

**Written Delegation to the City of Hamilton General Issues Committee
Monday August 8, 2022**

**Carolanne Forster, Resident of Ward 12, in the Municipality
of Hamilton**

This letter is in response to Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy contained in both the Community Energy and Emissions Plan and the Climate Change Impacts Adaptation Plan studies.

Over the past 45 years, I have watched the continual loss of our region's natural heritage features: meadows, woodlots, headwaters, green spaces, and farmlands, both within and outside of, the urban boundary of the day. They have fallen due to developer urban sprawl, and some unwise planning decisions of the past, one of which drove a 403 series highway through a large local swath of Carolinian forest and miles of prime farmland in 1997.

Today we face a serious foe – global warming. We need the most robust plans possible to combat this global danger. Both strategies, CEEP and CCIAP, are starting points and I welcome them, but what is missing from them is the strong land use planning often absent in the past, as noted above. As a municipality, land use planning is under your authority. I respectfully suggest the following considerations be included in the final draft of the “Recharge Hamilton” plan:

****the identification, protection and expansion of Hamilton's Nature Network which includes the forests, grasslands, river valleys, wetlands and farmlands within and surrounding our City***

****permanent protection of our natural areas and farmland by inclusion in the Greenbelt Plan***

****a commitment by the City of Hamilton to purchase and restore natural lands and waters***

These initiatives will enhance biodiversity, climate change mitigation targets, the protection and growth of green space and the well-being of local residents.

Respectfully yours,
Carolanne Forster

