

Greenpeace Ottawa
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Dear Greenpeace Ottawa:

Thank you for giving the Green Party of Ontario an opportunity to share our plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote a low-carbon economy, and preserve the environment.

The effects of climate change are increasing in intensity every year, profoundly challenging our economy, environment, and quality of life.

Climate change is expected to cost Canada's economy at least \$5 billion by 2020 and up to \$43 billion by 2050, according to the National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy. Last year alone, insurable losses were \$4.9 billion. We're also experiencing lost crops, flooded cities, and extreme weather events that destroy our homes, infrastructure, and businesses.

The climate crisis is a threat to our health, well-being and quality of life. These costs are in addition to the devastating impact on our environment.

Climate scientists have stated that we have less than two years to reverse GHG emissions before we unleash irreversible, catastrophic climate breakdown. We are proposing action now, with solutions that will protect our planet and create the jobs of the future.

Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The GPO's plan is to leap into the future now to create good jobs in the clean economy while putting Ontario on a pathway to be carbon neutral by 2050. To do this we will:

- Set aggressive GHG targets for provincial government operations and expand reduction programs to include hospitals, schools, universities and other public institutions.
- Establish more ambitious GHG reduction targets for Ontario. Our goal is for the province to be carbon neutral by 2050 instead of the current target to reduce greenhouse gas pollution by 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050. We support the province establishing 5 year targets between now and 2050 to measure progress toward the target of being carbon neutral by 2050.
- Transition Ontario to a revenue-neutral carbon fee-and-dividend system. Under this approach, a fee is levied at source on all goods and services that result in greenhouse gas pollution. We propose a steadily increasing carbon price at a level that exceeds the federal government's minimum price. We would not immediately cancel the current cap and trade program, instead supporting a

transitional period to carbon fee and dividend program that returns all pollution tax revenue to citizens' bank accounts. The more you conserve the more cash for you and your family.

- Set a target and develop a Long-term Energy Plan for Ontario to be powered with 100% renewable energy, which includes a plan for an energy supply mix that enables Ontario to achieve its greenhouse gas targets and create local jobs.
- Invest in smart grid solutions and expand electricity storage capacity.
- Work with local communities, provide incentives for small renewable energy projects (wind, solar, heating, storage, electric mobility, and micro-hydro), to reduce overall demand and increase local energy security and community benefits.
- Provide community-based renewable energy projects, initiated by non-profit groups, cooperatives and municipalities, with reliable know-how and long-term zero interest loans.
- Phase out funding for infrastructure that relies on fossil fuels and increases Ontario's GHG emissions.
- Support fleet electrification with funding for the public and private sector to purchase electric vehicles, install charging facilities and share their implementation know-how with each other to make Ontario the leading electric vehicle jurisdiction in the world.
- Support the purchase of electric vehicles through a rebate program for purchasing electric vehicles with a cap on the vehicle purchase price, eliminating HST on zero emission vehicles, and providing free overnight vehicle charging for residential customers.
- Aggressively pursue the development of a smart grid, which will modernize and streamline Ontario's electricity generation and distribution system, making it more efficient, lower in GHG emissions, and ready to take advantage of cutting-edge technology.
- Prioritize investments in reducing demand through energy efficiency and conservation efforts before turning to new sources of generation as the lowest cost and most effective way to achieve a 100% renewable energy goal. -
- Establish a green revolving fund to use savings from energy conservation to invest in additional GHG reduction efforts.
- Use low GHG fuels like renewable fuel alternatives to replace diesel for municipal fleets, such as garbage trucks and buses. Create incentives for EV fleets and bicycle delivery.

Promote a Low Carbon Economy

The GPO climate plan prioritizes action in those sectors with the highest GHG emissions: transportation, buildings, and industry. Our plan also seeks to maximize nature's carbon storing ability, and to help communities adapt to our changing climate. To do this we will:

- Invest over \$1 billion per year to support a Green Building Program to create jobs while helping homeowners, renters and businesses save money by reducing

their energy use. Provide incentives to help homeowners, renters and businesses convert natural gas, electric, oil, and propane heating systems to more efficient, affordable and low carbon sources such as heat pumps and geothermal.

- Redirect existing business support programs to target the scale up of cleantech companies and innovation. Change the funding criteria for business development programs to eliminate supports for proposals that contribute to an increase in Ontario's greenhouse gas pollution.
- Reorient business development grants to provide funding incentives for businesses to innovate and invest in low carbon equipment, products, and processes.
- Accelerate the targets for net zero buildings and revise the Ontario Building Code to mandate that all new buildings meet net zero standards.
- Implement incentives for businesses that participate in training and certification programs in job growth areas such as green building, biomedical technology, renewable energy and sustainable transportation.
- Review government regulations to ensure the regulatory environment does not create barriers to the adoption of green technologies, practices and businesses.
- Support public funding of research and development in order to incubate innovation, particularly in clean technology and knowledge services.
- Provide incentives to commercialize new clean economy products.
- Create investment tools, such as Community Bonds for local clean tech innovators that are RRSP and TFSA eligible.
- Establish provincial government procurement rules to support made in Ontario cleantech products to facilitate commercialization of Ontario innovation.
- Conduct a census of vulnerable jobs and economic sectors in the transition to a low carbon, clean economy in order to develop strategies to help those workers and businesses successfully transition to the new economy.
- Develop a strategy to ensure that the transition to a low carbon, clean economy benefits workers through retraining, living wages, benefits plans and career opportunities.
- Implement border adjustments for carbon pricing to create an even playing field for energy-intensive, trade-exposed industries and their workers.
- Establish an Ontario Youth Green Corps to provide summer job experience and foster a culture of stewardship and enterprise in the next generation of young Ontarians, helping young people learn job skills, introducing them to rewarding careers in trades, and fostering leadership.
- Provide support for young entrepreneurs to start green businesses through online entrepreneurial courses, business modelling workshops and start up capital.
- Implement a Well-being Measurements Act to identify indicators of the economic, social and environmental well-being of people, communities and ecosystems in Ontario.
- Continuously update the provincial soil database to better track and protect the province's prime farmland, a critically important source of carbon sequestration.

