



Climate Reason #3 to Defeat Ford

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REASON NUMBER 3

3. Ford's bad energy choices threaten our future

When Ford was elected, he immediately cancelled 758 renewable energy projects, throwing away Ontario's leadership in solar and wind power, the jobs and economic opportunities that went with it, all at a cost of over \$230 million. ([Link to Climate Crime #15](#))

All around the world, renewable energy, in the form of wind and solar projects, have expanded dramatically. The International Energy Agency has concluded that wind and solar capacity will overtake coal and natural gas by 2024 on a global basis.

Renewables are, increasingly, the preferred and most economic energy solution. They are among the lowest cost generators of power. And the scientific consensus is clear that the future of our planet hinges on their widespread adoption.

Ford has stalled the development of renewable energy in Ontario. Solar power provides a very small share of Ontario's energy, about 1%. ([Link to Climate Crime #30](#)) Even Alberta has a higher share of solar power in its energy mix. Wind is stalled at about 8% ([Link to Climate Crime #23](#))

While the world is going in the direction of renewable energy, the Ford government is locking us onto an energy pathway that is expensive, unreliable, experimental, and disastrous for the climate.

In addition to a bias in favour of fossil fuels, Ford's wrong energy choices include a commitment to Small Modular Reactors, an expensive attempt to prolong the life of Ontario's past-their-prime nuclear fleet, and a 'leap of faith' into dirty Hydrogen.

Small Modular Reactors (SMR) ([Link to Climate Crime#17](#))

In late 2021, Ontario Power Generation (OPG) announced that it is teaming up with USA-based GE Hitachi to build Canada's first Small Modular Reactor (SMR) at the Darlington Nuclear Site on Lake Ontario.

The Ontario government has been an enthusiastic ally in the federal Liberal plan to promote SMRs as an energy solution. SMRs would be manufactured at a source site like Darlington, and then transported for assembly at distant sites to generate electrical and thermal energy. Ottawa hopes to place dozens of these untested nuclear energy plants across the Canadian north while developing an export market.

Small Modular Reactors may be the darling of the nuclear industry, but they are an expensive, untested technology that carries the extra burdens of radioactive waste,





uranium mining, and the threat of nuclear weapons proliferation. They will arrive too late to replace GHG emissions that need to be cut immediately. The money could be better spent with investments in solar and wind energy. The cost of the joint SMR investment plan of New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan is already pegged at \$27 billion.

Refurbishing an Aged Nuclear Fleet. ([Link to Climate Crime#18](#))

About 60% of Ontario's electricity is generated from nuclear power. But the nuclear generating stations (NGS) are old and need to be closed or refurbished.

Refurbishing nuclear plants is the most expensive energy option available to Ontario. But it is one of the priority commitments of the Ford government.

The Ford government intends to sink \$26 Billion into the refurbishment of Darlington Nuclear Generating Station (originally \$12 billion over budget and ten years late) and Bruce NGS. It also plans to extend the life of the aging Pickering Nuclear Generating Station. With the Ontario nuclear program's record of cost overruns, there is every reason to believe that the cost of the refurbishment efforts will grow significantly. And those costs will be paid in our energy bills and with our taxes.

Dirty Hydrogen: ([Link to Climate Crime#20](#))

Many countries - including Canada - are promoting the use of hydrogen as a major alternative to fossil fuels. The Ford government wants in on the action, but on the wrong side of the hydrogen options.

Ford's hydrogen strategy coincides with the "Hydrogen Strategy for Canada", introduced by the federal Liberals in late 2020. Ottawa is working with interested provinces like Ontario and Alberta, to develop "Regional Hydrogen Blueprints" intended to position Canada as a major global supplier of hydrogen and hydrogen technologies. But the 'Hydrogen Strategy' has proposed the development of dirty hydrogen, rather than the preferred, green hydrogen that other countries are promoting.

Green hydrogen is produced from renewable energy sources such as wind and solar. Dirty hydrogen, officially called blue hydrogen, is hydrogen made by burning natural gas in a process known as steam reformation. The products of that process are hydrogen, on the one hand, and a lot of carbon, on the other hand. If the carbon is released, then it contributes to climate breakdown, so it has to be stored. The capture and storage of carbon is relatively new, unreliable, and costly. It will add billions of dollars to family tax bills.

Hydrogen will probably have a role in the energy mix of the future. It may have practical uses to decarbonize heavy transportation and some industrial processes. But it is a niche role that will be more limited than the grandiose ideas that have captured Ford and his government. And it will be 'green' hydrogen not 'blue' hydrogen that captures export markets around the world.