining GHG emissions this century (2019 to 2100) cannot be more than 10 times our 2018 emissions of 163 Mt, i.e. 1,630 Mt, and there are many good reasons why it should be less. In addition, the IPCC is likely to update (and to reduce) its estimate of the remaining global carbon budget.

Our Fair Share Carbon Budget: An Analogy

Let's use a bathtub to illustrate how a carbon budget works.

Picture a mostly full bathtub, where the water in the tub represents how much we have already polluted the atmosphere. The tap is running, with the running water illustrating the climate pollution that is happening now. The plug is closed.

The space left between the water and the top of the tub represents our carbon budget. After so many years of climate pollution and government inaction, our bathtub only has room for 1,630 Mt more of carbon dioxide emissions (CO₂e) from now until the end of the century.

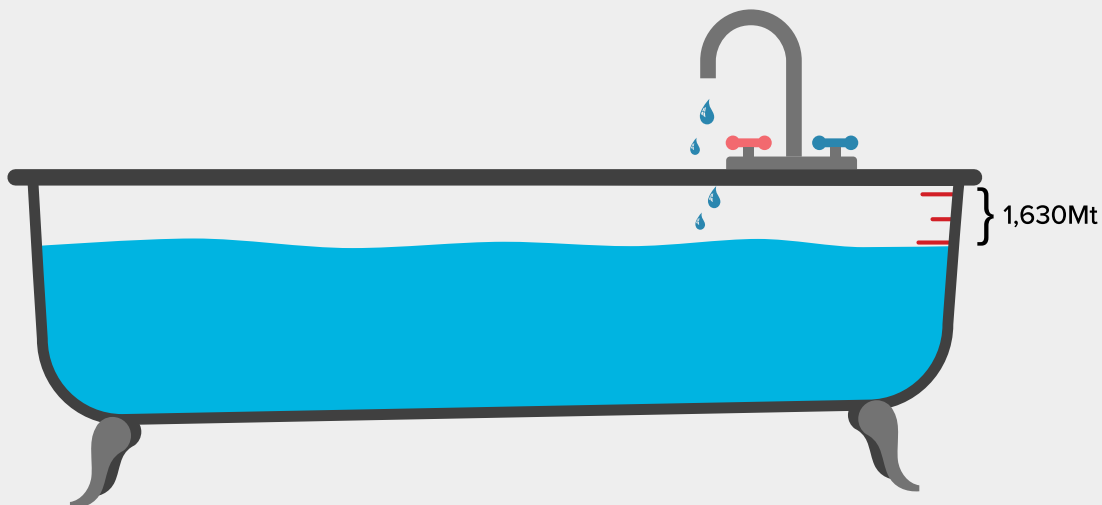
If we let the bathtub overflow, there will be a terribly destructive mess. We will face a big clean up, higher costs, and many things destroyed. The same will happen if we overflow our carbon budget – we'll face higher costs and more climate chaos.

The space we have left in the bathtub will fill up quickly if we let the tap keep running fast. And right now, Ontario is running the tap of climate pollution very fast. Without quick action, Ontario could waste our chance to keep a stable climate. If we use the remaining space up quickly, the bathtub will overflow before we are ready for the clean economy to come.

The consequences of inaction are grave, and the missed opportunities are so large. We must act now to protect a stable climate and build the easiest possible transition to the next economy.

That's why our plan aims to make the remaining space in the bathtub (the carbon budget) last as long as possible, ideally until 2045. That will only happen if we slow the tap (carbon pollution) as quickly as possible and explore opportunities to get water out of the bathtub (offsets).

