



NET-ZERO AND YOU(TH) PROGRAM

Province Specific Research:
Ontario



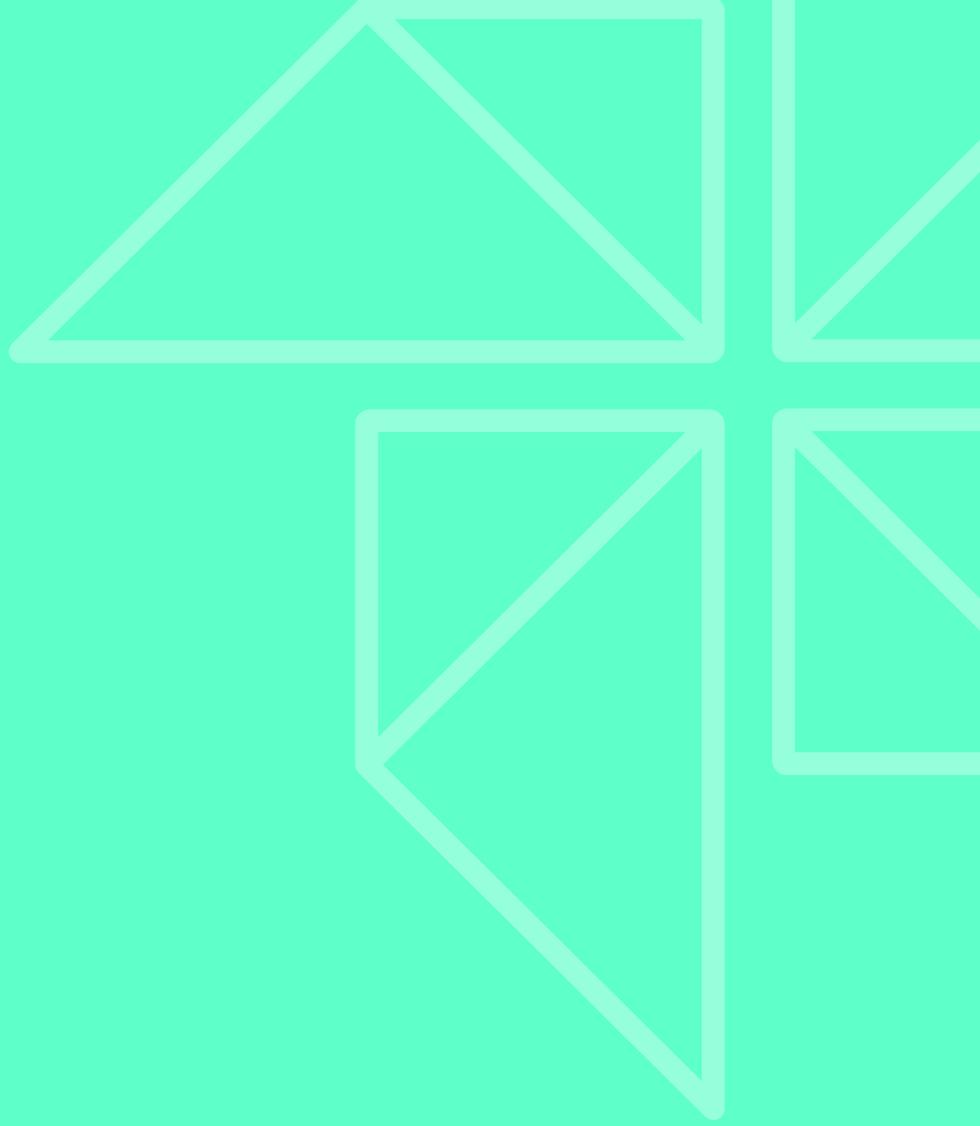


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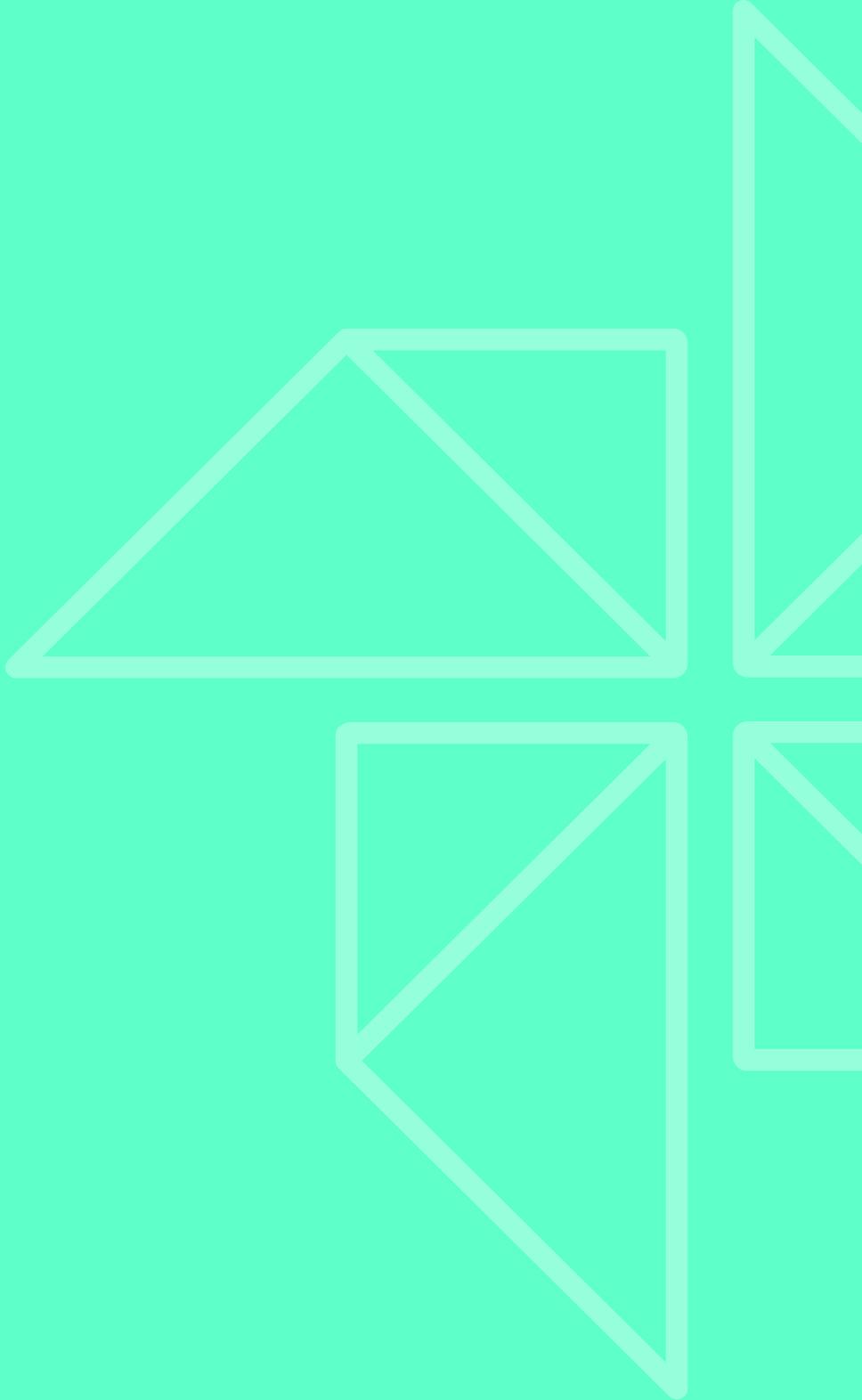
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01



