



**CLIMATE
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LAURA BISUTTI – GREEN PARTY CANDIDATE for PERTH-WELLINGTON

URBAN SPRAWL

- ***What is your position on the use of MZOs acquiring farmland and significant wetlands for housing and industrial development in Perth-Wellington?***

My position on ministerial zoning orders is that they should only be used judiciously, in consultation with the affected municipality and local communities, not as a back door to avoiding environmental oversight. The Ontario Greens plan to permanently protect prime agricultural land from being lost to non-agricultural uses, such as sprawl, highways and gravel mining. Similarly the Greens have called for the Greenbelt to be expanded to include a Bluebelt to protect water in Ontario. Significant wetlands need to be permanently protected so they can filter water and reduce flooding.

Ontario Greens call for:

- Repeal Schedule 3 of Bill 257, which permits MZOs to override provincial planning laws.
 - Amending the Planning Act to prohibit the use of MZOs that damage wetlands or provincially significant natural heritage sites.
 - Reversing changes in Bill 245 that merged all land use planning tribunals into one body, and reverse damaging changes to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT).
 - Supporting and enhancing robust public participation processes in land use planning.
- ***How will you assist Perth-Wellington communities to pursue intensification to avoid urban sprawl over agricultural and habitat land?***

The Green Party's plan is to work collaboratively with municipalities on a province-wide "Yes in My Backyard" initiative to address NIMBYism and change public attitudes against infill missing middle, mid-rise and community housing developments in neighbourhoods. Revise the Ontario Building Code to remove unnecessary regulatory barriers to building missing middle infill developments. Revise the Development Charges Act to stop subsidizing sprawl. Sprawl development eats up vital farmland and comes with increased infrastructure costs. Also, reinstate the provincial brownfield remediation fund to support municipalities to safely build affordable housing on previously industrial sites in existing neighbourhoods. My job as an MPP is to encourage municipalities to meaningfully engage not only with current residents





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but understand the views of prospective residents, when consulting on zoning changes and new developments to ensure that all voices are heard during the planning process.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- ***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?***

The Green Party Strategy is that Ontario should adopt binding emission targets and an annual Carbon budget. Put a price on pollution -- \$40/tonne and increase \$15 yearly -- Carbon fee and dividend. Whereby a fee is levied at the source (goods/services that result in GHG pollution) and all of the pollution revenue is returned to citizens through dividend cheques. Border adjustments would be used to create an even playing field for trade exposed industries.

Introduce and fund a Green Building and Retrofit Program to improve energy performance in all public sector buildings, homes, and businesses with grants, tax credits and interest-free loans for retrofits to improve insulation, conserve energy, and install energy efficient heating and cooling systems.

Revise the Ontario Building Code to mandate that all new buildings meet net zero or passive house standards.

Create a dedicated funding stream for green infrastructure to be used by municipalities to invest in affordable green infrastructure projects.

Phase out funding for infrastructure that relies on fossil fuels and increases Ontario's GHG emissions.

- ***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?***

The Greens plan to increase the HST rebate allowance on new homes that are net zero, and establish a Green Mortgage program to ensure mortgage providers offer low interest mortgages for energy efficient homes.



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Work with utilities to create effective building upgrade programs including financing and incentives for “green heat” sources like geothermal, district energy, solar thermal, waste heat recovery and air source heat pumps.

Create incentives to transition all natural gas heating in homes and buildings to geothermal, air source heating or renewable natural gas.

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

Ontario Greens propose that the Province permanently fund 50% of operating costs for municipal transit services in order to reduce fares.

Dedicate 5% of the Transportation budget to cycling and walking infrastructure.

Revise land use planning rules to incentivize connected, transit-oriented communities.

Create a \$10,000 provincial rebate for the purchase of a fully electric vehicle and a \$1,000 rebate for an e-bike (self-funded through a "feebate" where high-emitting vehicles are charged an additional fee).

Eliminate HST on zero emission vehicles.

Add more EV charging stations along 400 series and provincial highways as quickly as possible.

Install EV charging stations at all public buildings; work with municipalities to invest in charging infrastructure; and require charging stations in new commercial and residential developments.