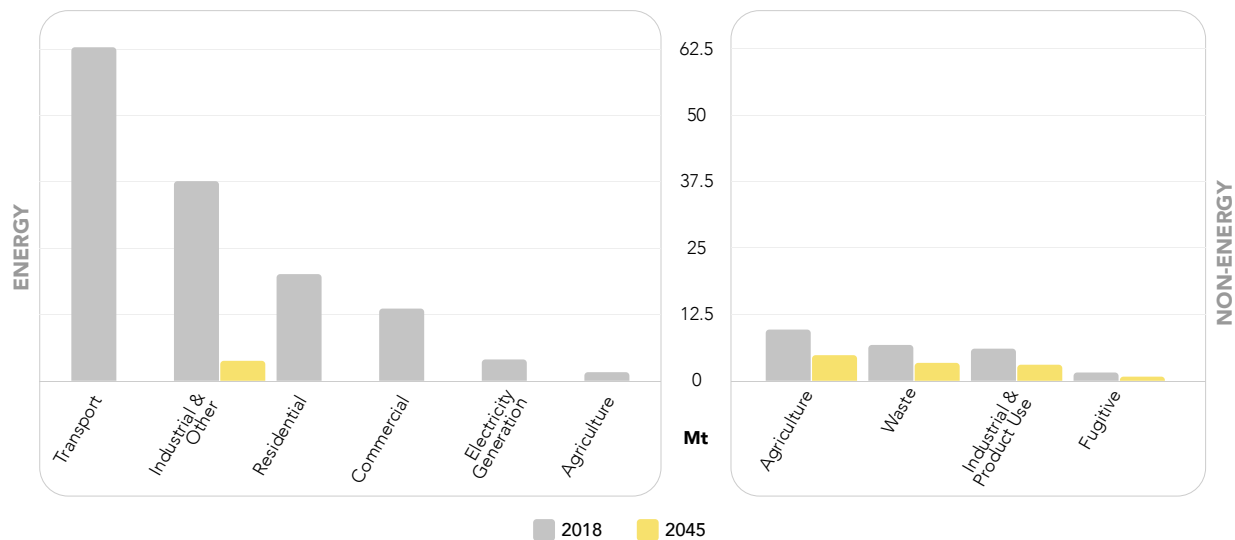
If we don't aim for net-zero until 2050 – if we let the tap run until 2050 – the bathtub will overflow unless we crank the tap down to a trickle right away. That would require many additional restrictions – not the way we want to go.





Reductions by sector

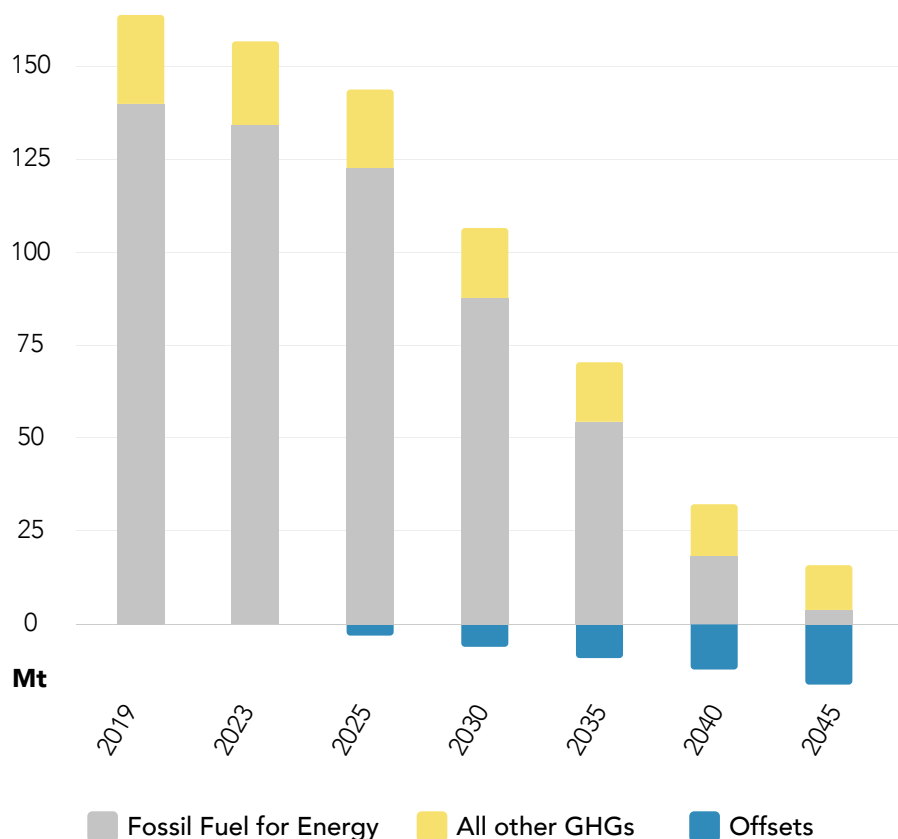
To stay within our Fair Share Carbon Budget, Ontario will have to use only what we need; switch from fossil fuels to electricity in transport, buildings, and most industries, and cut climate pollution from all other sources (such as agriculture, waste, and some chemical processes) by half. The likely transformation of each sector by 2045 is shown in the chart below.



Reductions by year

A possible reduction path beginning in 2023 will be 156 Megatonnes (Mt) for 2023, (down from 163 Mt in 2019); 140 Mt for 2025 (30% less than in 2005), 100 Mt for 2030 (51% less than in 2005); 61 Mt in 2035, 20 Mt in 2040 (90% less than in 2005) and net-zero every year starting in 2045. On this path, Ontario could both stay within our Fair Share Carbon Budget to the end of the century and make some net emissions as late as 2044. This reduction path can be seen in the chart below.

This plan outlines how we can work together to make these changes without leaving anyone behind.



