

DEMOCRATIC

# ONTARIO'S GREEN NEW DEAL

CLIMATE • JOBS • HOPE





## a message from **Andrea Horwath**

Dear friends,

I hear from so many Ontarians who are worried about the future, especially young people, who didn't create the climate crisis but will inherit the consequences. I understand that worry, and I'm here to say that we can have hope.

We will need bold action to meet the scale and urgency of the climate crisis in Ontario, and to inspire the rest of Canada and the world about what's possible. That's why I'm committed to delivering a Green New Democratic Deal for Ontario, with targets aligned with the most ambitious of the Paris Agreement.

Don't let anyone tell you this can't be done or we can't afford it. Achieving net-zero will take a significant investment, but it's one we need to make. The cost of doing nothing is far greater than the cost of addressing the climate crisis. The only thing standing in the way is a government that just doesn't get it. The Liberals let us down, and they'd do it again. And Doug Ford is making things worse with his anti-environment crusade.

With technological innovation, strategic investments, well-crafted regulations, and especially the hard work and ingenuity of Ontarians, we can reduce emissions, create jobs, and make life more affordable for everyday families and young people just getting started.

As we work towards this more sustainable future, our actions must be firmly rooted in values of equity, affordability, reconciliation and unity.

- ➔ **EQUITY:** We are committed to ensuring that the transition to a net-zero economy is equitable and just. Everyone should be able to share in the opportunity and prosperity it brings. We won't leave any community, industry or group behind. Especially those who have been excluded, and continue to be excluded, from participating fully in our economy and society — such as racialized people, women and young people.
- ➔ **AFFORDABILITY:** We are committed to making life more affordable for everyday families in Ontario. Taking action on the climate crisis does not have to come at the cost of making life more unaffordable for families.
- ➔ **RECONCILIATION:** We are committed to true and meaningful reconciliation, which demands a lot more than symbolic gestures on behalf of governments. It demands good faith — and it demands action. As we transition to a net-zero economy, our actions must be

informed by traditional Indigenous knowledge, respect our solemn treaty responsibilities and be rooted in true government-to-government relationships. Our actions must also be consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the recommendations from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

- ➔ **UNITY:** We are committed to uniting our province, putting people at the heart of every decision government makes, and working hard together to help all Ontarians build a great life.

**This document is just the start of our plan to get to net-zero emissions, create jobs and bring hope to a new generation of Ontarians.**

A transition of this magnitude must involve meaningful and ongoing public engagement. We want to hear from you in the weeks and months ahead. We want to build this plan together, because together we can do better.

Let's get it done.



Andrea Horwath  
Leader, Ontario's NDP

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# CLIMATE





# Why is the climate crisis an emergency?

**WE ARE RUNNING** out of time to avoid the most catastrophic effects of the climate crisis. The world's leading climate scientists say that **climate change is happening more rapidly than expected** and that we need to take urgent and unprecedented action to reduce global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. If we don't, we will see more frequent and more severe droughts, floods and other extreme weather events. We will see widespread species extinction, rising sea levels, acidification and de-oxygenation of oceans, and surges in global political instability and conflict. We will see the tremendous human, environmental

and financial costs of these unprecedented disasters.

Even more alarming, Canada is, on average, warming at twice the rate as the rest of the world. In Ontario, we are already feeling the effects of the climate crisis, with an increase in the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, like floods and stifling heat waves, more intense forest fires, a surge in ticks and Lyme disease, and over 200 plant and animal species already at risk of becoming locally extinct. As the climate crisis worsens, each of these challenges will become even more severe.

## Why must Ontario act now?

**ONTARIO CAN'T AFFORD** to ignore the climate crisis. The cost of inaction is far higher than the cost of action. We are already seeing some of those economic, environmental and social costs.

As the climate crisis accelerates, we are seeing insurers in Canada pay out more and more in claims for property and infrastructure damage. Insured damage to property and infrastructure in Canada averaged about \$1.7 billion per year from 2008 to 2017, up from \$200 million per year from 1983 to 1992 — a

whopping 750-per-cent increase in insured damages.<sup>1</sup>

The climate crisis is also negatively affecting everything from local species and their habitats to the air we breathe and the water we drink.

