



Bay Area
Climate Change
Council

Bay Area Climate Change Council

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On behalf of the Bay Area Climate Change Council, we would like to thank the members of the General Issues Committee for their time and consideration.

The Bay Area Climate Change Council represents a collaborative voice for climate action in the Hamilton-Burlington region. Members of the Council and our implementation teams span the two cities and represent organizations in the municipal, non-profit, education and private sectors, and include citizen representatives.

Buildings and transportation account for 28% of Hamilton's overall greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). Any land needs assessment (LNA) put forward by the City of Hamilton to determine urban growth needs to account for the impact growth would have on these two sources of emissions.

Much like a fiscal budget, the City of Hamilton is bound by a GHG budget. Meeting our target of 50% emission reductions by 2030 and net zero by 2050 requires that we weigh long term planning decisions through the lens of what we can 'afford' to emit.

Through this lens, conservative urban growth with high-efficiency building standards and the provision of transit oriented development is likely the most we can afford to accommodate. **To confirm that projection, we strongly recommend committee members delay their land needs assessment decision until the Community Emissions and Energy Plan confirms the City of Hamilton's capacity for urban growth from a carbon budget perspective.**

We thank the committee for its efforts to improve Hamilton's emissions profile so far. The Bay Area Climate Change Council continues to support the region's transition to a low carbon future.

Sincerely,

Richard Koroscil
Chair, Bay Area Climate Change Council

Bianca Caramento
Manager, Bay Area Climate Change Council



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