

Power of Community

Dianne Saxe

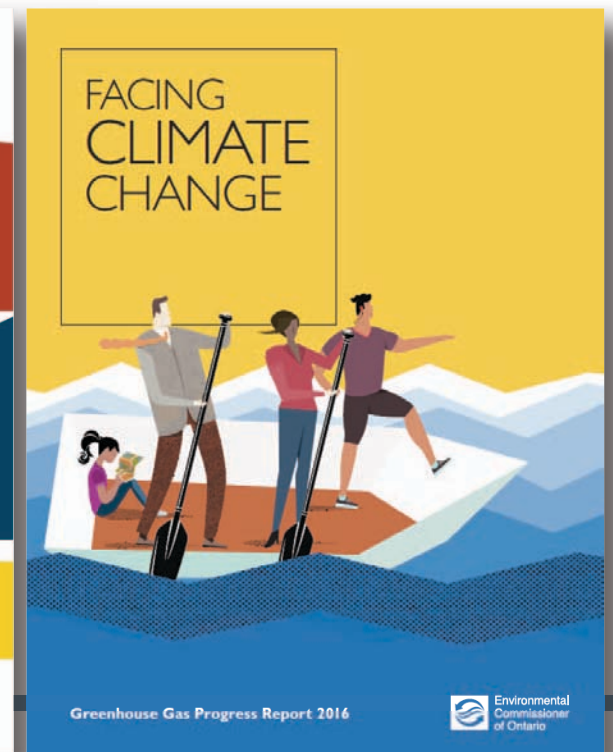
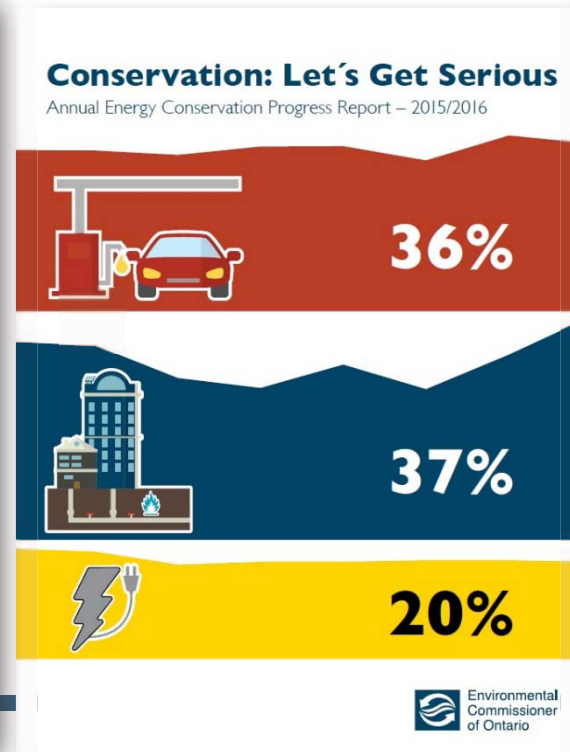
Environmental Commissioner of Ontario

Toronto Renewable Energy Cooperative

November 29, 2016

Outline

1. Environmental Rights
2. Energy
3. Climate Change

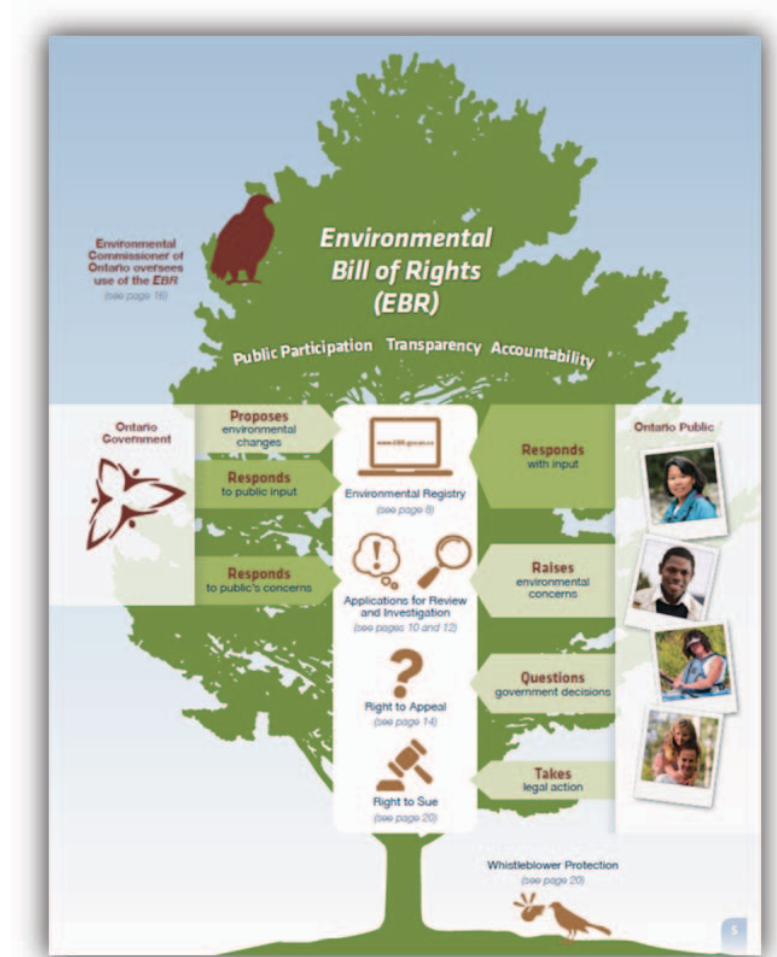


Environmental Rights



What are Environmental Rights?

- *Environmental Bill of Rights:*
 - Public Participation
 - Transparency
 - Accountability
- Obligations for government
- Tools for citizens



Environmental Registry

- Shows the public what ministries are working on
- Lets the public comment before decisions are made
- Shows the comments of other people
- Shows how the ministry considered public comments

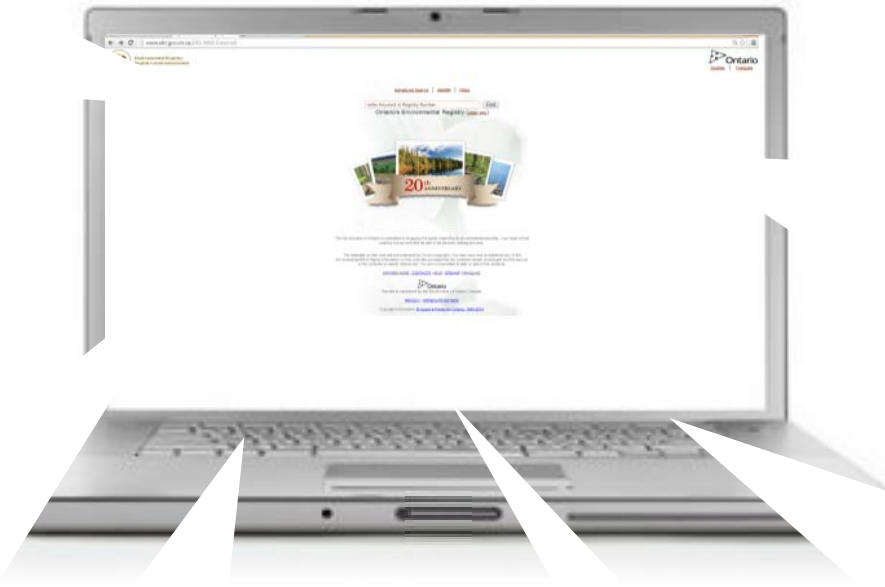


~1000 users daily

What's on the Registry?



Permits to Take Water



Climate Change Strategies & GHG Regulations



Renewable Energy Approvals



Land Use Plans



Environmental Compliance Approvals



Drinking Water Protection Laws & Regulations

Making the Registry Work

- A “voice”, not a “vote”
- Do your homework
- Stay on point
- Evidence is better than opinion
- Courtesy and clarity: it’s a public platform
- Use our guide: *Ontario’s Environmental Bill of Rights and You*

