

From: Jared Aultman [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 9:55 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: General Issues Committee Message

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hello,

My name is Jared Aultman, a constituent of ward 7 (414 East 15th St. - L9A 4H1). I'm writing to you today to hopefully have my message (or a paraphrased version of it) included in the next General Issues Committee, or the soonest meeting that this is appropriate for. I'm not sure if this is the appropriate way to do this, and my apologies if it's not.

Here is what I would like to say:

I am writing to express my concerns for what I've heard is the potential cutting of environmental programs from Hamilton's upcoming budget. The proposed cuts to Hamilton's Climate Change Reserve and the Office of Climate Change Initiatives are particularly concerning.

After reading many of their initiatives (both in progress and successful), I see tree planting, electric vehicles, solar panel installation, and public outreach initiatives. These are thoughtful, deliberate projects aimed to improve quality of life for Hamiltonians and save the city money in the long term. These types of projects should be encouraged, not have their funding cut.

Even something as simple as planting trees can have incredible effects on a neighbourhood. Trees of course give shade, but their leaves also release water vapor that cools the area around them. I'm sure it sounds inconsequential, but this reduces air conditioning costs and improves air quality. These are long-term gains for both financial stability and public health, but don't get much attention because the benefits build over many years.

Solar panels are similar. These programs pay for themselves over time, and save even more money in the long run.

Environmental protection is a cause I am very passionate about, not for any lofty reason, but because of its real *economic* benefits to our city. My hope is that you keep me and my thoughts in mind when considering our budget.

Thank you for your time and have a wonderful day,

Jared Aultman