

**A PRESENTATION TO BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
ON THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN  
June 22nd 2021**

Honourable Mayor and City Councilors, my name is Mervyn Russell. I am a retired clergy person of over fifty years experience in various parts of the world. I live in Oakville but I am speaking on behalf of Halton Advocacy for Climate Emergency Now, HACEN, which has addressed Council on several previous occasions.

HACEN is pleased to see that steady, if not rapid, progress is being made in all the program areas of the Climate Action Plan.

**Energy Performance for New Buildings**

HACEN is pleased to see that Burlington is pressing ahead with formulating enhanced energy performance for new buildings. Will these enhanced standards exceed those of the Provincial building code and what confidence does the City have that these enhanced standards will be enforceable?

HACEN is investigating the possibility of promoting an effort to have the municipalities in Halton to pass resolutions aimed at putting pressure on the Provincial government to include high levels of emission prevention standards in the provincial building code. Would this be an effort that Burlington City Council would support?

**Deep energy Retrofit Program**

Similarly HACEN is pleased to see that the retrofit program is still being pursued with determination even though it has encountered administrative requirements that have caused it to be delayed in its progress. It will be necessary to proceed with urgency if the 2030 targets are to be met. There is also the matter of providing financing for householders. Federal government money will not go very far. Is the City open to borrowing money to make loans to householders which they can repay, either through their taxes or hydro bills?

**Renewable Energy**

This is an ambitious project. No details are given about how it is to be accomplished. Is there a working group to develop a strategic plan to promote the production and distribution of the intended renewable energy? This is too demanding a technical project to be entirely the responsibility of city staff.

**Integrated Mobility Plan**

As with the renewable energy project, is there a working group for the Integrated Mobility Plan This project along with Electric Mobility is more important than any of the others as regards reducing carbon and methane gas emissions, the two most important contributors to global warming, on account of transportation producing the greatest amount of these emissions. If the city is serious about meeting its carbon emission reduction targets, and I am sure it wants to think that it is, then this area of concern needs major attention which must involve the participation of all important stakeholders and requires the financial resources to support the extensive, thorough and challenging work that needs to be done. Are these resources being found?

**Electric Mobility and Equipment**

Whilst the provision of electric charging stations on city properties is essential, we wonder if consideration should be given to having all public buildings that have parking lots, to be required to provide electric charging stations. Most EV drivers, however, will want to charge their vehicles at

home during the night. Has Burlington Hydro been asked to provide possible financially attractive means to make this charging available, efficient and financially beneficial to home owners, condo and apartment dwellers?

### **Waste Reduction**

We have nothing to add about the reduction of waste which seems to be mainly a project within the municipal corporation since waste collection and disposal is a Regional responsibility.

### **Industry Innovation**

After traffic, industry, plus commercial and institutional are, as a group, the next largest source of emissions and so these make up a very important grouping to be concerned about, but, at the same time, achieving results in these areas presents big challenges. We are glad to see that the city has aligned itself with Hamilton in addressing the industrial sector and thereby giving both cities greater leverage with powerful local manufacturers. Has Sustainable Hamilton/Burlington developed any strategies and/or projects to reduce industry's energy demands or emissions production? No hints, even, are given in the report. No mention is made about any involvement of leaders of industry in these discussions and approaches. Without their buy in and partner ownership little will be accomplished in practical terms. Why is no similar attention being given to the commercial and institutional sectors which, according to the report's pie chart, together produce more emissions than industry?

In reporting on all the seven key program areas mention is made of future reports. HACEN looks forward to reviewing these reports and in receiving answers to the questions it has raised in reviewing the present one.

As the name of our organization, HACEN, indicates we see it as our role and responsibility to constantly remind all three levels of government that the time in which to address the climate emergency that encompasses us is short, if we are to pass on to our children and grandchildren a sustainable and safe environment in which they can thrive and prosper. The work that needs to be done must be approached and carried out with determined urgency and supported generously with the staff and financial resources to make it strongly and enduringly effective. You know that. Please do your courageous best to make it happen.

Thank you for listening to me today.