

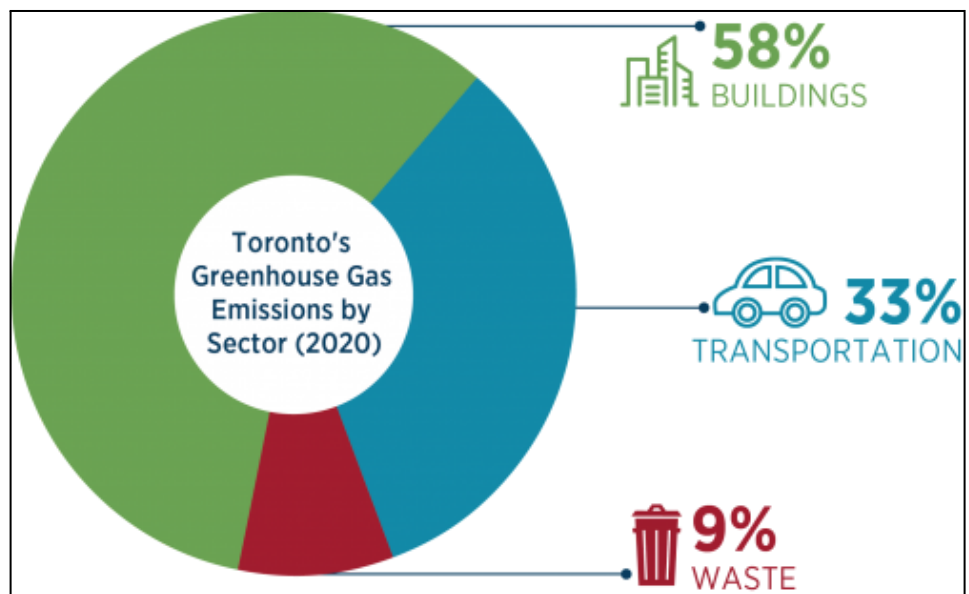
Reducing Greenhouse Gases in Etobicoke for a Better Environment



To address the climate crisis here in Etobicoke-Lakeshore and Etobicoke-Centre, we need to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from two main sources –**buildings and transportation**. The following shows how much these two sources produce emissions and the options for action–what we can do!

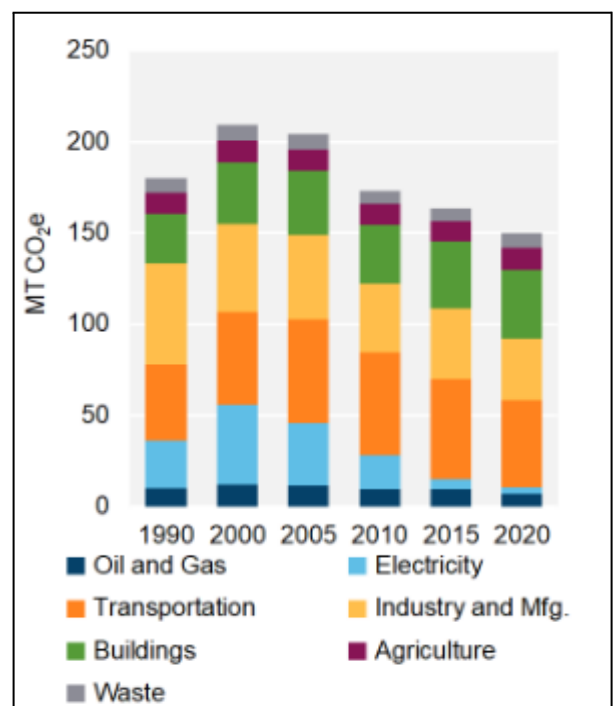
Toronto's Emissions

Looking at Toronto's [Sector based Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#), we see that 58% of emissions are from buildings, and 33% from transportation.