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has sounded the alarm for species-at-risk worldwide as nature declines at rates unprecedented in human history.<sup>2</sup> It is likely that Ontario's population of polar bears will

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1 Bank of Canada, Financial System Review – 2019: <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2019/05/financial-system-review-2019/#continue>

2 Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), "Media Release: Nature's Dangerous Decline 'Unprecedented'; Species Extinction Rates 'Accelerating'": <https://www.ipbes.net/news/Media-Release-Global-Assessment>

disappear from the province within just 40 years due to decreased sea ice in Hudson Bay.<sup>3</sup>

The climate crisis also poses a threat to Ontario's freshwater supply. Growing populations, loss of natural buffers such as wetlands and woodlands, and warmer, wilder weather will require new threat assessments and responses. In heavy rains, 44 Ontario municipalities still overflow their combined sewers and spill filthy, bacteria-laden sewage into lakes and rivers. Algae problems in the Great Lakes and Ontario's inland waters are worsening.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to being Ontario's largest source of emissions, fossil-fueled transportation is a major source of air pollution in our province. Air pollution contributes to respiratory and cardiovascular ailments, heart and lung disease, and premature death. The World Health Organization estimates that the climate crisis will cause 250,000 premature deaths worldwide by 2050, with direct health costs of up to \$4 billion per year by 2030.<sup>5</sup>

No wonder so many people — especially young people — worry about the future. The climate crisis is daunting. Reducing emissions will reduce these costs and reduce the severity of the damage to our economy, our environment, and human health.

The targets in the Paris Agreement are focused on keeping the rise in average global temperatures well below 2°C, and the agreement commits signatories to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5°C.” However, current policies around the globe have us on track for approximately a 3.3°C increase.<sup>6</sup> Such a significant jump in average global temperatures would have unimaginable, disastrous consequences.

Ontario's leadership is essential. Canada is a top ten global emitter, and Ontario is the country's most populous province and second largest emitter in absolute terms. Canada's ability to meet its global commitments hinges on what Ontario does or doesn't do to avoid the most dangerous aspects of the climate crisis.

Ontario took positive steps when it shut down coal-fired power plants, but there is still much more to do. The latest figures show the average Ontarian is responsible for 11 tonnes of GHG emissions per year.<sup>7</sup> Yet the majority of Ontarians want to do their part to address the climate crisis, while ensuring we don't leave individuals, communities and existing industries behind.

Ontario is well-positioned to lower emissions and become a global climate leader. We already have a low-carbon electricity grid, an innovative clean-technology sector, and

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3 Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, “Back to Basics: 2018 Environmental Protection Report”: <https://docs.assets.eco.on.ca/reports/environmental-protection/2018/Back-to-Basics.pdf>

4 *Ibid*

5 World Health Organization, Factsheet: Climate Change and Health: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health>

6 Climate Action Tracker, Warming Projections Update: <https://climateactiontracker.org/publications/warming-projections-global-update-dec-2018>

7 Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, Ontario's Carbon Footprint – How Ontarians' Emissions Contribute to Global Climate Change and What We Can Do About It: <https://eco.auditor.on.ca/blog/ontarios-carbon-footprint>

public-transit systems that, while needing renewal and significant expansion, provide a strong foundation on which to build.

By taking meaningful action to address emissions from all sectors, Ontario can do its part to avoid the catastrophic consequences of the climate crisis while creating new economic opportunities for an entire generation of Ontarians.

The following is a breakdown of Ontario's emissions by sector:

- ➔ 35% from the transportation sector
- ➔ 30% from industry
- ➔ 21% from buildings
- ➔ 8% from agriculture

- ➔ 4% from waste; and
- ➔ 3% from electricity.<sup>8</sup>

Transitioning to a net-zero economy will mean more opportunities in new and emerging industries, and more jobs. A successful transition also means existing industries, like manufacturing, mining and forestry, will continue to thrive.

Market-based responses, like a price on pollution, are part of the solution, but they are not enough to address the scale of the problem we face and to create the full range of new economic opportunities for Ontarians. To get to net-zero, the government must take bold action.

## Green New Democratic Deal targets

**ANDREA HORWATH AND** the Ontario NDP are committed to reducing Ontario's GHG emissions by *at least* 50% below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.<sup>9</sup>

These targets are consistent with the most ambitious aspects of the Paris Agreement —

with the aim of limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5°C. (The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns against letting global temperatures rise higher than this.) Our emission targets are ambitious but absolutely necessary. They are not just aspirations, they are firm commitments.

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8 Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions in Ontario: <https://eco.auditor.on.ca/blog/ghg-emissions-in-ontario/>

9 A 50% reduction in GHG emissions from 2005 levels by 2030 is the equivalent to a 43% reduction from 1990 levels; a 55% reduction from 2005 is the equivalent to a 49% reduction from 1990.



# What do we mean by ‘net zero’?

The Ontario NDP believes that bold action is required to address the climate crisis. A net-zero target requires Ontario to move as close to zero emissions as is technologically feasible, while recognizing that some industries will continue to release some emissions.

For example, Ontario’s steel workers and steel industry will continue to be key to our economy — producing a world-class product and providing good, unionized jobs. Despite successes in lowering the carbon footprint of steel production, it will continue to emit GHGs for some time. The NDP believes that Ontario steel workers and the steel industry must continue to operate here in Ontario, while ensuring that polluting is not free and operations are in accordance with the highest environmental standards. In a net-zero scenario, emissions from steel production will be offset by removing carbon dioxide from Canada’s atmosphere through activities like planting trees.

