



**CLIMATE
MOMENTUM**

ASHLEY FOX, Ontario Liberal Candidate for Perth—Wellington

URBAN SPRAWL

- o ***What is your position on the use of MZOs acquiring farmland and significant wetlands for housing and industrial development in Perth-Wellington?***
- o ***How will you assist Perth-Wellington communities to pursue intensification to avoid urban sprawl over agricultural and habitat land?***

Over the last four years, the Ford Conservatives cut the public out from its top-down decision making.

They rezoned land without any public or environmental consultation through Ministerial Zoning Orders – a power they’ve exploited over 60 times, more than triple the number than the 15 years before they took office.

The Ontario Liberal plan will scrap MZOs and replace them with a new rules-based measure limited to critical provincial projects only – such as new not-for-profit long-term care homes, affordable housing or major employment developments.

The Liberal plan will also require transparent consultations with affected local groups and Indigenous communities, and subject decisions to judicial review so they align with environmental protections and other legislation.

We’ll make it easier to find out about and participate in community consultations and require municipalities to reach out to equity deserving groups, advertise meetings on social media, provide accessible online options to participate and prioritize meeting times outside of regular working hours.





CLIMATE CHANGE

- o ***The most recent IPCC report (UN International Panel on Climate Change) recommends a 50% reduction of GreenHouse Gas production by 2030. . Primary GHG emitters are transportation and building (along with Heavy Industry). How would you deal with this?***

Ontario Liberals will cut greenhouse gas emissions by 50% below 2005 levels by 2030. Here is the plan from Page 67 of our platform.

<https://ontarioliberal.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Ontario-Liberal-Platform.pdf>

Platform also available here: <https://ontarioliberal.ca/platform/>

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Mt CO₂ equivalent)

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Current Baseline (Environment and Climate Change Canada)	161.4	163.0	164.6	166.2	165.4	164.6	163.8	162.9	162.0
Federal Carbon Price and Initiatives	-2.5	-4.5	-7.0	-9.5	-14.2	-21.3	-25.4	-29.5	-34.9
Cutting Methane and Landfills	-	-0.2	-1.3	-2.5	-3.7	-5.3	-5.7	-6.1	-6.5
Nature-Based Solutions	-	-	-	-0.5	-1.0	-1.5	-2.0	-2.5	-2.5
Electric Vehicles	-	-0.2	-0.4	-0.7	-0.9	-0.9	-0.9	-0.9	-0.9
Public Transit	-	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5
Energy-Efficient Buildings	-	-	-	-0.5	-1.0	-1.5	-2.0	-2.5	-3.0
Industrial Carbon Price and Offsets	1.2	1.4	0.7	0.0	-0.8	-1.6	-2.4	-3.2	-4.0
Green Jobs Fund	-	-	-	-0.5	-1.0	-1.5	-2.5	-3.0	-3.5
Clean Energy Supply	0.8	0.0	0.0	-0.6	-1.2	-1.8	-2.4	-3.1	-5.0
Progress to 2030 Target (Mt) (relative to 2019)	-0.5	-4.0	-8.5	-15.3	-24.3	-35.9	-43.8	-51.3	-60.7
Progress to 2030 Target (% off 2005 level of 206 Mt)	-21%	-23%	-24%	-27%	-32%	-38%	-42%	-46%	-50%



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- o ***How will you assist homeowners in Perth-Wellington reduce their use of fossil fuels and energy costs? What retrofit and new build strategies would you support?***

Heating of homes and buildings contributes about 20% of Ontario's total emissions – and most homes are not prepared for more frequent flooding.

Ontario Liberals will provide 100,000 easy-to-access grants of up to \$3,000 each year for people and businesses to make high-performance energy and climate-resiliency retrofits, including new windows, insulation, heat pumps and flood protection.

We'll also retrofit schools, hospitals, colleges, universities, social housing and other public sector buildings to make them energy efficient and climate resilient.

We'll update the Ontario Building Code so all new buildings and renovations are built to leading energy-efficiency and climate resiliency standards by 2025. We'll position Ontario's forestry sector to lead the way with low-carbon building materials, including making it easier to build tall wood and prefabricated buildings

- o ***How will you support public transportation for Perth-Wellington?***

Conservatives, who want billions wasted on one highway that won't be completed for a decade and will not make a difference on commute times, cannot be trusted to meet urgent transit demands of drivers and commuters.

We will close the gaps in the public transit network and expand affordable, convenient and reliable transit options, including in underserved areas like Perth—Wellington. Ontarians will benefit from slashed transit fares of \$1 per ride until January 2024, taking 400,000 car trips off the road, reducing pollution and congestion. This fare rate will be applied to all public transit in Ontario – including municipal (Stratford Transit and Perth County Connect), GO and Ontario Northland transit, with the province fully replacing transit systems' lost revenue. Finally, to honour and thank our veterans year-round, we'll make public transit free for all Canadian Armed Forces veterans.

Another element of the Liberal transit plan is to provide communities with \$100 million annually to build separated bike lanes and cycling trails, expand bike sharing and rental services and secure bike parking.



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o ***What will you do to enable Electric Vehicle transportation for residents of Perth-Wellington?***

Ontario Liberals will help people replace polluting cars and trucks with electric or zero-emission ones by introducing an up to \$8,000 rebate, in addition to the existing \$5,000 federal rebate, on the purchase or lease of a non-luxury electric vehicle (up to \$65,000 retail price) and \$1,500 for charging equipment.

