



CLIMATE ACTION
NEWMARKET · AURORA



Fossil Fuel
NON-PROLIFERATION
TREATY

Call to Action for the Town of
Aurora



December 2024

The Climate Emergency

- The 2018 International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report:
 - Global Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions must be reduced by 45% before 2030 as compared to 2010 levels and achieve net zero by 2050 to keep warming below 1.5°C
 - 1.5°C warming limit required to avoid “catastrophic climate change”
 - Outlined a need for urgent and transformative action
- In 2019, the Town of Aurora declared a climate emergency
 - Direct response to the IPCC report



Town of Aurora Climate Emergency Declaration

Within the Town's Climate Emergency Declaration (made in October 2019) the following commitments were made...

- naming and deepening our commitment to protecting our ecosystems by identifying key criteria to help **reduce our carbon footprint and protect our community** from the impacts of climate change;
- prioritize the process of creating a Climate Action Plan, once the Region releases its climate action plan report, for the Town of Aurora focused on **reducing emissions and adaptation at the community level**;
- look for opportunities for economic growth, stimulation in the low-carbon economy, and cost benefits for all who consume energy
- refer to other municipal and global initiatives and forums such as Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and report to Council with more information
- forwarded to the Premier of Ontario and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Where are we today?

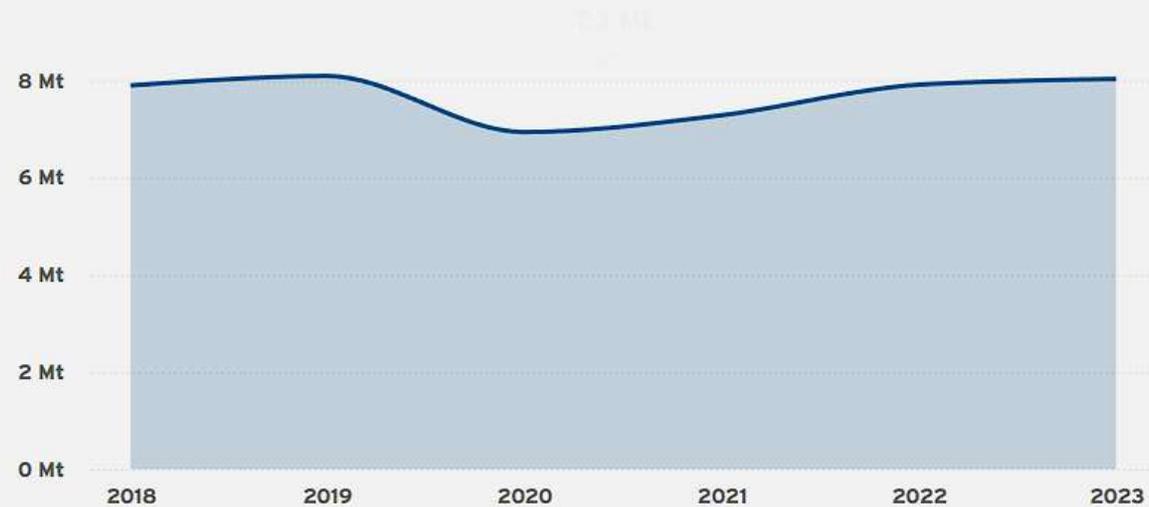
- Globally
 - Global GHG 2030 emissions projections make it harder to limit warming below 2.0°C (2023 IPCC Synthesis Report)
 - 1st 12-month period to exceed 1.5°C (1.52°C) as an average: Feb 2023-Jan 2024
- Nationally
 - June 2021, the *Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act* passed which legislates Canada's commitment to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050
- Provincially
 - Ontario emissions projection will be up by 400% by 2030 due to current expanded and planned increase in the use of natural gas to produce electricity

Current measures are extremely inadequate

TAF 2023 Emissions Inventory Report

Emissions **increased** 1.5%, from 2022, in the region

York Region Total Emissions, 2018-2023



- Total emissions increased by 1.5% reaching 8 Mt, continuing to approach 2019 levels. The transportation sector was the biggest driver for this increase (up 3.6%).

Town of Aurora Milestones Achieved

- Municipal Level Environmental Milestones:
 - 2016
 - Approval of the Private Tree Protection By-Law
 - Finalized agreement with Shining Hill Estates Collection Inc. that sets new standard in sustainable community building that will protect at least 80 acres of environmentally sensitive lands
 - 2021
 - Developed the Community Energy Plan (CEP)
 - Creation of Green Fleet Plan and revision for 50% emissions reduction by 2028
 - Building all new Town-owned facilities to LEED® gold standard
 - 2022
 - Partnership with Hydro One & OPG to install EV charging stations at various facilities
 - 2024
 - Natural Capital Asset Management Plan

What is the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty*?