86

Number policy,
act or regulation
proposals posted
in 2015/16

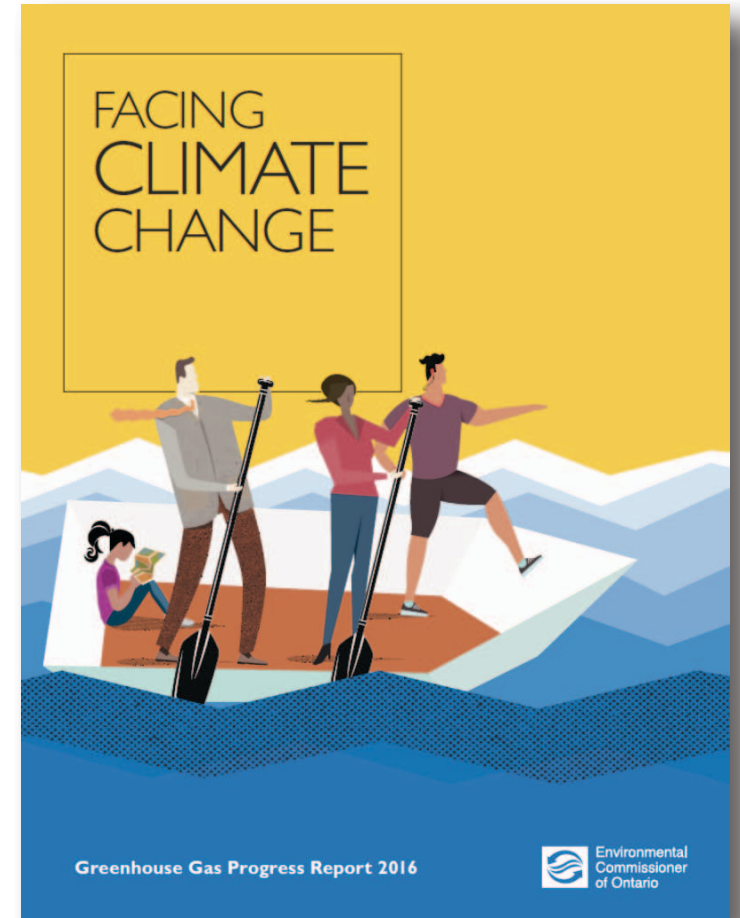
Our Alert Service

The screenshot displays the website's navigation menu at the top: HOME, ABOUT US, YOUR RIGHTS, OUR REPORTS, GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE, and LEARN MORE. Below the navigation is a large landscape image. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column is titled 'YOUR RIGHTS' and includes a sub-header 'Under the *Environmental Bill of Rights*, Ontarians have a right to know about — and have a say in — government decisions that affect the environment.' It features three call-to-action boxes: 'WANT TO HAVE A SAY IN GOVERNMENT DECISIONS?' with a 'COMMENT ON REGISTRY PROPOSALS' button, 'HAVE AN IDEA TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION?' with an 'ASK FOR A REVIEW' button, and 'THINK SOMEONE IS BREAKING THE LAW?' with an 'ASK FOR AN INVESTIGATION' button. The right column is titled 'CLIMATE, ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT' and includes a sub-header 'We report on compliance with the *Environmental Bill of Rights*, and Ontario's progress on climate change, energy conservation, and other environmental issues.' It features three call-to-action boxes: 'WANT TO READ OUR REPORTS?' with a 'VIEW REPORTS' button, 'INTERESTED IN A SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL TOPIC?' with a 'VIEW THE TOPICS' button, and 'HAVE AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM NOW?' with a 'CLICK HERE TO INQUIRE' button. Below these columns is a 'WHO WE ARE' section with a description of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO) and a 'LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COMMISSIONER' button. A red arrow points from the 'LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COMMISSIONER' button to the 'ENVIRONMENTAL REGISTRY' section. This section has two columns: 'ENVIRONMENTAL REGISTRY' with 'VISIT THE REGISTRY' (GO NOW button) and 'GET REGISTRY NOTICES THAT INTEREST YOU' (SIGN UP button), and 'CONNECT WITH US' with 'GET ECO UPDATES' (SIGN UP button) and 'LET'S HEAR FROM YOU' (SHARE NOW button). At the bottom, a dark blue banner states 'OUR RESOURCE CENTRE IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC' with a 'CLICK HERE FOR INFORMATION' link.

Environmental Commissioner

Facing Climate Change

Greenhouse Gas Progress Report 2016



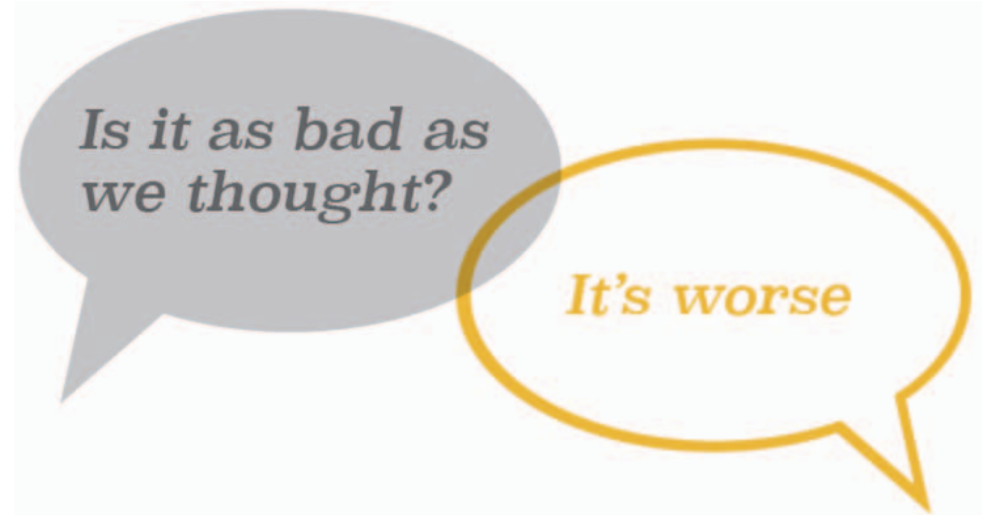
Report Released November 22

Seven chapters:

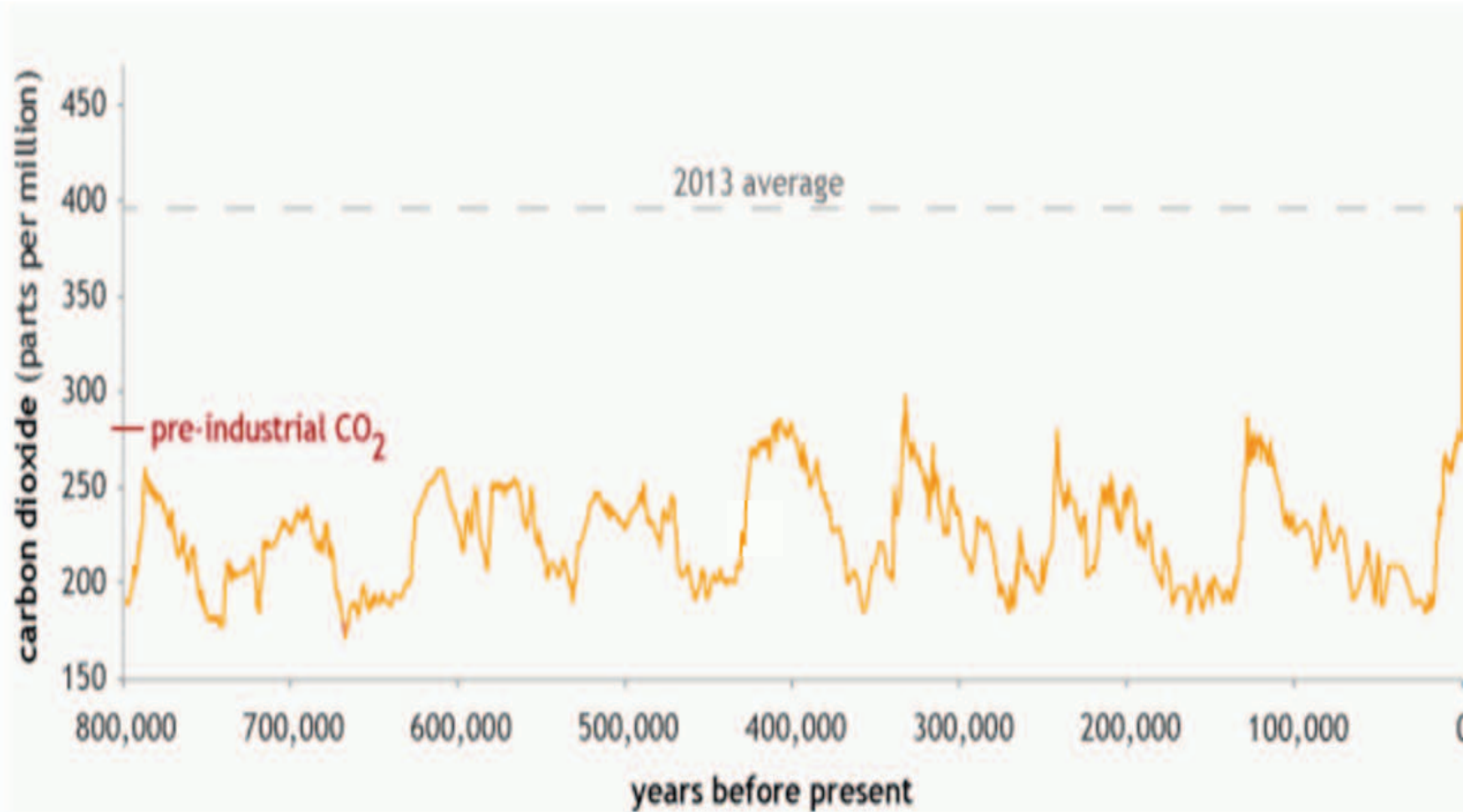
- 1: Urgency
- 2: 2014 Emissions: Official Inventory
- 3: Emissions: If we count everything...
- 4: Cap and Trade
- 5: Spending the Money
- 6: Climate Change Action Plan
- 7: Knowledge + Action = Hope

Why Act Now?