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

The Greens plan to redirect the \$6 billion/y subsidy for electricity prices towards supporting energy efficiency and climate action.

Increase Ontario's hydro power and pumped storage, where feasible without environmental damage, e.g. by repowering existing dams and repairing old ones, or to serve remote communities.



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Use surplus clean electricity off-peak to make green hydrogen using 15,000 MW of hydrogen electrolyzers. Store it to burn to make electricity when required or use for transportation.

Negotiate to buy and/or exchange power with Quebec, if both power and transmission are available at a reasonable price.

Keep a small amount of fossil gas generation equipment available for extreme conditions.

A right to connect renewable power generation to the grid and requiring utilities to make it quick and easy to do so.

Virtual net metering (the right to offset one's own electricity consumption by generating renewable power off-site).

Encouraging renewable energy co-operatives.

Grants and loans so that vulnerable communities can own their own local renewable energy supply, especially remote and Indigenous communities that are currently diesel dependent.

A bonus for power fed into the grid at times of peak demand.

Increase resilience by installing solar as close as possible to where it is needed, especially where the panels provide other benefits, such as shade.

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

The Greens want to cultivate self-sustaining markets for used materials such as metals, concrete and aggregates.

Update codes and standards for re-use of used construction products, such as crushed concrete and used steel beams and panels.

Encourage business clustering, so the outputs of one business are the inputs to another business.

Phase in a ban of metals and aggregates from landfills.



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Reduce demolition waste by requiring that end-of-life buildings be disassembled and sorted, not smashed.

Transition to a ban on food waste from landfills, as Nova Scotia has done.

Help municipalities create and improve green bin programs to collect food waste.

Facilitate the establishment of processing sites to create useful materials from food and other organic (biodegradable) waste, including compost and bio-methane.

Increase stringency of methane (a powerful GHG) collection requirements from landfills, green bin processing sites, manure handling and sewage plants.

Encourage sales of bio-methane to hard-to-abate uses such as industry or long distance transportation, using gas pipelines when available.

Establish a green revolving fund to use savings from energy conservation to invest in additional GHG reduction efforts

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

The Greens can help low income, rural, and remote households reduce their energy bills with targeted energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. Incentivizing (grants for low income families) replacement of baseboard heating with high efficiency air- and ground-source heat pumps.

Upload 50% of transit cost to help Municipalities provide reliable affordable transit.

Support interregional transportation to connect rural communities.
Allow clothes lines everywhere.

HIGHWAY 413

- ***What is your position on Highway 413?***

Our position is to cancel the proposed Highway 413 and subsidize a dedicated truck lane on the existing Highway 407 and take an estimated 12,000 to 20,000 transport trucks off of the 401.



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

The GPO is committed to revising the Aggregate Resources Act to give protection of groundwater, surface water and farmland a higher priority than is given to aggregate extraction.

We support increasing royalty fees for aggregate extraction to encourage the reuse and recycling of aggregates.

Restore municipal regulation of aggregate extraction below the water table.

Class 1, 2 and 3 farmland should be protected from development and protected for sustainable agriculture.

ENDANGERED SPECIES AND BIODIVERSITY

- ***How will you help support and protect endangered species in Perth-Wellington?***
- ***How would you help to preserve and increase our natural habitats throughout Ontario?***
- ***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?***

The Greens will repeal Schedule 6 of Bill 229 to strengthen Conservation Authorities' (CAs) ability to protect wetlands, drinking water, and natural features.

"Schedule 6 of Bill 229 removes important regulatory safeguards that have served to balance the need for economic development with equally important long-term public health concerns by diminishing CAs' ability to address natural hazard risks and climate change. While the amendments may certainly expedite economic development, they will likely come at the expense of the environment, public health and the provincial treasury when it has to address the cost of these shortsighted changes." Rizwan Khan

We will restore protection for endangered species and the original science-based system (Endangered Species Act, 2007) for determining species status. We will restore mandatory habitat protection. We will overturn the Ford government's broad exemptions



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that allow forestry, mining etc. to damage species and their habitat. We will ensure that economic development activities respect species' tolerance limits for habitat disturbance. We will restore public accountability and reporting on endangered species' status and recovery.