**Sample Letter to the Environment Committee**

**Concerning the Phasing Out of Gas Fired Electricity**

Dear Councillor Moffatt,

I am writing to the Environment Committee asking the City of Ottawa to do what an ever growing number of municipalities, now representing a majority of the population of Ontario, have done -- to demand that the Province of Ontario cap green-house gas emissions at the 2017 level as soon as possible and phase out gas-fired power plants completely by 2030.

I strongly support the phasing out of gas-fired electricity in Ontario by 2030 and oppose any increase in its use to meet future requirements. The province fails to recognize the pressing nature of the climate emergency in which we find ourselves, a crisis recognized by the City of Ottawa and hundreds of other Canadian municipalities, the federal government of Canada, the president of the United States and the International Energy Commission among others.

Since 2018, Ontario’s carbon emissions have been on the rise - for the first time in a decade. Natural gas makes up about 6% of Ontario’s electricity generation but produces the majority of its emissions. Ontario will need increased production as aging nuclear structures are closed or refurbished. Plans to make up this difference with renewables, energy conservation and other programs were derailed in 2018 when the present government of Ontario cancelled more than 750 programs designed to do just that. Ontario has promised to cut emissions by 2030. Yet present plans have Ontario increasing the use of fracked gas, thereby contributing to the tripling of emissions by 2030, five times by 2040, thus intensifying climate disruption, escalating air pollution and furthering environmental racism, all this with steeply increased costs to the taxpayer. We cannot let this happen.

Renewable and now dependable forms of energy, like that from wind and solar, are cleaner and less costly than that from gas plants. Ontario needs to encourage, rather than block, renewables from entering the grid and to reinstate programs of energy conservation. It must work with Hydro Québec to negotiate electricity and storage agreements. Ontario municipalities, including Ottawa, are pursuing decarbonisation plans, but they cannot achieve their goals without zero carbon electricity from the province.

We in Ottawa must join other Ontario municipalities who have insisted our province phase out gas-fired plants by 2030 with a balanced plan of energy efficiency and renewable energy and away from the critical mistake of allowing ever rising emissions due to the ill-advised choice of continued use of fossil fuels.

Your Name and Address

Your Email Address

Your Postal Code