Despite the benefits that electric vehicles create for our air, climate and Ontario's economy, the Ford Conservatives cancelled funding for home charging stations, ripped out charging stations that had already been installed and removed charging station rough-ins from Ontario's building code – all of which we'll reverse.

We'll rapidly expand the availability of vehicle charging stations in buildings, parking lots, city streets and all OnRoute and GO stations. Finally, we'll mandate that at least 60% of all new passenger vehicles sold in Ontario are zero-emission by 2030 and 100% by 2035.

o ***What is your position on Ontario's electricity-producing strategy going forward?***

In summary, Ontario Liberals will:

- Transition to a fully clean electricity supply
- Ban new natural gas plants and phase out our reliance on it
- Eliminate connection fees for rooftop solar charging panels
- Support Indigenous and Northern clean energy projects

More details:

Emissions from electricity generated through natural gas are forecasted to increase by over 600% over the next 20 years. This is a huge problem – one that undermines our economic and environmental goals. To help, we'll develop a long-term energy plan that reverses the Conservatives' cuts to energy conservation programs and includes the right, cost-effective mix of nuclear, hydroelectricity and renewables.

We'll renew the Ontario Electricity Rebate and transition as quickly as possible to a fully clean energy supply while maintaining reliability and affordability, including by banning new natural gas plants and phasing out our reliance on gas for baseload power.

We'll also eliminate set-up connection fees for rooftop solar charging panels and bidirectional electric vehicle charging, and support projects with Indigenous and Northern communities that reduce reliance on diesel and drive electrification in the remote north – including by supporting completion of the Wataynikaneyap Transmission Project.



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Green hydrogen is an alternative fuel generated with clean energy, but the Ford Conservatives delayed producing a clean hydrogen strategy – allowing Québec and British Columbia to surge ahead of us in this sector. Through the Green Jobs Fund, we'll support green hydrogen generation, transportation and storage across the province, including refuelling stations along Highway 401. We'll also make hydrogen attractive to investors by cutting red tape that stands in the way of new hydrogen projects while supporting industries looking to substitute their carbon-emitting fuels for green hydrogen.

o How would you assist the development of a circular economy in Perth-Wellington?

Ontario is one of the largest creators of waste per person in the entire world and at current rates we'll run out of landfill capacity in the next 11 to 14 years. As a province, we need to waste less and reuse more.

To help, Ontario Liberals will divert and recycle 60% of waste from landfills by 2030 and 85% by 2050. We'll update ineffective waste management and recycling in industrial and commercial sectors and hold polluters accountable for their waste.

We'll also expand the list of products that can be recycled in Blue Bins and implement a landfill ban for food and organic waste – requiring Green Bin programs to work with farmers and fuel producers to harness organic waste for renewable natural gas and reduce methane emissions.

Finally, we'll prevent plastic products from becoming pollution in the first place by restricting certain harmful single-use products, establishing strong standards for plastics – including how much has to be recycled content – and encouraging businesses to use packaging made from biomass-based polymers.

o How will you support Stratford (and other communities) in carrying out its GHG Reduction Plan?

The relationship between Ontario and municipalities is critically important in all policy areas. Almost all of the ideas in these questions require the provincial government to work directly and cooperatively with municipalities. We would begin by asking each municipality what they need to meet their goals.



HIGHWAY 413

o What is your position on Highway 413?

We'll stop Highway 413, the Ford Conservatives' project that would only shave an average of 30 seconds off of commutes while paving over important wetlands and farmland. Instead, we'll focus on investing in transit and building more walkable, livable communities – investing the significant savings from this unnecessary highway into new and repaired schools, including upgraded ventilation systems. We'll also pause any further work on the proposed Bradford Bypass until a new environmental assessment is done – since the current assessment hasn't been updated since 1997. If this assessment fails to meet environmental and community standards, we'll stop the Bradford Bypass just like Highway 413.

o What is your position on aggregate removal protocols in Perth-Wellington?

We'll work closely with municipalities and Indigenous communities to protect and restore Ontario's rivers, lakes, wetlands and watersheds. And we'll strengthen oversight and environmental protections over gravel and aggregate mining before approving new mines. We'll also help municipalities install microplastic filtration in drinking and wastewater systems.

ENDANGERED SPECIES AND BIODIVERSITY

- o How will you help support and protect endangered species in Perth-Wellington?***
- o How would you help to preserve and increase our natural habitats throughout Ontario?***
- o Will you return oversight and control of our wetlands and rivers, and significant adjacent areas to qualified scientists, naturalists and resource managers in local Conservation Authorities?***

Ontarians love our natural environment and want to see it protected. Ontario Liberals will repeal the Ford Conservatives' environmentally-harmful changes to legislation related to conservation, land planning, the environment and endangered species. We'll also strengthen the powers of Ontario's Conservation Authorities to prevent flooding and protect green spaces, farmland, drinking water, biodiversity and species at risk. We'll restore and expand natural infrastructure like wetlands and green roofs and support communities in becoming more resilient to extreme weather through a new \$250 million annual fund. We'll build a more resilient and sustainable agricultural sector by supporting best practices that keep soil healthy and maximize carbon storage. And we'll strengthen regulations for zoos and wild exotic animals, including greater restrictions on the breeding and sale of exotic animals.