

Investing in Sustainable Communities

Collaborating on Climate Change Priorities

Policy Opportunity

As Peel and its communities grow, so will the demand for Regional services and infrastructure. However, as climate events become more extreme and occur more frequently, damage and disruption to Peel's infrastructure and services are also likely to increase, driving up costs to deliver services and maintain a state of good repair. Support from the Province can help to mitigate these challenges in the following ways:

- Set a legislative and policy framework to phase-out fossil fuel natural gas-fired electricity generation while meeting Ontario's growing electricity needs.

Funding Solutions

- Invest in sustainable energy generation to ensure decarbonization is prioritized for economic expansion and growth.
- Provide sustained funding to ensure Peel's services and assets are more resilient to climate change.

Background

Municipalities are on the frontlines of climate change and are largely responsible for long-term resiliency planning and responding to weather events.

Despite ongoing challenges, Peel Region remains committed to its climate response and a pathway to decarbonization as a result of various targeted and innovative investments being made. However, coordination, alignment and collaboration across communities and with the provincial and federal governments will be essential.

Natural gas phase-out

The switch from fossil fuel energy to clean electricity can act as a catalyst for pursuing dynamic opportunities in Peel Region that will contribute to and enhance Ontario's prosperity.



- Ontario's electricity grid has not maintained its transmission capacity to service growing demand.
- Provincial investments in resiliency demonstrate support for maintaining business continuity amid increasing extreme weather events.
- Peel Region needs long-term sustainable funding for municipal mitigation and adaptation initiatives.

The phase-out of coal was an encouraging step and the Province should now prioritize more clean electricity generation. Ontario's electricity grid has not maintained its transmission capacity to service growing demand, even as more industries and sectors, such as transportation, are trending toward electrification.

Sustainable energy generation

As Ontario continues to position itself as a premier location for businesses, securing clean electricity, that is not limited by grid capacity and invests in resilient infrastructure, is a key strategic opportunity for the Province and Peel Region. This will provide a competitive advantage for Ontario to secure greater investments from businesses. Provincial investments in resiliency demonstrate support for maintaining business continuity amid increasing extreme weather events and will also contribute to economic development in communities across the province, including Peel. The announcement in May by the provincial government of additional energy capacity, including 1,784 MW of clean energy storage from 10 projects, is encouraging and Peel Region is supportive of similar investments in the future.

Reaching Peel's targets, of reducing GHG emissions by 45 per cent below 2010 levels by 2030 and future ambitions of net zero emissions by 2050, will require a significant switch from reliance on fossil fuel energy and production of more clean electricity to power homes, vehicles, businesses and industries.

Sustained funding

There is a need for long-term sustainable funding for municipal mitigation and adaptation initiatives to maintain effective and resilient services for communities in Peel, and across Ontario.

Peel Region will require sustained provincial funding to build municipal resiliency, support the implementation of the Climate Change Master Plan and plan for future climate emergencies, all of which will require significant financial investment.

In the spirit of collaboration, Peel Region is interested in working with the Province to pilot innovative solutions to decarbonization and climate change priorities.

