



**Deputation on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 - Lyn Adamson for ClimateFast  
IE28.4**

Dear Chair and councillors.

I am speaking today in support of the Electrification Advantage report and to ask Council and staff to take this good report and build on it.

I want to start by saying that the requirement to reduce our climate emissions is URGENT. The earth is warming at an accelerating and unsustainable rate. It is because the city recognized the climate emergency in 2019 that the accelerated TransformTO plan was written, then adopted in 2021. However the city is having difficulty keeping up with the pace of emissions reductions called for in this plan. The city has fallen short on the 2025 target, and expects to fall very far behind on the 2030 target. An 8% reduction in emissions over the next 5 years, to 2030, is projected rather than the 20% reduction in the original timeline.

One important reason for this is the lack of support from the provincial and federal levels of government to support the city's climate plan. In the case of the province, that government is actively undermining the plan by seeking to take away the ability of the City to regulate emissions from buildings, to require green roofs and other green development standards, by restricting the building of bike lanes and in many other ways.

With regard to the goal we have of electrification of both buildings and transportation the province has also been undermining. The province has not added a kilowatt of renewable energy to the grid since 2018 when they actually cancelled 758 renewable energy projects, at a cost of hundreds of millions to Ontario taxpayers. Instead they are increasing reliance on fossil gas, ie the Portlands Energy Centre, and on very expensive nuclear power plants that will take a decade or more to build. The province has a plan that will cost as much as \$400 B in nuclear, with nearly full scale reliance on gas-powered electricity until those are built.

We know that renewables can be built very quickly and very inexpensively. So what we are looking to have the city and Toronto Hydro do, is to build renewable energy capacity as quickly as possible, in order to bring down and ultimately phase out reliance on the Portlands gas plant.

What I notice in my electricity bill is that the connection charge is 2/3rds of my bill. My actual use of electricity is just 1/3 of the bill, half of that is already at off-peak hours. Then I notice that there's a \$20 subsidy. Much of the cost of that connection charge is the result of very expensive choices by the province around our electricity sources. I would like to see any public subsidy dollars go in the direction of renewables - not for polluting fossil and nuclear plants.

I appreciate the City and Toronto Hydro taking steps to bring in renewable energy sources to the Toronto power grid.

It would be helpful for the City and Toronto Hydro to put specific targets into the plan.

In addition it would be great to see council take these steps:

- 1) Direct City Staff to **increase Peak Perk's market share to 90%** by 2030. This will mean making the steps involved as simple as possible for the customers, including directing customers to applications for subsidy for smart meters to enable participation in the program.
- 2) Direct City Staff to develop and implement a plan to **increase solar generation by 2.8 billion kWh annually by 2030**. This could be done by installing more solar panels on: City-owned buildings and parking lots and encouraging residents, big box stores and other commercial and industrial companies to install solar on their rooftops, balconies and parking lots.
- 3) Request Toronto Hydro to complete a **preliminary feasibility study** by December 2026 on the potential locations and costs and benefits of Lake Ontario offshore wind farm.

I would like to close by reading a quote from pg. 5 of the report:

"By investing in the grid and enabling widespread electrification, Toronto positions itself to be a self-sustaining, resilient urban centre that relies less on external jurisdictions, cross-border gas supply chains or out-of-country infrastructure. A modern, electrified grid helps Toronto decouple from the volatility of global energy markets, reduce exposure to international supply chain disruptions, and take control of its own future. It's how Toronto Hydro ensures that Toronto remains competitive, affordable, and secure - a city that powers itself."

This is exactly what we want to see happen! This is in line with, and will help to achieve the city's TransformTO targets.

You can count on our members to advocate for support from other levels of government.

We are grateful to Environment, Climate and Forestry and Toronto Hydro for taking the lead on this important step forward. Let's build on this.

Thanks



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