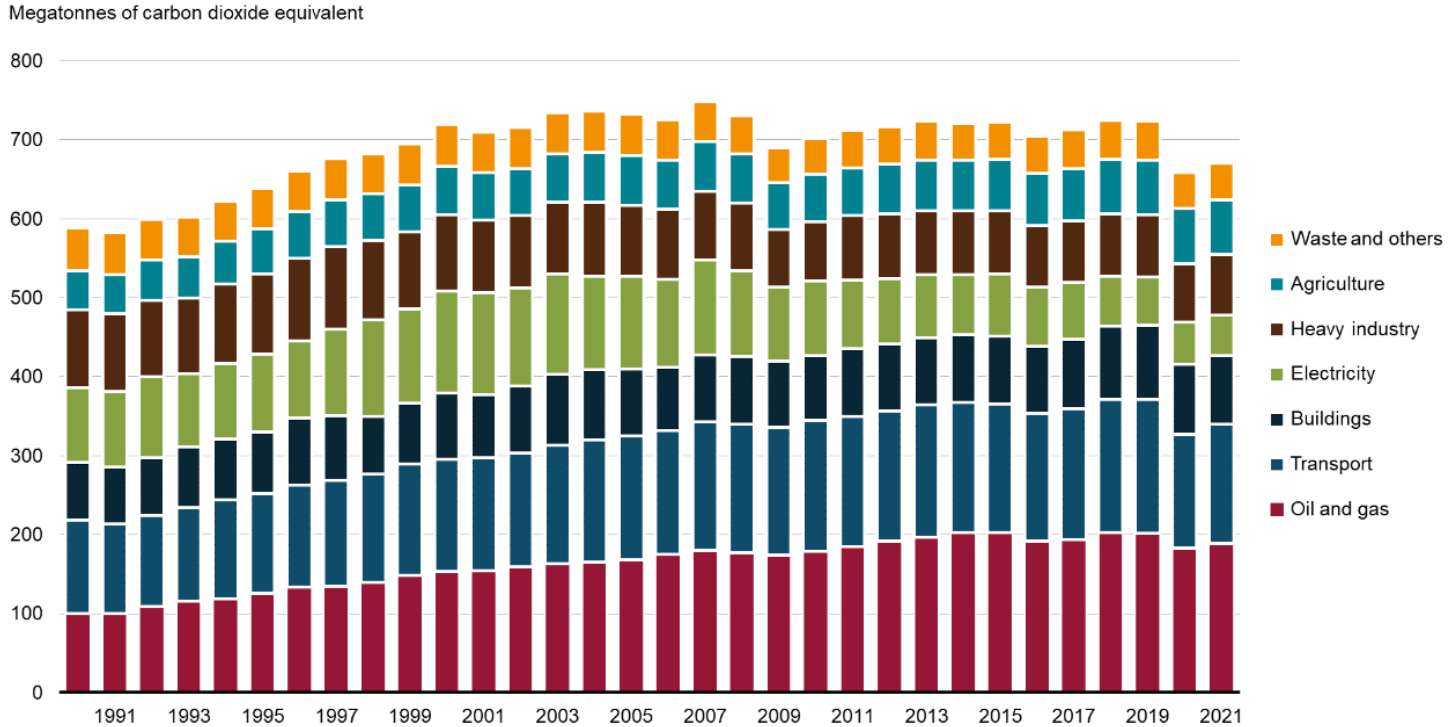
Ontario Emissions in 2021

Looking at [Ontario's energy profile](#), transportation and buildings (along with "Industry and Manufacturing") account for the bulk of GHG emissions. A bit of [digging](#) - shows us that in 2021 - Transportation (31.4%), Buildings (25.0%), and heavy industry (18.3%) accounted for most of Ontario's pollution.



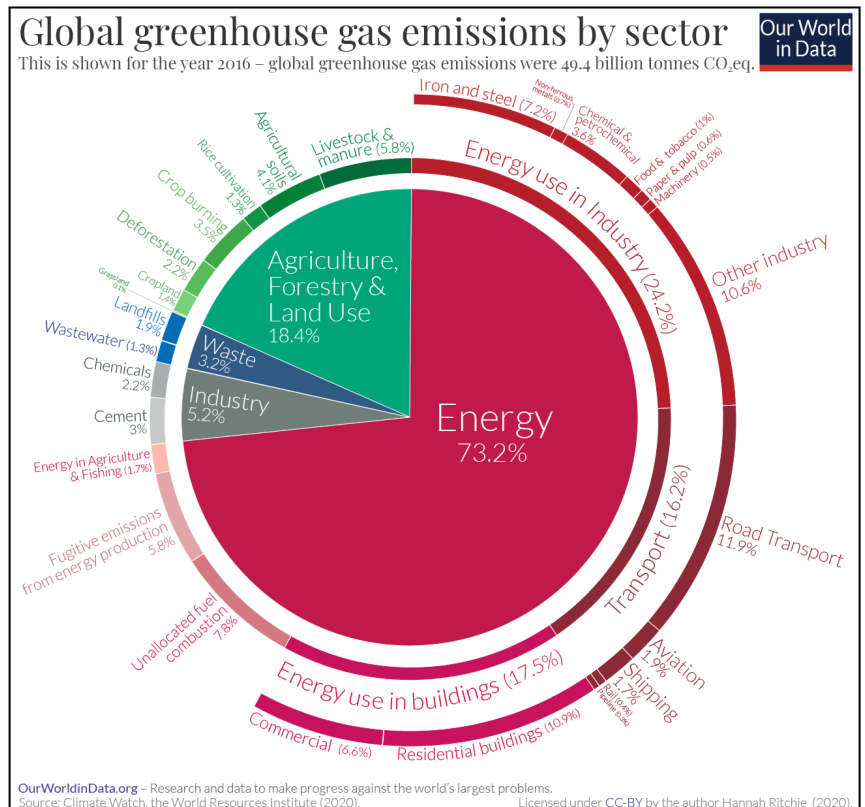
Canada's emissions– In [Canada](#) in 2021, Oil & Gas– at 28.2% – was the biggest single problem. But - we also note that transportation at 22.4% and buildings at 13% were the next two largest sources

