



DEPUTATION TO IEC 3.3 - NET ZERO BY 2040 2022 REPORT

April 26, 2023

Dear Chair and Councillors,

My name is Lyn Adamson, I live in Toronto St. Paul's, and I'm Co-Chair of ClimateFast, a group I co-founded in 2012 and which has worked to support TransformTO since the consultations in 2015.

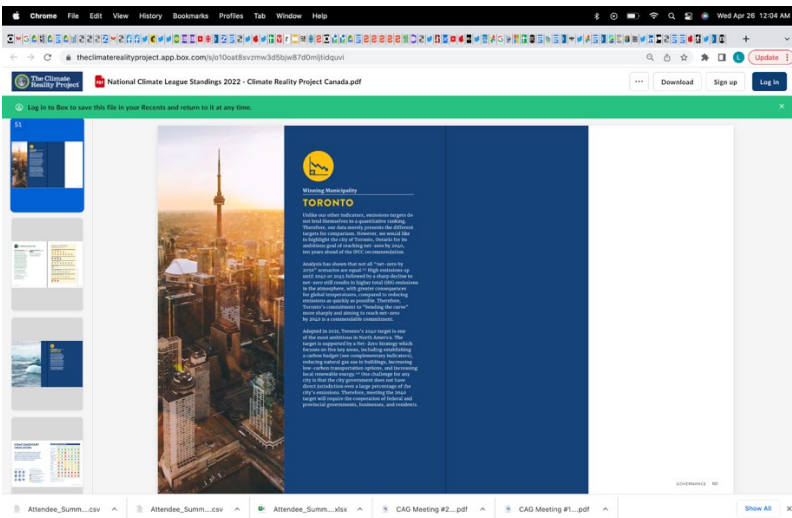
I wish to start by stating my deep gratitude to the staff of TransformTO and to the councillors who have been supporting the work of the TransformTO staff from its inception in 2017, when it was created with the target of 80% reduction of emissions by 2050



In Sept. 2019 Fridays for Future Toronto brought tens of thousands of concerned community members to the streets for the largest ever climate demo. On Oct 2nd Council adopted a Climate Emergency Resolution and asked staff to consider the feasibility of an accelerated plan.

Staff took on the challenge and in 2021 Council adopted the accelerated target of 100% Net Zero by 2040,

Toronto's Net Zero by 2040 is an award-winning plan. It won the American Planning Assoc Sustainable Communities award in 2022. And the plan is credited in Climate Reality's National Climate League standings for 2022. It's the one award that Toronto has won in these standings, which are an annual review of climate actions implemented across Canada. <https://www.climatereality.ca/ncl> - page 51

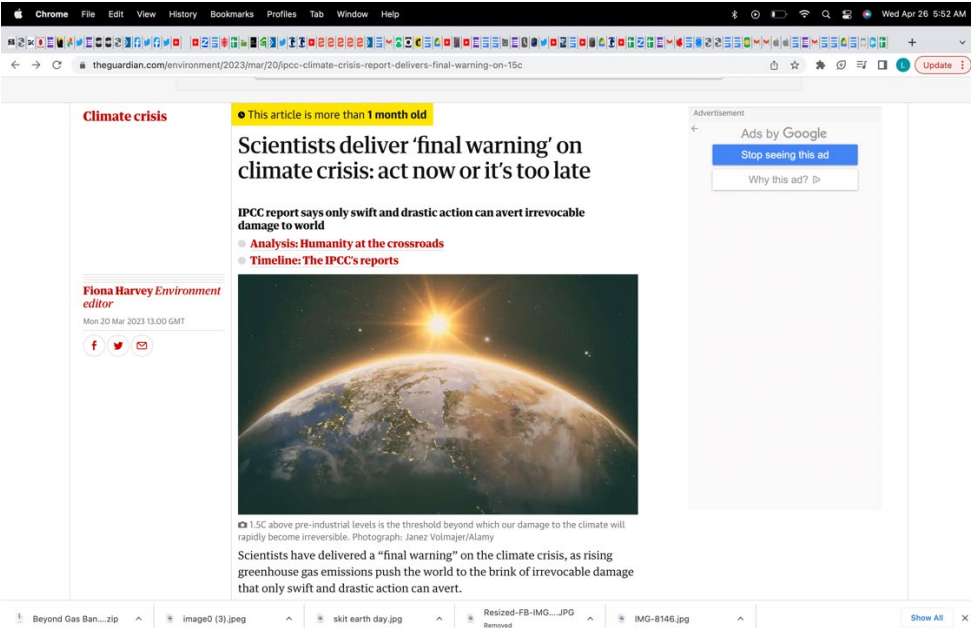


So the plan is an excellent one, but it is just a plan. It has to be realized. This will be the subject of the next item on your agenda - as the carbon budget will be extremely important to realizing the plan. It also must be considered in every council decision, which is not the case at the moment.

It's very important for cities to lead because cities are the source of 70% of climate emissions and Toronto is Canada's largest city. By leading on climate we can make a very important difference that will benefit Torontonians, all of us in Canada, and around the world. However it won't be easy to achieve our target.

I am concerned that the tone of the report, which is very positive, leaves out some worrisome information that we should not be ignoring. So let's just look at the challenge

- 1. Temperatures are rising around the world. We are not likely to be able to stop the rise at 1.5C as was the hope at the Paris Conference in 2015. Emissions are continuing to rise when they actually need to drop, very fast. Scientists gave their 'final warning' in March of 2023 in the IPCC synthesis report.



