## Ontario Election Questions on the Environment

Are you wondering what you might ask your local candidates or party leaders about environmental issues in this coming election? We have included some suggested questions below. They have been grouped into sections for your convenience. Choose three or four of particular interest to you for use at All Candidates’ Meetings, or with candidates who knock on your door or call you on the phone. You could also communicate by mail or email with candidates on issues in which you have a particular interest.

## Energy Sources:

What is your plan to decarbonize the Ontario Electricity System?

* Have you a plan to **phase out gas from electricity production**? What are the targets you would reach with this plan in the next 4 years?
* What are the goals your party has set for **increasing the amount of electricity from renewable sources** (wind, solar, hydro) required in future years? How will they be achieved?
* Will you support a renewable natural gas mandate? If so, when will it be implemented and how much renewable natural gas (percentage) be specified?
* Will you ban all new fossil fuel infrastructure?
* Will you support the continued expansion of the natural gas system?
* What is your position on using forests for energy?
* Would you allow fracking in Ontario?
* Will you make a full assessment of how closed loop deep geothermal energy with hydrogen generation could be a game changer.?

## Transportation

* What would you do to **reduce climate emissions from the transport sector** (cars, trains, buses)?
* Do you plan to offer **tax credits to EV purchasers,** especially time of purchase credits that would encourage low- and middle-income earners to purchase an EV?
* What will you do to support EV charging infrastructure?
* What plans does your party have to make **our transportation safe, green and accessible for cyclists, pedestrians and transit users.**
* **What is your position on the construction of new highways?**
* What is your position on 110 km/h speed limits?
* Would you ban short haul passenger aviation and/or implement a tax on frequent fliers.
* Will your party support new airports or airport expansion in Ontario?
* Would you subsidize the operating costs of municipal transit systems as was done in Ontario up the infrastructure? 1980's

**Housing and zoning**

How would you help the building sector become climate promoters?

* Would you tax vacant residences?
* Would you use municipal zoning orders (MZO's)
* What would you do to make **new and existing buildings net zero**? What percentage of buildings will be net zero by 2030? 2040? 2050?
* Do you support exclusionary urban zoning?
* What is your position on the power of the Ontario Land Tribunal?

Food Production/ Farming

* How would you support local food production?
* Would you consider a tax on red meat?
* Will you implement a ban on organic materials going to all landfills? If so by what date?

## Biodiversity

* **Biodiversity** is crashing but is critical to human well-being.  What measures would you put in place to halt & even reverse/improve this situation?
* What kinds of economic activities would you promote & support to **create long term jobs** in Ontario that also **protect nature & our climate?**
* How will you support the preservation of wetlands?

Green Government

* How would you encourage green **public procurement**?
* What role does the **finance sector** have in reducing global warming & its effects, & what would you do to make it happen? (Not sure how large a role provinces have)
* What measures would you put in place to ensure a **livable income**, affordable housing & equitable health care for all people of all ages?