Introduction

Climate change has deeply affected many young people in Canada and left us with many unresolved feelings and questions about the path to a sustainable and environmentally conscious future. As youth who've chosen to educate ourselves on climate change and Net Zero, we can serve as leaders of climate action and justice and talk about why repairing the planet matters to us. As part of the Net Zero program at Apathy is Boring, this report analyzes Ontario's initiatives and progress toward achieving net-zero objectives at both provincial and municipal levels. Tailored to any young person in ON who's interested in climate action and Net Zero, this report serves as both a knowledge base and a tool to help you connect storytelling to the action that's being taken (and not yet taken) in your community, and figure out what you want your climate story to say.

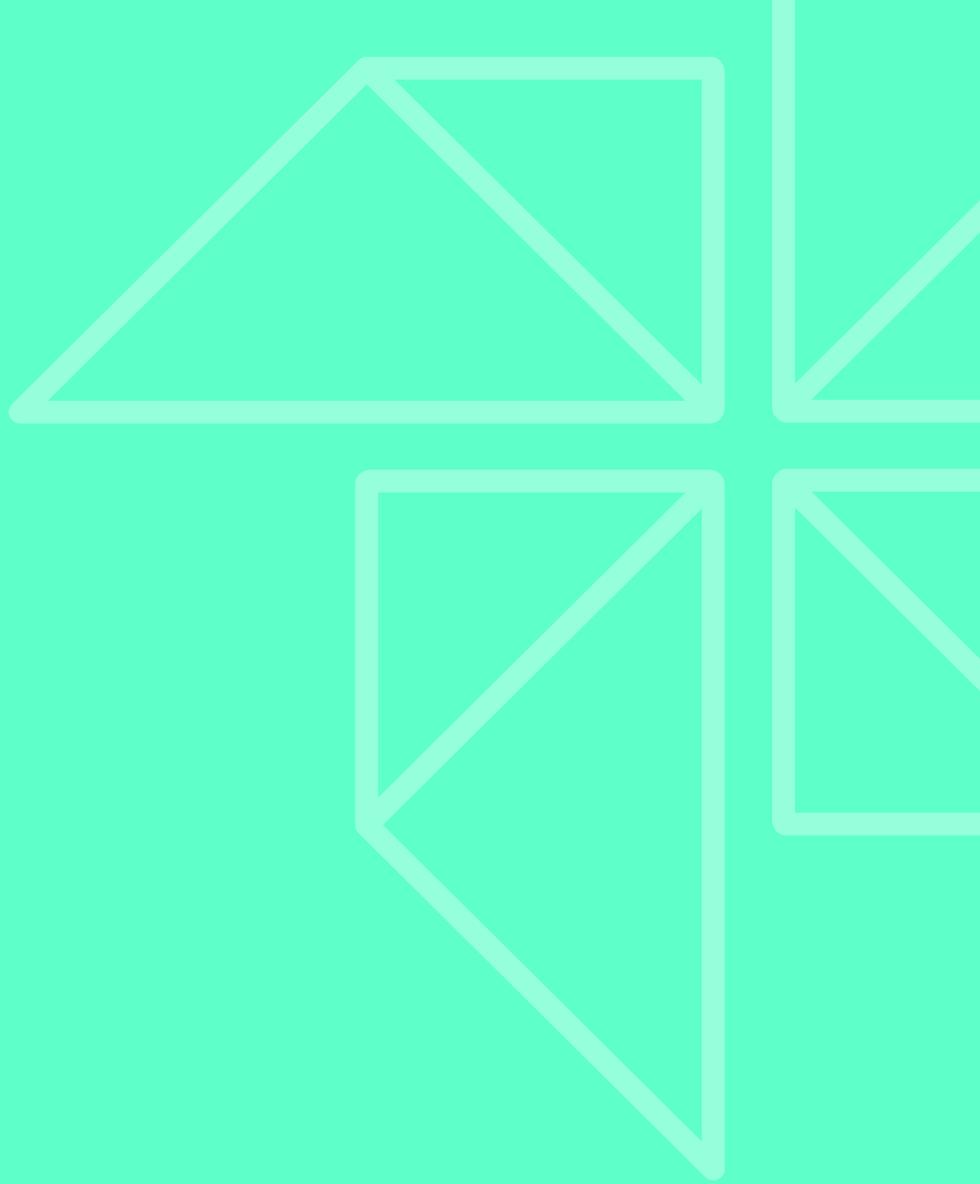
As you work through the information below, think about **how the research intersects with your personal experiences of climate change**. Consider the gaps in knowledge, strategy and action and how your story may be used to bridge these.

We hope that this report will empower you with knowledge, inspire your storytelling, and encourage you to participate in advancing net-zero objectives in your community.



