

Environment

Putting a Price on Carbon

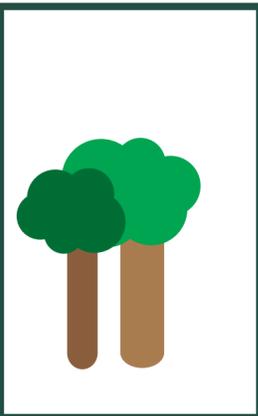
At a time when reducing carbon emissions is an imperative for all levels of government, internalizing the costs of carbon is more important than ever. In January 2018, Ontario joined Quebec and California in the Western Climate Initiative, which increases the province's options for carbon emissions trading through a cap-and-trade system. This initiative also meets Ontario's commitment to the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change. Ontario has called its emissions reduction targets "ambitious yet achievable," aiming for reductions of 15% (from 1990 levels) by 2020, 37% by 2030, and 80% by 2050.

Reducing Greenhouse Gas from Buildings and Transportation

According to Environment Canada, approximately 60% of Ontario's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions come from transportation, buildings and electricity. Some improvements have been made to the Ontario Building Code in recent years, but the code still has room to improve building standards for greater operating efficiency and lower fossil fuel use for heating and cooling homes and other buildings. Fossil-fuel powered vehicles, especially those used for commuting and trucking, account for high levels of GHGs in the transportation sector. An integrated network of public transportation options, along with better and safer options for cycling and walking, is needed to address these emissions and achieve healthier lifestyles, with less time spent travelling in vehicles. Coordination is needed among federal, provincial and municipal governments to develop a master plan for this network, with consideration given to local needs and preservation of Ontario's agricultural land.

Protecting Water and Land

Every day, new images emerge of the devastation being wrought on the earth and its waterways (even the Great Lakes) by plastics of all kinds, notably single-use beverage containers. A March 2018 poll by Mainstreet Research showed that 64% of Ontarians think the private bottling of water for sale should be phased out over the next 10 years. At the same time, mining projects, infrastructure projects (such as new roads and railroads), and housing developments threaten to irreparably harm some of the province's natural ecosystems and agricultural land.



Will you support Ontario's continued involvement in cap-and-trade?

Will you increase ambition in Ontario's Building code and a cooperation plan on transportation between the province, municipal and federal government?

Will you support phasing out of private water ownership and protect the ecosystem and agricultural land?



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PARTY PLATFORMS

Ontario Liberal Party

- Continue with cap-and-trade program to reduce GHGs
- Invest \$1.7 billion in energy-saving programs
- Invest \$52 million in new technologies dealing with toxic chemicals
- Allocate \$15 million for forest and wetland protection
- Invest \$160 million in low-carbon transportation options
- Launch the Food Security and Climate Change Impact Fund

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

- End The Green Energy Act
- Eliminate the cap-and-trade program

New Democratic Party of Ontario

- Support wind, solar, and water energy systems
- \$50 million investment in home retrofit program
- Pricing carbon in a cap-and-trade market. 25% of revenues from this to go to lower income communities
- Creating more protection for farm land

Green Party of Ontario

- Putting a cost on carbon emissions with a revenue neutral measures and return all pollution tax to citizens’.
- Support electric public transportation and creating infrastructure for electric vehicles
- Create stronger protection for forests and wetlands
- Fund municipalities’ efforts in green infrastructure and resiliency services

Communist Party of Ontario

- Build a Canadian car that is environmentally sustainable
- Develop wind and solar energy and phase out nuclear energy

For more information, please contact Divest Waterloo at divestwaterloo.ca

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