



Climate Reason #1 to Defeat Ford

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REASON NUMBER 1

1. Ford's bogus climate plan is not meant to reduce emissions

Ford's climate plan was announced in 2019. It has done nothing to reduce emissions. On the contrary, after years of steady decline, the Ford government has bent the GHG emission curve upwards. ([Link to Climate Crime #1](#))

Ford's dilemma was how to have a climate plan without climate action. Before he announced the so-called 'Made in Ontario' plan, Ford first trashed all the climate programs that were in place. His cuts ranged from eliminating the Office of Environment Commissioner, to reducing emission targets ([Link to Climate Crime #10](#))

Premier Ford had already boxed himself in. He had already decided that green, renewable energy was not part of the equation. He had already decided to fight the federal carbon pricing system in court, ([Link to Climate Crime #11](#)) and to cut consumer subsidies for initiatives such as Zero Emission Vehicles. ([Link to Climate Crime #4](#))

What he was left with was a mashup of this and that, a whole lot of wishful thinking and some deceitful emission accounting. The plan was more for show than for substance. After scrapping the cap-and-trade program and launching a legal challenge against the federal price on carbon pollution, he was left scrambling. His make-believe solution is an eight-prong program which includes the shift to electric cars, industrial emission standards, natural gas conservation, clean fuels, and something called 'future innovation.'

The "made in Ontario" target is to reduce Ontario GHG emissions by 30% -- 17.6 MT (mega tonnes) by 2030. But even that low target has no credibility.

The Ontario Auditor General has spent considerable effort assessing the plan and its various components. As a result, we know the plan has serious problems. All eight prongs of the 'Made in Ontario' Climate Plan are overstated. The government has:

- underestimated the required emission reduction targets.
- exaggerated the results of its proposed initiatives.
- counted future emission reductions from programs the government cancelled.
- double-counted the potential gains from various programs; and
- conjured away the huge remaining shortfall with the magic category of 'future innovation'.



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In 2019, the Ontario Auditor General provided a comprehensive review of the Climate Plan. The AG concluded the Ford government’s plan was not “supported by sound evidence”. In November 2021, the Auditor General, in a follow up report repeated the conclusion. The evidence in the Auditor General’s reports is clear: On the basis of current plans, the Ford government will not reach its 2030 targets. In fact, in a startling revelation, the AG concluded that there were “committed policies” in place to eliminate only 3.4 MT of emissions, not the 17.6 MT that Ford claimed.

But there is a bigger problem. Even if Ford could achieve the target, it wouldn’t accomplish much because the 30% target is totally inadequate. If Ford was to match the federal emission target the required reduction would be 50 MT but Ford has ‘committed policies’ to reduce emissions by only 3.4 MT. ([Link to Climate Crime #2](#))

An effective climate plan has to not only reduce emissions, it has to address the serious impacts of a climate crisis that is already here. The Ford Climate Plan fails on the mitigation front (reducing emissions). It also refuses to address the urgent need for adaptation policies and programs. Ontarians, especially racialized, poorer and indigenous communities, are already struggling to cope with more frequent and intense heat waves, droughts, forest fires, ice storms, floods, power blackouts, and tornadoes.

In 2011, the Ontario government developed a preliminary adaptation plan, but, as was the case with so many climate initiatives, it came to a grinding halt with the election of the Ford government in 2018. Ford jettisoned Ontario’s pre-existing initiatives and has failed to strengthen the resilience of our communities. And he has failed those on the front line of the climate crisis. ([Link to Climate Crime #3](#))

In a ‘code red’ world with time running out, Ontario has an inadequate, out-of-date emission reduction target, a climate plan in complete disarray, rising GHG emissions, and a missing adaptation plan. This is what happens when a government is not serious about any climate targets or protections.

