

From: Meaghan Davis <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 7:40 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: Environment Hamilton <whatsthegrime@environmenthamilton.org>
Subject: Submission on 2026 Hamilton Budget

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Good morning,

On behalf of my household, and as a resident of Ward 3, I am writing express my profound concern, and disappointment with the members of Hamilton City Council, over proposed cuts to environment and climate action programs, including the Climate Change Reserve, the Cycling Master Plan, and the Office for Climate Change Initiatives.

The climate crisis is already upending lives in our city. Climate disasters and changing weather patterns are disrupting supply chains and agricultural production, making groceries and the cost of living more expensive. Extreme heat and wildfire smoke are increasing our energy bills and our health care costs, and keeping kids and other vulnerable people inside and isolated when the air outside is too dangerous to breathe. Flooding, heat, and other changing weather patterns are wreaking havoc on infrastructure like roads and bridges, while putting intense pressure on public services to support people during times of crisis. Climate driven disruptions leading to blackouts and other issues with our energy infrastructure can leave people in deadly conditions during heat waves and snowstorms alike, trapping people in their homes and limiting access to critical needs like health care, medicine, and groceries. All of these climate issues drive an increase in our property taxes and overall cost of living. By cutting investment in the very programs and services meant to combat the climate crisis, the City of Hamilton is directly exacerbating these problems and leading to a higher bill on future generations who will have no choice but to confront the damage head-on.

Moreover, cuts to climate and environment programs will further demonstrate the City of Hamilton's disdain for vulnerable residents, including children, seniors, the homeless, and low income people like many of the residents of Ward 3. As with most crises, the climate crisis will be disproportionately felt by vulnerable, racialized, and/or otherwise systemically disadvantaged communities. These people are less likely to have the money and resources to prepare for and withstand a climate shock like an extreme heat wave or wildfire event, and are less likely to have the resources to bounce back from these incidents. For more data on this, consider reviewing the City of Toronto's recently published [climate risk and vulnerability assessment](#). The City of Hamilton already provides lower levels of service to residents of Ward 3 relative to other parts of the city, from road decay to a lack of street litter bins to an inability to enforce property standards by-laws. Cutting environmental programs for the communities that need

them most will be part of an ongoing pattern of neglect borne disproportionately by poor and disadvantaged residents.

A robust combination of climate mitigation and climate adaptation measures are essential to reduce the impacts of climate change, and help our community adapt and thrive in a changing world. Tackling the climate crisis is not something that municipal governments can do alone. Strong advocacy from local elected officials to the provincial and federal governments is essential (and requires adequate City staff resources to implement). That said, the City of Hamilton must do its part, and is in no position to advocate to other levels of government if it can't demonstrate its own commitment to solving the problem.

Cutting environment and climate programs will not reduce my property tax bill, but it will harm our kids and our community. This is unacceptable to me and should be unacceptable to the members of Hamilton City Council.

If these cuts go through, every City Councilmember and the Mayor should be required to visit schools across Hamilton to explain to our city's children why their futures are unimportant to the so-called "leaders" of our local democracy.

Please do the right thing and maintain environment and climate action spending in the 2026 Hamilton City Budget.

Meaghan Davis