**APATHY
IS BORING.™**
Connect, Educate
and Activate.

02



The Research

ON PROVINCIAL NET-ZERO POLICIES

↓ 80% GHG emissions by 2025

↓ 37% GHG emissions by 2030

Ontario's Climate Change Strategy:

launched in 2015, the plan aims to reduce GHG emissions by 37% below 1990 levels by 2030 and by 80% by 2050, via 5 key areas:¹

I. A prosperous low-carbon economy with innovation, science, and technology:

- > Attain and retain investment and risk capital for low-carbon innovation: financially support the growth and strength of Ontario's low-carbon and clean-tech industries, bridging the gap between development and commercialization of new technology²
- > Develop actions and strategies to support innovation, research, and development of technologies that can reduce GHG emissions³
- > Develop new ways to reduce businesses' GHG emissions through fuel switching, energy reduction, and other low-carbon measures⁴
- > Build green infrastructure - interconnected networks of green open spaces providing a wide range of ecosystem services - to restore ecosystems, reduce atmospheric carbon and protect and expand carbon sinks.⁵

¹ Ontario's Climate Change Strategy. Government of Ontario, 2015, p. 17, <https://docs.ontario.ca/documents/4928/climate-change-strategy-en.pdf>.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid, p. 18.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

2. Government collaboration and leadership:

- > Introduce climate legislation that would establish a long-term action framework providing direction for future policy delivery and enshrining in law Ontario's cap and trade program.⁶
 - a. The cap and trade program imposes a price on carbon emissions and permits corporations to buy and sell allowances that let them emit a certain amount of GHGs; in doing so, the program gives corporations an incentive to save money by cutting emissions in the most cost-effective ways.⁷
- > Integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation considerations into government decision-making and infrastructure planning, via an all-of-government approach to climate change considerations.⁸
- > Work with First Nations and Métis communities to help implement the climate change strategy and to inform development of the action plan, developing a greater understanding of the key role Indigenous communities can play in advancing the broader climate change approach using traditional knowledge.⁹
- > Introduce changes to government operations, procurement, employee training, building retrofits, and in other areas to help the government move towards carbon neutrality.¹⁰

3. A resource-efficient, high-productivity society:

- > Establish greenhouse gas reductions as a priority in Ontario's next Long-Term Energy Plan.¹¹
- > Review and make recommendations regarding existing policies and programs that support fossil fuel use and fossil fuel intensive technologies, freeing up funds to better support sustainable development and clean technologies/energy.¹²
- > Implement a resource recovery and waste reduction framework to assist Ontario's shift to a circular economy, simultaneously reducing GHG emissions from landfilling and other stages of production.¹³
- > Develop data and metrics to measure GHG impacts of projects and programs including progress towards GHG reduction targets - e.g. tools to assess climate change risk to food production, human health, vital infrastructure, and the economy.¹⁴

⁶ Ibid, p. 21.

⁷ "How Cap and Trade Works." Environmental Defense Fund. <https://www.edf.org/climate/how-cap-and-trade-works>.

⁸ Government of Ontario, 2015, p. 21.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid, p. 24.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

4. Reducing GHG emissions across key sectors:

- > Reduce emissions from transportation by promoting the uptake of zero emission and plug-in hybrid vehicles, via:¹⁵
 - a. Affordable and fast public charging
 - b. Charging at workplaces, apartments, condominiums, and public institutions
 - c. A modernized vehicle price incentive
 - d. Making the green plate program permanent
 - e. Reducing emissions through use of automated vehicles
- > Reduce emissions from goods movement, using measures that support the use of natural gas and low carbon fuels in goods movement, and the electrification of goods movement where possible¹⁶
- > Explore additional short-term low-carbon fuel opportunities for modes of transportation like long- and heavy-haul trucking and marine transport that are not easily electrified.¹⁷
- > Develop a coordinated approach to reduce emissions from new and existing buildings, creating net-zero energy

¹⁵ Ibid, p. 28.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.



buildings (buildings that use renewable technology to produce as much energy as they consume) and supporting their creation through:¹⁸

- a. Updates to Ontario's Building Code
- b. Incentive programs
- c. Removal of regulatory barriers

d. Encouraging the transition to lower carbon fuels and to building materials that store carbon

- > Establish reducing GHG emissions as an important factor in transportation and land use planning initiatives.¹⁹

5. Adaptation and risk awareness:

- > Integrate climate change adaptation considerations in infrastructure decision-making to properly consider the potential impacts of a changing climate.²¹

- > Establish a climate change modeling collaborative for climate data - a one-window source for climate data to ensure open access to standardized and wide-ranging climate information, and help both public and private sectors make informed and evidence-based decisions regarding adapting to climate change and increasing resilience.²²

- > Develop an approach to assess emissions and absorption from agriculture, forestry, and other land uses.²³

- > Align climate change objectives with agriculture and natural systems, such as:²⁴

a. Ensuring pollinator and soil health, and food security

b. Help the agricultural sector adapt to climate impacts

c. Reduce the vulnerabilities and strengthen the resilience of natural systems

d. Build on existing measures such as managing and restoring wetlands, increasing green spaces, and managing diverse forests

e. You can find provincial emission by sector in the [The Environment and Climate Change Canada Data Catalogue](#).

¹⁸ Ibid, p. 29.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

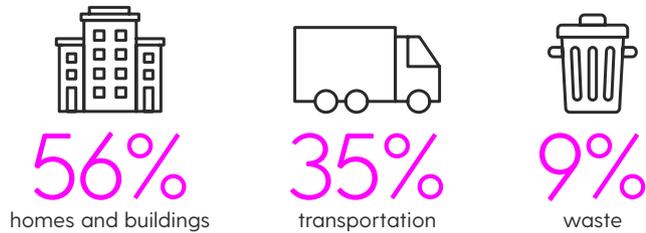


RISE
/RIZ/ VEEB
TO MOVE UPWARD:
AN INSTANCE OF BECOMING HIGHER

ON MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES

Transform Toronto Net Zero Strategy:

The primary sources of GHG emissions in Toronto:



Launched in November 2021, the City of Toronto's Net Zero Strategy seeks to reduce GHG emissions to 45% below 1990 levels by 2025, 65% by 2030, and net zero by 2040.

The City of Toronto seeks to do so via 5 key areas:²⁵

1. Demonstrate carbon accountability locally and globally, by establishing a carbon budget for its own operations and the community as a whole. By 2023:

- > City of Toronto corporate greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by 65% over 2008 base year
- > All City Agency, Corporation and Division-owned new developments are designed and constructed to applicable Toronto Green Standard Version 4 standard achieving zero carbon emissions, beginning in 2022
- > GHG emissions from City-owned buildings are reduced by 60% from 2008 levels; by 2040, City-owned buildings reach net zero GHG emissions
- > All City-owned facilities have achieved zero waste
- > Generate and utilize 1.5 Million Gigajoules of energy from biogas
- > Approximately 107,700 tonnes CO₂e per year are reduced through Organics Processing with Renewable Energy and Landfill Gas Utilization
- > 50% of the City-owned fleet is transitioned to zero-emissions vehicles
- > 50% of the TTC bus fleet is zero-emissions
- > GHG emissions from food the City of Toronto procures are reduced by 25%
- > 70% residential waste diversion from the City of Toronto's waste management system

²⁵ "TransformTO Net Zero Strategy." City of Toronto, <https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/water-environment/environmentally-friendly-city-initiatives/transformto/>.