The bottom line is this: the Ontario NDP will take the steps necessary to protect our families, our environment and our economy from the impacts of the climate crisis. Although the

challenge is monumental, Andrea Horwath and the Ontario NDP see the tremendous opportunities that come with taking decisive action. Together, we can grow our economy and build the kind of society where we can all thrive.

**The Green New Democratic Deal will involve developing a comprehensive strategy for the transition to net-zero emissions**, informed by broad and meaningful public participation, to ensure a just transition for workers, communities and industry, as well as a whole range of new economic opportunities for an entire generation of Ontarians.

With our firm commitment to reduce Ontario’s GHG emissions by at least 50% by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, we can start building a path forward together for reducing our emissions.

We need your advice, your insights and your ideas on what specific actions should be included in the Green New Democratic Deal.

Here are some of the questions we have. We would like to hear from you.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### TRANSPORTATION

The transportation sector is the largest contributor to Ontario’s GHG emissions (35%). Emissions from the transportation sector in 2016 were 34% higher than 1990 levels. Addressing the climate crisis will require a drastic reduction in GHG emissions from passenger cars, freight, and mass transit:

❓ The majority of transportation emissions comes from personal passenger vehicles.

How can Ontario best reduce emissions from passenger vehicles?

❓ Ontario is home to a thriving auto and auto parts manufacturing sector. How can Ontario become a leader in manufacturing the next generation of low-emission vehicles?

❓ Public transit is one of the lowest carbon forms of transportation. How can Ontario best invest in and expand public transit?



- ❓ Rail is a lower carbon form of transportation for goods. How can Ontario expand our rail infrastructure including short rail?
- ❓ People in Northern Ontario must travel longer distances for services, like seeing a medical specialist, under harsher winter conditions. Public transportation in the North is not always a viable option. In this context, how can Northern Ontario best reduce emissions from transportation?

## INDUSTRY

Industry accounts for 30% of Ontario's emissions. Emissions from industry have decreased by 28% in 2016 compared to 1990. This includes sectors like steelmaking, which is carbon-intensive, subject to international trade pressures, and provides good, unionized jobs for Ontarians. It also includes industries like the clean-technology sector, which can help us transition to a net-zero economy while creating good jobs you can raise a family on.

- ❓ Carbon pricing will not be enough to reach our industry targets for reducing GHG emissions. What are the most effective mechanisms to help industries transition to and thrive within a net-zero economy?

- ❓ Many have raised concerns about industries moving to jurisdictions with lower environmental protections where it costs less to pollute. How can Ontario prevent such capital flight, which is harmful to our economy, our workers and the global environment? How can Ontario help our trade-exposed industries adapt to a net-zero economy? Can Ontario leverage our reduction in GHG emissions to boost our trade-exposed industries?
- ❓ Ontario has a growing clean-technology sector with increasing investment in research and development into low-carbon technologies. How can Ontario encourage the development, commercialization and scaling-up of made-in-Ontario low-carbon technologies? How can Ontario continue to grow our clean technology sector?
- ❓ How can Ontario encourage industries to adopt low-carbon technologies? What supports are needed to ensure the industries that are thriving in Ontario today can continue to thrive in 2050?

## AGRICULTURE

Emissions from Ontario's agriculture sector have remained largely unchanged since 1990. Currently, agriculture accounts for 8% of Ontario's emissions.

- ❓ What are the barriers facing the agricultural sector for reducing emissions?
- ❓ Some agricultural practices store carbon and benefit our environment such as supporting our biodiversity or soil health, but these practices are not widely used. What are the barriers preventing the widespread adoption of these practices? How can the Ontario government best support this goal?
- ❓ Local food is, in most cases, lower carbon food. Local food can also be more

expensive for farmers to produce and distribute. How can Ontario help farmers see increased revenue from local food? What can be done to encourage more Ontarians to consume more local foods?

- ❓ The climate crisis will increase uncertainty for farmers and contribute to adverse growing conditions in Ontario and around the world. In this context are currently available risk insurance programs adequately responsive to the needs of Ontario farmers? If not, how can they be improved?



## WASTE

Waste accounts for 4% of Ontario's GHG emissions. As of 2016, the sector's emissions were up 6% compared to 1990. Methane emissions from solid waste remain responsible for the bulk of emissions.

- ❓ The most efficient way to reduce emissions from waste is to divert it from landfills. How can Ontario lower the amount of waste going into our landfills and promote a more circular economy?
- ❓ Diverting organic waste from landfills will help reduce methane emissions. How can Ontario better divert organic waste from our landfills?

- ❓ Canada has come under fire internationally for exporting contaminated recycling to other countries. Single-use plastics have been identified as a significant contributor to plastic waste in Ontario and in Canada. The Ontario NDP has proposed a ban on single-use plastics. How can Ontario best achieve this goal and on what timeline?
- ❓ Currently, Ontarians bear the cost of recycling or disposing of consumer packaging and plastic waste. We believe manufacturers should bear more responsibility for the true cost of plastics and packaging. How can this best be achieved?

