

January 24, 2019

Looking At the New Ontario Climate Plan

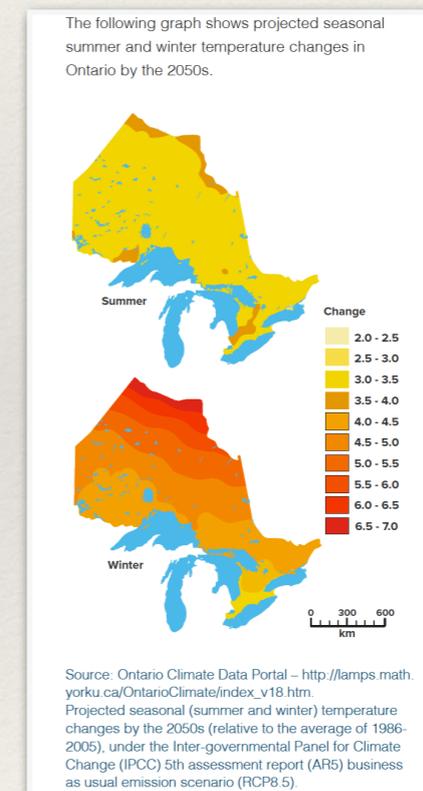
“Preserving & Protecting our
environment for Future
Generations

A Made-in Ontario
Environment Plan”

Introduction (set-up)

- ❖ **Acknowledges Ontario's past achievements:** Coal plant closure; clean electricity; 22% below 2005 levels
- ❖ **Frames Ontario's contribution as unfair** -"doing Canada's heavy lifting on greenhouse gas emission reductions has come at a cost to Ontario families..." pg. 17
- ❖ **Setting "achievable" rather than science-dictated targets**
- ❖ **Positions economic concerns** - "takes into consideration the commitment the people of Ontario have already shown..., as well as our commitment to growing Ontario's economy...." pg. 22

Quick Fact rewrite: "While forest fires [Climate Change poses] a serious threat to public safety, communities, and infrastructure, they are also an [and is not an] important natural process in Ontario's forest ecosystems." pg. 47

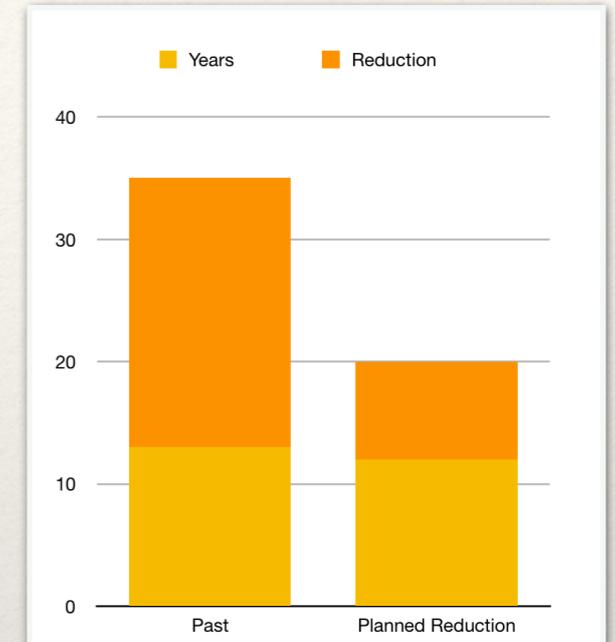
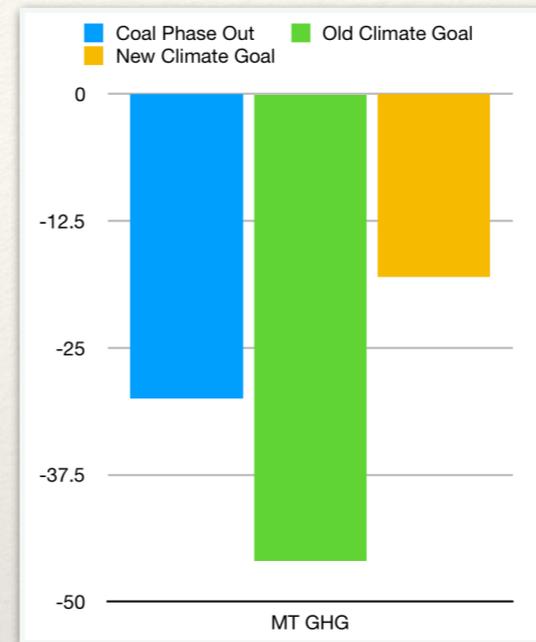


