



June 28, 2024

Colin Best
President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

Sent via email: amopresident@amo.on.ca

Dear Colin Best:

Please be advised that Brantford City Council at its meeting held June 25, 2024 adopted the following:

12.2.7 Support for the Decision of the Ontario Energy Board to End the Gas Pipeline Subsidy

WHEREAS residents are struggling with energy bill increases and need relief; and
WHEREAS natural gas is no longer the cheapest way to heat homes because electric heat pumps are now much more efficient, can provide all heating needs even in cold climates, and result in far lower energy bills over the long term compared to gas heating; and

WHEREAS natural gas is methane gas, which is a fossil fuel that causes approximately one-third of Ontario's GHG emissions, and must be phased out because it is inconsistent with all climate targets, while heat pumps result in the lowest GHG emissions and are consistent with a zero-carbon future; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) decided to end a subsidy for methane gas pipelines to be built in new construction developments, effective 2025, finding that this would lower energy bills for existing gas customers and improve affordability for new homebuyers, but this decision is at risk of being overturned by the provincial government; and

WHEREAS the OEB decision will help lower energy bills and encourage heating systems that are consistent with climate targets and plans; and

WHEREAS the construction of new methane gas pipelines, which have 60-year targets and will result in higher carbon emissions, higher energy bills, higher future decarbonization retrofit costs to get off fossil fuel heating, and a continued financial drain as dollars leave the province to pay for fossil fuels extracted in other jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS the City of Brantford declared a climate emergency in 2019; and

WHEREAS transforming buildings by supporting actions that improve their energy efficiency aligns with the goals outlined in Brantford's Climate Change Action Plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the City of Brantford EXPRESS its support for the decision of the Ontario Energy Board to end the gas pipeline subsidy and RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS that the Ontario Government allow the decision to stand; and
- B. THAT this resolution BE CIRCULATED to the President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Colin Best; Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford; Minister of Energy, Todd Smith; Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy all Ontario Municipalities, The Honourable Marit Stiles, Leader of the Official Opposition, and The Honourable Bonnie Crombie, Leader of Ontario Liberal Party.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours truly,



Chris Gauthier
City Clerk, cgauthier@brantford.ca

cc Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Honourable Todd Smith, Minister of Energy
Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
Honourable Marit Stiles, Leader of the Official Opposition
Honourable Bonnie Crombie, Leader of Ontario Liberal Party
All Ontario Municipalities