↓ 45% GHG emissions by 2025

↓ 65% GHG emissions by 2030

↓ 100% GHG emissions by 2040

2. Accelerate a rapid and significant reduction in natural gas use

3. Establish performance targets for existing buildings across Toronto. By 2023:

- > All new homes and buildings will be designed and built to be near zero GHG emissions
 - > GHG emissions from existing buildings will be cut in half, from 2008 levels
-

4. Increase access to low-carbon transportation options, including walking, biking, public transit and electric vehicles. By 2023:

- > 30% of registered vehicles in Toronto are electric
 - > 75% of school/work trips under 5km are walked, biked or by transit
-

5. Increase local renewable energy to contribute to a resilient, carbon-free grid walking, biking, public transit and electric vehicles. By 2030:

- > 50% of community-wide energy comes from renewable or low-carbon sources
 - > 25% of commercial and industrial floor area is connected to low carbon thermal energy sources
-

TransformTO Youth Climate Action Engagement Strategy:

In partnership with the University of Toronto and youth-led organizations, the City of Toronto is developing a consultation and strategy building process to identify best practices to support youth (ages 10-25) climate action.²⁶

²⁶ "TransformTO Youth Climate Action Engagement Strategy." City of Toronto, 8 June 2023, <https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/water-environment/environmentally-friendly-city-initiatives/transformto/transformto-youth-climate-action-engagement-strategy/>.

Ottawa Climate Change Master Plan:

Launched in January 2020, the City of Ottawa's climate change plan seeks to reduce GHG emissions from the community to 43% below 2012 levels by 2025, 68% by 2030, 96% by 2040, and 100% by 2050; the plan also seeks to reduce GHG emissions from City operations by 30% below 2012 levels by 2023, 50% by 2030, and 100% by 2040.²⁸ The City of Ottawa seeks to do so via 8 key areas.²⁸

²⁸ "Climate Change Master Plan." City of Ottawa, Jan. 2020, p. 3, https://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/documents/files/climate_change_mplan_en.pdf

FROM THE COMMUNITY

↓ 43% GHG emissions by 2025

↓ 96% GHG emissions by 2040

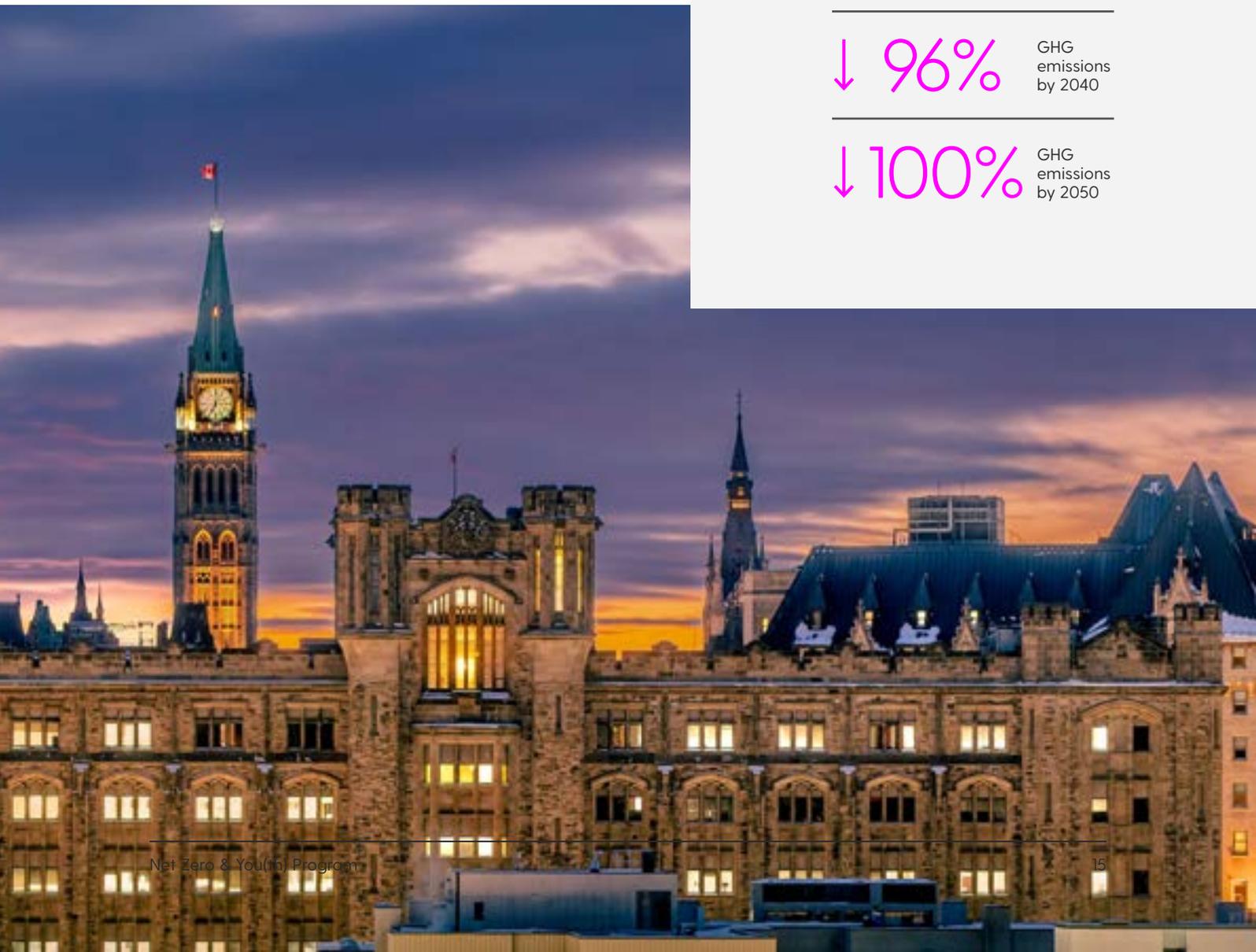
↓ 100% GHG emissions by 2050

FROM CITY OPERATIONS

↓ 43% GHG emissions by 2025

↓ 96% GHG emissions by 2040

↓ 100% GHG emissions by 2050



1. Implement Energy Evolution: Ottawa's Community Energy Transition Strategy

- > Energy Evolution is the primary framework and action plan for how Ottawa will mitigate GHG emissions and meet emission reduction targets. It includes:²⁹
 - a. Integrated models that demonstrate how cumulative policies and actions can achieve the City's GHG emission reduction target of 100% by 2050
 - b. An assessment of co-benefits and co-harms associated with actions to reduce GHG emissions
 - c. The Corporate and Community Carbon Budget
 - d. Actions to reduce GHGs and/or generate clean, renewable energy in new buildings, existing buildings, transportation, waste and biogas, and electricity, and generate clean, renewable energy
 - e. Funding requirements
- > Energy Evolution uses annual GHG inventories to assess tracking towards corporate and community emissions reduction targets

