



July 3, 2024

Infrastructure & Environment Committee

Re: 15.4

Dear Chair and Councillors,

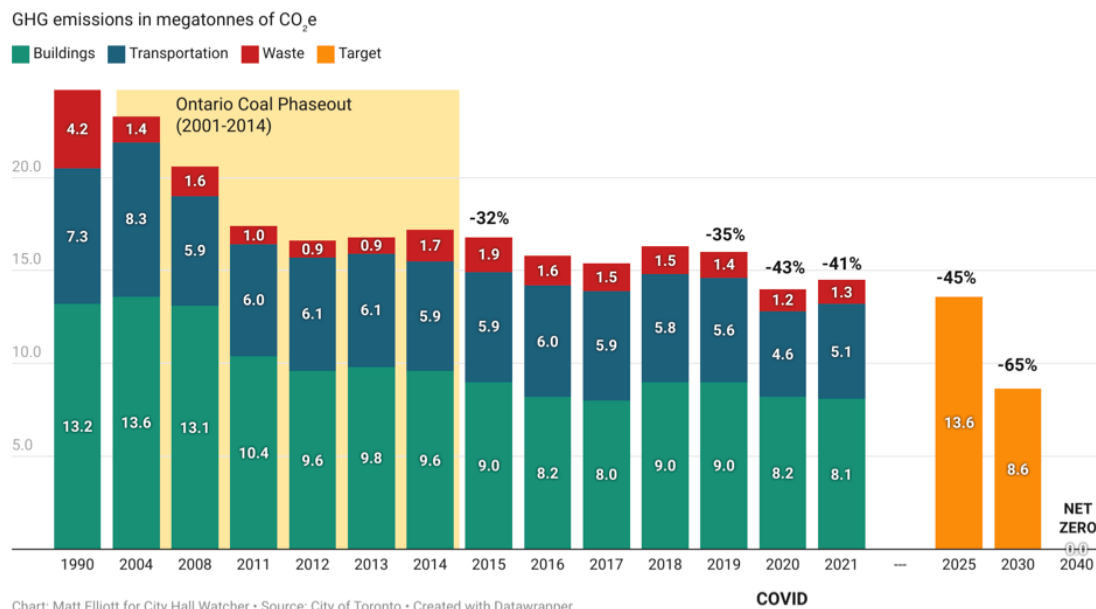
I am speaking on behalf of ClimateFast in support of item 15.4 - **Building Emissions Performance Standards - Design Principles and Development Plan**

Buildings are the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in our city, approx. 56% of emissions. The City Council-endorsed Net Zero Existing Buildings Strategy (the Strategy) (2021.IE26.16) sets out a number of critical actions for the City to consider in order to reduce building sector emissions.

The Strategy identifies Building Emissions Performance Standards as the most effective means of enabling city-wide emissions reductions.

We want to express our support for the planning going into the development of the Emissions Performance Standards. We intend to participate in and support the consultation process which the Environment and Climate division is planning for this fall.

The 2030 target is a 65% reduction in GHGs from 1990. It will be a challenge to achieve this target. We need to be attentive to how we can implement these reductions as quickly as possible, and to do so with support of the public.



With regard to the city's Net Zero targets we need to be absolutely clear: **we are not going to meet our targets at our current rate of implementation.** In fact, emissions are still increasing. **Big changes are needed – and the implementation of Emissions Performance Standards will be an essential part of these big changes. Mandatory implementation is going to be needed to reduce emissions in the timeline that the climate emergency requires.**

Incentives and low or no interest financing can make this financially feasible for property owners. There are co-benefits to transitioning off fossil fuels because alternatives like heat pumps provide air conditioning which is very important during extreme weather. This program will also create many jobs in retrofitting.

At this time temperature rise is happening so quickly around the world that scientists are very alarmed. Climate models show that a 2 C rise will trigger tipping points that will make it impossible to have a stable climate. **We are going to feel this in our city with extreme weather, heat waves, smoke from forest fires, and flooding.** **Now is the moment for the city to take urgent action to reduce fossil fuel reliance.**

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