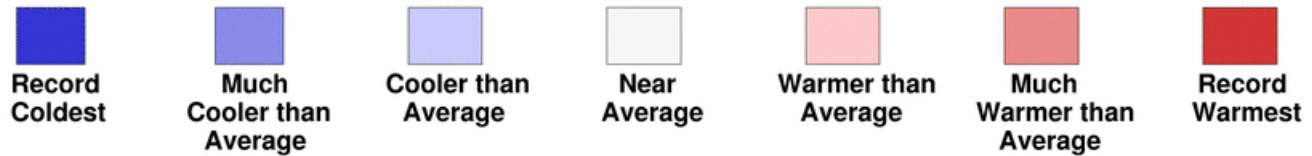
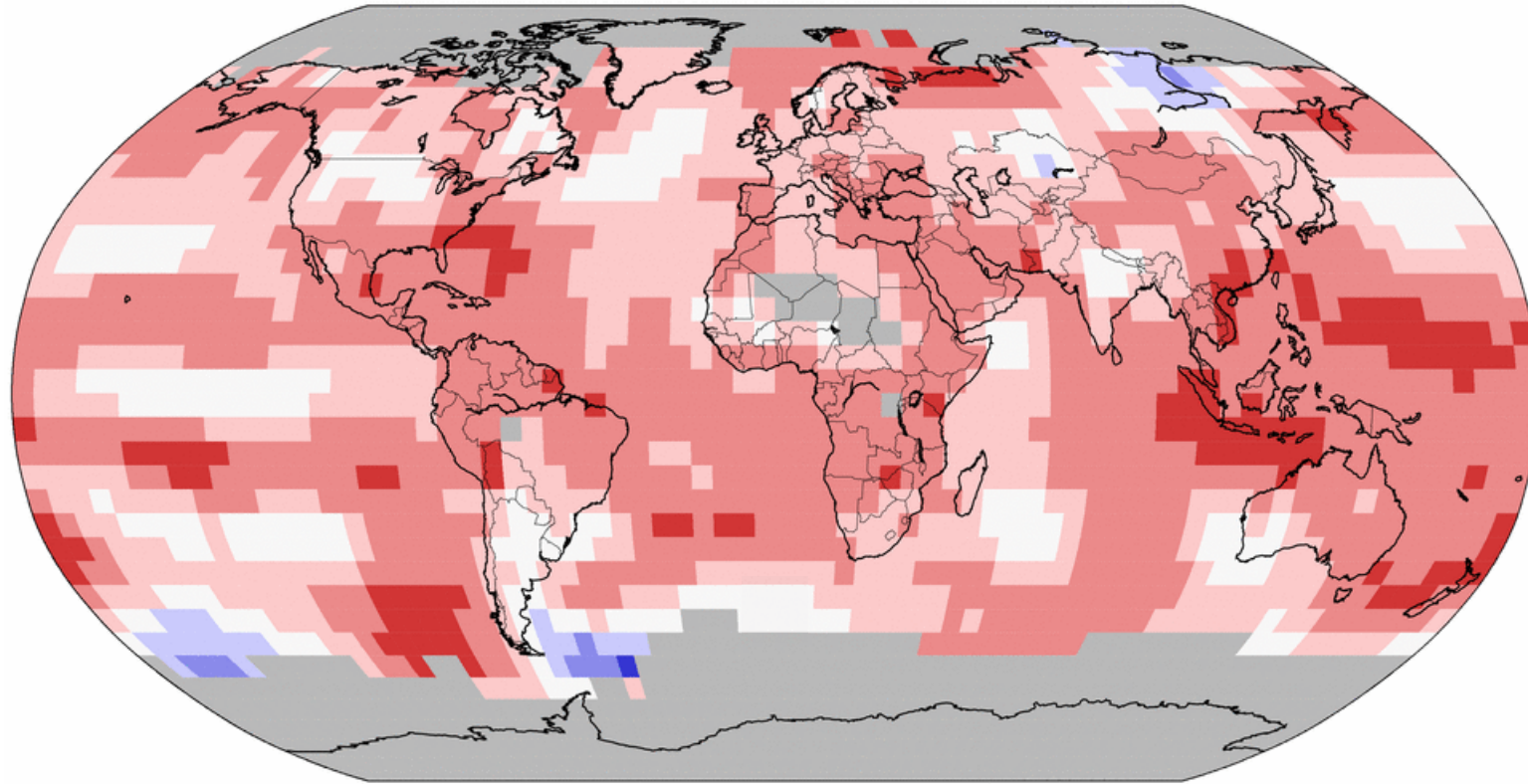
- Greatest threat of our generation
- Climate is getting warmer and weather is getting wilder
- What used to be 'normal' weather is gone
- GHGs form a powerful, invisible blanket around Earth and will continue to trap heat for many years



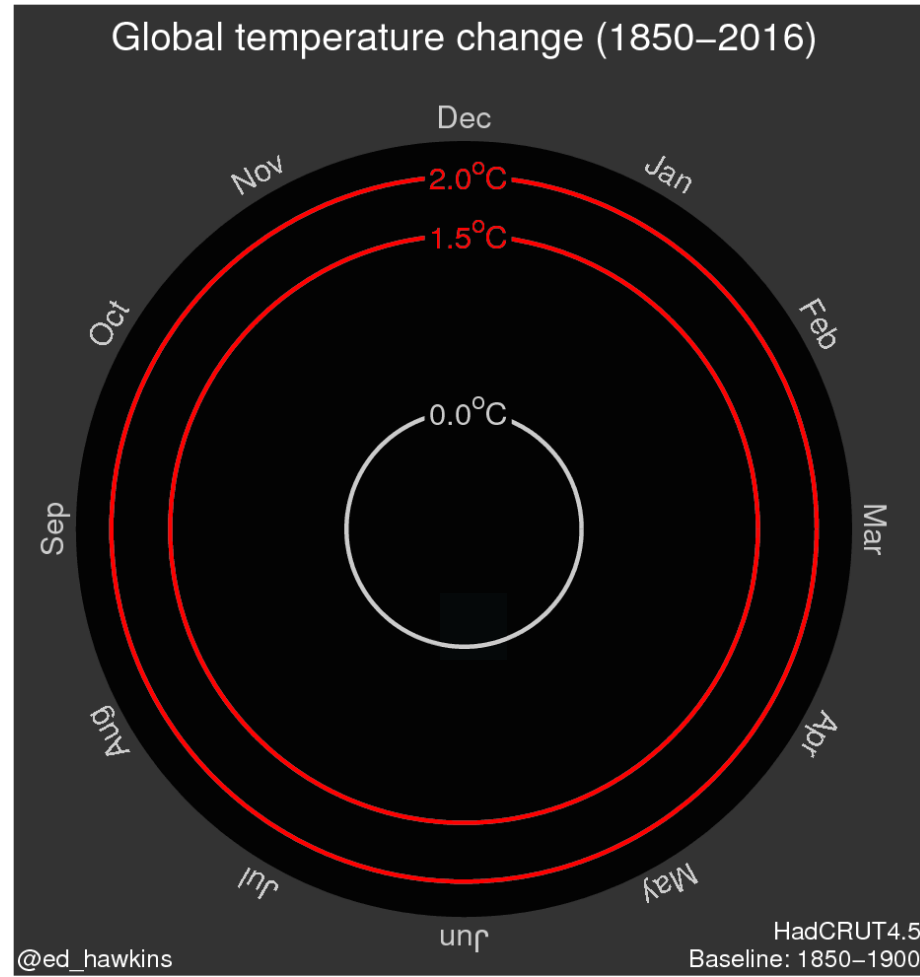
Yes Virginia there is a CO₂ hockey stick



