



ONTARIO
CLEAN AIR
ALLIANCE

June 21, 2021

BY EMAIL: regionalclerk@york.ca

Chair Wayne Emmerson and Members of Council
Region of York
Newmarket, Ontario

Dear Chair Emmerson and Members of Council:

Re: June 24, 2021 Regional Council Meeting: 2020 Corporate Energy Report

We are writing to support the Commissioner of Environmental Services' recommendation that Chair Emmerson request the Minister of Energy to move Ontario to a zero-emissions electricity grid as soon as possible to help Ontario and the Region of York meet their climate targets.

According to the Independent Electricity System Operator's *Annual Planning Outlook*, the greenhouse gas pollution from Ontario's gas-fired power plants are forecast to rise by more than 300% by 2030 and by 500% or more by 2040. If this occurs, we will lose approximately 40% of the pollution reduction benefits that we achieved by phasing-out our dirty coal-fired power plants.

The Ontario Clean Air Alliance and more than [60 organizations](#), including the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario and the David Suzuki Foundation, are calling for the phase-out of Ontario's gas-fired power plants by 2030.

[Ontario can phase-out its gas-fired power plants](#) by ramping up its energy efficiency programmes, buying low-cost water power from Quebec and by investing in wind and solar energy. According to the International Energy Agency, wind and solar are now our lowest cost sources of new electricity supply.

We are pleased to note that [29 municipalities](#), representing more than 50% of Ontario's population, have passed resolutions requesting the Government of Ontario to phase-out our gas-fired power plants.

In addition, [President Biden has promised](#) to phase-out all fossil-fuel electricity generation in the U.S. by 2035.

Working together, we can make Ontario a climate leader once again by moving Ontario towards a zero-emissions electricity grid as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Gibbons". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jack Gibbons
Chair