## ELECTRICITY

Ontario's electricity sector has seen an 82% decrease in GHG emissions from 1990 levels, due primarily to the phasing out of coal generation. That said, Ontario's electricity generation is not entirely clean. Currently, electricity accounts for 3% of Ontario's emissions. As more of our energy demands switch away from fossil fuels, we will need to increase our electricity capacity – every new electric car, train, and heat pump will draw power from our grid.

- ❓ With more demand for electricity as Ontario transitions to net-zero emissions, how can Ontario ensure we have clean, reliable and affordable electricity?
- ❓ Some remote and Northern communities currently rely on GHG-intensive diesel generation for power. How can Ontario increase the supply of reliable, affordable, and clean energy to these communities?

## FINANCE

Financial services is an important industry for Ontario. Although finance has low direct emissions, it supports carbon-intensive



industries through lending, underwriting and other services. That said, environmentally focused investing is on the rise. 'Green bonds' are being used to support sustainable, low-emission projects. In fact, the Netherlands recently issued EUR6 billion in green bonds with much support and excitement from the market.

- ❓ Ontario is headquarters to four of Canada's five Big Banks, many credit unions and a prosperous financial sector. How can Ontario support the financial industry in becoming world leaders in 'green finance' while shifting investments away from high-emission activities?
- ❓ Globally, governments have been leaders in developing 'green finance' products. Should Ontario strive to be a world leader in this emerging segment of finance?
- ❓ Some of Ontario's public sector pensions are among the largest in the world. Should public sector pension plans be encouraged to invest in green assets? If so, how best can this be achieved while maintaining the best interest of pensioners and future pensioners?

## INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Ontario must take action to address the climate crisis regardless of whether other jurisdictions follow suit. However, the climate crisis is a global problem. There is a need to coordinate with other levels of government across Canada and around the world.

- ❓ Ontario has a responsibility to engage with First Nation communities on a government-to-government basis. The

Ontario NDP has called for true reconciliation and the full implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP). How can Ontario work in partnership with First Nations to tackle the climate crisis in keeping with our commitment to UNDRIP? The Government of Canada has an important role to play in our transition to net-zero emissions. How can Ontario and the Government of Canada work better together to tackle the climate crisis?

- ❓ Municipal governments are responsible for maintaining a lot of the infrastructure that will need to be adapted or built in response to the climate crisis. How can Ontario best partner with municipalities to tackle the climate crisis?
- ❓ Ontario's economy depends heavily on trade. How should Ontario address carbon emissions from its trading partners?



## ADAPTATION

The earth's climate has already warmed over one degree Celsius, and global emissions are increasing. We will continue to feel the effects of climate change even after we take bold action to reduce emissions. Consequently, adaptation will play a key role in protecting lives and property in Ontario. That means increasing our capacity to adapt to the adverse impacts of the climate crisis and fostering climate resilience.

- ❓ Investing in green infrastructure, including afforestation, can reduce overall GHG levels while reducing the impacts of extreme weather events. How can Ontario best invest in green infrastructure and build resiliency?
- ❓ Ontario has a wealth of freshwater that is the envy of much of the world. However, we cannot take this precious resource for granted. How can Ontario best protect our freshwater?



- ❓ Extreme weather events will continue to place stress on Ontario's infrastructure and buildings. What changes to the building code, the planning regime or strategic investments must be made to ensure our infrastructure and buildings can withstand future climate related threats?

A person wearing a bright yellow protective suit is shown from the side, holding a red and yellow hard hat. The background features a large array of solar panels under a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The overall scene suggests a focus on renewable energy and safety in the workforce.

**JOBS**



**ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE** crisis provides an unprecedented opportunity for Ontarians to build the kind of economy and society that works for everyone. Transitioning to net-zero emissions can add over a million new jobs and tens of billions of dollars to Ontario's economy. We can also avoid billions of dollars in damages to our infrastructure, environment, economy and health by mitigating the most catastrophic consequences of climate change.

Andrea Horwath and the Ontario NDP are committed to ensuring that no individual, community or existing industry is left behind on the path to net-zero emissions. To ensure this economy is equitable, prosperous and sustainable, the Green New Democratic Deal makes three guarantees to the people of Ontario.

# Three guarantees

## 1. Job-training guarantee

**ALL ONTARIANS CAN** and should be able to benefit from the transition to a net-zero economy. If done right, it will create over a million new, good jobs that you can raise a family on. The transition will create significant demand for skilled tradespeople from arborists to electricians, pipe fitters to carpenters, solar panel installers to sheet metal workers. It will also create more opportunities for teachers to train up the next generation of workers, architects and engineers to design

the infrastructure of the future, scientists to develop new clean technologies, and all manner of professionals from energy efficiency experts to GO train operators to drive the net-zero economy.