Net-zero

What do we mean by net-zero? Basically, “net-zero” means zero new climate pollution (principally greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels.) Climate change is driven by the total amount of climate pollution that humans release. Climate change will only stop getting worse when humans stop releasing new climate pollution. “Net-zero” therefore means getting as close to zero greenhouse gas emissions as possible and offsetting any remaining emissions by permanently removing at least the same amount from the atmosphere.

Many claimed “offsets” are not permanent. Planting trees, for example, is valuable for many reasons, but no one can guarantee that the trees will survive 100 years, much less permanently. Many trees claimed as “offsets” have already burned in climate-driven wildfires or succumbed to heat and drought.

This plan will be careful to only count offsets or removals that will keep climate pollution out of the atmosphere for at least 100 years.

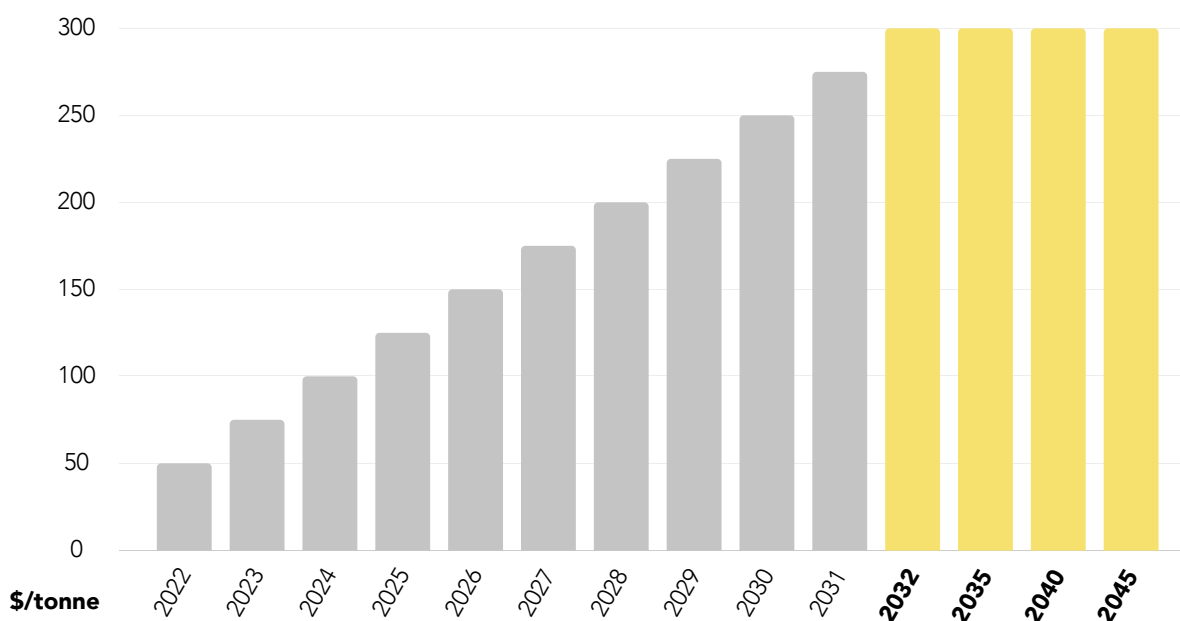
Carbon price

One key policy to achieve Ontario's Fair Share Carbon Budget will be a carbon price that rises steadily, \$25 /tonne every year, until it reaches \$300/tonne. The price will apply to as much as possible of the climate pollution that Ontario generates.

Why do we need a carbon price? Without a carbon price, climate pollution seems "free," stacking the playing field against the green economy, and requiring government to adopt detailed, intrusive and expensive regulations to take on the climate crisis. With a carbon price, far fewer regulations are needed because businesses, families and innovators have a direct financial reason to move rapidly towards net-zero, have flexibility in how to do it, and have access to the infrastructure and supports they need.

What will we do with the money raised from carbon pricing?

All carbon fee revenues collected from individual Ontarians will be returned to individuals as dividends, much as the current federal program does. Carbon fee revenues collected from businesses will go to supporting businesses in the transition to net zero.



Ontario already has a rising carbon price under the federal Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act. Ontario Greens will take over administration of the federal system and make it more effective by:

- Raising the price faster until it reaches \$300 per tonne in 2032;
- Eliminating gaps and exemptions;
- Reducing free climate pollution by heavy industries (see [Clean energy and materials](#));

A steadily rising carbon price is a powerful tool, but it cannot do all the heavy lifting. The other policies described in this plan will work together with the carbon price to make the green transition succeed.

Clean, safe ways to get around:

Gas- and diesel-fueled vehicles are Ontario's largest climate polluters. They harm health and damage communities through dirty air, collisions, and congestion and by dominating public space. Plus, they cost more to operate than electric vehicles.