Greenhouse gas emissions by economic sector, Canada, 1990 to 2021



Emissions around the world

At the the [global](#) level, energy use in buildings (17.5%) and transportation (16.2%) are two of the largest emission sectors.



Guiding Principles—What next?

Since we know transportation and housing are the two areas to focus on, our options include:

- 1) “Act early, and urgently”¹.
- 2) “Beware of dead-ends”².
- 3) We need to avoid agenda-hitching³.
- 4) “The guiding principle should be to not let perfection be the enemy of good”⁴.
- 5) We need to work together to create a voice that all Canadians feel they can trust to give advice on how to get all of our buildings to net zero.
- 6) The solution will not be one size fits all.
- 7) Align our efforts in Etobicoke with the guidance offered by the [Net Zero Advisory Body](#).

Ultimately - this is all about people.

- We need to work together so Etobicoke residents understand this urgent challenge and manage this emergency.
- We want to make sure politicians at all three levels of government treat this climate challenge with the sense of urgency demanded by the people who elected them.
- We want to let private enterprise know that this is an important opportunity - doing business to make buildings and transportation green will create massive opportunities to succeed.

Buildings

The report Etobicoke Climate Action wrote in 2021 outlines some of the key steps for - [Achieving Net Zero Buildings by 2050](#) :

- Retrofit
 - Define a national strategy for retrofit - both for owner occupied and rental units
 - [LICs \(Local Improvement Charges\)](#) and similar financial vehicles would seem to be key
 - Training - larger workforce
 - Industry - mobilize a large workforce to perform all the required retrofits
 - Research - determine the types of retrofits that make sense, and develop missing products (for instance, a heat pump for buildings heated with a boiler is not available in Ontario)
 - Determine the role for district heating projects - does this only make economic sense for new development or can it be retrofitted in some cases?
- New building

¹ See [Net-Zero Pathways: Initial Observations](#) at [NZAB2050 Publications](#)

² See [Net-Zero Pathways: Initial Observations](#) at [NZAB2050 Publications](#)

³ See Mark Jaccard, “[The Citizen's Guide to Climate Success](#)”, starting at the end of Chapter 6 for lots of discussion, including his statement that:

Mike Hulme noted in his book, Why We Disagree About Climate Change, the climate-energy challenge has over time become like a “Christmas tree on which we each hang our own baubles”

⁴ Mark Jaccard, “[The Citizen's Guide to Climate Success](#)”, Chapter 13, p254

- Upgrade building standards to assure that all new buildings are zero emission during their planned lifetime
- Implement aggressive mandatory adoption of these standards
- Make it attractive for builders to use these standards by allowing them to fast track projects that are compliant

Transport

- Promote Electric Vehicles
- Increase Public Transport
- Promote 15 Minute Cities
- Provide more Walkable, Rideable streets/pathways
- Provide Modular transportation

Next Steps

We see this Dec 1, 2023 meeting as a kickoff discussion for generating the changes needed in Etobicoke. So we really hope to keep moving forward in these areas, with everyone's help. Here are some of these possibilities:

- Focusing on these two key issues—transportation and buildings
- Growing political participation - Getting all levels of government from Etobicoke ridings involved and focussed on GHG reduction; promoting action in their areas of responsibility
- Growing industry participation - Having private businesses outlining what needs to happen to make the business opportunities exploitable
- Including experts from other groups such as [Canada's Net-Zero Advisory Body](#) (NZAB)
- Promoting progress and sharing solid examples of change and success through news and publicity

-Etobicoke Climate Action