

The Voice for Clean Capitalism

Corporate Knights

February 4, 2021

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

BY EMAIL: councilmeeting@toronto.ca

Dear Ms. Toft:

Re: MM28.21 Calling on the Province to Phase-Out Gas-Fired Electricity Generation

There is no question that we are in the midst of a major climate crisis. There is also no question that effective action to avoid the worst impacts of this crisis is still possible. Furthermore, it becomes clearer every day that there are huge new opportunities to be seized in taking action, from the development and deployment of new technologies to the jobs-rich implementation of already proven solutions. Many of Canada's corporate leaders have already embraced this need for immediate action on climate, with an increasing number of corporate commitments to achieve net zero carbon in operations and to develop more responsible and sustainable products.

What these corporate leaders recognize is that the world is not going to wait for Canada. The shift is already well under way and the opportunities are being seized by our competitors.

When it comes to electricity generation, we have seen astounding growth in renewable energy over the last decade and we are just getting started. Advances in energy efficiency are equally remarkable, with everything from LED lighting to smart controls transforming how we use energy – and how much.

President Biden has already started a 180 degree turn on the American response to climate change, including a commitment to have a [zero-carbon electricity system by 2035](#). This commitment recognizes that the U.S., which despite the last four years of White House climate denial has actually managed to

reduce emissions at a faster pace than Canada, will benefit in multiple ways from action on climate.

Ontario led the world in phasing out dirty coal-fired power. Our American and European friends are just now catching up with us on this farsighted action. Ontario's leadership, in turn, was spurred on by leadership from Toronto City Council, the late Dr. Sheela Basrur and the Toronto Atmospheric Fund for phasing out coal because cities were and are ground zero for the impacts of both air pollution and climate change.

This is why I urge you to support the resolution brought forward by Councillors McKelvie and Layton to endorse the goal of phasing out of gas-fired generation as soon as possible. Ontario can once again set the pace on taking action on climate change and will only benefit from its actions – with cleaner air, new economic opportunities and a renewed sense of leadership on the most urgent issue of our time.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read 'Toby Heaps', is positioned above the typed name.

Toby Heaps
CEO, Corporate Knights Inc.