



## Agenda Item

### City Council

(Deferred from February 2, 3 and 5, 2021 - 2021.MM28.21)

DM30.3	ACTION			Ward: All
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#### Calling on the Province to Phase-Out Gas-Fired Electricity Generation - By Councillor Jennifer McKelvie, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton

*\* City Council on February 2, 3 and 5, 2021 added this Motion to the agenda. City Council subsequently deferred this Motion to the March 10, 2021 meeting.*

*\* This Motion is before Council for debate.*

#### Recommendations

Councillor Jennifer McKelvie, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Government of Ontario to develop and implement a plan to phase-out all gas-fired electricity generation as soon as possible to ensure that Toronto has a clear path to achieve our climate action goals.
2. City Council request the City Manager to forward this resolution to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines and the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

#### Summary

In October 2019, City Council affirmed its commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2050, or sooner, joining more than 800 municipal governments in 16 countries to declare a climate emergency.

This time, we must join 13 municipal governments across Ontario, to ask that the Provincial government develop and implement a plan to phase-out all gas-fired electricity generation as soon as possible, to help municipalities in Ontario meet their climate targets.

The Government of Ontario is planning to increase its reliance on gas-fired electricity to replace the output of the Pickering Nuclear Station (its operating licence expires on December 31, 2024) and to meet a rising demand for electricity. This plan will throw away more than a third of the greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions Ontario achieved by phasing-out its dirty coal-fired power plants.

The increase in GHG pollution associated with gas-fired electricity will reduce the effectiveness of the City's climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. It will decrease the effectiveness of electrification programs including deep building retrofits and electric vehicle programs. Without GHG emission-free electrical generation, the City of Toronto cannot reach its climate goal of net zero.

While COVID-19 has impacted the City of Toronto and the greater Province in tragic ways, it has also demonstrated that a reduction in the burning of fossil fuels has led to an improvement in our air quality.

As we move towards restart and recovery from COVID-19, we need to do what we can now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in order to meet our net zero goals and build back better, greener and more resilient.

### **Background Information**

Item DM30.3