- Provide startup grants for Northern Ontario and First Nations communities to initiate and create their own renewable projects, build water purification systems and grow food year round in their communities.
- Give incentives for the production of renewable natural gas from organic waste and other renewable sources such as ammonia to be transported in existing natural gas pipelines and used to power government fleet vehicles like garbage trucks and public buses. This will reduce reliance on piped, fracked or shipped natural gas.
- Establish low-carbon content requirements for natural gas distribution.
- Set a target date for phasing out internal combustion engines in Ontario so that Ontario can meet a carbon neutral target by 2050. As an interim measure, raise the average fuel economy emission standards for all cars and trucks to encourage the market for more fuel efficient and less polluting vehicles.
- Support rapid electrification plans for all transit systems.
- Increase funding for public transit infrastructure and transit operations while using market mechanisms such as road pricing and parking levies that create incentives for people to drive less as a way of paying for transit investments.
- Provide new carbon-free educational grants for students that want to be part of the carbon-free sector.

Preserve the Environment

Ontario is losing greenspace and farmland at an unsustainable rate. Aggregate mining is prioritized over protecting water, natural heritage, wildlife and farmland, and urban sprawl threatens the places we love. Our plan builds up, not out, and increases protections for provincial parks, forest reserves, farmland, wildlife and other natural heritage. To do this we will:

- Apply a climate lens to all planning decisions, environmental assessments and planning laws to help transition our communities to a fossil fuel free future.
- Increase funding to Ministry of Natural Resources and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to better carry out their responsibilities after decades of underfunding.
- Reform the Environmental Bill of Rights to include the principle of the right to a healthy environment for all Ontarians, ensure meaningful citizen participation and provide funding for education, and empower the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario to initiate investigations.
- Ensure that new international free trade agreements only be made in consultation with municipal governments, local communities and indigenous people, without jeopardizing our environment. Oppose investor-state dispute mechanisms that undermine our sovereign ability to protect Ontario's water, farmland and natural resources.
- Instill a culture of collaboration and open dialogue between Ministries to ensure natural heritage is protected. This includes encouraging critiques when decisions put our environment and health at risk. For example, Ministry of Natural

Resources and Forestry can make poor resource extraction decisions that threaten our water, a Ministry of Environment and Climate Change responsibility.

- Increase oversight for industry development that affects our land, water, and wildlife.
- Set aside a minimum of 17% of the land base in protected areas according to the internationally agreed upon Aichi biodiversity targets.
- Establish a rigorous provincial biodiversity monitoring and reporting program as an early warning system of species loss. This would include information on Ontario's wildlife, including population trends and habitat quality, so that we can monitor the province's biodiversity to identify and mitigate decline.
- Inventory and designate provincially significant wetlands and grasslands on an ongoing basis, and require that they be protected in municipal official plans within one year of their designation as such.
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- Provide incentives for pollinator-friendly farming practices and invest in research about the economic value of wild pollinators for farmers and their crops.
- Establish an independent science advisory body on wild native pollinators to ensure that the best available science informs implementation and evaluation of the government's Pollinator Health Action Plan.
- Ban logging and other resource extraction in all provincial parks where ecological integrity is threatened, including Algonquin Park which remains open to logging in 65% of its area.
- Establish and expand safe harbour protections to support and financially reward good stewards of our land. This would compensate farmers and residential landowners for the public good they provide in protecting endangered species and at-risk ecosystems on their property.
- Reversing the government's decisions to create loopholes in the endangered species act that allow industry to harm and kill endangered species.
- Increasing oversight for industry development that affects our land, water, and wildlife.
- Support Forest Ontario's tree planting goals and expand the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program to reward landowners for planting trees.
- Reward sustainable forestry and land management practices that protect the Boreal forest with an emphasis on maximizing the forest's ability to store carbon.
- Reverse the government's decision to close the Ontario Tree Seed Plant.
- Develop policy on forest carbon management and/or carbon offset projects for the forestry sector while exploring the potential benefits with Indigenous peoples.
- Create incentives to reward landowners for increasing the organic content of their soil and for sequestering carbon. Support research to improve soil health, including developing accurate and consistent quantification methods.
- Implement stronger protections for wetlands, grasslands and woodlots.
- Reward farmers for stewardship practices that provide environmental and community benefits such as clean water, habitat preservation, soil health and carbon storage.



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- Recognize and address the importance of protecting the vast intact carbon storehouse of Ontario's Far North in land-use plans for the region.
- Ensure that green infrastructure projects, such as urban forests, qualify for provincial infrastructure funding.

This is just a selection of our priorities going into this election related to the environment. Please read the rest of our Vision for Ontario at www.gpo.ca/vision and our platform at www.gpo.ca/platform. Do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any further questions.

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Green Party of Ontario