

## THE CLIMATE CRISIS



The climate crisis is now. Emissions have been rising and our weather has been impacted. We are experiencing extreme weather, heat waves, storms, flooding and fires. Arctic ice is melting and sea levels are rising. The [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) states that greenhouse house gases are warming the world which is in turn leading to these extreme weather events.

### What are the issues?

[Canada is one of the worst carbon emitters on a per-capita basis.](#) While the Canadian government continues to provide [support to fossil fuel companies](#), it has pledged to phase out some of this, as well as [capping and reducing pollution from the oil and gas sector to net zero by 2050](#).

[Canada is emitting as much greenhouse gases as a generation ago.](#) While Ontario's [greenhouse gas emissions](#) per capita are the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest in the country, as we are the most populated province, we still bear a great deal of responsibility.

In late 2018 Ontario released its "[Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan](#)" in which the province committed to reducing its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 30% below 2005 levels by 2030. The [2021 Auditor-General's Report](#) forecasts that the targets will not be met.

### Why Now?

Southern Ontario and Québec [are warming twice as fast](#) as the rest of the world. Northern regions are warming three times as fast. This July enough ice melted on the Greenland Ice Sheet to cover the entire state of Florida with two inches of water. In western Canada 8,700 square kilometers of land were on fire with the highest recorded temperatures in several places.

Recently, policies and programs to protect Ontarians from some of the impacts of climate change have been cancelled including: renewable energy projects contracts (A [renewable generation subsidy program](#) was created. While intended for everyone, only large commercial and industry ratepayers will receive a net reduction in electricity costs), the Green Commercial Vehicle program, Drive Clean, clean energy programs, the Environmental Commissioner position was eliminated.

As well as the Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan, other actions proposed and added by the government include: emissions performance standards for large industry, two major highways - Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass, Driving Prosperity electric vehicle production, climate change impact assessment done by Climate Risk Institute, reporting 2022.

### CLIMATE CRISIS Key Message

Ontario has a [Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan that, according to the Auditor General](#), will not meet the forecast of reducing its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 30% below 2005 levels by 2030.

Ontario must do its part with an array of policies and programs to reduce emissions, increase renewable energy projects and expand the funding and staffing for climate change work.

The time to act is now.

### Questions for Candidates

1. Will you support a climate crisis action plan with specific projects and targets?
2. Will you steadily escalate carbon pricing for high-emissions industry sectors?
3. Are you in favour of tax credits so homes, condos and apartments can upgrade to energy proficiency?
4. How to you propose to engage youth so their voices and issues can be recognized.