We can reduce climate pollution and improve people's lives by redesigning communities, by building accessible, fast and affordable public transit, by making streets safer for walking and cycling, and by giving everyone access to electric vehicles (EVs). By moving aggressively to electrify transportation, Ontario will attract global investment to manufacture parts and assemble a range of electric vehicles, generating jobs and prosperity.

Ontario Greens will cut climate pollution from fossil fuel vehicles in half by 2030 and virtually eliminate it by 2040:

- Dramatically increase access to electric vehicles (two-wheeled or more) and make them less expensive than fossil fuel powered vehicles, through feebates, rental systems, financing, and a Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) mandate.
- Ensure widespread access to electric vehicle charging.
- Give most Ontarians safe, accessible spaces for walking, rolling and biking to where they need to go.
- Triple public transit use by 2030, by making it clean, fast, convenient, reliable, affordable, and accessible.
- Improve low-carbon mobility in rural and remote areas.
- Electrify school, GO and transit buses.
- Phase out the sale of new gas and diesel-fueled passenger vehicles, medium-duty trucks, and buses by 2030.
- Build on Ontario's strengths in mining, in innovation, in financing and in auto manufacturing to build a strong Electric Vehicle manufacturing strategy and electric transportation industry supply chain.

For details, see gpo.ca/climate/transportation.





Clean, comfortable buildings to live and work in:

Burning fossil fuels (mostly so-called “natural” gas) to heat buildings is Ontario’s second-largest source of climate pollution. Sustainable homes are more comfortable, less costly to heat and cool, and less prone to harm from extreme weather. Incentives for green building retrofits will create good jobs, reduce climate pollution and help people save money by saving energy. To cut fossil fuel use in buildings 40% by 2030 and to net-zero by 2040, we will:

- Create hundreds of thousands of new jobs by retrofitting 40% of existing homes and workplaces to net-zero (conservation plus heat pump and solar) by 2030 and 100% by 2040⁸.
- Set a Gas Footprint Standard to reduce the carbon footprint of fossil gas heating fuel.

Gas Footprint Standard

The **Gas Footprint Standard** (GFS) will be a regulation that slightly reduces the climate pollution caused by fossil gas burned for heating, and makes renewable gas more available for specialty uses such as industry and transportation.



The GFS will require gas suppliers to capture leaks of CO₂ and unburned methane before the gas gets to homes.



The GFS will incent gas utilities to make renewable gas made from plants, waste or clean electricity available for industrial processes and transportation. This will drive innovation, create jobs and clean the air.

⁸ <https://www.pembina.org/reports/canadas-renovation-wave-summary.pdf>, <https://www.corporateknights.com/leadership/building-back-better-bold-green-recovery-synthesis-report>

- The Gas Footprint Standard will make fossil gas slightly cleaner by requiring gas suppliers to capture leaks of CO₂ and unburned methane before they get to the consumer.
- The Gas Footprint Standard will also incent gas companies to sell renewable gas from organic waste and Green Hydrogen at market prices to replace some fossil gas used by industry or transportation.
- Eliminate fossil fuel use in new and renovated government buildings by 2025, and in all government buildings by 2030.
- Amend the Building Code, so all new commercial and residential buildings and additions are zero-emission and resilient by 2028 and are built with the lowest carbon footprint possible.
- Make building-level fossil fuel use transparent through labelling and disclosure.

For more details, see gpo.ca/climate/energy.

Strong communities have a wide variety of different kinds of housing, enough population density to support transit, ample public greenspace and a vibrant mix of land uses so that people may live, work, play, shop, and worship in their own neighbourhood. To build strong, affordable communities while stopping sprawl, Ontario Greens will:

- Freeze urban boundaries.
- Accelerate construction of infill housing, particularly missing middle and affordable housing, and public greenspace.
- Stop new subdivisions on farmland, wetlands or forests, and smartly expand the Greenbelt.
- Redirect provincial funding away from infrastructure⁹ that promotes sprawl, and toward infrastructure that supports compact, clean, connected communities.
- Repair all of the Conservative government's damage to land use laws, and to growth planning, including restoring powers to Conservation Authorities to allow them to protect provincially significant wetlands and other areas, reversing misuses of Ministerial Zoning Orders (MZO's), and reversing plans that force municipalities to prepare for sprawl.
- Eliminate subsidies for sprawl from property tax and development charges.

For more details, see gpo.ca/climate/community.



Clean energy and materials

Clean energy, used only when we need it, is the foundation of a green economy. Burning fossil fuels hurts everyone.