- A growing **global** coalition pledging to limit warming from 1.5°C by endorsing the Treaty
 - Supported by the World Health Organization and 101 Nobel Laureates
- A plan to end the expansion of new coal, oil and gas projects and manage global transition away from fossil fuels
- A mission statement to protect people from the threat fossil fuels pose to our climate, our health and our future
- Modelled on the three pillars of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and drawing from other international mechanisms used to end the use of harmful substances
- Designed to be a compliment to the Paris Agreement
- A logical next step following the Climate Emergency Declaration

* Hereinafter referred to as the “Treaty”

Pillars of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty



Non-Proliferation

- An immediate end to the expansion of coal, oil and gas production



A Fair Phase-Out

- An equitable plan for the fast wind down of existing fossil fuel production in line with the Paris Agreement Target of 1.5°C

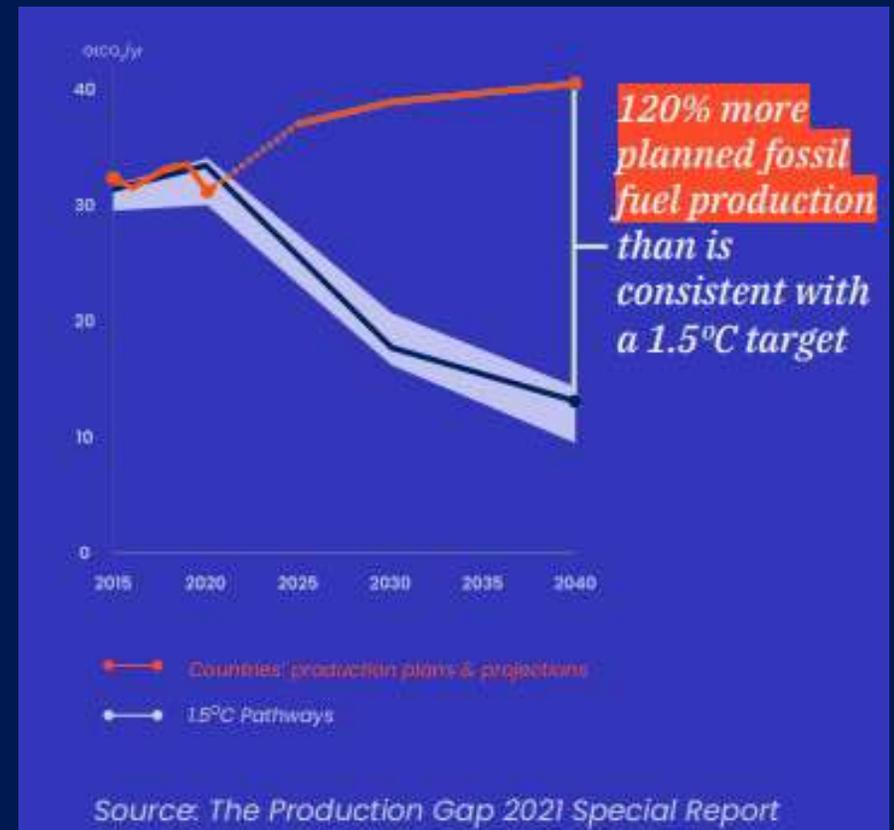


Just Transition

- Fast track the adoption of renewable energy and economic diversification away from fossil fuels so that no worker, community or country is left behind

Why is the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty necessary?

- Coal, oil and gas are responsible for 86% of all carbon emissions in the past decade
- Most “net zero” plans fail to address fossil fuels and also rely on unproven solutions to allow for the continued use of fossil fuels, such as carbon capture and carbon offsetting schemes



Aurora and the Treaty



Non-Proliferation

- Do not expand the use of fossil fuels

Possible Actions:

- Use regional influence to oppose the expansion of the York Energy Centre, for provincial energy generation
- Support the transition to carbon-free transportation and services through more rigorous attention to the Green Fleet Plan
- Support carbon-free new developments
 - ◆ E.g. Shining Hill
 - ◆ What other developments can we make carbon-free?
 - ◆ Will Aurora create a by-law deepening its commitment to all new developments be carbon free?

Aurora and the Treaty



A Fair Phase-Out

- An equitable plan for the fast wind down of existing fossil fuel production, in line with the Paris Agreement target of 1.5°C

Possible Actions:

- Town of Aurora Conservation and Demand Management Plan 2019-2023
- Expand and update the Aurora Community Energy Plan

Aurora and the Treaty



A Just Transition

Aurora efforts thus far:

- All new Aurora Town facilities are being built to the LEED® standard.
- Installed 18+ level two EV Chargers for public use.
- In 2018, the Town joined the **PCP program** with a Council Resolution.
- In 2019, the Town declared a **Climate Emergency** and **Green Fleet Action Plan**.
- In 2021, the Town adopted the **Community Energy Plan**, setting a Community-level greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 80% from 2018 by 2050, as well as the **Green Procurement Policy**.
- In 2022, The Town adopted the **Green Development Standards** program.
- In 2024, the Town adopted our first ever **Active Transportation Master Plan**. **Natural Capital Asset Management Plan** set a net-zero carbon target by 2050 for all Corporate Town emissions.