2. Undertake a climate vulnerability assessment and develop a Climate Resiliency Strategy

- > The climate vulnerability assessment will use the climate projections to identify climate risks from a range of climate hazards and examine impacts on health and safety, infrastructure, the economy and the environment. This will guide the development of a long-term climate resiliency strategy to mitigate climate risks and impacts, and to build the capacity of social, economic, and environmental systems to adapt and thrive under evolving climate conditions³⁰

²⁹ Ibid: 15.

³⁰ Ibid: 17-18.

3. Apply a climate lens to Ottawa's new Official Plan for the City's growth and its supporting documents

- > Seeks to:³¹
- a. Integrate climate and energy priorities into the Official Plan, Transportation Master Plan, the Infrastructure Master Plan, and the Parks and Greenspace Master Plan, along with other supporting policy documents and plans
 - b. Strengthen policies that reduce the impacts from heat, flooding, and extreme events
 - c. Reduced corporate and community carbon emissions across a range of sectors (i.e. buildings, transportation, waste, etc.)
 - d. Clear standards for low-carbon and climate-resilient buildings (e.g., High Performance Development Standards)

4. Apply a climate lens to asset management and capital projects

The Comprehensive Asset Management (CAM) program guides the management of the City's \$42 billion worth of assets including buildings, roads and pathways, fleet, water and wastewater infrastructure, and parks and greenspace. Further integrating climate considerations into CAM will enable climate change to be considered alongside additional challenges such as aging infrastructure, growth and limited resources.³²

5. Explore the feasibility of setting corporate carbon budgets, including piloting them in a small portion of the organization

Developing a carbon budget for Ottawa would involve establishing a local emissions budget and making decisions about how they spend their corporate GHG budget within that context. For a carbon budget in Ottawa to be successful, an implementation and monitoring framework would be required.³³

³¹ Ibid: 15.

³² Ibid: 17-18.

³³ Ibid: 17-18.

6. Explore options for carbon sequestration methods and the role of green infrastructure

- > Initiatives include:³⁴
 - a. Inventorying forests as carbon sinks
 - b. Monitoring and evaluating changes in carbon in agricultural soils
 - c. Mapping wetlands as functioning carbon sinks
 - d. Exploring carbon market options

7. Encourage private action through education, direct and indirect incentives, municipal support, and advocacy for support of individuals and private organizations by senior levels of government.

- > Private action can range from investments in property (e.g., flood protection or shade), adequate insurance, new business opportunities (e.g., alternative energy or adapted agriculture) and strengthened social networks (e.g., collective response during extreme events). To mobilize action across all sectors, the City of Ottawa can play a leadership and coordinating role in:
 - a. Climate education
 - b. Leveraging other resources where feasible
 - c. Communicating what resources are available
 - d. Recommending, advocating for, and promoting incentives to catalyze action (ex. Community Energy Innovation Fund, home protection grants, etc.)
 - e. Assessing municipal tools to support action (ex. High Performance Building Standards, Local Improvement Charges, etc.)
 - f. Setting policies and procedures that facilitate a shift to low carbon and resilient future (e.g., through the Official Plan)

³⁴ Ibid: 24.

8. Develop a governance framework to build corporate and community capacity, align priorities, and share accountability in tackling climate change.

There is currently no forum in which large or leading organizations can come together to coordinate efforts, align priorities, and mobilize the broader community. This priority explores governance approaches to support and encourage collaboration.³⁵

³⁵ *Ibid.*: 28.



Mississauga Climate Change Action Plan:

launched in 2019, the City of Mississauga's climate change plan seeks to reduce GHG emissions by (as of 2024) 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 and reach net-zero by 2050.³⁶ The City seeks to do so via 5 key areas:³⁷



1. Buildings and clean energy

- > Advancing renewable energy and low carbon energy systems: working with partners towards supplying 75% of community energy needs through renewable or low carbon sources (e.g., geothermal, district energy) by 2050³⁸
- > Updating Mississauga's Official Plan to strengthen existing climate change imperative: creating the supporting land-use planning framework to advance climate action³⁹
- > Improve the energy efficiency and climate resilience of new buildings: advancing the sustainability and resilience of new private developments to encourage the use of renewable and district energy, reduce stormwater runoff, protect and enhance ecological functions, and reduce urban heat island⁴⁰
- > Increasing the use and supply of renewable energy at municipally-owned facilities: all new municipal buildings will be designed to accommodate future connections to solar energy sources and have on-site renewable energy devices. Solutions that move towards low carbon energy sources will be investigated and installed where possible⁴¹
- > Developing a Low Carbon and Resilient Retrofits Program: The City will work to educate land owners and promote the retrofitting of existing buildings with low carbon and resilient technologies to support improved energy efficiency (e.g., through heat pumps, wall insulation, etc.) and resilience⁴²

³⁶ "2023 Progress Update on Mississauga's Climate Change Action Plan and Next Steps." City of Mississauga, 22 May 2024, pp. 2-3, <https://pub-mississauga.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=55268>.

³⁷ "Mississauga Climate Change Action Plan." City of Mississauga, 2019, p. 8, <https://www.mississauga.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/20144905/City-of-Mississauga-Climate-Change-Action-Plan.pdf>.

³⁸ Ibid: 19.

³⁹ Ibid: 20.

⁴⁰ Ibid: 21.

⁴¹ Ibid: 22.

⁴² Ibid: 24.



