



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:

The Ontario NDP believes that Ontario's electricity system should be reliable, affordable and sustainable. We support the phase-out of carbon-emitting gas-fired generation as soon feasible, and see no justification for the Ford government's short-sighted decision to expand gas power when other alternatives exist to keep Ontario's lights on reliably and affordably. Decisions about the energy system should be based on evidence, independent professional analysis and the public interest -- not self-serving politics or special private interests

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?

The Ontario NDP supports the expansion of reliable and affordable clean energy, towards the goal of decarbonizing the Ontario economy by 2050, with an electricity system that is reliable, affordable and net-zero. Decisions about the energy system should be based on evidence, independent professional analysis and the public interest -- not self-serving politics or special private interests

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?

[All decisions concerning Ontario's electricity system should be thoroughly scrutinized to ensure a grid that is reliable, affordable and sustainable. This includes a thorough exploration of alternatives, including the potential for further integrating Ontario and Quebec's power grids. Decisions about the energy system should be based on evidence, independent professional analysis and the public interest -- not self-serving politics or special private interests](#)

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?

[All decisions concerning Ontario's electricity system should be thoroughly scrutinized to ensure a grid that is reliable, affordable and sustainable. The Ontario Energy Board's independent hearing processes serve an important role in ensuring that consumer stakeholders have an opportunity to scrutinize investment decisions in a public and transparent forum. When the Liberal government sidelined the OEB over 15 years ago and politicized energy planning, ordering the overprocurement of overpriced privatized energy](#)

under long-term contracts, the result was skyrocketing hydro bills. The Ontario NDP sees no reason why any major investment decision affecting hydro bills should be exempt from OEB review. Decisions about the energy system should be based on evidence, independent professional analysis and the public interest -- not self-serving politics or special private interests

Signed by:

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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

Thank you.

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