January to August 2016

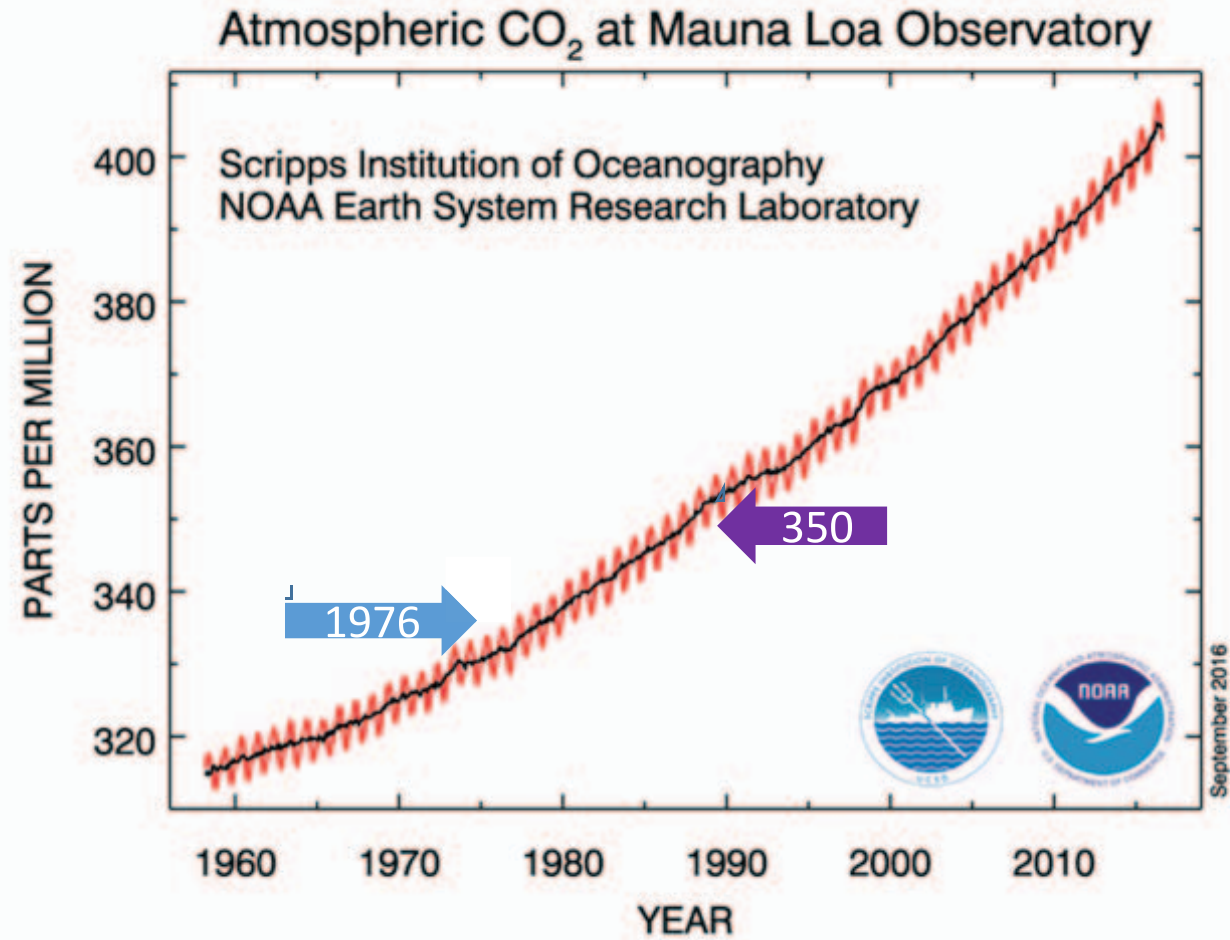


So: Average Air Temperature

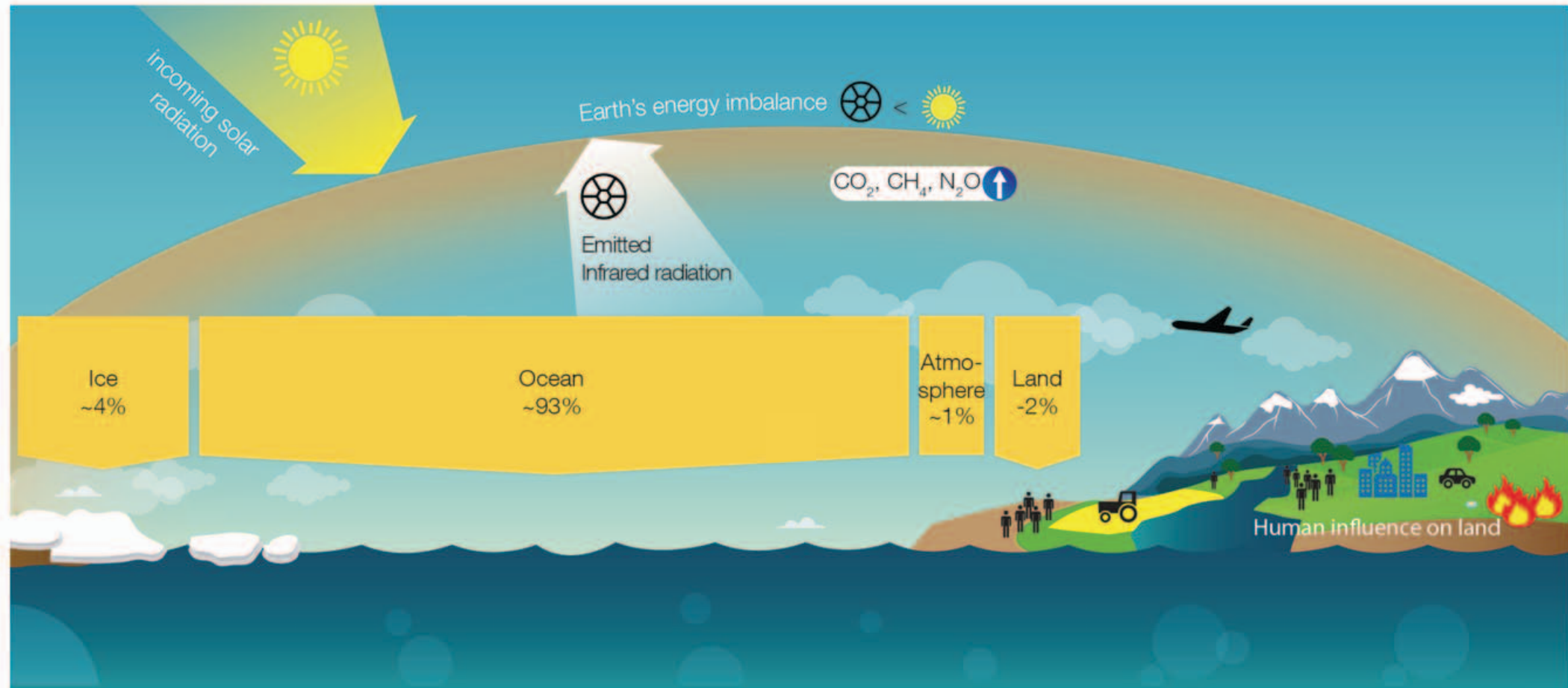


Carbon Blanket is a Slow Cooker

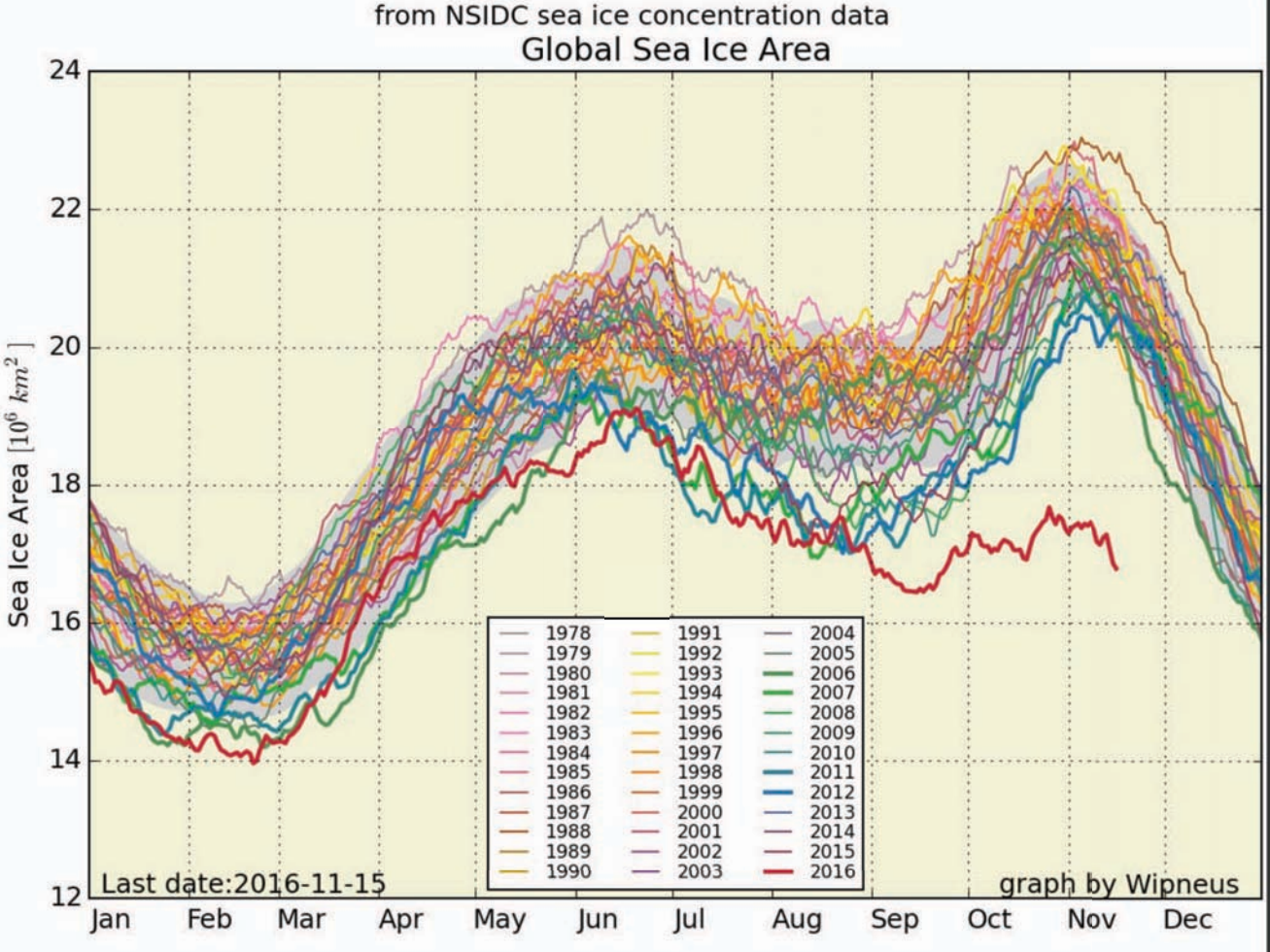
- The 40 year lag



93% of the Trapped Heat in the Oceans



Accelerating Ice Loss



Ontario GHG Emissions



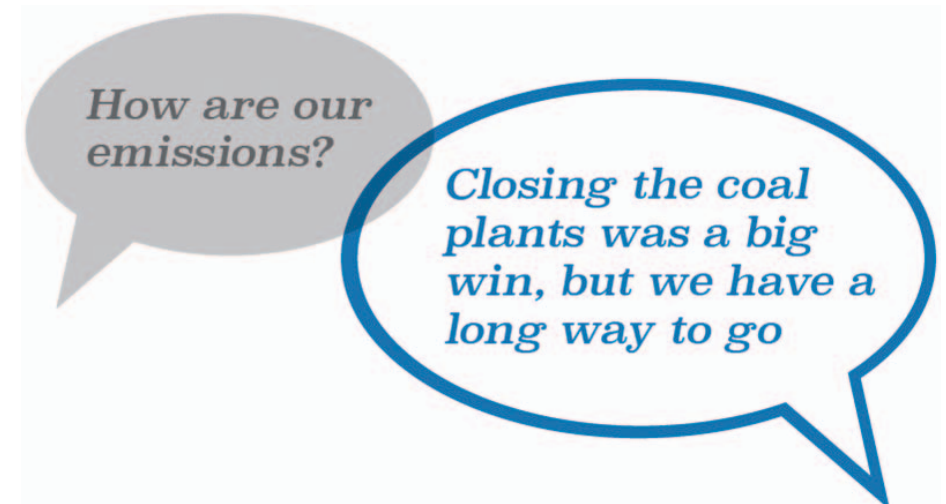
Our Real GHG Footprint

