

Climate change

Investing in sustainable communities

Policy opportunity and solutions

If Ontario wants to win its fight against climate change, it must be won in Peel. To achieve provincial emission reduction targets, a large percentage of those emissions must be cut in Peel, which is home to extensive transportation networks and a growing population that will take on more growth over the next three decades than any other region in the province, including Toronto. With this in mind, the Province should:

- Apply a climate lens to economic stimulus investments that considers the impacts of extreme weather and municipal resilience to climate change.
- Invest in sustainable energy generation to ensure decarbonization is prioritized as part of plans for economic expansion and growth.

Background

Global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are at dangerous levels and continue to rise, resulting in Peel experiencing more frequent and severe impacts of climate change that threaten Regional services and infrastructure. In response, Peel Region declared a climate emergency in 2019 due to the serious environmental and socio-economic implications for services, our residents and businesses.

Peel Region continues to advance sustainability and resiliency priorities through a holistic and proactive response, and similar initiatives being undertaken by the Province are appreciated. Peel's strategic location and consistent economic growth will contribute significantly to Ontario's long-term success, however, this can only be accomplished by prioritizing sustainable energy generation and through the implementation of a climate change lens.

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Climate change lens

As climate events become more extreme and occur more frequently, damage and disruption to Peel Region's infrastructure and services will likely increase, driving up costs to maintain a state of good repair and affect the delivery of services.

As the Province moves forward with its infrastructure stimulus program, a climate change lens should be applied, consistent with federal climate change objectives. This will help expedite the flow of federal funds to much-needed municipal infrastructure projects. Further, applying a climate change lens to infrastructure planning will help:

- Develop timely and purposeful mitigation and adaptation measures that are needed for efficient, effective and resilient utility services to residents.
- Avoid future, increased climate change-related damage costs from being passed onto taxpayers.
- Demonstrate feasibility of clean technology and innovative infrastructure projects that can be replicated by other municipalities, while stimulating activity and growth across multiple job sectors.

By applying a climate change lens to various aspects of policy and decision-making, it becomes possible to identify opportunities to reduce emissions, enhance resilience, and pursue sustainable pathways that align with the municipal and provincial goals to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Sustainable energy generation

As the provincial government continues to position Ontario as a premier location for businesses, it is important that clean electricity is not limited by grid capacity and investments are made in resilient infrastructure. This will provide a competitive advantage as these investments demonstrate support for maintaining business continuity amid increasing extreme weather events. It will also contribute to economic development in communities across the province, including Peel.



The success of decarbonizing our economy and communities can be achieved through sustainable energy generation. The Province's Electrification and Energy Transition Panel is a step in the right direction. However, climate action should also become part of a modernized Independent Electricity Service Operators (IESO) mandate. This will better enable the IESO and Local Distribution Companies (LDCs) to conduct a grid-scale capacity study to identify and coordinate where investments are needed to improve the capacity of clean electricity to support the transition to made-in Ontario electric vehicles (EV) and zero-emission buildings.

Opportunities to collaborate

Peel Region is addressing the ongoing challenges of the climate emergency through the following actions:

- Following the Ontario's Financial Accountability Office's methodology, all Peel Region assets are being assessed to determine vulnerability to climate hazards and the adaptations necessary to ensure continuity of critical services.
- Avoiding or reducing existing GHG emissions by investing \$26 million into new affordable housing in progress and projects that will undergo substantial redevelopment and expansion.
- Achieving further reductions in GHG emissions through a \$12.2 million investment in the Peel Housing Corporation State of Good Repair & Low Carbon Project Support.
- Advancing the greening of the Peel fleet through the investment of \$2.2 million into two key projects: Zero Emission Waste Collection Vehicle Pilot and investing in EV Charging Infrastructure.

As part of our commitment to resiliency and sustainability, Peel Region welcomes provincial support for these efforts as we embed a climate change lens across all services to reduce our carbon footprint for Peel residents and businesses into the future.

