

## 2011 Provincial Election Questionnaire

**Question #1:** Ontario has been a net exporter of electricity since 2006. Do you believe that Ontario should continue to export coal-fired electricity to the U.S.A.?

**Answer #1:** No

*Short answer (up to 100 words) for OCAA's election leaflet:*

The Green Party of Ontario is opposed to exporting coal-fired electricity to the U.S.A. We support the full phase out of coal-fired electricity.

Coal is the dirtiest way to generate power. Burning coal produces large amounts of greenhouse gases and particulate pollution. These are the root causes of climate change and air quality issues; destroying local environments and causing various health problems.

We can leave dirty coal behind and move to a financially responsible, sustainable energy future. We can do this by increasing energy efficiency, eliminating waste, and harnessing new sources of energy to power our communities and our economy.

*Long answer (if desired) for OCAA's website:*

The Green Party of Ontario is opposed to exporting coal-fired electricity to the U.S.A. We support the full phase out of coal-fired electricity.

Coal is the dirtiest way to generate power. Burning coal produces large amounts of greenhouse gases and particulate pollution, which are the root causes of climate change and air quality issues.

Coal also destroys local environments and produces mercury and nitrous oxides, which cause various chronic and acute health problems.

We can leave dirty coal behind and move to a financially responsible, sustainable energy future. We can do this by increasing energy efficiency, eliminating waste, and harnessing new sources of energy to power our communities and our economy.

**Question #2:** Ontario's municipal electric utilities (e.g., PowerStream, Toronto Hydro), Hydro One, Enbridge Gas and Union Gas have implemented energy conservation and efficiency programs that are reducing their customers' energy bills by hundreds of millions of dollars. Do you believe that Ontario's electric and gas utilities should be mandated to help their customers achieve all their energy saving opportunities that can meet their needs at a lower cost than new energy supply?

**Answer #2: Yes**

*Short answer (up to 100 words) for OCAA's election leaflet:*

The Green Party supports mandated targets for electric and gas utilities to help customers save money through energy efficiency and conservation.

Reducing waste and increasing efficiency is the only way to deliver long-term sustainable savings on our energy bills today, tomorrow and in the future.

The Green Party supports a green building program to retrofit our homes and businesses. This will save us money by using less and creates thousands of jobs in the construction sector. We will use smart meters to save people money by supporting a market for conservation that measures and pays people to conserve energy.

*Long answer (if desired) for OCAA's website:*

The Green Party supports mandated targets for electric and gas utilities to help customers save money through energy efficiency and conservation.

Rising energy prices are affecting individuals, families and businesses. Reducing waste and increasing efficiency is the only way to deliver long-term sustainable savings on our energy bills today, tomorrow and in the future. Instead of prioritizing energy efficiency and conservation, Ontario's energy bureaucracy continues to pursue an unbalanced approach that prioritizes spending on expensive new generation and supply.

The Green Party supports a green building program to retrofit our homes and businesses. This will not only save us money through increased energy efficiency, it will also create thousands of jobs in the construction sector. We also support using smart meters to save people money, not have them spend more, by creating a market for conservation that measures and pays people to conserve energy.

**Question #3:** In 2010 Vermont electric utilities signed an agreement to import clean, reliable water power from Hydro Quebec for 26 years at a starting price of less than 6 cents per kWh. Do you believe that Ontario should seek to negotiate a long-term contract with Hydro Quebec for low-cost water power imports before pursuing new nuclear projects?

**Answer #3: Yes**

*Short answer (up to 100 words) for OCAA's election leaflet:*

Importing cheap, clean hydroelectric power from Quebec makes sense. The National Energy Board Act entitles us to energy imports from Quebec at the same price that Americans are paying.

Effective immediately, hydroelectric imports from Quebec could replace up to 75% of the energy generated by the Darlington nuclear reactor at approximately 1/3rd of the price.

The Green Party would prioritize investments in clean, low-cost sources of new generation such as hydroelectricity.

**Question #4:** Every nuclear project in Ontario's history has gone massively over budget and the cost overruns have been passed on to Ontario's electricity consumers and taxpayers. Do you believe that nuclear power companies should be allowed to pass their future cost overruns on to Ontario's electricity consumers and taxpayers?

**Answer #4:** No

*Short answer (up to 100 words) for OCAA's election leaflet:*

The Green Party supports legislation to prohibit nuclear power companies from passing cost overruns on to Ontario's electricity consumers and taxpayers. Ontarians shouldn't pay the bill for nuclear mismanagement.

Given the massive cost overruns associated with every nuclear power project in Ontario, new nuclear generation is financially irresponsible. We are still paying the debt from cost overruns of nuclear plants built decades ago.

The Green Party supports a financially sustainable approach to energy policy. Low-cost solutions such as energy efficiency and conservation, hydroelectricity and combined heat and power plants are all available at a lower cost than new nuclear.

*Long answer (if desired) for OCAA's website:*

The Green Party supports legislation that would prohibit nuclear power companies from passing their cost overruns on to Ontario's electricity consumers and taxpayers. Ontario consumers and taxpayers shouldn't have to pay the bill for nuclear mismanagement.

Given the massive cost overruns associated with every nuclear power project in Ontario, the Green Party believes it is financially irresponsible to invest in new nuclear generation at this time. We are still paying the debt from cost overruns of nuclear plants built decades ago.

Building new nuclear facilities locks Ontario into an unaffordable energy future. Nuclear power is expensive and inflexible; it will not allow Ontario to take advantage of affordable advances in new technologies or declining prices in existing technologies.

The Green Party supports a financially sustainable approach to energy policy. Our approach prioritizes low-cost solutions such as energy efficiency and conservation, hydro-electric imports from neighbouring provinces, hydroelectric development in Ontario, and combined heat and power plants—options all available at a lower cost than new nuclear. We also support the

responsible deployment of local renewable energy that positions Ontario to take advantage of declining prices for renewables.

Thank you!

Mike Schreiner

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Schreiner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".