

JOINT STATEMENT: Toronto's Clean Energy Future At Risk (IRRP)

October 23, 2025

To: All City of Toronto Councilors

From: Coalition of climate and environmental organizations, community advocates, health professionals, academics, and media voices from across the GTHA

RE: Urgent Action Required on Toronto's Energy Future (IRRP)

Dear Councilors,

We write to you today as a broad coalition of climate and environmental organizations, community advocates, health professionals, academics, and media voices from across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) that are deeply concerned about the future of Toronto's energy future. **The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) released its draft Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) for Toronto, which fails to align with the City's established climate goals and represents a missed opportunity to build a clean, resilient energy future for our city.** That is why we call on the Toronto City Council to reject this plan.

After careful review of the [IRRP draft recommendations](#), we have concluded that this plan is fundamentally misaligned with Toronto's climate commitments, particularly the Council-endorsed phaseout of the Portlands Energy Centre (PEC) by 2035 and the broader TransformTO goal of net-zero emissions by 2040.

Critical Failures of the IRRP

The IRRP draft recommendations by the IESO present several critical failures:

- No pathway for retiring the Portland Energy Center by 2035, despite clear Council direction to do so
- Proposing that nuclear power provide 75% of Ontario's electricity by 2050, despite costing 2-8 times more than wind and solar, and 10 times more than energy efficiency
- Over-reliance on large-scale nuclear and gas generation at the expense of distributed energy resources, making us more dependent on US reactor technology and fuel as well as US gas.
- Failure to include rooftop solar potential in scenarios, despite its capacity to generate 4.9 to 11.9 TWh/year — far outpacing the Portlands Energy Centre output (2.1 TWh/year)
- Dismissal of innovative solutions such as Vehicle-to-Grid integration, balcony solar, and parking lot solar
- Inadequate consideration of energy efficiency and demand-side management
- No consideration of offshore wind development in Lake Ontario

The IESO's plan locks Toronto into a costly, centralized, nuclear and fossil fuel-dependent energy system for decades to come, at precisely the moment when we should be embracing the renewable energy transition. TransformTO's strategy outlines the goal of 50 per cent of community-wide energy comes from renewable or low-carbon sources and 25 per cent of commercial and industrial floor area is connected to low carbon thermal energy sources, by 2030. Yet without phasing out carbon-intensive energy sources like PEC, the current plans for the IRRP stand in opposition to meeting Toronto's climate goals. Recent data shows that PEC's emissions of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, and volatile organic compounds are actually increasing, posing growing health risks to nearby communities and future waterfront developments. The time to act is now.

Our Request to Council

We respectfully request that the Toronto City Council:

1. **Meet with members of our coalition** to discuss how we can collaboratively advance a clean energy future for Toronto in response to the failed plans by the IESO.
2. **Pass a motion to formally reject the IESO's draft IRRP** as inconsistent with the City's climate goals and energy needs.
3. **Direct Toronto Hydro to work with the City to develop an alternative energy plan**, as a member of the technical working group, that prioritizes:
 - A clear timeline for phasing out the Portland Energy Center with interim reduction targets.
 - Maximizing local renewable energy generation, including rooftop balcony solar
 - Expanding energy storage and demand response capabilities
 - Implementing ambitious energy efficiency programs that recognize the full value of avoided generation costs
 - Exploring innovative solutions such as Vehicle-to-Grid integration for Toronto's growing electric vehicle fleet
 - Revisiting offshore wind potential in Lake Ontario

We want to clarify that we are not opposed to the proposed third transmission line in principle. However, this infrastructure must support—not delay—the transition to renewable energy. The third line should be part of a resilient grid system that enables the integration of distributed energy resources and helps meet TransformTO goals, rather than maintaining dependency on high-cost, polluting nuclear and gas generation. Additionally, we are supportive of other grid upgrades as proposed in the IRRP. Toronto needs a modernized grid to support the city's goals with respect to electrification.

A Critical Moment for Toronto's Energy Future

Toronto stands at an energy crossroads. One path leads to a clean, affordable, and resilient urban energy system built on innovative approaches to energy, emission reductions, and urban design. The other path commits us to last century's technologies—highly centralized, expensive, slow to build, and vulnerable to extreme weather, as well as the volatile markets of the U.S.

The next IRRP review will not occur until 2030—and it will be too late to influence critical climate target outcomes. The decisions made now will determine whether Toronto meets its climate commitments or falls behind in the global energy transition.

We request a meeting with you at your earliest convenience to discuss these urgent matters further.

We will be issuing a public statement consistent with our comments above and would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this with you, and invite you to join us in advocating for a clean, modern, and affordable electricity plan for Toronto.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

- On behalf of a broad coalition of climate and environmental organizations, community advocates, health professionals, academics, and media voices from across the GTHA

List of Coalition Members (alphabetical order):

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| 1. Association for Canadian Educational Resources | 14. Green Neighbours 21 |
| 2. Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (Ontario) | 15. Ontario Clean Air Alliance |
| 3. Centre for Social Innovation | 16. Ontario Climate Emergency Campaign |
| 4. Citizens' Climate Lobby (Toronto East Chapter) | 17. Parkdale-High Park 4 Climate Action |
| 5. Climate Action for Lifelong Learners | 18. Regenerating Toronto |
| 6. ClimateFast | 19. Seniors for Climate Action Now! (Toronto) |
| 7. Environmental Defence Canada | 20. Societal Dynamics (U of T) |
| 8. Etobicoke Climate Action | 21. South Riverdale Community Health Centre |
| 9. For Our Grandchildren | 22. Toronto 350 |
| 10. For Our Kids Toronto | 23. Toronto East Residents for Renewable Energy |
| 11. Grandmothers Act to Save the Planet | 24. Toronto East End Climate Collective |
| 12. Green 13 | 25. Toronto Environmental Alliance |
| 13. Green Majority Radio | |

For any questions or inquires, please contact:

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