



February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Marilyn Toft  
Clerk, City of Toronto  
100 Queen Street West Toronto  
M5H 2N2

**Re: Toronto City Council Meeting, February 2 & 3, 2021 MM28.21 Calling on the Province to Phase-Out Gas-Fired Electricity Generation**

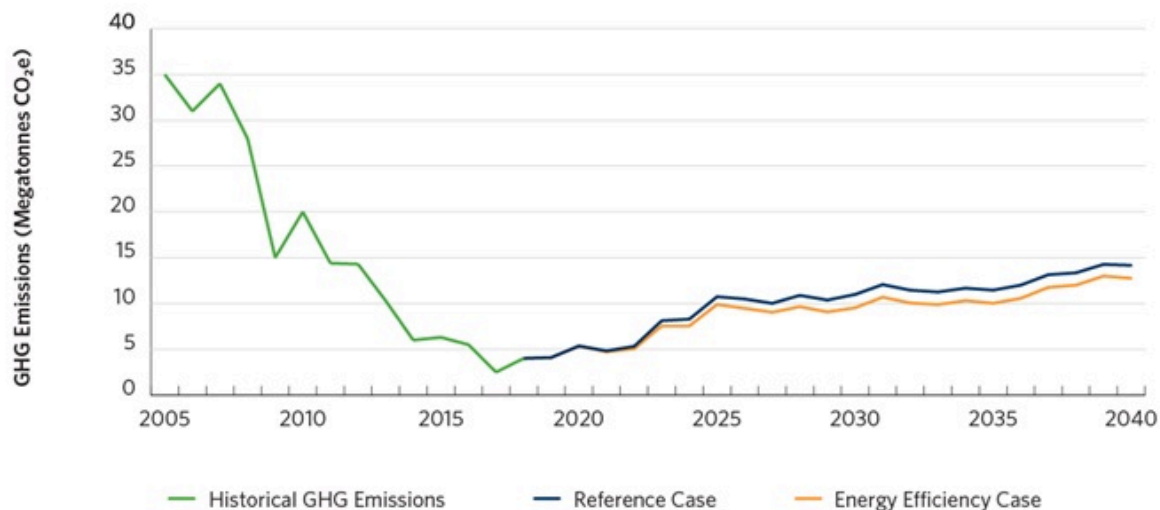
Dear Members of Council,

I am writing to express Environmental Defence Canada's support for Councillor Jennifer McKelvie's and Councillor Mike Layton's motion calling on the Province of Ontario to phase-out all gas-fired electricity generation as soon as possible.

Our recent work tracking provincial greenhouse gas emissions has highlighted an alarming fact – that Ontario's electricity-related greenhouse gas emissions are expected to rise significantly in the coming decades as a result of increased use of natural gas-fired electricity. This trend comes after the Province cancelled more than 750 contracts for renewable sources of electricity like wind and solar power.

This graph from the IESO's Annual Planning Outlook shows Ontario's projected rise in carbon emissions from electricity – approximately 11 million tonnes by 2040.

**Electricity GHG emissions forecast**



Source: *Independent Electricity Systems Operator (IESO) Annual Planning Outlook 2020*  
<https://www.ieso.ca/en/Powering-Tomorrow/Data/The-IESOs-Annual-Planning-Outlook-in-Six-Graphs>



environmental  
defence

The City of Toronto acknowledges the urgency of climate change and the need to take strong action to meet Toronto's carbon reduction commitments. As you know, City Council has declared a climate emergency and committed to accelerating action on climate change. However, an increase in the carbon intensity of Ontario's grid will move municipalities like Toronto in the wrong direction. With more natural gas in our grid, individuals and businesses in Toronto will have a bigger carbon footprint.

We have heard loud and clear that Torontonians support action on climate change. The City of Toronto needs to speak out to ensure that the Province's actions don't block Toronto's progress to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Thank you,

Sarah Buchanan  
Ontario Climate Program Manager  
Environmental Defence