- Ontarians have high emissions per person compared to most people around the world
- Emission numbers underestimate true footprint
 - Consumption, methane, black carbon
- Lots of room to improve



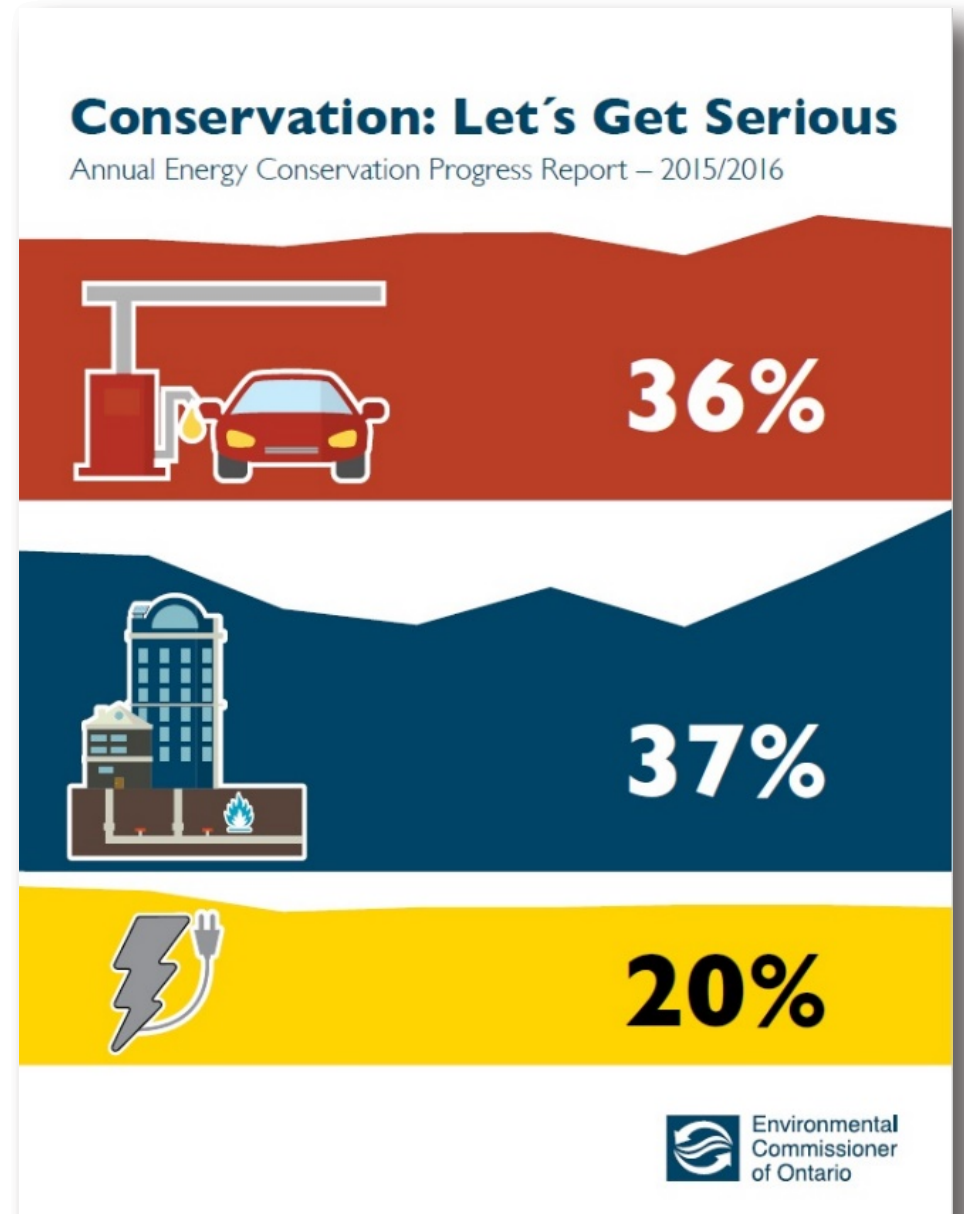
Ontario's GHG footprint

- New Climate law
- GHG emission targets for 2014, 2020, 2030 and 2050
- Met 2014 target but future targets will be difficult
- Why? Biggest reason: Energy