Aurora and the Treaty



A Just Transition

- Fast track the adoption of renewable energy and economic diversification away from fossil fuels so that no one is left behind, particularly vulnerable groups or communities

Possible Actions:

- Develop and implement an Energy Efficiency Retrofit project
- Greater utilization of the Environmental Advisory Committee for research, consultation and communication with community members and stakeholders
- Implement higher tier energy efficiency building standards for new developments
- Request that new development projects consider lower upfront embodied carbon and operational carbon in their plans, as part of the Green Development Standards
- Find opportunities for low carbon/carbon-free solutions
 - ◆ Implement permeable, low carbon surfaces for parking lots, outdoor courts, etc.
 - ◆ Solar panelling hybrid system for parking lots and outdoor facilities
 - ◆ Marketing and outreach for wind turbine and air heat pump installations
 - ◆ Increase community outreach to encourage demand management

Aurora and the Treaty

- Additional possible actions:
 - Revisit the resolutions of the Climate Emergency Declaration
 - Review commitments that still need to be fulfilled
 - Provide visibility of action and progress towards commitments via the Town's website
 - Assess which next steps/actions have been met since initial release
 - Update the Community Energy Plan at planned renewal to incorporate the 3 pillars of the Treaty
 - Expand ongoing tracking and monitoring
 - Implement measurable objectives which align with the Treaty
 - Refer to staff and committee, or third-party consultation
 - Regularly assess progress and publish results
 - Increase Community Engagement and communication
 - Emissions tracking, updates on progress

Who has endorsed the Treaty? [3]

6 <i>Pacific nation states plus the European Parliament</i>	90+ <i>cities & subnational governments</i>
650+ <i>parliamentarians</i>	101 <i>Nobel laureates</i>
3,000+ <i>scientists and academics</i>	2,200+ <i>civil society organisations</i>
2,000+ <i>youth activists</i>	2,000+ <i>faith institutions & leaders</i>
623k+ <i>individuals</i>	3,000+ <i>health institutions including the WHO</i>

	Province	City	Pop ^[12]
CANADA	BC	Vancouver	662,000
		Burnaby	249,000
		Richmond	210,000
		Victoria	93,000
		New Westminister	79,000
		Port Moody	33,500
		Powell River	14,000
	QC	Montreal	1,760,000
		Gatineau	291,000
	ON	Toronto (July 2022)	2,970,000
Ottawa (July 2022)		1,017,000	

Why is this important for the Town of Aurora?

Endorsing the treaty will further highlight the Town of Aurora as a Green Community and attract new residents, businesses, and investment to relocate here, as well as inspire existing residents to take on further climate action. Adopting the three pillars of the treaty, in cooperation with First Nation peoples, and marginalized communities, would further reconciliation efforts and move us towards a more climate just society. Developing a Green community would also increase our resilience, in the face of increasing climate catastrophes, that disproportionately impact marginalized people, such as low income families, children, seniors, disabled, and Indigenous Peoples.

Summary

- Globally and within Canada and Ontario, the response to climate change is insufficient to limit warming to 1.5°C as per IPCC recommendations
- Lack of response will result in increasing health, economic, and ecologic impacts
 - Direct and indirect impacts locally and globally
- The Town of Aurora has acknowledged it has a part to play in addressing climate change
- The declaration of a climate emergency was a good first step
 - Actionable steps have been initiated as a result (the CEP and the Green Fleet Plan)
- Endorsement of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty is the logical next step
 - Designed to support the Paris Agreement
 - Provides actionable goals
 - The Town of Aurora is already pursuing many great initiatives that could be expanded to align with the Treaty's goals, as well as, upcoming and future federal legislation

Conclusion

Additional action today is required to prevent the worse effects of climate change for future generations, the biodiversity of ecosystems, and maintaining a liveable planet.

Here are some questions we leave you with:

- Will the Town of Aurora commit to endorsing the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty?
- How can Aurora strengthen its commitment to fossil fuel non-proliferation?
- How can Aurora help residents and businesses reduce overall energy demand?
- How can we partner with Indigenous peoples to help foster this initiative?
- How can we incorporate affordability into this scenario?
- How quickly can a deep energy retrofit project be implemented as a business plan?
- How can Aurora implement the rest of the updated 2021 Community Energy Plan and Green Fleet Plan?



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<https://www.climateactionna.org/>