Admits wide-ranging threats & costs of climate change

Emissions Targets

- ❖ **Reduces target ambition from 46MT to 18MT by 2030; from 37% below 1990 levels; no mention of 2050, which was 80% below 1990 levels**
- ❖ **Matches Canada's commitment to reduce emissions by 30% below 2005 levels by 2030**
- ❖ **IPCC report suggests imperative to limit warming to 1.5°C; UN finds global emissions targets will bring us to 3.2°C²**
- ❖ **Canada's current targets will put us on path to 4 or 5°C of warming²**

Quick Fact: Ontario will not do its part to meet Paris Agreement global average temperature goals



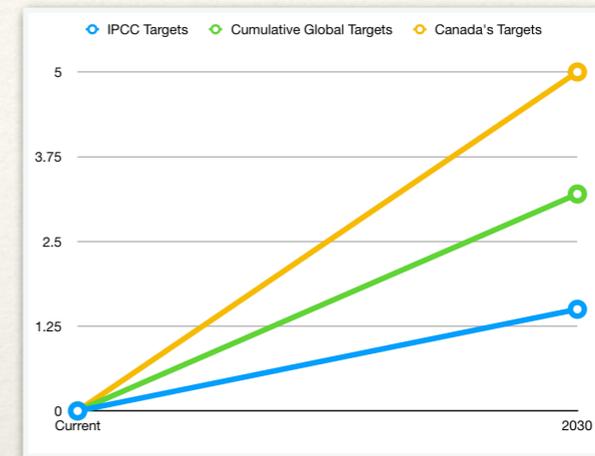
- ❖ **Canada was counting on Ontario's former targets in reaching even inadequate national goals**

Reframe: Ontario is not a fossil fuel dependent province, it is easier for us to make more of a difference in Canada's emissions and to transition to a clean economy quickly.

Climate Plan

Transportation

- ❖ 16% **Low Carbon Vehicles** - & expansion of compressed natural gas in trucking
- ❖ 19% **Clean Fuels** - increased ethanol content of gasoline to 15%; encourage renewable natural gas, lower carbon fuel use
- ❖ 7% **The Federal Clean Fuel Standard** - could, when implemented, further expand use of low-carbon fuels, energy and technology
- ❖ **Criticisms:**
 - ❖ 16% number taken from former energy plan that included cancelled electric vehicle subsidies
 - ❖ no plans for encouraging active transportation
 - ❖ plans to strengthen roadside testing & redesign emissions testing for heavy-duty vehicles are potentially good; what are the implications of cancelled general emissions testing & the promise to lower gas prices?
 - ❖ double counting Clean Fuel programs?



“actual reductions achieved will depend on how actions identified in our plan are finalized based on feedback we get from businesses and communities.” Pg. 23

*****Overall: weak policies to meet weakened targets, lacks details on how targets will be met, no binding commitments, timelines missing, fails to meet even min. federal compliance¹² & others**

“back of the napkin math.” Kieth Brooks, Environmental Defence^a

Climate Plan

Buildings

- ❖ **18% Natural Gas Conservation** - existing programs delivered by utilities. An assumption that these programs will expand *subject to discussion with the Ontario Energy Board.*

Notable Actions:

