

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

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

Dear Ms. Toft:

Please distribute this letter to the members of Toronto City Council.

I am writing to you on behalf of The Atmospheric Fund (TAF) in support of Councillor McKelvie’s motion “Calling on the Province to Phase-Out Gas-Fired Electricity Generation” (MM28.21). The need to phase out fossil gas from our energy systems is a growing issue in Toronto and indeed all of Ontario. Without this phaseout, Toronto simply cannot achieve the net-zero carbon emissions target adopted by City Council in 2019.

Municipalities throughout Ontario are beginning to pass similar resolutions. As the largest urban and economic centre in the country, the City of Toronto’s voice on a fossil gas phaseout is important to encourage other municipal action and accelerate the transition to a healthier and more prosperous net-zero future. Setting a province-wide target to phase out fossil gas also mirrors plans by President Biden’s Administration in the U.S to achieve a zero-carbon electricity system by 2035.¹

We cannot meet the climate goals and objectives of the council-approved TransformTO plan if we continue to use fossil gas for electricity generation. Toronto has already declared a climate emergency and this resolution is a meaningful next step. As others have noted in their submissions, Toronto’s fossil gas generation emissions are on the rise, increasing 68% from 2017-18.² Based on current Provincial plans to ramp up fossil gas generation, Toronto’s electricity emissions are expected to triple by 2030³. This would put Toronto’s 2030 climate target firmly out of reach.

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/27/executive-order-on-tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad/>

² <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/9525-2018-GHG-Inventory-Report-Final-Published.pdf>

³ <https://taf.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/A-Clearer-View-on-Ontarios-Emissions-June-2019.pdf>

Zero carbon alternatives are already available and cost effective. Ontario needs to phase out fossil-gas generation, instead of ramping it up. TAF strongly urges City Council to pass this motion calling on the Provincial Government to develop a strategy to phase out fossil gas usage in our electricity system.

Sincerely yours,



Bryan Purcell
VP Policy & Programs, The Atmospheric Fund

The Atmospheric Fund (TAF) is a regional climate agency that invests in low-carbon solutions for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) and helps scale them up for broad implementation. Please note that the views expressed in this submission do not necessarily represent those of the City of Toronto or other GTHA stakeholders. We are experienced leaders and collaborate with stakeholders in the private, public and non-profit sectors who have ideas and opportunities for reducing carbon emissions. Supported by endowment funds, we advance the most promising concepts by investing, providing grants, influencing policies and running programs. We're particularly interested in ideas that offer benefits in addition to carbon reduction such as improving people's health, creating local jobs, boosting urban resiliency, and contributing to a fair society.