



Climate Reason #4 to Defeat Ford

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REASON NUMBER 4

4. Ford lets big greenhouse gas (GHG) emitters off the hook

The second largest source of Ontario's GHG emissions is industry. We know that 1700 big emitters are responsible for 40% of all greenhouse gas pollution in the country. Ontario has 347 of the country's largest emitters.

There are large emitters in heavy industry, like cement and steelmaking, and there are regional concentrations such as the Sarnia area which includes oil refineries, chemical manufacturing, and natural gas plants.

Reducing the GHG emissions of the largest industrial emitters is critical to meeting climate targets. But the Ontario program set up to deal with large emitters, like so many aspects of Ford's climate plan, is designed to fail.

The federal Carbon Pricing System consists of two parts. The first is an escalating charge on fuels that consumers pay, and the second is a carbon charge on companies. When Ford attacked the federal system, he proposed an alternative system to address the emissions for big emitters. The system in Ontario is called Emission Performance Standards (EPS). It suffers the same shortcomings of the federal system -- the focus on emission intensity rather than emission levels. This means big emitters can pollute more so long as they produce more, and they get a free pass on emissions up to a certain level. While consumers pay for all their carbon use, big emitters don't pay until they reach an average threshold. But to these free passes, the Ontario system adds even more corporate flexibility.

[\(Link to Climate Crime #12\)](#)

Unfortunately, the federal government accepted the Ontario system, even though it admitted the Ontario system will be weaker than the federal system.

Industry is responsible for 30% of Ontario's GHG emissions which amounts to 49 MT. The EPS will only eliminate 1 MT., an insignificant 2% of the total.