- ❖ Review Ontario Building Code re: cost-effective energy efficiency
- ❖ encourage voluntary energy efficiency info. on homes for sale & require voluntary renewable natural gas programs
- ❖ encourage district energy, heat pumps
- ❖ will “Consult on tax policy options to make it easier for homeowners to increase energy efficiency and save money”Pg. 33

Concerns:

- ❖ **This expansion of energy efficiency programs needs to be real.**
- ❖ Did have goal for Net-Zero builds by 2030?
- ❖ No incentives are suggested for conservation & these programs were popular^a
- ❖ funding not proposed to replace that taken from schools & social housing - will some go back into these?⁸

“A credible climate plan would, at minimum, present effective solutions to reduce carbon pollution from transportation, industry, and homes and buildings. A credible plan would include solutions to help make it more affordable for people to retrofit their homes to be more energy efficient, and make the transition to electric vehicles more affordable.”⁴ Pembina Institute

Climate Plan

Other

- ❖ **6% Other policies** - investments in public transit (5 billion); diversion of food and organics from landfills

Notable Actions:

- ❖ expand green bin collection systems (big cities; certain businesses); look into best practises for donating food safely
- ❖ make producers responsible for life-cycle of products; develop a plastics strategy
- ❖ explore options to recover resources from waste; develop a proposal to ban food waste in landfill

❖ Criticisms:

- ❖ expanding Go service (best use of funds?)
- ❖ upload TTC to province (will likely increase emissions?)
- ❖ need better integrated transit systems and solutions where people live and based on growth plan

Quick Fact: As of 2013, Ontario is responsible for less than 0.4% of global emissions. However, we are among the highest per capita energy consumers.

- ❖ No explanation of where \$500 million from cap & trade has gone

- ❖ some of money from cap & trade may go to settle lawsuits that result from not honouring clean energy contracts^a
- ❖ Also spending \$30 million to take federal government to court over carbon pricing

“The province’s new plan endangers halting climate progress made by Ontario cities in two ways. First, it starves them of funding for climate change solutions such as transit and building retrofits. Second, it threatens municipal climate plans that rely on price signals from carbon pricing in order to succeed.”³ Ecology Ottawa Executive Director Robb Barnes.

Green Party leader, Mike Schreiner “We need a climate plan, not a litter-reduction plan.”⁷

Role of Industry

“Guiding principle 1: Clear Rules and Strong Enforcement”Pg. 8

- ❖ **15% Industry Performance Standards** - strong enforcement & real consequences / penalties
- ❖ **15% Innovation** - possible advancements in energy storage; cost-effective fuel switching
- ❖ **Notable actions:** echo federal changes to the Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance

“We understand the pressure Ontarians feel with rising costs of living as well as skyrocketing energy costs that have hurt our economy and our competitiveness....”Pg. 3

Reframe: Encouraging renewables & bringing down emissions quickly will save us money, seeing as the costs of climate change are escalating at the same time the costs of green energy are falling.

Concerns:

- ❖ *“allow the province to grant across-the-board exemptions for industries of particular concern, like the auto sector, as needed.”Pg. 25*
- ❖ unclear on details of how Innovation will take place & lead to GHG reductions
- ❖ government has recently dismantled renewable energy projects
- ❖ Incentives & regulatory changes for industry to reduce GHGs & private investors to adopt low-carbon technology but....
- ❖ no real sign of offsetting costs or providing incentives for vulnerable Ontarian’s, consumers or even small business^{a, 8}

Catherine Abreu - “committed to collaborate and consult with stakeholders, including industries to be regulated, in developing new emissions compliance standards on no fixed timeline....”⁷

Ontario Carbon Trust (emission reduction fund)