2. Resilient and green infrastructure

- > Creating a Municipal Green infrastructure Management Program: developing an inventory, management plan, and performance tracking mechanisms⁴³
- > Integrating climate change considerations into the Municipal Park Standards: increasing permeability of surfaces; increasing vegetation around stormwater management areas and adjacent areas that have low permeability; hardy species lists; and targets for tree canopy/soft landscape areas and naturalization⁴⁴
- > Identifying and mitigating climate-related risks and enhancing community-level resilience and preparedness, particularly for vulnerable populations⁴⁵
- > Maintaining and enhancing the urban forest to improve air quality, reduce GHG emissions, and improve resilience: integrating climate change considerations into existing habitat and tree monitoring and maintenance and proactively preparing for future impacts such as from pests and disease or changing watering requirements⁴⁶
- > Monitoring and implementing improvements to local air quality: updating air quality policies and developing a monitoring and modelling program⁴⁷
- > Developing immediate and long-term actions to enhance flood resilience and the City's approach to stormwater management in the context of changing climate conditions such to stormwater management⁴⁸

3. Accelerating discovery and innovation

- > Encouraging growth and uptake of low carbon and resilient technologies: creating networks to support the shift towards a green economy and exploring pilot projects to apply innovative ideas and technologies⁴⁹
- > Incorporating climate change into municipal decision-making: including procurement, business planning, and asset management⁵⁰

⁴³ Ibid: 28.

⁴⁴ Ibid: 29.

⁴⁵ Ibid: 30.

⁴⁶ Ibid: 32.

⁴⁷ Ibid: 33.

⁴⁸ Ibid: 34.

⁴⁹ Ibid: 37.

⁵⁰ Ibid: 38.

> Monitoring and promoting innovation in low carbon and resilient technologies: staying up-to-date with available technologies and working with industry and businesses to identify long-term equipment needs and low carbon technologies for the City⁵¹

> Providing strategic direction on the management and diversion of municipal waste and litter: policies promoting waste diversion and litter mitigation will continue to be developed and implemented, helping the City achieve a 75% waste diversion goal for City-created waste⁵²

4. Low emissions mobility:

> Reducing emissions from the city's corporate and transit fleet: investing in low carbon and fuel efficient technologies and infrastructure⁵³

> Empowering low carbon and alternative modes of transportation in the community: advancing efforts enabling travellers to choose transit, low carbon, and people-powered transportation alternatives, and enhancing the walkability of the community⁵⁴

5. Engagement and partnerships:

> Raising awareness about climate change: providing information and education to residents, staff, elected officials, businesses, and community groups through outreach activities and campaigns⁵⁵

> Inspiring and showcasing climate action: developing and highlighting programs

and actions that can be taken to reduce GHG emissions and improve resilience⁵⁶

> Supporting and driving behavior changes to advance climate change action: developing monitoring and evaluation programs and metrics to identify how Mississauga can enhance climate action over time⁵⁷

⁵¹ Ibid: 28.

⁵² Ibid: 29.

⁵³ Ibid: 30.

⁵⁴ Ibid: 32.

⁵⁵ Ibid: 33.

⁵⁶ Ibid: 34.

⁵⁷ Ibid: 37.

ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ON NET-ZERO IN ON

Toronto Climate Action Network (TCAN):

seeks to foster collaboration among diverse, action-oriented organizations working in Toronto to prevent climate breakdown, strengthen climate resilience, and advance climate justice.⁵⁸ The org holds regular events relating to net-zero initiatives, such as Indigenous-led transitions to renewable energy in Canada,⁵⁹ and pushes for transparency and accountability from the City of Toronto on their Net-Zero Strategy and other climate action.⁶⁰

Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA):

non-profit campaigning locally to find solutions to Toronto's urban environmental problems and acting as an environmental watchdog at City Hall.⁶¹ The org advocates for policy changes such as reducing single-use waste in and increasing funding for public transit, and creates climate action resources kits such as the Zero Waste High-Rise Project.⁶² Since the introduction of the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy by the City of Toronto, TEA has advocated for a number of improvements to the plan, including: a tangible plan to reduce emissions; stronger reporting and accountability; centering equity and climate justice within the strategy; adequate funding for the strategy; and meaningful integration of feedback from Indigenous communities, Toronto residents, and organizations.⁶³

Climate Justice Toronto (CJTO):

grassroots youth-led democratic organization fighting for transformative class-based climate action in the GTA. The org seeks to stop the climate crisis through confronting its root causes: capitalism, colonialism, and white supremacy. One of CJTO's central advocacy avenues seeks free, reliable, accessible, zero-emissions public transit.⁶⁴

⁵⁸ "About." Toronto Climate Action Network (TCAN), <https://www.tcan.ca/about>.

⁵⁹ "Events." Toronto Climate Action Network (TCAN), <https://www.tcan.ca/events>.

⁶⁰ "TCAN Letter on 2023 City Budget." Toronto Climate Action Network (TCAN), <https://www.tcan.ca/blog/tcan-letter-on-city-budget>.

⁶¹ "35 Years of Building a Greener City for All." Toronto Environmental Alliance, https://www.torontoenvironment.org/about_us.

⁶² "News & Updates." Toronto Environmental Alliance, https://www.torontoenvironment.org/news_media.

⁶³ Cushman, Jolene. "Toronto Is Releasing a New TransformTO Net Zero Strategy - Here's What It Needs to Include." Toronto Environmental Alliance, 24 Nov. 2021, https://www.torontoenvironment.org/toronto_net_zero_strategy; "CAMPAIGN UPDATE: Toronto's New TransformTO Net Zero Strategy." Toronto Environmental Alliance, https://www.torontoenvironment.org/campaign_update_toronto_passed_a_new_net_zero_strategy.

⁶⁴ "Who We Are." Climate Justice Toronto, 29 Oct. 2020, <https://climatejusticeto.com/about/>.

The Atmospheric Fund (TAF):

non-profit climate agency investing in low-carbon solutions for the GTHA and helping to scale them up for broad implementation.⁶⁵ TAF seeks for the GTHA to become net-zero by 2050 through a number of its programs: emissions-reduction policy development for municipal, provincial, and federal governments; energy retrofit acceleration services; EV station funding; impact investing for scaling up existing low-carbon solutions; and grants for high-impact climate solutions.⁶⁶

The Ontario Climate Emergency Campaign:

non-partisan campaign focusing on environmental issues and evidence-based solutions through community and organizational action, building awareness, and advancing climate policy and systems change.⁶⁷ The org has 12 key actions they advocate to be embedded in Ontario legislation, including: setting binding climate targets based on science and justice consistent with global efforts to limit planetary warming to 1.5°C.; investing in a thriving, regenerative, zero-emissions economy; accelerating the transition to zero-emissions buildings; and accelerating the transition to zero-emissions transportation and ensuring ongoing sustainable community development.⁶⁸

Transition Toronto:

implements projects at the community level to transition away from fossil fuels and put Toronto's neighborhoods on the path to post-carbon.⁶⁹ Past projects have included Food Up Front, which helps people grow food in their own yards and porches, and TreeMobile, which delivers and plants food-bearing trees and shrubs to improve local food security.⁷⁰

⁶⁵ "About Us." The Atmospheric Fund, <https://taf.ca/about-us/>.

