



## **Peterborough Currents Election Special: Climate Change**

***“I challenge you to think about your grandchildren, your children, or anyone young in your life, and acknowledge that you have the trajectory of their life... in your control right now.”***

***Grade 11 student Lena Skinner,  
speaking to Peterborough City Council***

Climate change is here. Faced with such a complex, planet-wide crisis, it's easy to feel powerless, but there are concrete steps we can take right here in Peterborough. By building smarter, planning better, and exploring active and public transportation, we can reduce our carbon emissions and create a cleaner, more liveable city for everyone. And, as the city faces increasingly common extreme weather events, we can take steps to prepare, to weather the storm to come.

### ***What can a local government do to prevent climate change?***

The City of Peterborough's Climate Change Action Plan 2.0 charts an ambitious course to get Peterborough to net zero by 2050, with seven “Big Moves,” including transforming urban design to focus on densification, building greener buildings, shifting away from fossil fuels and towards local power production, improving waste diversion, rethinking transportation, bolstering standards for industry, and enhancing urban forests.

Meanwhile, BetterHomes Peterborough is helping homeowners finance energy retrofits and the city's new building permit system has (totally optional) green development standards included.

### ***Can we shift Peterborough away from car culture?***

Transportation is by far the biggest contributor to Peterborough's greenhouse gases. Turning Peterborough Transit into a real alternative to car ownership, rather than a last resort for those without, would require more routes, more frequency – and a lot more money.

In Peterborough's Transportation Master Plan, the biggest chunk of funding goes towards road improvements, but new roads can be designed with in-built cycling infrastructure to encourage bike use, and traffic calming and sidewalks to encourage pedestrian use. Meanwhile, improvements to GO service and the potential Alto Rail could help mass travel to and from the city.



## **Climate Change: By the numbers**

**1,160** number of trees lost in the 2025 ice storm  
**537** kilotonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted in Peterborough in 2021  
**+5C** estimated average summer temperature increase by 2080



**Implementing  
Peterborough's  
Climate Change Action Plan 2.0  
would result in an estimated  
savings of \$1 billion by 2050.**

## **How do we prepare for extreme weather events?**

Ice storms, derechos, heat waves, wildfire smoke – these extreme effects of climate change are becoming a fact of life in Peterborough. They're costly, disruptive, and potentially life-threatening for vulnerable populations. Infrastructure improvements help us prepare: \$11.3 million in federal funding is helping Peterborough to upgrade its 100-year-old downtown sewer system to mitigate floods, and improvements to the power grid and cell networks can deal with frequent outages. Safety plans help government agencies respond in a crisis, and reserve funds help pay for it all.

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