

Chair and Members
General Issues Committee
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Horwath and Members of the General Issues Committee,

Please accept this letter on behalf of Mohawk College in support of the Decarbonization Hub (Item 8.3, Hamilton Region Decarbonization Hub (CM22013(a)/PED22176(a))).

The Centre for Climate Change Management (CCCM) is an applied research centre at Mohawk College. Our mission is to accelerate the decarbonization of the Hamilton-Burlington region. As such, our applied research focuses on supporting clean tech, heavy industry, and community to co-create and implement climate change solutions.

Worldwide industry and manufacturing account for one third of the anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions causing the climate change crisis. In Hamilton, industrial emissions currently account for about 60% of our City's GHG emissions.

Decarbonization (reducing GHG emissions to net zero) will be this century's defining challenge and opportunity for heavy industry and manufacturing. In recognition of this, members of the Canadian Steel Producers Association (CSPA), including ArcelorMittal Dofasco and Stelco, have committed to supporting the global target and decarbonize their manufacturing processes by 2050.

To truly support a sustainable future for the Hamilton region, the CCCM supports a Decarbonization Hub that:

1. Focuses on growing local expertise and capacity

There are many Hamilton-based organizations and institutions already working to grow their expertise and capacity to support industrial decarbonization. Many of us have existing collaborative partnerships with industry, support clean tech companies to test and scale their solutions, and advocate for the right policies that will ensure these solutions are implemented with success. Mohawk College is one among many of these organizations, and already works with a network of partners such as the Bay Area Climate Change Council, Innovation Factory, and McMaster University.

We support a Decarbonization Hub that aims to bring funding, attract talent, and further support the vibrant network that's already here to do this important and collaborative work on decarbonization. We need more resources and capacity to accelerate our work and attract experts to Hamilton who will continue to support the decarbonization effort over the next 30 years. Let's focus on building that capacity locally.

2. Community-first, not technology-first, solutions

Hamilton has a vibrant and diverse community, with a diversified economy. We may be a Steel Town at our core, but Hamilton is much more. Technology is not neutral, and the energy transition will have profound effects on our community – most of which will be exceedingly positive but will not be experienced equally. The energy transition will result in

new infrastructure, new jobs, and better air quality. The right policies and investments will ensure that these opportunities also support greater equity in our city.

We are glad to see that a focus on “the public good” is part of the proposal for the Decarbonization Hub. The hub should be centred on the principle of supporting a vibrant, diverse and *inclusive* economy that centres equity and environmental justice.

3. Decarbonization is more than green hydrogen

We are glad to see that the original idea for a Hydrogen Hub has transitioned to a holistic vision for a Decarbonization Hub. Green hydrogen as an alternative feedstock and fuel is one among many technological solutions for decarbonization.

Supporting access to a wide range of alternative fuels and technological solutions, including but not limited to hydrogen, will ensure that more companies in our diversified economy will benefit from the energy transition.

Additionally, this will help ensure that solutions are available to small- and medium-sized businesses (SMEs), and not just large companies. From our work in the CCCM we know that SMEs are struggling to understand how the energy transition will impact them. It is our hope that the Decarbonization Hub can assist in understanding and collaborating with SMEs to include them in this transition.

Overall, Mohawk College supports the advent of the Decarbonization Hub. We hope that by focusing on the diversity and vibrance of the Hamilton region and a community-first approach, that we can bring the solutions we need to address the climate crisis while helping our community thrive.

Thank you,



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