To clean up energy, the Ontario Greens will:

- Eliminate fossil fuels from electricity generation the fastest way compatible with our fair share carbon budget, aiming to phase out fossil gas by 2030.
- Double Ontario's electricity supply with renewables (including Green Hydrogen) by 2040, and make Ontario's electricity emission-free as quickly as possible.
- Electrify everything practicable (including buildings, transport and 90% of industrial energy,) directly or via green hydrogen made with clean electricity.
- Provide easy financing so people and businesses can install clean, high-efficiency electric equipment, e.g. air and ground source heat pumps.
- Support Ontario clean tech innovators. By showing global leadership, we can attract international investment again, create new careers with better jobs and help build a robust economy.
- Begin work with Indigenous Peoples to site essential electricity transmission lines.
- Level the playing field by redirecting subsidies away from fossil fuel use.
- Stop fossil fuel lock-in. Stop building new fossil fuel pipelines and close dangerous pipelines.
- By 2025, stop new fossil gas hookups and new gas furnaces, boilers, stoves, and water heaters.

For more details, see gpo.ca/climate/energy.

To clean up materials and products, the Ontario Greens will:

- Use incentives and government procurement to support Ontario entrepreneurs to build world-leading clean businesses and careers, especially in energy storage (e.g. batteries), electric/ fuel cell mobility, smart transit and low-carbon biomaterials.
- Build on Ontario's strengths in mining, in innovation, in financing and in auto manufacturing to build a strong electric transportation industry supply chain.
- Demand that the federal government establish border carbon adjustments to establish a level playing field for Ontario's low-carbon producers.
- Set strict standards for polluting industries, and help them meet them through low-interest loans, Ontario Centres of Excellence, collaboration with clean-tech solution providers and public procurement.
- Help small- and medium-sized businesses transition to the green economy through financial incentives and grants.

For more details, see gpo.ca/climate/materials.



2. Restore Water and Nature

People depend on nature, and nature needs our protection. Restoring nature will reduce climate pollution and help us adapt to extreme weather events.

Water is life, and we need to stop taking it for granted. The Green Party will protect and restore water and green spaces across Ontario, in partnership with Indigenous Peoples.

When we do, green spaces will clean our air and water, improve mental and physical health, keep cities cooler, and reduce flooding. Natural spaces will again protect our lakes and rivers, the places of great beauty and joy that are part of everyone's heritage, and the wild creatures with whom we share this province.

To restore water and nature, Ontario Greens will:

Protect Water

- Protect and restore watersheds, lakes and rivers.
- Strengthen and fund Conservation Authorities.
- Restore and expand wetlands and green infrastructure to clean stormwater and reduce flooding.
- Keep pollution out of water by updating and enforcing environmental protections.

Protect Farmland and Nature

- Permanently protect wetlands and prime farmland.
- Grow and enhance public parks.
- Work with Indigenous communities to conserve and protect at least 25% of Ontario by 2025, and 30% by 2030, especially areas of particular importance for water and wild creatures.
- Bring back nature in cities, starting with green roofs, school yards, turning surplus parking lots into mini forests, and creating spaces for communities to gather and children to play.
- Restore real protections for endangered species and a robust environmental assessment process.
- Support climate-smart agriculture and local sustainable food.

Nature-Based Solutions

- Protect and restore natural areas that sequester carbon, including grasslands and peatlands, and improve forest management.
- Allocate at least 15% of infrastructure spending to natural ecosystem features and materials, such as rivers, native plants and soil.
- Put green infrastructure first, using nature-based solutions whenever possible.

For more details, see gpo.ca/climate/water and gpo.ca/climate/nature.





3. Succeed together

A resilient, fair Ontario focused on health and prosperity will have a place for everyone. In a *healthy, prosperous* Ontario, there will be cleaner air, better health, shorter commutes plus a job for everyone who wants to be part of the clean economy.

In a *fair, affordable* Ontario, no one will be left behind, and those who are vulnerable will find a helping hand. There will be a path forward for those whose livelihoods are affected by the transition and support for those least able to pay. No one will be left at the mercy of international energy prices to keep warm.

In a *safe, resilient* Ontario, we will be prepared, together, for the climate changes we can't stop and that are already here, with particular attention to those disproportionately affected.

Healthy, prosperous Ontario

Ontario Greens will improve health, happiness and prosperity by:

- Putting health first and cleaning the air.
- Protecting water and enhancing public greenspace.
- Creating new careers and better jobs for hundreds of thousands of people in a strong, green workforce, and thousands of new opportunities for entrepreneurs¹⁰.
- Giving 60,000 young people in the next four years the skills and experience to work in the green economy, through a year of free college tuition plus a year of guaranteed work when they graduate.

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<https://www.corporateknights.com/leadership/building-back-better-bold-green-recovery-synthesis-report/>

- Supporting research, demonstration and commercialization of low carbon industries and low carbon capital investments in existing industries.
- Providing low-interest loans for emerging low carbon industries.
- Making it easy for people to join their neighbours to invest in clean energy and energy efficiency in their own communities, through Local Climate Funds.