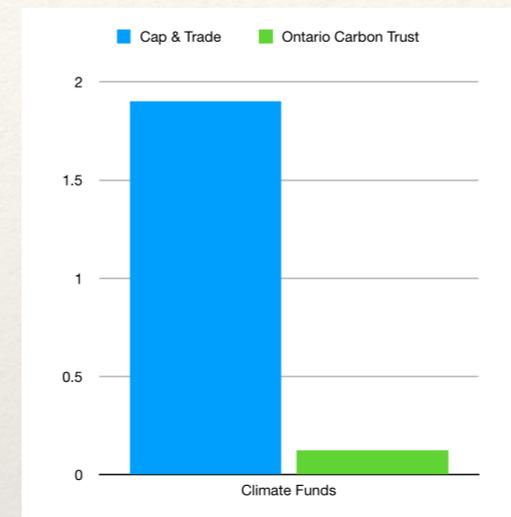
4% **The Ontario Carbon Trust** - “use public funds to leverage private investment” in “commercially viable” clean technology; about \$350 million (+penalties paid by industry) used at a 4:1 ratio (could unlock \$1 billion in private capital)Pg. 24

- ❖ **\$50 million Ontario Reverse Auction** to find lowest-cost projects that will reduce GHGs

Notable Actions:

- ❖ “Work with the financial sector to promote climate-related disclosures in Ontario”Pg. 29
- ❖ consider tax policies to encourage more clean tech manufacturing jobs

“Rather than imposing a price on carbon pollution as a cost of doing business, the Tories are shifting the burden to taxpayers by making them subsidize big business. **Instead of polluters paying up, polluters are being paid off.**”⁹ Martin Regg Cohn, The Toronto Star



“What we do know is that this plan proposed \$500 million in total funding over four years. Cap-and-trade provided \$1.9 billion in a single year.”⁸

Concerns:

- ❖ Reverse auction based on an Australian model that has failed to reduce emissions; Easy to get money for projects that may not lead to real GHG reductions. E.g., pay me so I won't cut down these trees.^{a, 13}
- ❖ Details lacking; maybe some programs for individuals and small businesses will come out of this, but it is hard to tell.^{a, 8}

Accountability

Guiding principle 2: “Trust and Transparency: – with a particular focus on realtime monitoring – to understand the current environmental challenges we face....”Pg.8

- ❖ **Will update & report on estimated emissions reductions once “details are finalized” & revisit every four years.**
- ❖ Commitment to continue to consult and /or engage with the public, stakeholders and Indigenous communities.
- ❖ **Create an advisory panel on climate change -**
*note: closing down Environmental Commissioner’s office!
- ❖ **Measure and report on progress -** to point out how plan is saving people money & improving life quality; develop “key indicators of progress”Pg 53

Resilience

Guiding principle 3: “Resilient Communities and Local Solutions:evidence-based methods to develop unique solutions to their challenges.”Pg. 8

- ❖ Basement flooding tips: “simple steps, such as removing debris from nearby storm drains,.... can significantly mitigate basement flooding.”Pg. 20

Notable Actions:

- ❖ **Modernize Building Code**
- ❖ “Consult on tax policy options to support homeowners....”Pg.20
- ❖ online tool to report pollution; focus on parts of province that experience air quality challenges

Conservation, Water, Soil, Land Use

Mentioned in the Plan:

- ❖ Improve the resilience of natural ecosystems; work with partners to conserve and restore E.g., Grassland Stewardship Initiative (farm conservation activities), Community Wildfire Protection Plans, Ducks Unlimited & the Nature Conservancy of Canada (e.g., they mention managing invasive species)
- ❖ Modernize Ontario's environmental assessment process (mentions mostly streamlining & improving processes) - hope doesn't remove or override progress toward assessing climate impacts
- ❖ Promote the use of renewable forest biomass; work with Indigenous people on sustainable forestry practises
- ❖ Support soil & water quality programs for farms; work with partners to improve agricultural management practices
- ❖ Climate change impact and vulnerability assessments - a good idea
- ❖ Continue to build on progress of ongoing programs like the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan & English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Funding Act (e.g., they mention blue-green algae & road salt)
- ❖ Help people conserve water and save money; tracking and reporting; improving standards for fixtures and appliances
- ❖ Work with partners to employ "real-time monitoring of sewage overflows" Pg. 12; Encourage investment and innovation in wastewater overflow management
- ❖ Foster local leadership; work internationally; explore developing curriculum about the environment (protecting air, land & water, climate change, waste & litter); support Healthy Parks Healthy People

What can we do?

