

NATURAL GAS OFFERS THE BEST WAY TO MEET EMISSIONS TARGETS

By Gwyn Morgan
Contributor Troy Media

At their meeting in June, G7 leaders agreed to a greenhouse gas emissions target of "net zero" by 2050. That would require phasing out fossil fuels that currently supply 84 per cent of global energy. But how?

The common reply is "putting a price on carbon," i.e., carbon taxes. But unless there's a viable alternative, taxing something people can't do without only makes them poorer.

Policy-makers seem to believe that 'green power,' meaning wind and solar, is the answer. But despite hundreds of billions of dollars having been spent on them, wind and solar account for only 3.3 per cent of world energy supply.

That may come as a surprise, since the heavily-subsidized wind and solar industry claims a much higher capacity number, defined as the electricity that would be generated when the sun is shining and the wind is blowing everywhere. But it's hard to imagine those conditions existing at any time, let alone during cold,

calm Canadian winter nights when power is needed most.

Ontario consumers learned this first-hand after large-scale investment in costly windmills and solar panels sent their electricity rates from among the lowest in North America to among the highest, and driving the province's manufacturers south to the welcoming arms of Georgia and the Carolinas.

Given these realities, it's hard to understand how G7 leaders could agree to base the energy security of their citizens on a plan that defies the laws of physics – which, unlike the laws they deal in, are unchangeable and irrefutable. What about other alternatives to replace the 84 per cent of energy supplied by fossil fuels?

At the moment, hydroelectricity accounts for 6.4 per cent of world energy supply, nuclear for 4.3 per cent, and geothermal and biofuels just 1.7 per cent.

Hydro is a zero-emissions energy source but most of the world's rivers are already dammed. Nuclear is also a zero-emissions energy source

with huge growth potential, but new plants are very capital-intensive and often face strong public opposition. It's hard to see how either of those sources could have a material impact in the foreseeable future.

Besides the laws of physics, G7 leaders must face another reality. The United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union produce just 27 per cent of global emissions. Most of the other 73 per cent comes from Asian countries. Emissions from China alone equal the G7's 27 per cent.

And despite Chinese President Jinping Xi's virtuous green rhetoric, his country built three times more emissions-intensive coal-fired electrical capacity in 2020 than the rest of the world combined.

Meanwhile, to pursue their green energy fantasy, Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau and his G7 counterparts plan to further cripple their economies, which are already uncompetitive with China.

Should we give up hope of

reducing greenhouse gas emissions?

Although it's clear that net zero is simply not on, a substantial reduction is possible. And the biggest opportunity for emissions reduction lies in a fossil fuel that's in practically unlimited supply: natural gas.

Burning coal to generate electricity causes 40 per cent of global fossil fuel emissions. Converting coal plants to natural gas reduces emissions from those plants by almost 50 per cent. Canada can do good by doing well – by exporting our bountiful natural gas supplies in the form of LNG (liquefied natural gas) to replace coal.

The LNG Canada project in Kitimat, B.C., will reduce Chinese CO2 emissions by 60 million to 90 million tonnes per year, the equivalent of shutting down 20 to 40 coal-fired power plants. That's also the equivalent of taking some 80 per cent of Canada's cars off the road.

This country has enough gas to supply many more LNG projects. A decade ago, 20 projects were proposed. But

Canada's byzantine regulatory approval process, which has earned our country its can't-get-anything-done reputation, saw sponsors giving up after spending billions of dollars in preparation and regulatory costs.

Oil used for ground transportation and shipping contributes approximately one-third of global emissions. Converting vehicles and ships to natural gas cuts greenhouse gas emissions by up to 25 per cent. And that's already happening. There are more than 20 million natural gas-fueled (NGV) passenger vehicles, heavy trucks and buses in the world.

Paradoxically, few of those are in the very G7 countries that vow to achieve net zero. Asian countries, led by China, India and Pakistan, account for the majority of NGVs, though probably because they're more concerned with reducing dangerous levels of smog rather than greenhouse gas emissions.

Iran has the world's second largest NGV fleet, which seems surprising until you consider that switching vehi-

cles to natural gas allows it to export more oil.

The marine shipping industry is well advanced in replacing high-polluting bunker fuel with LNG. BC Ferries has taken delivery of several new LNG-powered vessels and has converted older vessels to natural gas.

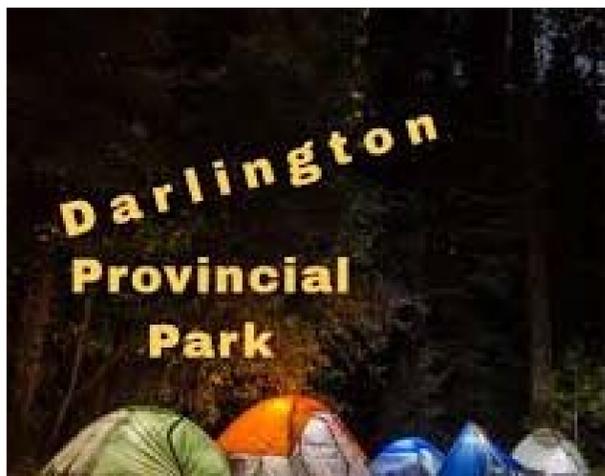
Rather than ravaging the living standards of Canadians with carbon taxes and wasting public funds subsidizing green power, the federal government should commission an LNG export task force made up of government, industry and directly affected populations (including First Nations) to streamline the LNG export project approval process.