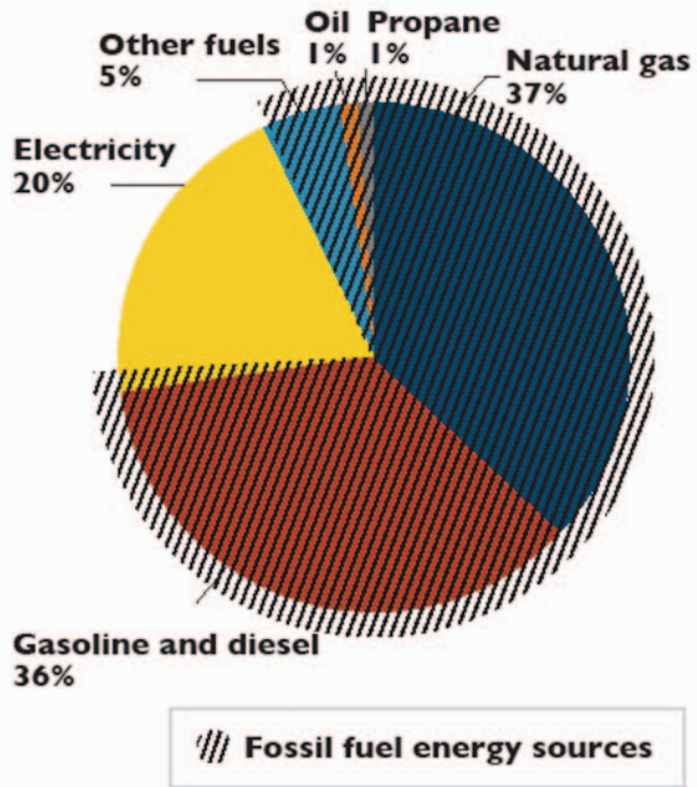


Energy

Energy Conservation Progress Report 2015/16



Energy in Ontario

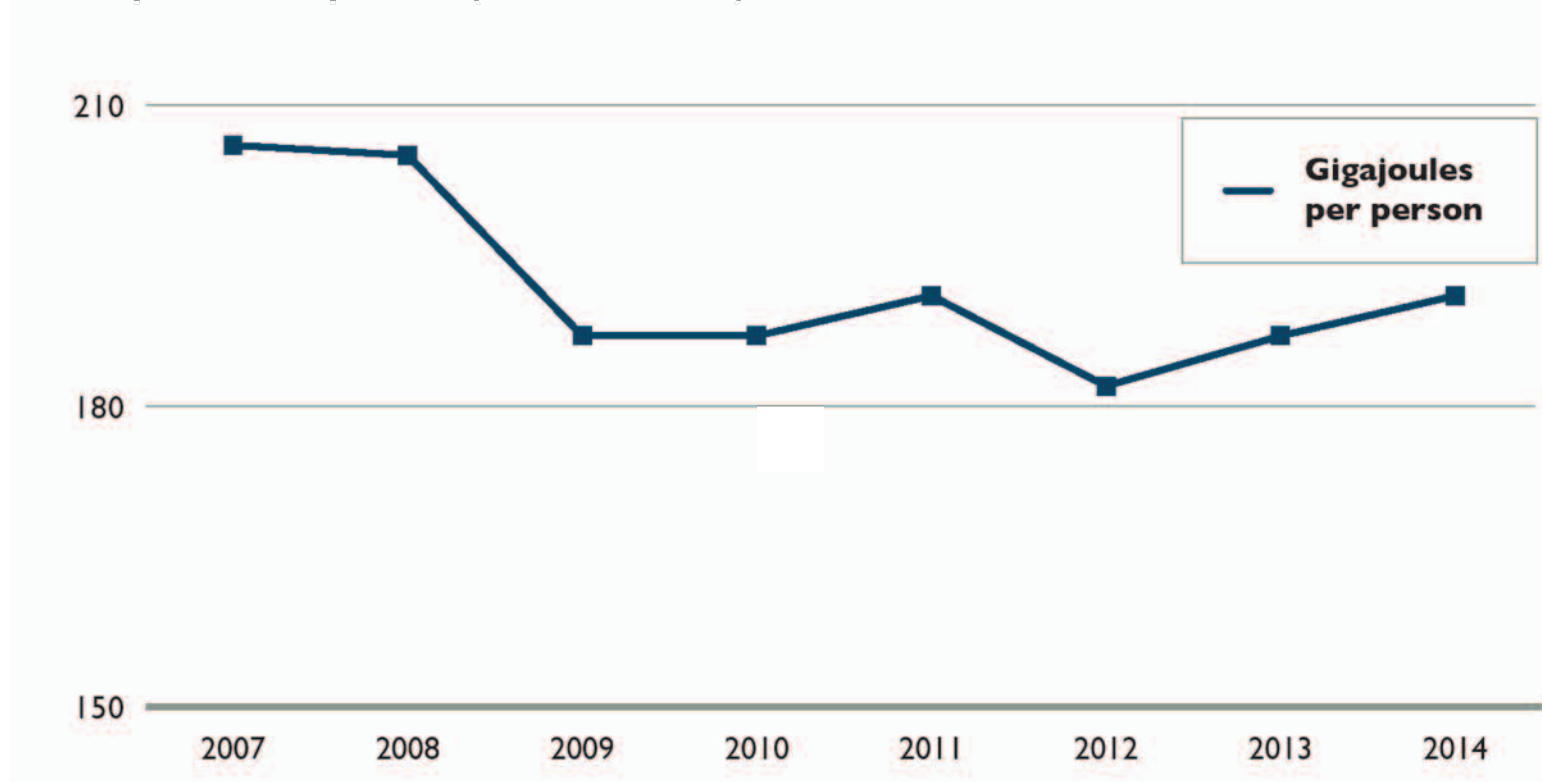


Ontario's energy use by fuel type in 2014

- 80% fossil fuels
- Every fossil fuel, except coal, is up since 2007

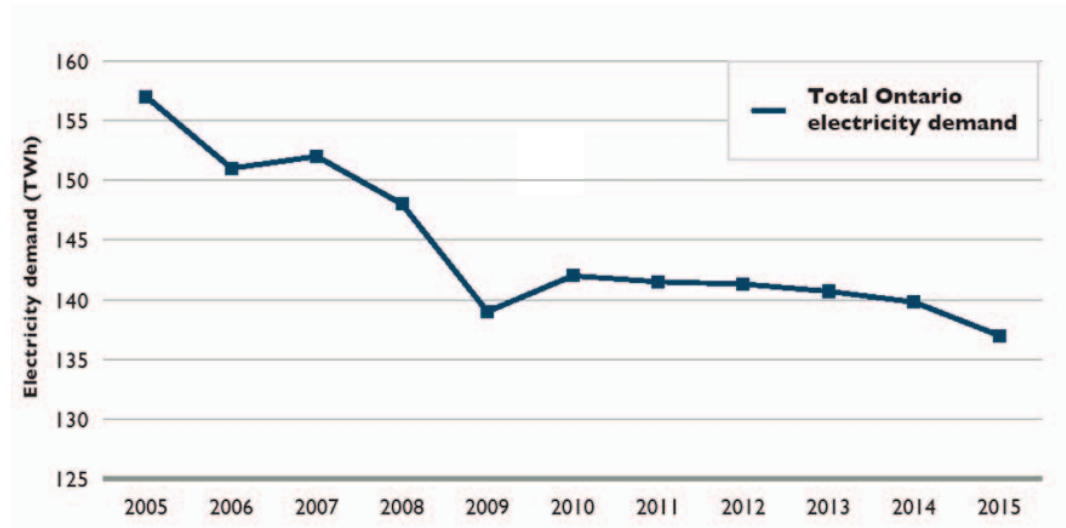
Some Decoupling

- Total energy use is flat
- Energy use per capita (all fuels) down 7% from 2007 to 2014

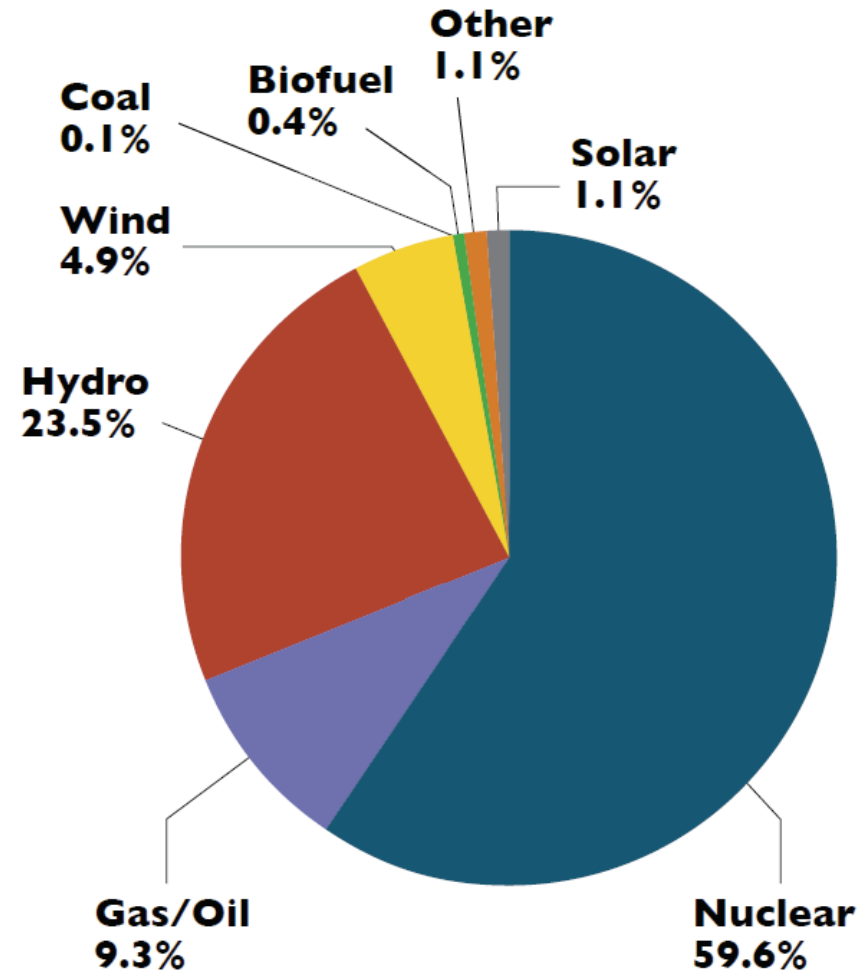


Mostly from Electricity

- Use down 6% from 2007 (8% excluding embedded gen.), summer peak down 17%
 - 91% low emission
- Utility spending: \$421M in 2014
- LDCs: 109% of energy target, 70% of peak demand target