**New Democrats commit to ensuring that every Ontarian has the opportunity to train for and succeed in the jobs needed for the transition to a net-zero economy.**

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ❓ Ontario will need to get building to transition to net-zero emissions. How can Ontario ensure there will be enough skilled tradespeople to meet the demand?
- ❓ Not enough women, Indigenous, Black and racialized people are benefitting from the good jobs in the skilled trades. How can Ontario help more women, Indigenous, Black and racialized people enter and stay in the skilled trades?
- ❓ Ontario has a world-class post-secondary education system, graduating thousands of highly educated students every year. How can Ontario ensure students are prepared for the jobs needed for the transition?
- ❓ Many employers across Ontario provide training for their employees to hone or develop new skills. How can Ontario better support employer-based training and even the playing field to reduce "poaching" by employers who don't invest in training?

- ❓ Ontario provides a number of job training and employment support programs that help people prepare for and connect to work, like the Literacy and Basic Skills program or Second Career. How can Ontario improve these programs and services to achieve better job outcomes for Ontarians?

## 2. Community support guarantee

**THE TRANSITION TO** net-zero emissions will have different impacts in different parts of the province. Some communities will need extra support to adapt to changes in their local economy. Other communities will be more severely affected by the negative consequences of climate change. Whether you live in a rural, remote, northern, First Nation, urban or suburban community, New Democrats are committed to helping people in all parts of the province adapt to the climate crisis and fully benefit from the opportunities that come with the transition.



**New Democrats commit to ensuring that no community is left behind because of climate change and the transition to a net-zero economy.**

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#### NORTHERN AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES

Communities in Ontario's North and Far North face unique challenges as a result of the climate crisis. Some of those challenges are compounded by other issues, including the loss of primary industries and declining populations.

- ❓ Northern Ontario is particularly vulnerable to natural disasters made worse by the climate crisis. What does Northern Ontario need to effectively adapt to climate change?
- ❓ What needs to be done to ensure that Northern Ontario benefits equitably from

the transition to a net-zero economy and the jobs that come with it?

#### INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Climate change-linked natural disasters, such as flooding and wildfires, consistently threaten Indigenous people with displacement. Across Ontario, many Indigenous people lack access to basic necessities like clean, accessible drinking water. The UN Development Program stated in 2018 that Indigenous lands and waters represent 80 per cent of the world's biodiversity and that Indigenous peoples must be stewards of these areas. All told, Indigenous people have benefitted less, and suffered more, from the

effects of the climate crisis and the policies that led to it.

- ❓ Indigenous communities and elders were the first environmentalists. Indigenous knowledge must play a key role in addressing the climate crisis. How should Indigenous knowledge inform the Green New Democratic Deal?
- ❓ Hunting and gathering practices are an important part of Indigenous life. In partnership with First Nations, how can Ontario protect those practices from the negative impacts of the climate crisis?
- ❓ The transition to a net-zero economy presents an unprecedented opportunity to build a more sustainable, prosperous and equitable society and economy. How can Ontario, in partnership with First Nations, ensure all Indigenous people benefit from the opportunities that come with this transition – in particular jobs and economic development?
- ❓ The Far North represents 42% of Ontario's land mass and is a globally significant carbon storehouse. How can Ontario work to better protect the Far North in partnership with First Nations?

## RURAL COMMUNITIES

The climate crisis poses unique challenges and opportunities for rural communities. Energy costs can be a major issue for rural Ontarians, who may not have access to natural gas.

- ❓ Many homes and businesses in rural Ontario are heated by fossil fuels. How can Ontario best reduce emissions from heating in rural communities?
- ❓ The changing economy will provide new opportunities in existing and emerging industries. How can Ontario ensure that rural Ontarians benefit equitably from these opportunities?

- ❓ Rural communities across Ontario are already experiencing the negative consequences of the climate crisis and environmental degradation. What are the most pressing environmental issues facing rural communities and how can Ontario best respond?



## URBAN COMMUNITIES

Urban communities have an important role to play in moving toward a net-zero future. A higher density population makes certain types of investments in low-carbon infrastructure more viable, while higher property values make certain types of projects more costly and complex. Urban economies are better positioned to capitalize on the economic opportunities presented by the transition to a net-zero economy, while extreme weather events have proven to be very costly for urban communities.

- ❓ Walking and cycling will play key roles for urban Ontarians in the future. Every bicycle trip or walk to work is a car removed from the road. How can Ontario better promote walking and cycling for urban Ontarians?
- ❓ Green spaces make cities cooler, more livable and sequester carbon. How can we promote the development and



maintenance of more green spaces in Ontario's cities?

- ❓ Growing populations, loss of natural buffers such as wetlands and woodlands, and warmer weather will all pose a threat to water in urban areas. What

must Ontario do to better protect our water supply?

