

Dear Mayor Fred and Members of Council,

Thank you for committing to this vital next step to address the Climate Emergency. You will have already heard from Environment Hamilton, Hamilton 350, and other Hamiltonians, but I wished to take this moment from my holiday to underline key areas of personal concern to me.

I believe the City needs not only to look at every agenda item through a Climate Emergency Lens, but that we also need a specific Office of Climate with a senior bureaucrat at the helm with adequate resources to empower staff with the appropriate qualifications to support its work.

I believe we need a Community Climate Advisory Committee, a new formal committee of the city, including community representatives who will ensure climate justice is an integral part of all discussions and outcomes.

We definitely need a Climate Change Action Strategy with clear targets, implementation timelines, and tracking frameworks. There must be drastic greenhouse gas emissions by before 2030 at the very latest. Indications now are that we don't even have that long before the climate crisis spirals out of control.

We need new buildings that don't rely on fossil fuels and deep retrofits for existing buildings. Clean electricity fuelling our public transit, personal, commercial, and city vehicles. -As building emissions are largely from 'natural' gas, we need to ban fossil fuel hook-ups for new or existing buildings hook-ups. As such, the direct involvement of Enbridge in the city's climate change action plan development is a great cause for concern - it is a serious conflict of interest. More trees are good but not huge for gHg reductions; trees do help with cooling and slowing stormwater.

I very much hope that you will take these and other recommendations from the environmentalist community in our city to heart. I am deeply committed to doing what I can to support a cleaner, greener Hamilton, including continuing to delegate and provide feedback to the Mayor and Council on these crucial matters.

Thank you for your time. Best wishes,

Nicole Smith