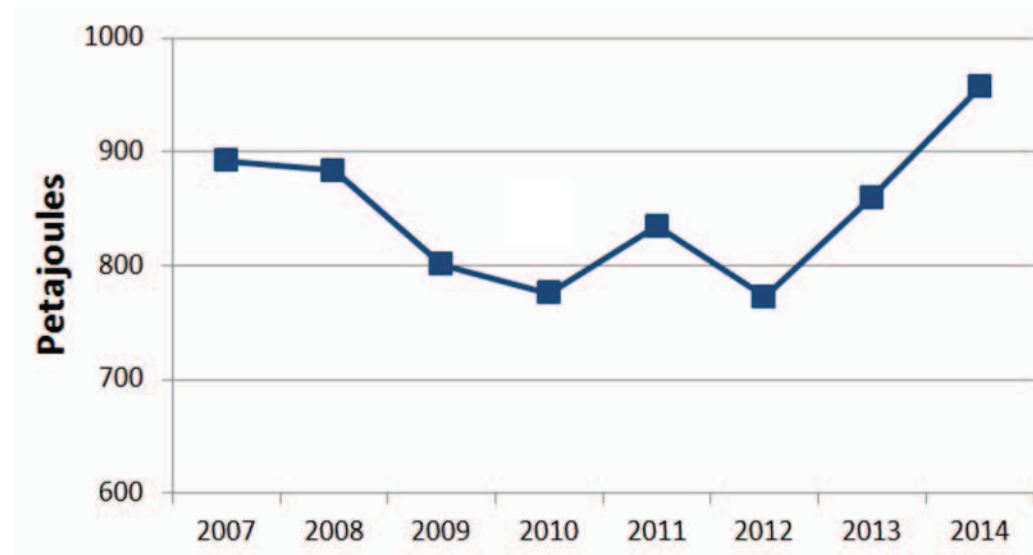


Electricity Smallest and Cleanest



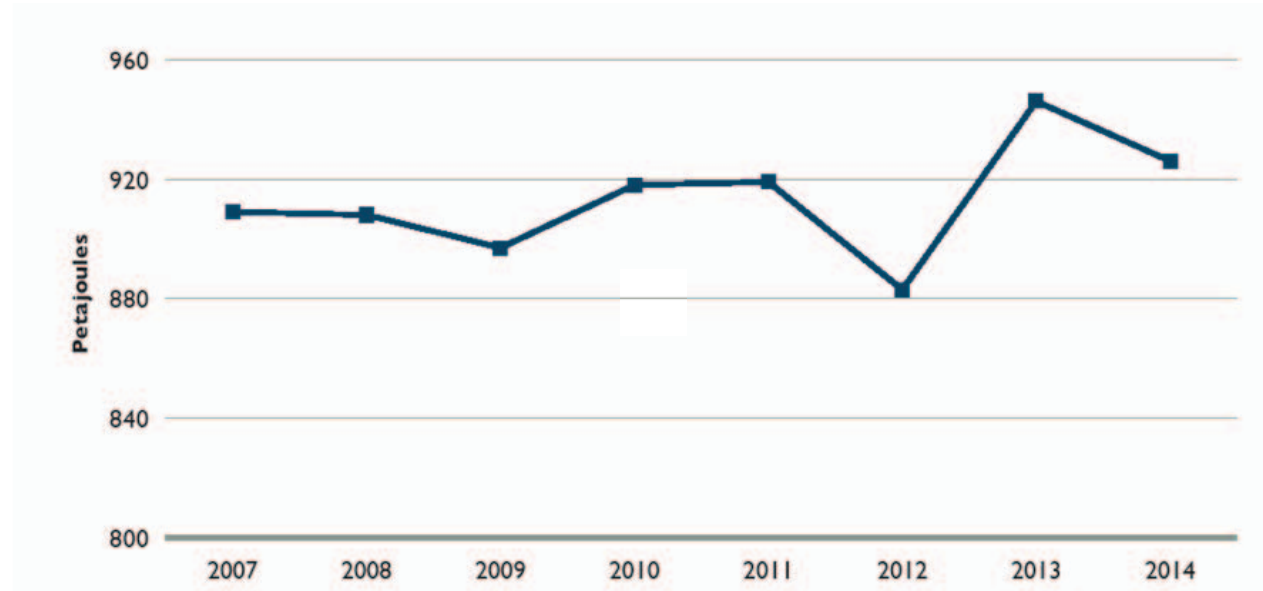
Natural Gas: Use is Up

- Twice as much energy use as electricity, but 1/6 the conservation spending (\$66M in 2014)
- Weather impact (e.g. 2014 “polar vortex”)
- Good conservation performance by Union/Enbridge

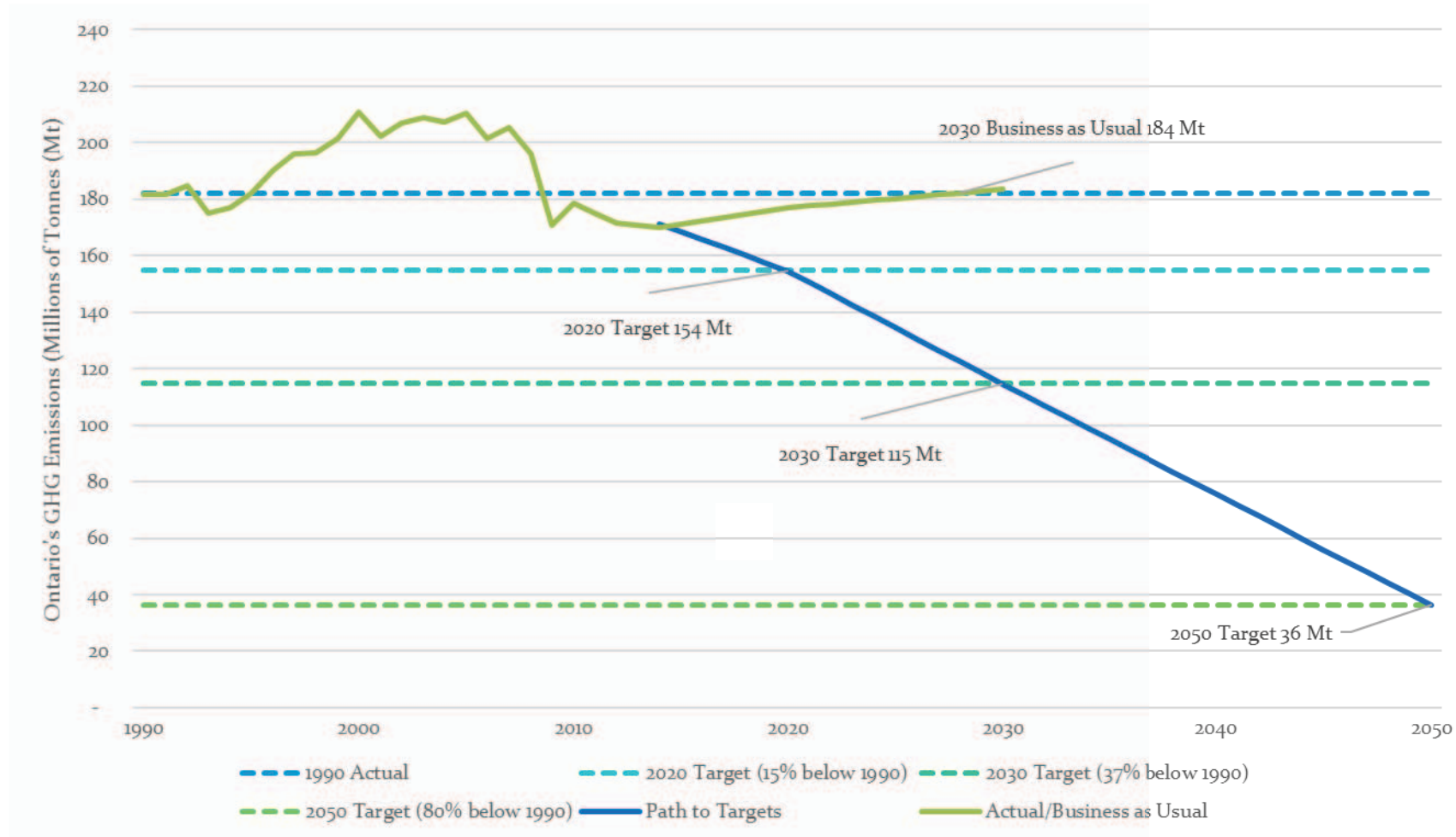


Transportation Fuel: Use is Up

- No dedicated conservation funding
- Government targets: no action (10% Low Carbon Fuel Standard), or poor performance (land use; only 1% of the way towards 2020 EV target)



Ontario GHG Emissions and Path to Targets



How to get GHGs down?