- ❓ When extreme weather events happen, they can hit cities hard. What further steps do our cities need to take to adapt to the climate crisis?

### 3. Existing industry support guarantee

Ontario is the economic engine of Canada. Our prosperity is rooted in the diverse, innovative and thriving industries that have made our province home. Those industries include everything from manufacturing to finance, forestry to agri-food, mining to information and communication technology.

Ontario's industrial emissions have dropped considerably compared to 1990 levels, but there is more work that needs to be done. Some industries are well-positioned to capitalize on the opportunities that come with the transition to a net-zero economy, while others are poised to face significant challenges in lowering their emissions.



**New Democrats commit to providing tailored supports to meet the unique needs of each industry as it transitions to a net-zero economy so it can continue to thrive and provide good jobs for Ontarians while meeting the highest environmental standards possible.**

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Industry accounts for 30% of Ontario's emissions. This includes sectors like steelmaking, which is carbon-intensive, subject to international trade pressures, and provides good, unionized jobs. It also includes industries like the clean-technology sector, which can help us transition to a net-zero economy while creating good jobs you can raise a family on

- ❓ What supports are needed to ensure the industries that are thriving in Ontario today will continue to thrive in 2050 while achieving net-zero emissions?
- ❓ Carbon pricing will not be enough to reach our industry targets for reducing emissions. What are the most effective mechanisms to help industries transition to and thrive within a net-zero economy?

- ❓ Many have raised concerns about industries moving to jurisdictions with lower environmental protections where it costs less to pollute. Similarly, industry raises the challenge of competing in a global marketplace in which direct competitors face significantly lower climate mitigation and emission regulations. How can Ontario help our trade-exposed industries adapt to and thrive in a net-zero economy to prevent capital flight that is harmful to our economy, our workers and the global environment?

## Emerging industries

**THE TRANSITION TO** a net-zero economy will create over a million new jobs and add tens of billions of dollars to our economy while avoiding the catastrophic costs of the climate crisis. New, low-carbon industries will emerge to support the transition, creating new opportunities. With our highly educated and talented workforce, diverse and prosperous economy, strong institutions and social services, and enviable quality of life, Ontario is well-positioned to capitalize on those opportunities.

The transition also offers us a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build a more sustainable, prosperous and equitable society and economy. We can ensure the jobs created by the transition are good jobs with fair wages and good benefits. There can be jobs for construction workers retrofitting buildings with energy-efficient components, autoworkers building electric vehicles, steelworkers producing track for expanded rail networks, research scientists and engineers developing clean technologies, teachers training all the new skills needed for a sustainable economy, and many, many more.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ❓ What emerging industries does Ontario have, or could have, a competitive advantage in, that will support the transition to a net-zero economy? How can Ontario best support the growth and prosperity of these industries?
- ❓ Ontario has a growing clean-technology sector with increasing investment in research and development into low-carbon technologies. How can Ontario encourage the development, commercialization and scaling-up of made-in-Ontario low-carbon technologies and continue to grow our clean technology sector?

# World's largest building retrofit program

**RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND** industrial buildings produce 21% of Ontario's GHG emissions and these emissions are on this rise. Between 1990 and 2016, building emissions increased 23% — the largest increase in emissions from any sector except transportation.

Retrofitting buildings is the most cost-effective way to reduce emissions while creating significant economic benefits. **In Canada, research shows that investing in energy conservation measures creates \$4 in economic activity for every \$1 invested. For Ontario, that could mean an additional \$15.2 billion per year added to our GDP between 2022 and 2030, creating at least 60,000 new, good jobs a year.**<sup>10</sup>

By investing in energy conservation for our homes, businesses and public spaces, we can create tens of thousands of new jobs and billions of dollars in new economic activity while keeping our electricity costs down. **Andrea Horwath and the Ontario NDP will implement the largest, most ambitious building**

**retrofit program in the world.** Once fully ramped up, our goal is to retrofit 5% or more of Ontario's buildings per year — the most ambitious retrofit target in the world.<sup>11</sup> It is time we start building a better, more sustainable and prosperous future, together.

The Ontario NDP's building retrofit program will reduce emissions from buildings through three separate channels.

First, government must lead by example and dramatically lower emissions from public buildings like hospitals, schools, colleges, universities, cultural facilities and community centres. Ontario will work rapidly to reduce emissions from broader public sector buildings to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030. Improving the energy efficiency of public sector buildings will save taxpayers at least \$112 million a year and reduce emissions by 250,000 tonnes per year while creating thousands of good jobs you can raise a family on.<sup>12</sup>

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ❓ How can Ontario best lower emissions from broader public sector buildings to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030?
- ❓ Many public buildings are owned and maintained by municipalities. How can Ontario best partner with municipalities to lower emissions from their building stock in order to achieve net-zero emissions from municipally owned buildings?

