

From: Areeb Iqbal [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 11:03 PM
To: Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>
Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Kroetsch, Cameron <Cameron.Kroetsch@hamilton.ca>; Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; Hwang, Tammy <Tammy.Hwang@hamilton.ca>; Francis, Matt <Matt.Francis@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; Cooper, Rob <Rob.Cooper@hamilton.ca>; Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; Beattie, Jeff <Jeff.Beattie@hamilton.ca>; Tadeson, Mark <Mark.Tadeson@hamilton.ca>; Cassar, Craig <Craig.Cassar@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Alex <Alex.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Spadafora, Mike <Mike.Spadafora@hamilton.ca>; McMeekin, Ted <Ted.McMeekin@hamilton.ca>; contactus@environmenthamilton.org
Subject: No Cuts to Hamilton's Climate and Environmental Programs

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments.

Dear Member of Council, the Mayor and the Clerk,

I am writing as a Hamilton resident (Ward 5) to express my strong opposition to any proposed cuts to environmental and climate-related programs in the 2026 City Budget.

Recent comments at budget meetings indicate that several essential initiatives, including the Office of Climate Change Initiatives (OCCI), the Climate Change Reserve, cycling infrastructure, biodiversity programs, urban tree canopy expansion, and home retrofit supports, may be targeted for reductions. These programs exist because residents have consistently advocated for them, and because they are critical to building a healthier, safer, and more resilient Hamilton.

Environmental and climate programs represent a small portion of the budget. Instead of cutting them, the City should be expanding them to make Hamilton a more livable city for everyone, with cleaner air, safer streets, and reduced long-term costs.

I urge Council to:

- Reject any motions to cut funding or staffing for environmental or climate-related programs.
- Maintain and strengthen OCCI, the Climate Change Reserve, cycling and transit investments, and biodiversity and tree-canopy initiatives.
- Recognize that these programs are not optional. They are essential to Hamilton's long-term well-being and economic resilience.

I have had the honour to grow up in this city, and I am deeply invested in Hamilton's future as a place where environmental stewardship and leadership are a priority. Hamilton residents have fought hard for these initiatives because we care deeply about the future of our city. I urge you to honour that commitment, not just by protecting, but by expanding the programs that safeguard our environment. Now is the time for Council to show leadership and vision, ensuring Hamilton thrives for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention and for your service to our community.

Sincerely,

Areeb