Climate Financing 101

Local Climate Funds are a way for local people to pool their savings and professionally invest them in local renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. These projects make money over time through energy savings, but are often short of upfront capital. In this way, local residents can both save for retirement AND accelerate the new green economy and the jobs and cost savings that go with it.

Fair, affordable Ontario

Many people and businesses worry about financial challenges in the green transition, especially the upfront cost of buying electric vehicles or building upgrades. Low-income and vulnerable populations are disproportionately affected by climate change and need targeted support. To keep the transition affordable, Ontario Greens will:

- Provide loan guarantees to make low-cost financing and rental options readily available for electric vehicles, with their lower total cost of ownership.
- Make room on Ontario roads for small, ultra-low-cost electric vehicles, including town cars and e-bikes.
- Reduce transportation costs by dramatically increasing access to affordable transit, safe active transportation and compact communities.
- Release the pent-up demand for green retrofits by ensuring that both owners and tenants have access to low-cost financing to insulate and electrify their home. This will reduce energy bills and protect Ontarians from international energy price jumps.
- Bring down the cost of key equipment, such as heat pumps, through bulk purchasing and government procurement.
- Focus at least 25% of the overall benefits of public investments to reduce climate pollution on disadvantaged communities.¹¹
- Focus conservation subsidies on retrofits that reduce energy use for those unduly affected by the cost of energy, especially rural, remote, low-income and Indigenous communities and those with resistance (baseboard) electric heating.

¹¹ The Biden Administration has set a similar goal through an administrative order, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/M-21-28.pdf>. Ontario will be able to learn from their experience as they work out how to define and measure “benefits”

- Require the Ministry of Environment to develop and report on a strategy to address environmental racism.
- Improve security for those most affected by the green transition, through a climate bonus, higher minimum wage, enhanced safety net, training and job matching.
- Reduce inequity by improving substandard infrastructure in low-income communities, increasing diversity in those who make and implement public policies, and increasing supports for those who need it most.

Safe, resilient Ontario

Reducing climate pollution is essential to preserving a liveable future. At the same time, Ontario must get ready for the cascade of changes that is already happening. Ontario Greens will therefore:

- Plan how to:
 - Manage the health risks to people, including heat, wildfire smoke, flooding, drought, and insect-borne diseases.
 - Prepare municipalities, infrastructure, buildings, agriculture and forestry to withstand the increased effects of climate change.
- Use a \$2 billion per-year Climate Adaptation Fund to help get this overdue work underway, funded through a dedicated levy on parking and fossil gas.¹²
- Require all large public and private organizations to evaluate their vulnerability to climate shocks and stresses, and to plan how to manage them.
- Integrate climate resilience into land use planning and when designing, sizing and siting infrastructure.
- Expand natural infrastructure on private and public lands to increase resilience to climate risks.

For more details, see gpo.ca/climate/health, and gpo.ca/climate/zerowaste.

¹² Ontario's share of \$5.3 billion, see [http://www.ihc.ca/on/resources/media-centre/media-releases/climate-adaptation-estimated-to-cost-municipalities-\\$5-3-billion-annually](http://www.ihc.ca/on/resources/media-centre/media-releases/climate-adaptation-estimated-to-cost-municipalities-$5-3-billion-annually)





Partnering with Indigenous Peoples

One key to this transition will be how we partner with Indigenous Peoples. The time for meaningful action towards reconciliation is now.

The government has a legal obligation to consult with and to work with First Nations - with full partnership, participation, and respect. Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples is essential and includes acknowledging that traditional knowledge must contribute to climate and energy solutions. One key step will be to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in Ontario through the proposed *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, 2019*.

A new economic partnership between Indigenous and non-Indigenous governments and people can result in benefits for everyone. Much that is essential to the green transition cannot happen without Indigenous free, informed, prior consent. For example, electrification will require transmission lines on or across the territories of Indigenous Peoples. Federal and provincial governments and the public

must uphold Indigenous rights to self-determination and collaborate fully with Indigenous Peoples on decisions around placement, ownership, development, and operation of any infrastructure on Indigenous land.

Our plan seeks to acknowledge the reality of Indigenous Peoples in Ontario, including understanding that centuries of colonialism and broken promises have made building trust difficult. Ontario Greens support the right of Indigenous Peoples to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their rights, including the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their territories.

This plan aims to honour and learn from Indigenous world views. Indigenous Peoples have taught the importance of asking questions, such as “are we being good ancestors?”, and “are we honouring the land, water, and our relations with the wild creatures?” Ontario Greens will ask these questions, learn from Indigenous expertise, and seek respectful, ongoing engagement with First Nations and Indigenous Peoples to elaborate and implement this plan and to prioritize appropriate actions.

