

York Region Council
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Debbie Gordon
Keswick, Ontario

Regarding the Corporate Energy Report : G1

I am writing to commend York Region Council on its commitment to reporting annually on our energy conservation and greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change is a major, defining, challenge for York Region residents and the rest of Canada.

I support the following recommendations from the report.

1. Council continue advocating with the Province for Ontario's electricity to be supplied from emission free sources.
2. The Regional Chair send a letter to York Region Members of Provincial Parliament and the Ontario Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines in response to the Independent Electricity System Operator's December 2020 Annual Planning Outlook requesting that its outstanding Long-Term Energy Plan be updated and give strong preference to zero-emission sources of electricity supply.

Over 10 years ago we founded a group called MegaWHAT? Citizens groups across York region and Bradford opposed a gas fired peaker plant that was to be located in 1 of 7 potential municipal sites. We became very aware through research and expert advice that although better than burning coal, gas power is not clean energy and has harmful emissions. Despite our best efforts it was placed in King township in the specialty crop area of the Greenbelt.

According to The Ontario Clean Air Alliance, Ontario can have 100% renewable electricity supply by 2030 by improving energy efficiency, continuing to develop Made-in Ontario green power, and sign a long term power trade agreement with Quebec.

It is with forward thinking like York Region is demonstrating that we may be able to reach these targets.

Regards

