

February 16, 2021

Sent by e-mail

Marilyn Toft and Toronto City Councillors
12th Floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Ms. Toft and City Councillors:

I am writing to express support for Councillors McKelvie's and Layton's motion MM28.21 - *Calling on the Province to Phase-Out Gas-Fired Electricity Generation* - This motion asks the City to request that the Government of Ontario develop and implement a plan to phase-out all gas-fired electricity generation as soon as possible.

If we do not reduce the use of all fossil fuels in our electricity sector we will not meet Toronto's climate action goals, nor the Government of Canada's Paris Agreement targets.

The City plans to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Gas-fired generating plants will ensure that we do not meet those targets. Therefore the motion to phase-out this source of electricity generation is critical to Toronto and Canada's success. Our electricity grid must decarbonize and the continued use of Ontario gas-fired generating plants will not allow us to reach that goal.

There must be a plan to phase out gas plants as quickly as possible. To our knowledge no such plan currently exists. In fact Ontario's electricity plans, as detailed by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), are forecasting more than 300% increase in greenhouse gas pollution from Ontario gas plants by 2030 and 400% by 2040. This is precisely the wrong direction. The Ontario plan will reverse over 35% of the annual emissions achieved from phasing out coal in Ontario.

As a civil society association of older adults with over 100 members in Toronto, the Climate Action Club of the Life Institute is concerned for the health, safety and a thriving economy for future generations. We cannot put off climate action and Councillor McKelvie and Layton's motion speaks to this urgent imperative. It also addresses the Toronto and Federal declarations recognizing we are in a climate emergency and need to act now.

Sincerely,

Michael Barkley
Co-Lead Climate Advocacy Interest Group,
Climate Action Club of the Life Institute