Ontario Greens will provide Indigenous communities with \$1 billion in new funding for climate leadership, mitigation and adaptation, including funds to buy out forestry and mining licenses in Indigenous protected areas.

Canadian Index of Wellbeing

The “green transition” economy will be fundamentally different from the old economy in ways that matter to most people’s health, happiness, and safety. To improve health and environmental justice and to leave no one behind, the green economy must measure its progress by more than money. The Ontario Greens will therefore replace the Gross Domestic Product as the key metric of government success with a [Canadian Index of Wellbeing](https://uwaterloo.ca/canadian-index-wellbeing/).¹³



Canadian Index of Wellbeing

Measuring what matters.

- 01 Health
- 02 Leisure & Culture
- 03 Living Standards
- 04 Time Use
- 05 Community Vitality
- 06 Education
- 07 Demographic Engagement

¹³ <https://uwaterloo.ca/canadian-index-wellbeing/> The [Canadian Index of Wellbeing](https://uwaterloo.ca/canadian-index-wellbeing/) will provide Canadians with a fuller picture of wellbeing that measures real life, for real people. It focuses on key aspects of life and uses them to measure what really matters to Canadians.

What about the Federal Government?

The provincial government must lead the green transition, but cannot transform Ontario by itself. The federal government has enormous resources and powers not available to the province. Key federal government contributions must include:

- Border carbon adjustments: ensuring cheap, dirty materials and products do not flood into Ontario putting our cleaner, home-grown producers out of business.
- Procurement: the federal government must commit to buying clean materials and products.
- Financial support: the federal government receives a majority of tax revenue paid by Ontario families and businesses, and it should help fund this plan.
- Federal regulations: the federal government has exclusive regulatory jurisdiction over its own operations and those of a number of critical emission sources, including aviation. The federal government also has exclusive authority to set minimum standards across the country, and has special responsibilities to Indigenous Peoples.
- International relations: the federal government has exclusive responsibility for international relations, including honouring Paris commitments to support emission reductions in developing countries.

We can do it

Can we do all this? Yes! In most cases, the technology already exists, we just have to get serious about using it.

Can we afford it? Yes!¹⁴ The cost of a low-climate pollution path is much less than the cost of climate chaos, and continues to drop rapidly as cleaner technology takes off. The upfront capital investment will more than pay for itself over time and will also have major health benefits.

How do we get there? The province of Ontario cannot achieve this carbon budget by itself, but with all levels of government and people working together, it is achievable.

This is just the beginning.

The details of the Ontario Greens' Climate Plan are outlined on our website gpo.ca/climate, providing a comprehensive guide to a greener way forward.

We are committed to a plan that includes all Ontarians. Together we can achieve the green future we want and deserve.

14 <http://jwmason.org/slackwire/keynes-quote-of-day-2/>



What will this cost?

How will we pay for it?

Ontario Greens plan a transformative investment of \$65 billion over 4 years, in addition to \$30 billion the government has already committed for transit upgrades. These investments reflect the urgency of the climate crisis, and give us economic opportunities. Climate commitments are only serious when they are backed up with action and resources.

Highlights of our program include:

- \$16 billion to accelerate and scale up net-zero building upgrades that will create new businesses, new careers and new uses for Ontario lumber while permanently cutting utility bills.
- Train a diverse green workforce to do these upgrades by funding tuition for 60,000 students, and ensuring they have work when they graduate.
- Help Ontario clean tech innovations to become world leaders in the green economy by investing \$5 billion in an EV Mobility and green technology innovation fund, coupled with a \$4 billion Climate Bank.
- Protect health and cleaning the air by investing \$4 billion in electrifying transit and \$1 billion in getting the most polluting diesel vehicles off the road.
- Provide \$6 billion in climate bonuses for low-income households to help them escape energy poverty and benefit from the green transition.
- Invest \$1 billion to help Indigenous communities establish and manage protected areas.
- Create an \$8 billion Climate Adaptation Fund to prepare municipal and provincial infrastructure to withstand our changing climate.
- Level the playing field with a steadily rising carbon price, while protecting most Ontarians by returning the revenue collected from individuals back to Ontario residents as a carbon dividend.

Funding for the innovative and necessary measures outlined in our plan will come, for example, from:

- Using \$4 billion in Green Bonds to capitalize the Climate Bank to make loans to commercialize and scale up green technologies.
- Redirecting \$16 billion currently used by the Ford government to subsidize electricity that mostly benefits high-income households.
- Ending \$2.5 billion in fossil fuel subsidies (tax breaks) except for farming and fly-in Indigenous communities.
- Creating a 1% climate surcharge levy on the province's top 10% income earners.