- ❖ Comments open until January 28th, on Environmental Registry <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4208>; Received more than 8,000 comments; Kieth Brooks said 11,000.
- ❖ Contact elected officials at all levels. They need to know:
 - ❖ we want more done about climate change
 - ❖ going backwards is not an option
 - ❖ we are experiencing specific impacts
 - ❖ we need more information to support the proposed plan
 - ❖ mention health aspects (endangers people)
- ❖ The more of us who speak out about climate action being urgent, the better. It is important that your MPP knows climate action is important to their constituents. So, consider copying them on any comments you make.
- ❖ ClimateFast created a People's Ontario Climate Plan and a letter that is easily sent through LeadNow. You can find it here: <https://www.leadnow.ca/MPP-peoples-climate-plan-ontario/> and can sign on at the website here: <http://www.climatefast.ca/peoples-climate-plan>

References

All quotes not otherwise attributed and plan details from “Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations, A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks,” Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation & Parks

^a (quotes & more general ideas) from the facebook video hosted by Environmental Defence, here: www.facebook.com/EnvironmentalDefenceCanada/videos, What’s Good and not so Good about Ontario’s Climate Change Plan.

¹ Ontario unveils climate plan with scant details, By Fatima Syed in News, Politics | November 29th 2018, National Observer, www.nationalobserver.com

²Canada's 'insufficient' climate policies would help increase global warming by 5 C, study finds, By Fatima Syed in News, Energy, Politics | November 29th 2018, National Observer, www.nationalobserver.com

³Climate Action Network Canada Reacts to Ford Government’s Climate Plan, <https://climateactionnetwork.ca>

⁴ Pembina Institute reacts to the Government of Ontario’s climate plan, Nov. 29, 2018, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Rod Phillips. TORONTO — Robin Edger, Ontario director at the Pembina Institute, made the following statement in response to the release of the Government of Ontario’s climate plan, <http://www.pressreleasepoint.com/ontario-stalls-climate-action>

⁷ONTARIO OPTS FOR HIGHER CARBON EMISSIONS, OFFERS ‘SCANT DETAILS’ ON NEW CLIMATE PLAN, FULL STORY: CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION @CBCNEWS, NOVEMBER 30, 2018, PRIMARY AUTHOR MIKE CRAWLEY @CBCQUEENSPARK AND ANDREA JANUS @ANDREAJANUS, <https://theenergymix.com>

⁸ONTARIO’S NEW CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN GETS A FAILING GRADE, DEC 03 2018, Sarah Buchanan, Program Manager, Clean Economy, Environmental Defence, <https://environmentaldefence.ca/2018/12/03/19341/>

⁹PC bait and switch on climate change punishes Ontario taxpayers to pay off polluters, By MARTIN REGG COHN Ontario Politics Columnist, Fri., Nov. 30, 2018, Toronto Star, www.thestar.com

¹⁰Globe editorial: No carbon taxes in Ontario’s new climate plan, but you’re still going to pay, PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 29, 2018, Globe and Mail, www.globeandmail.com

¹¹McKenna and Ontario environment minister still in a stalemate on climate action, By Steph Wechsler & Fatima Syed in News, Energy, Politics | December 6th 2018, National Observer, www.nationalobserver.com

¹²CanRac CANET Bulletin

¹³Ontario introduces \$400M taxpayer-funded 'carbon trust' plan, BY NEWS STAFF AND THE CANADIAN PRESS, POSTED NOV 28, 2018 11:48 AM EST LAST UPDATED NOV 29, 2018 AT 5:58 PM ES, City News, <https://toronto.citynews.ca>