

**From:** Steve Chalastra <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 3, 2026 1:23 PM

**To:** Office of the Mayor <[Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca](mailto:Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca)>

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**Subject:** Tax Supported Budget Deliberations

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments.

Dear Mayor, Councillors and City Clerk,

I'm a Ward 1 resident and would like to provide input to the Tax Supported Budget Deliberations on February 6.

In his article "[Empire in Decline](#)", Professor Alfred McCoy states that

"every major empire over the last 500 years has been synonymous with ... a new form of energy. For the Spanish, it was ... cruel plantation slavery. For the British, it was the coal-fired revolution in steam power. For the United States, it was oil power. We are now in the midst of a green energy revolution, switching to alternative energy, solar and wind power, particularly solar. And China is absolutely dominant in every aspect of this green energy revolution."

The US, however, is turning its back on the future and putting all its efforts into a doomed economic model.

What does this have to do with Hamilton?

According to [UN-Habitat](#):

Urban areas generate over 70% of global emissions and account for 75% of primary energy consumption. Yet, cities also account for 80% of the global GDP. Cities are places where people are innovating, adapting, and implementing innovative climate solutions. From ... installing early warning systems, greening streets to cool neighbourhoods, and retrofitting homes to withstand heat and floods. These projects are not just about reducing emissions, it's about giving people the safety, stability, and future they deserve.

My question is: does Hamilton want to be among the cities of the future or join the current US administration in looking and moving backwards?

I think the answer should be obvious. Yet to do so, we need to embrace the greening of the City by electrifying it through renewable energy, especially solar and wind, not electricity generated by fossil

fuels or expensive, pie-in-the-sky nuclear projects. This sort of "dirty" electricity is our province's approach under Doug Ford.

We should be looking beyond Ontario and the US to what the rest of the world is doing. 91 percent of new energy capacity in 2024 came from renewables. This trend continued throughout 2025. And cities are the primary users of this power, from transportation to City offices, building codes, parks, biodiversity and more.

Hamilton's Office of Climate Change Initiatives (OCCI) is uniquely positioned to help drive this change. I want to live in a city of the future, not one mired in the past. So I don't want councillors making ill-conceived cuts to the budget to appease their populist base.

Hands off the OCCI. Hands off the cycling infrastructure. I urge you to vote down these short-sighted measures.

Sincerely,  
Steve Chalastra