- Ontario is joining worldwide movement to put price on carbon
- Cap and trade program covers 82% of direct emissions
- Begins January 1, 2017
- To be linked to California and Quebec in 2018
- The program is reasonable and well-designed

*How good is
our cap and
trade program?*

*Looks pretty
good so far, but
there's a problem
in California.*

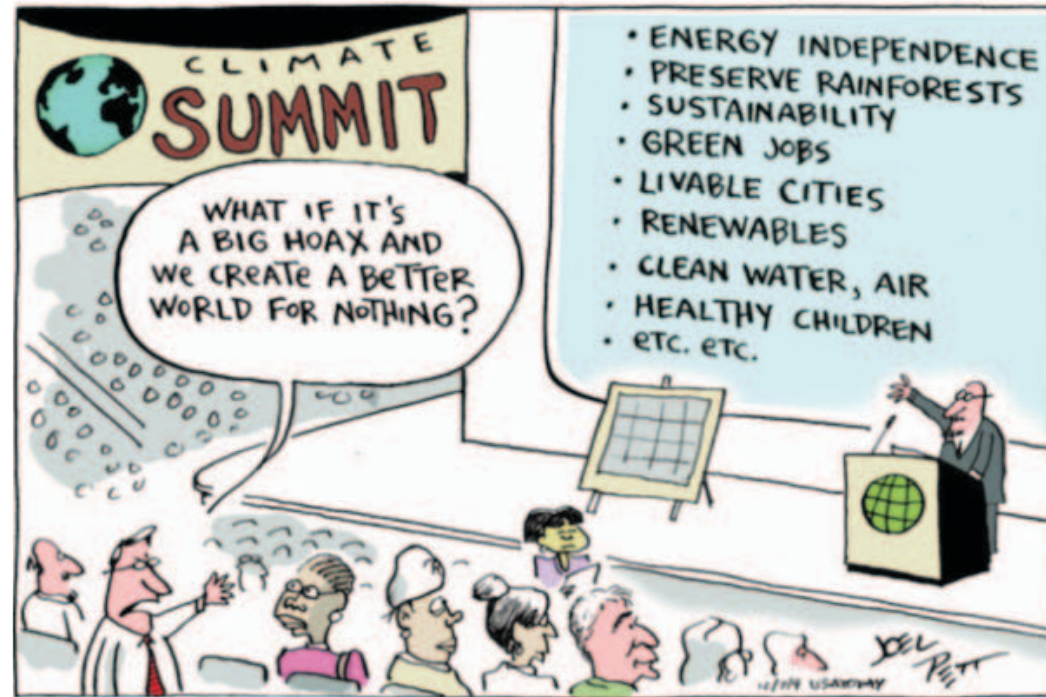
What Can I Do?

- Can't be left entirely to government
- It's not too late
- Many opportunities to reduce your carbon footprint:
 - Active transportation
 - Tap water rather than bottled
 - Choose local food
 - Plant trees
- Invest in renewable energy!

Knowledge + Action = Hope

No one can do everything, but everyone can do something

1. Be optimistic
2. Be heard
3. Be curious
4. Be passionate
5. Be informed
6. Be canny
7. Be caring

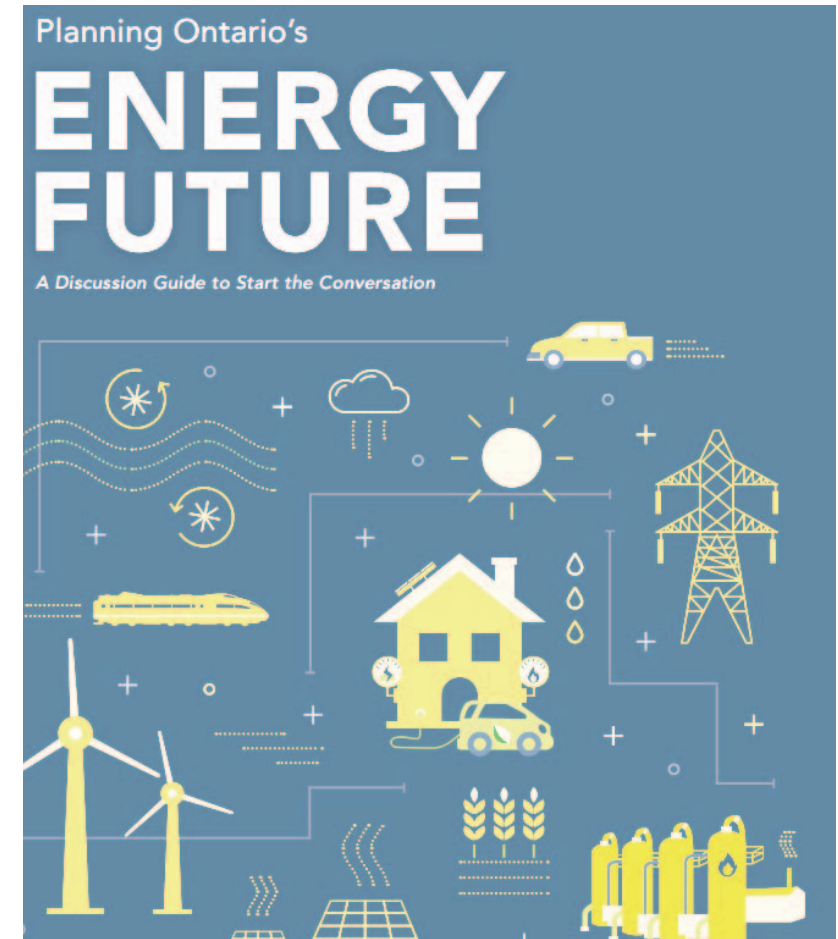


Joel Pett Editorial Cartoon used with the permission of Joel Pett and the Cartoonist Group. All right reserved.

Use your environmental rights

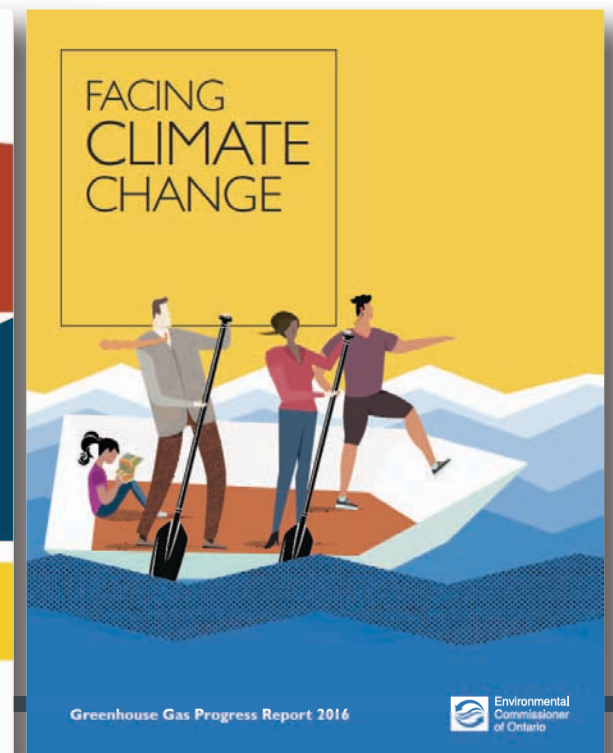
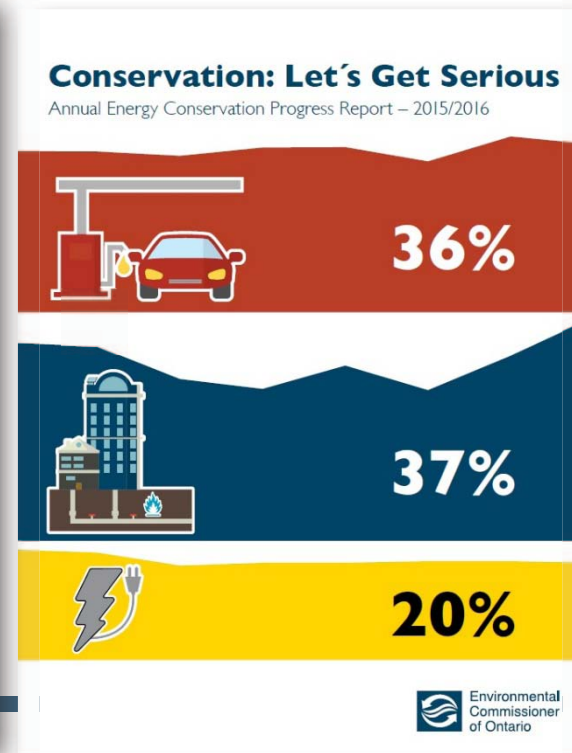
- Long-Term Energy Plan 2017
 - Open for public consultation on Registry
 - Until December 16
- Do you want it to:
 - Support climate targets?
 - Reduce environmental impacts?
 - Conservation first?

Time to speak up



Conclusion

1. Because of Climate Change
2. Use Your Environmental Rights
3. Better Energy Plan



Thank you!

- Eco.on.ca
- commissioner@eco.on.ca
- @Ont_ECO or @envirolaw1