

York Region Council,

June 23, 2021

I am writing on behalf of Climate Action King, (CAK) a climate advocacy group in King Township. We have recently learned of your Council's Corporate Energy Report requesting that the Ontario government transition to emission-free energy sources to supply electric energy throughout the province. CAK fully supports this position. We also fully supported King Township's unanimous passing of a resolution calling for the phase-out of gas generating plants.

We eagerly await the postponed consultation session with IESO regarding plans to shut down gas-powered plants. The present plan to increase the use of such plants will produce GHG emissions that will simply replace 40% of the cuts achieved through the elimination of coal fired electric energy. Ontario has a long way to go before it can meet the 45% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 and the 100% requirement by 2050. Increasing the use of the existing gas plants is a significant step backwards! How can Ontario, York and King meet the requirement of net zero emissions in 30 years by increasing harmful emissions now?

Renewable energy is central to the solution, both to continue to fight climate change and to overcome the post-pandemic economic recession. Growing commitments towards net zero emissions highlight a rising tide of awareness of the urgent action needed to address climate change and air pollution and to accelerate sustainable development.

However, the world is now burning more fossil fuels than ever. Since 2009, the share of fossil fuels in final energy consumption has remained the same, and global energy demand has expanded around 20%. Renewable energy meets just over 11% of global final energy demand – only a slight increase from around 9% a decade ago.

The world's progress towards global climate and sustainable development goals can be measured by a simple key performance indicator: the share of renewable energy.

Thank you for this Corporate Energy Report and your requests to the Ontario government on our behalf.

Sincerely,

Susan Beharriell,

Chair

Climate Action King