Our Roadmap is bold, but achievable. We're committed to creating the future we want, using the fully-funded plan we need. The funding plan is summarized in these tables:

EXPENSES (BILLIONS) 2022-2026¹⁵	
Electric vehicles (EVs), transit and active transportation	12.1
Electric busses and dedicated bus lanes	4.0
150,000 worst polluting vehicles off the road	1.0
EV and e-bike incentives and infrastructure	1.0
Top up for electrifying GO and resuming ON Northland	1.1
Upload 50% costs for transit systems	4.0
Infrastructure for walking, cycling and rolling	1.0
Net Zero Renovations	16.4
Supporting 50-75% of retrofit costs for homes, businesses and institutions	14.0
Full cost for a % social housing units retrofits and low income households	2.4
World leading Clean Businesses	14.7
EV Mobility and green technology innovation fund	5.0
Capitalize Climate Bank to commercialize green technologies	4.0
Support for high carbon industry to transition	2.0
Support for small and medium biz in transition including training for workers	1.8
Government procurement premium for low carbon	1.5
Restore water and nature	4.0
Indigenous-led conservation and protected areas	1.0
Expanding protected areas, greenspace, parks and nature in cities	0.5
Water protection including source water, lakes and restoring funding for Conservation Authorities	1.0
Planting trees and forestry strategy	0.5
Regenerative Agriculture	1.0
Succeed together	17.8
1 year tuition and year of work for 60,000 people	1.8
Climate Adaptation Fund	8.0
Climate bonus - addressing energy poverty and support for transition	6.0
Other new program spending	2.0
Total New Climate Spending	65.0
FUNDING THE PLAN (BILLIONS) 2022-2026	
Redirect energy subsidies to reduce energy poverty and to increase energy efficiency	16.0
Congestion charges	6.5
Dedicated adaptation levies on parking and fossil gas	8.0
Stop fossil fuel subsidies except for farming and fly-in Indigenous communities	2.5

¹⁵ Note that numbers may be updated as new information becomes available from the 2021 Fall Economic Statement and 2022 Ontario Budget.

FUNDING THE PLAN (BILLIONS) 2022-2026

Green Bonds to fund climate bank	4.0
1% climate surcharge on top 10% earners	6.0
Federal programming and matching funds	20.0
Business carbon fee including Output Based Pricing System	2.0
Total funding	65.0



Getting involved

We have worked hard and consulted widely to make this climate and environmental plan the best that we can. Will you help us make it better?

How can we make this plan better?

- Do you have expertise or lived experience relevant to any part of this plan that would help us get faster to a cleaner, greener, more inclusive future? Did we miss something? Do you know a better way? Please tell us about it.

What can you get started?

- Is there an opportunity in your community or company to start implementing any part of this plan? Or have you already started? What can you teach us about it?

How can we get more people engaged in making the plan better?

- The climate and environmental crises affects all of us, and everyone can do something about them. Can you help us include more people in the conversation, the planning and the action? Please tell us about it.

Get involved by writing us climatefeedback@gpo.ca or call 1.888.647.3366.



Where to find more details

PART II (ONLINE ONLY)

1. **Health** gpo.ca/climate/health

- Put health first
- Enhance environmental rights
- Reduce toxics
- Kick the fossil habit
- Prepare for what's coming

2. **Sustainable water** gpo.ca/climate/water

- Clean up water
- Stop depleting water
- Safe drinking water for all
- Stop wasting water
- Protect lakes, rivers and fish
- Reduce flood risk

3. **Fair economy** gpo.ca/climate/economy

- Build a green workforce
- Support green businesses
- Strengthen green strings
- Encourage sustainable finance

Expand science and research
Hold polluters accountable
Leave no one behind

4. Travel and transport gpo.ca/climate/transportation

Clean the air for better health
Make cities walkable and cyclable
Greatly improve transit
Increase zero emission vehicles
Biofuels²
Improve low-carbon mobility in rural and remote areas
Grow our clean transport industry

5. Energy gpo.ca/climate/energy

Electricity
Buildings

6. Culture and community gpo.ca/climate/community

Municipal climate leadership
Green space
Land use
Strong communities
Arts and Culture
Education

7. Local and sustainable food gpo.ca/climate/food

Low-carbon food
Protect farmland
Healthy food
Humane food
Local food

8. Materials and products gpo.ca/climate/nature

Cleaner industries
Sustainable materials and products
Make things last
Low-carbon industries

9. Zero waste gpo.ca/climate/zerowaste

Circular economy
Extended producer responsibility
Litter and pollution

10. Land and nature gpo.ca/climate/nature

Biodiversity (Plants and animals)
Public open space
Environmental assessment
Protected areas
Nature-based solutions

ROADMAP TO NET-ZERO

The Ontario Greens' Climate Plan



Authorized by the CFO of the GPO