

From: Erin S [REDACTED] >

Sent: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 4:45 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>; Ward 4 <ward4@hamilton.ca>; Environment Hamilton <contactus@environmenthamilton.org>

Subject: Re: 2026 Environment and Climate Action Budget

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments.

Dear Council,

I do not support the defunding of the budget for the City's Environment and Climate Action initiatives. They have already been approved, the programs have already been started. Finish them.

If I were to pick two items of importance to me , it would be the continued expansion of bike infrastructure(more and more people are using bikes, especially Hamilton Bike Share), and increasing our tree canopy. Increasing our tree canopy will reduce radiant heat once the trees mature, which will result in lower use of a/c thus also reducing energy use and low and behold, reduce the cost to the property owner. We can't stop planting trees now because it takes at least 10-15 years for trees to mature enough to provide any positive effect. Many slower growing trees like Oak can take 20+ years so we need to plant and give them time to grow. If we stop tree planting, it just further delays efforts to reduce our dependence on artificial cooling.

As for the bike lanes, the more that are built (York Blvd is an excellent example of what can be done) the more people will feel safe biking and the more they will be used. The more they are used, the more it attracts other cyclists and so on.

Don't be short sighted. The decisions made today affect our children and grandchildren. Saving \$.50 month on my taxes is not worth it if I can save hundreds of dollars a month by not needing to own a vehicle or being able to reduce my a/c dependency. I'll take that trade off any day.

Erin Shacklette