



## Ontario Clean Air Alliance 2025 Provincial Election Questionnaire

### 1. Phasing-Out Gas Power

According to Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator, the pollution from our gas-fired power plants will increase by more than 500% by 2030. This is because [25% of Ontario's electricity supply in 2030](#) will be produced by burning fossil gas – up from only 4% in 2017.

Ramping up gas power is bad for our climate and [bad for our health](#). The pollutants released by these gas plants contribute to lung and heart diseases, Alzheimer's and other neurological risks, asthma, cancers, birth complications and premature death.

Ontario can phase-out gas power and [lower our electricity bills](#) by investing in energy efficiency, wind and solar power, and energy storage.

***Question #1: Should Ontario phase-out gas power by 2035, except in exceptional and emergency circumstances totalling less than 88 hours per year?***

Answer: Yes ☒ No ☐ Undecided ☐

#### **Additional Comments:**

Ontario Greens know that action on climate change needs to be strong and immediate.

Ontario Greens believe that we need to continue to make progress on our historic gains from getting off coal, rather than continuing the trend of heading in the wrong direction that the PC government has made.

The PC government makes promises about cutting emissions, but continually makes policy decisions that do the opposite.

Ontario Greens will end fossil fuel giveaways immediately. To start, we will reverse the Ford government's subsidy for Enbridge's gas hookups and renew the independence of the OEB. We

will then ensure that new energy procurements prioritize the least expensive, most efficient energy. That means investing in conservation, solar, wind and storage solutions. We will help households, businesses and institutions make the shift and save money. Incentives for green building retrofits will create good jobs, reduce climate pollution and help people save money by saving energy.

## **2. Tripling Wind and Solar Power**

At the December 2023 COP-28 Climate Summit in Dubai, 198 countries (including Canada) called for the world to [triple its supply of renewable energy by 2030](#).

According to Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator, [wind and solar are now our lowest cost sources of new electricity supply](#).

[In 2023, 85% of the new electricity supply added worldwide was renewable.](#)

***Question #2: Should Ontario work to triple its supply of low-cost wind and solar electricity by 2035?***

Answer: Yes   X   No            Undecided           

**Additional Comments:**

Ontario Greens feel strongly that we should be moving full-speed ahead toward investments in renewables like wind and solar to crush climate pollution.

## **3. Expanding our East-West Transmission System**

The Government of Ontario has given TC Energy a \$285 million subsidy for pre-development work for its proposed pumped storage project on the Niagara Escarpment near Meaford, Ontario.

According to Ontario's [Independent Electricity System Operator](#) (IESO), the proposed pumped storage project does “not compare favourably to currently available alternatives, including battery storage” and is not “able to provide net benefits to Ontario’s electricity system or ratepayers.”

A much lower cost storage option would be to expand our east-west transmission connections with Quebec to enhance our ability to use its existing massive [hydro-electric reservoir system to store variable wind and solar energy](#).

When Ontario has power to spare, we can supply electricity to Quebec and their reservoirs can hold back water normally used to generate power. When Ontario needs power, Quebec releases that stored water and produces power to export back to Ontario. Simple, elegant and

far more cost-effective than TC Energy's proposal. In fact, expanding our east-west grid could meet our energy storage needs at a cost that is [84-90% lower than what TC Energy is proposing](#).

[The IESO has identified how we can increase our access to Hydro Quebec's reservoirs by 7,500 megawatts \(MW\)](#) by upgrading our transmission links with Quebec at Chats Falls (2,000 MW), Ottawa (2,000 MW), Beauharnois (2,000 MW) and Cornwall (1,500 MW). All of these upgrades would use existing Hydro One transmission corridors.

***Question #3: Should Ontario expand its east-west transmission grid to increase our ability to use Quebec's existing massive hydro-electric reservoir system to store our variable wind and solar electricity?***

Answer: Yes ☒ No ☐ Undecided ☐

**Additional Comments:**

Ontario Greens know that we need to add at least 7500 MW short- and medium-term storage to help our electrical grid run smoothly. We support negotiating with Quebec to find a solution.

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#### **4. Ontario Energy Board review of proposed new nuclear projects**

According to Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator, [the cost of electricity from new nuclear reactors is two to three times greater than the cost of wind and solar electricity](#).

Nevertheless, the Government of Ontario is proposing to build new nuclear reactors at the Bruce and Darlington Nuclear Stations and in Port Hope.

***Question #4: Should the Ontario Energy Board be asked to conduct a public hearing to review the financial prudence of the Government of Ontario's plans to build new nuclear reactors?***

**Answer:** Yes   X   No        Undecided       

**Additional Comments:**

First, Ontario Greens believe that the independence of the OEB should be restored to protect rate-payers in this province. As part of that, full transparency and public hearings are essential parts of that process.

The best way to protect Ontario's consumers, economy and climate is to invest in low-cost renewables and ambitious efficiency programs to help Ontarians save money by saving energy. Recent research shows that investments in renewable energy, like wind, solar and storage, are rapidly becoming more accessible, affordable and scalable, and are the cleanest and cheapest forms of energy.

We do not support building any new nuclear reactors but given the recent expansions at Darlington and Bruce, we recognize that nuclear power will be part of Ontario's energy mix for years to come. We advocate for keeping nuclear waste onsite, which is the safest and most environmentally responsible approach.

**Signed by:**

Name: Mike Schreiner

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: February 6, 2025

Please send your response to Jack Gibbons by **Friday, February 7, 2025.**

Thank you.

[Jack@CleanAirAlliance.org](mailto:Jack@CleanAirAlliance.org)



192 Spadina Avenue, Suite 406

Toronto M5T 2C2

416-260-2080 ext. 2