⁶⁶ "Programs." The Atmospheric Fund, <https://taf.ca/programs/>.

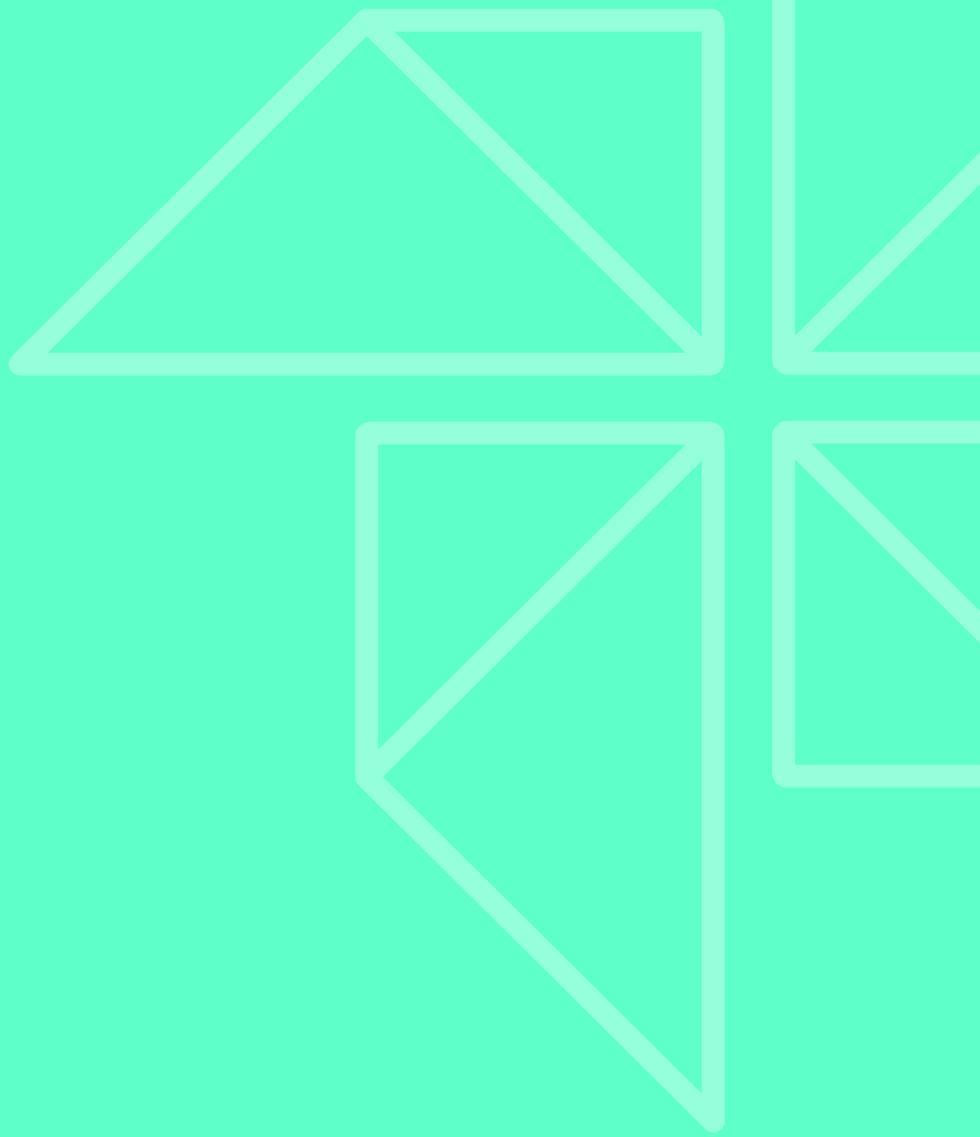
⁶⁷ "About Us." The Ontario Climate Emergency Campaign, <https://www.ontarioclimateemergency.ca/about-us>.

⁶⁸ "The Climate Action Plan." The Ontario Climate Emergency Campaign, <https://www.ontarioclimateemergency.ca/group-sign-on>.

⁶⁹ "What We Do." Transition Toronto, <https://www.transitiontoronto.org/what-we-do>.

⁷⁰ "Projects." Transition Toronto, <https://www.transitiontoronto.org/projects>.

03



Mobilizing the Findings

CRITICALLY ANALYZE THE RESEARCH

- > Ontario's Climate Change Strategy aims to reduce GHG emissions by 37% below 1990 levels by 2030 and by 80% by 2050. How will this goal be achieved? What are the resources available to keep track of the progress?
- > Knowledge mobilization tools, including the municipal websites and reports cited in this research, offer statistics showcasing the success of net zero initiatives at the local level.
- > As a participant in the Net Zero program with Apathy is Boring you can use the reports and tools linked here to understand how local actions are contributing to broader net zero objectives
- > Consider determining how realistic and effective each of the strategies each municipality and organization is putting forth, as well as the accountability measures. Which initiatives do you support? Which initiatives do you feel are moving in the wrong direction and why?

LINK IT TO STORYTELLING

- > From each section of this provincial research (introduction, organizations working on net zero, partnerships advancing net zero), what research components are the most interesting for you to link back to your own stories around advancing net zero?
- > Think about your municipality and compare it to neighboring cities and regions in the province. Is your climate story local to your community? If so, how does it intersect with the initiatives happening there?

IDENTIFY THE GAPS

- > What are the gaps in knowledge in Ontario on net zero?



GUIDELINES AND THOUGHTS TO HELP YOU START:

- > Who's in the know? The community, including youth, might not be fully informed about the specific details of provincial and municipal net zero initiatives, the associated benefits, and how they can actively participate. If so, why haven't they had the opportunity to know?
- > Gaps in knowledge may exist around the latest technological advancements and best practices for achieving net zero targets in various sectors, such as transportation, energy, and building design, and what we can all do at home in easy and barrier free ways.
- > Do regional climate action plans provide transparency to the public on the success of climate action plans that municipalities are putting work into, including emissions data, energy consumption, and the impact of sustainability measures?
- > Have the socioeconomic implications of transitioning to a net zero economy, including potential job opportunities and economic growth, been measured and taken into account in the research above?

