

Written submission on the proposed Green Building Standards for the City of Hamilton submitted by Geoff Ondercin-Bourne and Edward Reece on behalf of the Council of Canadians Hamilton chapter.

When communities take energy generation into their own hands, prices fall and communities prosper. Local jobs are created, money stops leaving the community, energy prices fall, and the air becomes less polluted.

Thus, the generation of renewable energy, particularly solar energy, should be a major goal for all municipalities. The proposed Green Building Standards provide an opportunity to increase the solar energy generated in Hamilton and to reduce future emissions.

The city of Hamilton is to be commended for the solar power installations and initiatives it has undertaken so far. One such initiative is the Net Zero Energy Performance Standard for all new municipal buildings that is currently being developed by the Office of Climate Change Initiatives and CFEM/Office of Energy, which will require all new municipal buildings to be constructed for solar readiness.

Another initiative is the target for all new homes to have 30% annual load coverage by solar PV by 2031 and the target for all new commercial buildings to include rooftop solar PV panels by 2026. Mandating a requirement to build all new private sector buildings for solar readiness will give a tremendous boost to the number of solar installations in the city.

There are of course further measures that could be undertaken by the city. The Better Homes Hamilton pilot project can be moved beyond the pilot phase, expanding the list of eligible home energy 'retrofit' options to include solar panels on residential buildings.

The city of Burlington is waiving the building permit fee for homeowners who wish to install solar panels on their roofs and Hamilton could do the same. Guelph is offering interest free loans of up to \$50,000 to homeowners who switch to solar power, another option for Hamilton to consider.

It would also help if the city set up a web page to identify use of solar incentive programs from all levels of gov't and the industry (i.e. Sunly). Both residential and commercial. Publicize it!

We would encourage Council to adopt more ambitious targets similar to those adopted by the city of Toronto, which is planning to phase out traditional fossil fuel heating after 2028 in most new buildings.

Thus, while other municipalities have made the decision not to run gas lines into new subdivisions, the proposed Green Building Standards do not call for this. This a huge missed opportunity, as new homes in new subdivisions can be fitted with heat pumps and solar powered water heaters.

As regards the Ontario Building Code, additional municipal advocacy at the AMO level is required to move the province to be more supportive of renewable energy options. Collaboration will strengthen our hand when we're lobbying Queen's Park to make green energy an attractive alternative. We can do it together!

From: Geoff Ondercin-Bourne
Sent: Sunday, September 29, 2024 7:36 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: Ed Reece
Subject: Planning Committee, Item 6 Submission

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Please accept this report as our submission on Hamilton Green Building Standards on behalf of the Council of Canadians, Hamilton Chapter. I have copied Ed Reece, chapter co-chair, on this email. Thank you.