

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:

We agree with you that we need a clean electricity grid both to attract investment and create jobs, and also for the sake of our health and clean air. Therefore, we will procure 30,000 megawatts of clean electricity (such as nuclear, wind, solar, hydro, etc.). We are also committed to not procuring any new gas-powered electricity and ensuring that the existing capacity only gets used as a backup in exceptional and emergency circumstances. We will also ensure that the electricity procurement process is transparent and fair, that the grid remains stable, and the hydro bills remain affordable.

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?

As it has been observed all over the world, generating electricity from renewable sources like solar and wind is becoming more cost effective. Therefore, we will boost our electricity generation capacity from solar and wind not only to further decarbonize our electricity grid but also to lower the cost of electricity generation and thus making utility bills affordable for families and businesses. In that regard, we are committed to procuring 30,000 megawatts of clean electricity from sources like nuclear, solar, and wind by 2040.

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?

We need more renewable sources of electricity, and where possible we should partner with other provinces such as Quebec to trade clean electricity.

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?

We need to make sure we decarbonize our electricity grid and generate our electricity from renewable, clean sources. We also need to make sure the way we generate energy is cost effective and that utility bills are affordable for families and businesses. Therefore, financial prudence must be of paramount importance in electricity procurement. Ontario has a long history of being a leader in nuclear energy, and has well-established supply chains and well-paid union jobs in the nuclear industry coupled with advancement in innovation. We will leverage Ontario's potential and expertise in generating low-cost, low-carbon energy to power our economy and to keep electricity bills affordable.

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

Thank you.

Jack@CleanAirAlliance.org
192 Spadina Avenue, Suite 406
Toronto M5T 2C2
416-260-2080 ext. 2