



Climate Reason #2 to Defeat Ford

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REASON NUMBER 2

2. Ford is committed to fossil fuels

Two provinces are responsible for 60% of Canada's GHG emissions. Ontario is in second place after Alberta. Since Ontario accounts for a large share of the country's emissions, what we do has a dramatic effect on Canada's ability to achieve its Paris commitments to keep global warming to below 1.5 degree Celsius.

Ontario's emissions are concentrated in three large sectors. Emissions from the transport sector contributed 35% of the province's total. The second largest source is industry at 30%. The third largest source is buildings at about 22%.

These three sectors account for 87% of Ontario's emissions.

The corollary is this: To have any chance of keeping temperatures below climate tipping points requires dramatic reductions from those three sectors. In turn, that means we have to stop burning fossil fuels in those sectors because, to state the obvious, vehicles run on gasoline or diesel, the main source of heat in residential buildings is natural gas, and industry runs, in large part, on fossil fuels.

Over 75% of the energy used in Ontario is directly from oil and natural gas (NG). Electricity accounts for only 16%. While some electrical generation is now powered by burning natural gas, that share is slated to grow significantly with the Ford government's plans.

Ontario has 12 gas-fired electrical stations. In 2020 Ontario Power Generation spent \$2.8 billion to buy three natural gas plants. By 2030 natural gas will provide up to 20% of electrical generation. In turn, GHG emissions will grow. The Ontario Clean Air Alliance has estimated that GHG emissions from the electrical sector will grow by 600%.

Natural gas will become the new coal ([Link to Climate Crime #8](#))

Natural gas expansion

Whenever Ford has a choice between supporting renewable power or fossil fuels, he chooses fossil fuels.

In 2021, the Ford government announced Phase 2 of the Natural Gas Expansion Program. The government committed more than \$234 million to extend the natural gas pipeline to a number of rural, northern and Indigenous communities. ([Link to Climate Crime #7](#))



The lion's share of this money will go to Enbridge. The huge pipeline company recorded \$3.36 billion in profits in 2021. Under the Ford government's plan, Enbridge will be given a public subsidy of \$26,743 for every potential hook-up.

Once the pipeline is in place, homeowners must pay to get dwellings hooked up, must pay to have a natural gas heating system installed, and must pay, over and above the regular gas bills, a special surcharge to Enbridge for the privilege of buying its product. This surcharge will amount to about \$600 a year for the next forty years. In addition to this special surcharge on new customers, the rest of Ontarians who heat with gas must pay an additional small monthly charge. The \$234 million provided by the government is to be recouped by these extra charges.

Enbridge Line 5

The same Fossil Fuel preference is evident in Ford's support for Enbridge's Line 5 pipeline. The pipeline which runs under the Straits of Mackinac in Michigan is old, at risk of ruptures, and has been ordered shutdown by the Governor of Michigan. Ford has simply dismissed the growing environmental concerns, dismissed the opposition of Indigenous Nations, and dismissed the threats to Great Lakes water sheds in his full-throttle support of Enbridge. ([Link to Climate Crime #29](#))