2. Canada's emissions are among the highest in the world on a per capita basis.

The screenshot shows a news article from the Toronto Star. The headline is "Canada produces more greenhouse gas emissions than any other G20 country, new report says". The article is by Mia Rabson, dated Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018. The sub-headline reads: "Climate Transparency, a coalition of international climate organizations, released its fourth annual review of the climate policies of G20 members Wednesday. The report pointed out that none of them has a plan in place that would actually meet the goals of the Paris climate change agreement." The article includes social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, Email, LinkedIn, and Print. Below the article is a large image of a cloudy sky.

4. From the report: The latest data shows that Toronto's community-wide emissions must be nearly cut in half in the next seven years to meet the 2030 target.

Here's how we are doing on reductions in Toronto. (slide)

Toronto Greenhouse Gas Emissions (CoT)

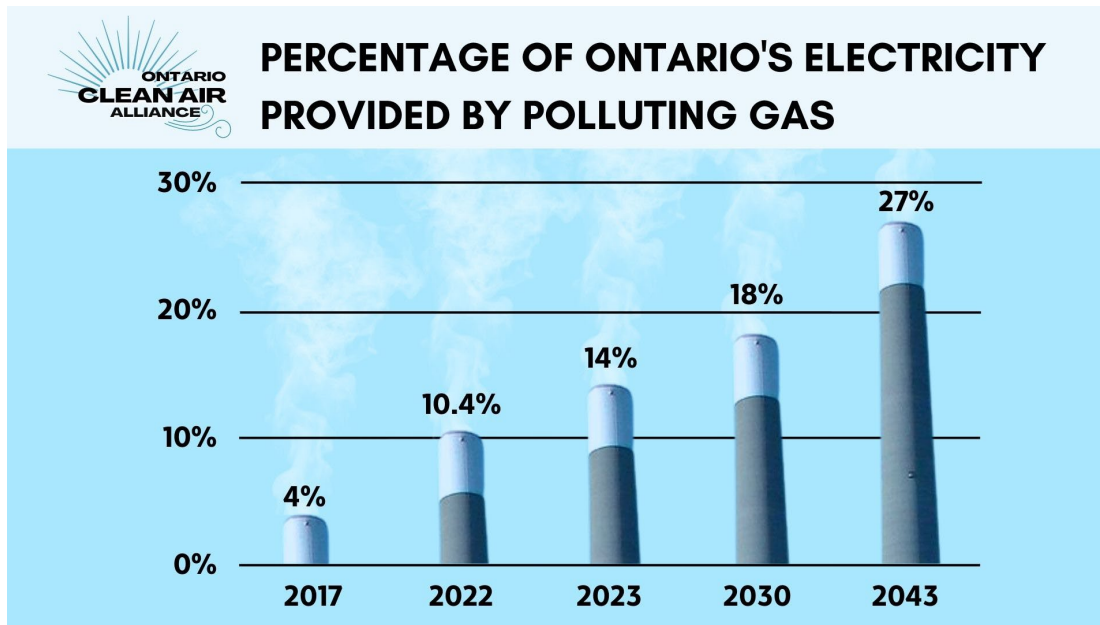


Our emissions have dropped 43% since 1990. But if you look at this chart you can see that these emissions cuts largely took place before 2011 - and are attributable to

the elimination of coal fired power from our electrical grid.

The decarbonization of the grid was a huge accomplishment, resulting in a drop to about 4% of power supplied to Toronto homes. That has now shot back up to 14% of the grid with the recarbonization associated with relying on gas power onto the the grid. (for)

This recarbonization will make it impossible for Toronto to achieve its target.



It is one of the many challenges facing the realization of the city's climate target.

Another very significant challenge is financial. The City made the decision to purchase 1000 E-buses, they should have been purchased in 2022, but the city doesn't have the money for them. Also the Net Zero plan calls for transit to become free by 2040 - yet in 2023 we are seeing transit fares increase, while service declines - taking us in the opposite direction to the plan.

I find it shocking to realize that although we have a \$4B transportation capital budget for the next 10 years, \$2B of which is for the Gardiner rebuild, we only have a \$12M capital budget for transit for the next ten years. That presumably is because we are looking for cost sharing from the province and federal governments but I think you can agree that it's a shockingly low number to guarantee to transit and highly inadequate to what is needed to achieve the shift in ridership from cars to transit, walking and cycling, a shift that is required to reach the targeted reduction in transportation emissions.

So the target will be hard to reach. Yet we must reach the target. New sources of revenue to fund the Net Zero programs are essential.

As stated in the report the required scale and pace of change to achieve our shared climate targets is a shared responsibility with the community, financial institutions, businesses and other orders of government and will require new partnerships, funding models and financial mechanisms to make the needed investments. We will need to track those investments.

This is why I took on a role with the Climate Advisory Group, I am now a co-chair, because I believe in the possibility of and the necessity of a huge collective push to get us where we need to go.

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REFERENCES

NATIONAL CLIMATE LEAGUE STANDINGS

<https://www.climatereality.ca/ncl - page 51>

FINAL WARNING

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/mar/20/ipcc-climate-crisis-report-delivers-final-warning-on-15c>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/mar/19/what-is-the-ipcc-ar6-synthesis-report-and-why-does-it-matter>