It should also support the creation of a nationwide filling station network for natural gas vehicles and eliminate fuel taxes for cars powered by natural gas.

It's time for a Canadian emissions reduction strategy based on facts and economic opportunity, not fantasy.

Gwyn Morgan is a retired business leader who has been a director of five global corporations.

ONTARIO PROPOSING TO ADD DARLINGTON PROVINCIAL PARK INTO THE GREENBELT



Following public consultation and engagement with Indigenous communities this fall, Darlington Provincial Park could begin the process of being added to the Harmony and Farewell Creek Urban River Valley, connecting it to Lake Ontario.

The proposal to add the park came from the Municipality of Clarington, the City of Oshawa, the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority and Conservation Ontario as part of a 60-day initial consultation to grow the Greenbelt last spring.

"We heard tremendous community support for adding Darlington Provincial Park to the Greenbelt in our first consultation," said Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "This shows how important the water systems in and around Darlington Provincial Park are to the local communities. I am delighted to share our first proposal on growing the Greenbelt, which includes adding, expanding and further protecting urban river valleys."

"Adding Darlington Provincial Park to the Greenbelt builds awareness of the importance

of this urban river valley area and the key role of watersheds to Ontario's overall environmental health and the well-being of our communities," said Andrea Khanjin, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. "Our government will continue to protect the environment for generations to come."

"Darlington Provincial Park is an amazing natural space right here in Clarington and I am so grateful that it could be added to the Greenbelt," said Lindsey Park, MPP for Durham. "I want to thank our municipal partners for their unanimous support for this addition."

This fall, the government will consult with the public and engage with Indigenous communities on maps showing land that could be added to the Greenbelt, including Darlington Provincial Park, other urban river valleys and a draft Paris Galt Moraine boundary.

Quick Facts
Established under the Greenbelt Act, 2005, the

Greenbelt is a broad band of protected land that currently includes over 800,000 hectares of land in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

The Growing the Greenbelt consultations could result in the largest expansion of the Greenbelt since its creation in 2005. Adding Darlington Provincial Park could add up to 500 acres.

There are currently 21 urban river valleys in the Greenbelt. These are the valleys of rivers that pass through cities or towns and act as urban gateways to the Greenbelt.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing will be engaging in phase 2 consultations in order to solicit specific feedback from local organiza-

tions on the boundaries and designations.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing recently announced that he is adding two acres of protected and enhanced greenspace for every acre of land developed through the use of a Minister's Zoning Order.

FAMILIES AND ADVOCATES DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT THE 'FIX IS IN' RE. A NEW LICENSE FOR ORCHARD VILLA FOR-PROFIT LONG-TERM CARE HOME WHERE 71 RESIDENTS DIED & HUNDREDS WERE INFECTED: CALL FOR COMMITMENT FROM FORD GOVERNMENT TO RENEWED, FAIR PROCESS

Over the last week, families and advocates have become increasingly concerned that the consultation & decision-making process regarding the Ford government's plan to give a 30-year license and expansion is being controlled to ensure that the for-profit chain Southbridge Care Homes gets the license despite its horrific record before and during the pandemic.

Families & advocates who have been part of the consultation process are speaking out, calling for a renewed, fair process that does not exclude consideration of the evidence about the corporation's fitness to run a long-term care home for 30-years. They are insisting that the Ford government and its Long-Term Care Minister Rod Phillips take responsibility for the decision, as is written in the Long-Term Care Homes Act, and consider the criteria, including the operational record of the corporation in running the long-term care home, as is required in the Act. The Minister claimed last week in a press conference that the decision about the license is not his call, despite the fact that the Act clearly states that it is. In the public consultation held by teleconference last week, the Ministry representative tried to limit participants from asking questions and commenting on the corporation's record operating the home, even arguing down participants who tried to ask about care levels. In correspondence, the Ministry has listed criteria that expressly excludes the operating record of the corporation, despite the fact that this is clearly part of the criteria that must be considered in the Long-Term Care Homes Act.

The Ontario Health Coalition and the families who lost loved ones are increasingly concerned that the process is being controlled in order to give Southbridge a new license and expansion.

Oshawa Discount Pharmacy *INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED*



FREE DELIVERY

- * **Diabetic Support**
- * **Seasonal Flu-Shots**
- * **Easy Prescription Transfer**
- * **Medication Review**
- * **Medication Disposal**

20% SENIORS DISCOUNT

ON ALL OTCS & Health Products
~~~ All Drug Plans Accepted ~~~  
**We reduce the co-pay**  
**by \$2.00 for ODB eligible patients**

**FREE LOCAL DELIVERY**

**FOR EXCEPTIONAL PERSONAL CARE**  
**VISIT US TODAY**

**We will take the time to get to know you and give you the right advice on all your medical needs.**

**44 Simcoe Street North - Downtown Oshawa**  
**Call: 905.433.7999 \* FAX: 905.433.8999**  
**Mon - Fri. 7:30am - 5:30pm \* Sat. 10am - 4pm \* Sun. 10am - 2pm**