<sup>10</sup> Dunsky Energy Consulting, "The Economic Impact of Improved Energy Efficiency in Canada": <https://www.energycanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Economic-Impact-of-Pan-Canadian-Framework-Energy-Efficiency.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> Europe has a target of 3% per year for public building stock. See The European Commission, Setting the 3% Target for Public Building Renovation: <https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/content/setting-3-target-public-building-renovation>

<sup>12</sup> Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, "Conservation: Let's Get Serious": [http://docs.assets.eco.on.ca/reports/energy/2015-2016/ECO\\_Conservation\\_Lets\\_Get\\_Serious.pdf](http://docs.assets.eco.on.ca/reports/energy/2015-2016/ECO_Conservation_Lets_Get_Serious.pdf)

Second, while we retrofit existing buildings to be more energy efficient, we must ensure that new builds are as energy efficient as is technologically possible. By 2030, New Democrats commit to ensuring that all newly built broader public sector, residential and commercial buildings operate at net-zero emissions.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ❓ Ontario's building code will need to be updated to ensure new buildings and renovations are as energy efficient as is technologically feasible. What changes need to be made to the building code to achieve this?
- ❓ Appliances and equipment contribute significantly to emissions from residential and commercial buildings. What are the most stringent requirements for appliance and equipment efficiency that can be reasonably adopted?

Lastly, our goal is to reduce emissions for residential and commercial buildings by 50% by 2030. By 2050, all residential and commercial buildings in Ontario should be retrofitted to operate at net-zero emissions.

# The plan for the world's largest residential and commercial retrofit program

**WHILE AMBITIOUS, OUR** plan is achievable. By working together, we can create tens of thousands of new jobs and inject billions of dollars into our economy while keeping our electricity costs down and avoiding the catastrophic costs of the climate crisis.

To facilitate the retrofit program for residential and commercial buildings, New Democrats will establish a "single-window" entity for energy efficiency and conservation planning, program promotion and delivery, and upfront financing. As a first step, it will complete a comprehensive inventory of

energy conservation measures to identify the most efficient retrofit opportunities as well as investigate the viability of rapid deployment of deep retrofits for broader public sector buildings, social housing and certain high-rise buildings.

In addition, if elected in 2022, New Democrats will immediately begin implementing a large-scale job-training program to ensure we have the skilled tradespeople and other professionals that are needed to achieve our retrofit targets.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ❓ Building retrofit programs that aim to significantly reduce emissions can face challenges with voluntary uptake. What are the best ways to encourage residential and commercial property owners to participate in the retrofit program?
- ❓ The upfront costs of retrofitting homes or businesses can deter some people from participating in retrofit programs. How can Ontario best provide upfront financing for the retrofit program while ensuring the program's long-term sustainability?



- ❓ What jobs are needed to achieve our building retrofit targets, how many new workers will need to be trained up for those jobs, and how long will it take to train new workers for these in-demand jobs?
- ❓ How can we ensure we have the right number and mix of workers needed to implement our building retrofit plan in all regions of the province?
- ❓ Construction can be an emissions-intensive activity. How can the construction industry lower its emissions, and how can Ontario help the construction industry adopt low-carbon processes and technologies?
- ❓ Industrial buildings face unique challenges in lowering emissions. How can Ontario best support reductions in emissions from industrial buildings?

## How we pay for it

**THE COST OF** inaction on the climate crisis is far higher than the cost of action. If the global average temperature is allowed to rise to the levels we are currently on track to reach, the costs of climate change in Ontario could rise from roughly \$5 billion per year today to more than \$41 billion<sup>13</sup> a year once temperatures increase between 3 and 4 degrees Celsius.

Nevertheless, action on the climate crisis will require large upfront investments. The

NDP believes in the future of Ontario, and we believe it is worth investing in that future. Funding the Green New Democratic Deal will require a combination of new revenue streams, fair carbon pricing, lending and borrowing.

Ontario will put an end to austerity and ensure that every financial resource needed to invest in a just, sustainable future is made available.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ❓ Green bonds can be used to fund large-scale projects. The Dutch government recently issued €6 billion (\$9.1 billion CAD) in green bonds. There was three-and-a-half times more demand than bonds available. Should Ontario establish a ‘green bank’ to lend exclusively to industries reducing emissions, clean energy projects and sustainable technology development?
- ❓ The wealthy bear the most responsibility for the climate crisis and will be the least impacted by its harms. A just tax system can ensure that everyone pays their fair share. How can Ontario’s tax system be improved in order to help finance our transition to net-zero emissions?
- ❓ Carbon pricing is an effective and efficient way to lower industrial emissions. Which carbon pricing system works best for Ontario’s residents and businesses while achieving our emission reduction targets?
- ❓ Lowering our emissions to net-zero will require new ways of thinking and getting things done. Can Ontario re-prioritize some of its spending, including tax breaks, to achieve our emission targets and if so, how?