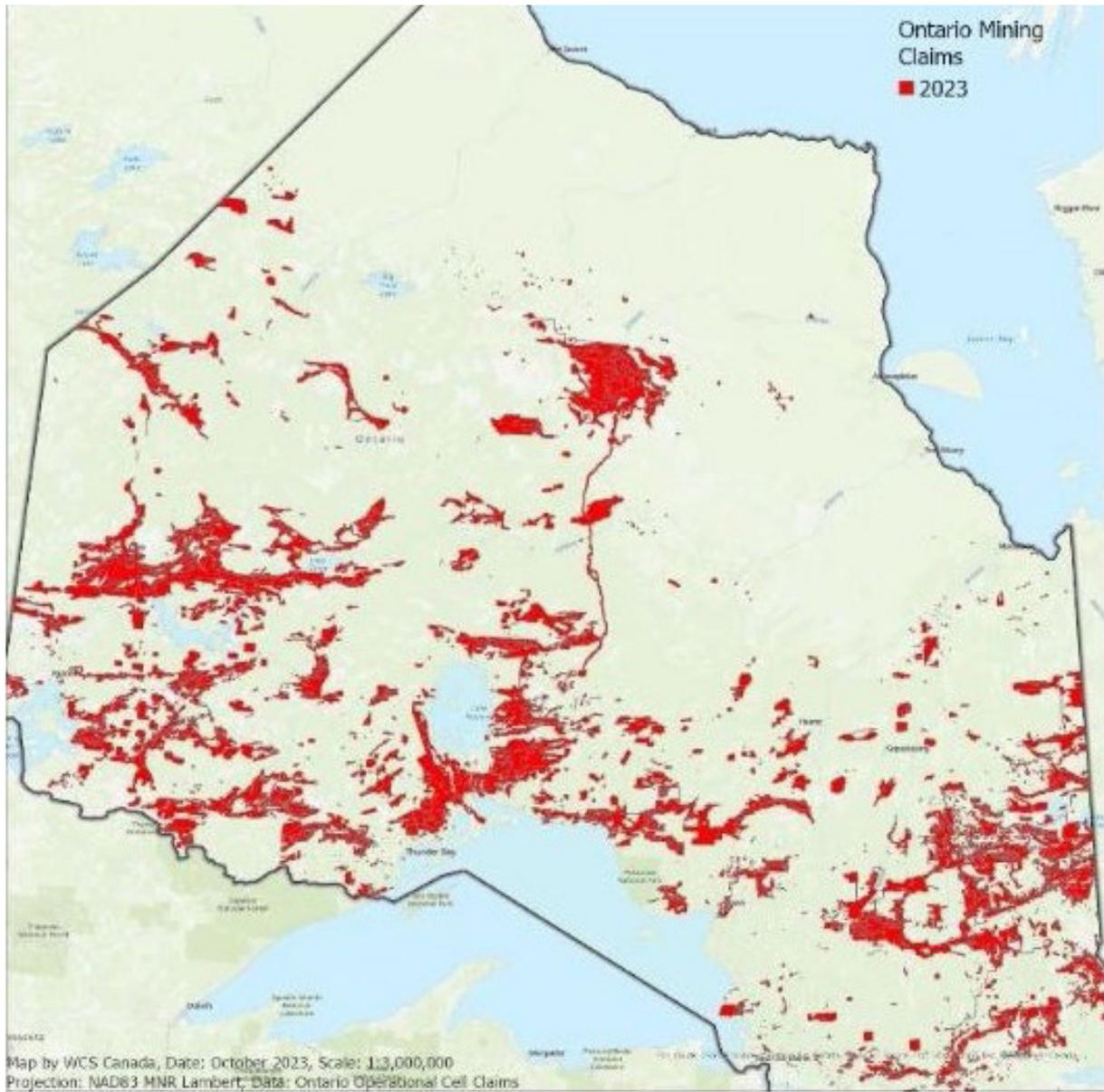
SOME OBSERVATIONS IN GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE AND RESOURCES

- > Lack of adequate integration of Indigenous peoples and knowledges into climate change and net zero initiatives
 - a. Claims to foster collaboration with Indigenous communities have a lack of tangible steps on how this will be approached - e.g., Ontario's Climate Change Strategy makes such claims without a clear plan on how they will do so
 - b. General knowledge gap regarding Indigenous practices and expertise regarding sustainability
- > “Low-carbon” solutions are frequently made falsely analogous to zero-emissions goals - while the former can be seen as a stepping stone to reaching net-zero, they are notably mentioned as an investment priority in several plans without clear delineation of their scope.
- > Notable lack of opportunities for ON youth to get involved in government-funded climate action initiatives, particularly at the political level
 - c. Young people's record numbers in climate protests are not being translated into political participation
 - d. The focus on financial assistance for corporations neglects a significant portion of the population who are willing and able to contribute
- > Plans delineating EV investment and uptake neglect to account for the environmental damage (clearing forests, threats to biodiversity and freshwater supplies) that may potentially be caused by extracting minerals for EV batteries and components, as well as harm to communities surrounding this mining and their reliance on potentially damaged resources such as water and crops – specifically Indigenous communities.
 - e. “[M]ining interests have laid claim to more than 72,000 square kilometres of land in northern Ontario over the last five years” - namely the ‘Ring of Fire,’ an area for claims-staking northeast of Thunder Bay which is rich in peatlands and is crucial for storing carbon. “Analyses show that the minerals from the Ring of Fire are not needed for technologies that can help us reduce our climate impact,⁷¹ but disturbing and destroying the carbon-rich peatlands will mean Canada cannot meet its climate change commitments.⁷²⁷³
 - f. The below map (WCS Canada) shows active mining claims in ON as of 2023.

⁷¹ Hale, Alan S. “Ontario Doesn't Need Ring of Fire to Achieve EV Ambitions: Experts.” *Politics Today*, 18 May 2023, <https://www.politicstodaynews/queens-park-today/ontario-doesnt-need-ring-of-fire-to-achieve-ev-ambitions-experts/>.

⁷² Harris, Lorna I., et al. “The essential carbon service provided by northern peatlands.” *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* 20.4 (2022): 222-230.

⁷³ O'Connor, Constance. “More than Minerals at Stake in Ontario's Claim-Staking Boom.” *Canada's National Observer*, 19 Dec. 2023, <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2023/12/19/opinion/more-minerals-stake-ontario-claim-staking-boom>.





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