<sup>13</sup> See methodology used by Hsiang et al., “Estimating economic damage from climate change in the United States”, Science Vol. 356, Issue 6345, pp. 1362-1369: <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/356/6345/1362>



A photograph of a forest path. The path is covered in brown, fallen leaves. On either side of the path, there are numerous white flowers with green leaves, likely wildflowers or daisies. The background shows tall, thin trees with green foliage, suggesting a spring or early summer setting. The overall scene is bright and natural.

**HOPE**



# Postcard from the future: Ontario 2050

Imagine an Ontario more prosperous than ever before. Where people live, work and play freely, knowing we've done our part to help tackle the climate crisis. Where we get around on low-cost, net-zero transportation, including rail that connects major hubs and communities in the North. Where we are a national leader in developing and producing electric vehicles and other key low-carbon technologies. Where all of the electricity we use is clean, reliable and affordable, and where every building meets top energy-efficiency standards.

Imagine an Ontario where we raise our kids knowing that they'll receive the education and training necessary to prepare them for the changing workplace, without racking up crushing debt. Where we take care of our elders and ensure no one is left behind.

Imagine an Ontario that respects Indigenous teachings and guidance and has achieved progress toward true and meaningful reconciliation. Imagine an Ontario that prioritizes

the prosperity of the many over the wealth of the few.

Imagine an Ontario where we've been brave enough to stand against the climate crisis, where we've used this emergency as fuel to fix what's broken and have committed to investing in, and nurturing, a prosperous and resilient net-zero existence.

This future might sound like a dream. In reality, not only is it *possible*, but it is *necessary*. This future might sound costly, but it will cost *a fraction* of what inaction will cost. This future might seem challenging, but a future where climate change is permitted to run rampant will be far more challenging, more damaging, and more harmful than any of us could imagine. We can — and *must* — do better.

We believe that it's time to make this future a reality. It's time for a Green New Democratic Deal for Ontario.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The climate crisis was not simply an accident for which everyone shares equal responsibility. Today's young people did not create the climate crisis but will be disproportionately impacted by it. Climate change also disproportionately affects the poor and vulnerable. Meanwhile, the wealthy emit much more carbon and have many more financial resources to deal with the harms of the climate crisis.

- ❓ Transforming our economy to a net-zero economy offers an unprecedented opportunity to build a more just and prosperous society for all. How can Ontario ensure that no one gets left behind in the transition to a net-zero economy? Are there communities that could be disproportionately impacted by the transition? And if so, how can we lift those communities up?

? How can Ontario ensure that the millions of new jobs created by the transition to net-zero emissions are good jobs with pensions and benefits?

? How can Ontario ensure that unions have the tools they need to organize in the new economy — giving every worker the opportunity to belong to a union?

## What we will offer next

The Green New Democratic Deal will form a central part of the Ontario NDP's 2022 election platform. But there is so much more that we will keep fighting for in the next three years.

The Ontario NDP remains committed to important promises that we made in our 2018 election platform, like to update the Environmental Bill of Rights and developing a provincial water strategy. We need to manage this most basic and precious of natural resources for generations to come. We need to end the longstanding boil-water advisories that continue to affect Indigenous communities today. No community in our province should have to go without reliable access to water that is safe for drinking, bathing, cooking and cleaning

In just one year as the Official Opposition, Andrea Horwath and the Ontario NDP have already called on the government to declare a climate emergency and strike an all-party select committee to tackle the climate crisis. We have put forward a bill to ban single-use plastics in Ontario, which would protect our air, soil and water from pollution by diverting this non-biodegradable waste from our



landfills. If passed, the bill would phase out the worst offenders — like plastic bags and plastic coffee cup lids — by 2020 and roll out to remaining single-use plastics by 2025, with some exemptions for medical products and products that people with disabilities depend on, like medically necessary straws.

The Ontario NDP will keep up the pressure on the government to pass our bill to ban single-use plastics and to take action to protect our environment for our kids and our grandkids.



# Next steps

We are committed to getting the Green New Democratic Deal right. There is just too much at stake not to. Ontarians, and especially young Ontarians, are counting on their leaders to address the climate crisis. But we can't do it alone. That's why the Ontario NDP's next steps will be to consult far and wide across the province. We want to hear from everyone from business leaders to young people, in places from Sioux Lookout to Toronto and from Ottawa to Waterloo.

Watch for opportunities to let us know what you think over the coming days and weeks

and months. Whether we hear from you in person at a town hall or online by email, know that we will be listening to your questions and concerns, your ideas and suggestions on how best to achieve net-zero emissions in Ontario.

It's time for us to roll up our sleeves and do the hard work to address the climate crisis. We should be fighting just as hard — harder even — than the young people across our province who are fighting for their very future. Young people, and in fact all Ontarians, deserve nothing less.



