

Delegation Report to Grey County Council: Reconsidering the Direction of Local Climate Action

Executive Summary

This report respectfully urges Grey County Council to pause and reassess its **Climate Emergency Declaration** and related commitments (FCM's PCP and ICLEI partnership/initiatives). Key concerns include:

- **Uncertain Climate Projections.** Current global climate models have shown significant errors. For example, recent analysis found models overshoot actual warming by roughly a factor of 2.2^{[cato.org](#)}. This undermines confidence in extreme warming forecasts that drive emergency declarations.
- **Inflated Narratives.** Media and advocacy often **exaggerate** the immediacy of climate disasters. Studies note that each extreme weather event is widely attributed to climate change, despite historical analogues, and that popular “worst-case” scenarios (e.g. RCP8.5) are implausible^{[judithcurry.com](#)}. Reliance on alarmist narratives risks eroding public trust and obscures balanced policy debate.
- **Misallocated Spending.** Participating in the PCP program is marketed as “free,” but critics warn it leads to expensive mandates (EV charging, retrofitting, smart grids, etc.) with little measurable benefit^{[intimes.calmtimes.ca](#)}. Commitments to net-zero targets can force long-term spending cycles on high-cost technologies (carbon capture, 15-minute cities, etc.) that **favour large corporations** at the expense of local needs^{[intimes.calmtimes.ca](#)}.
- **Operational and Community Risks.** These climate initiatives may strain Grey County's finances and distract from core priorities. Mandatory data tracking and infrastructure upgrades require skilled staff and consultants, diverting resources from roads, public safety, and health services. In short, raising taxes or reallocating budgets for climate projects could undercut essential local services^{[intimes.calmtimes.ca](#)}.
- **Democratic Responsibility.** The climate plan development appears to have **limited public consultation**. Decisions made without thorough community input risk “oversimplifying complex problems” and **undermining local autonomy**^{[policyoptions.irpp.org](#)}. Citizens deserve transparent evidence-based analysis and meaningful engagement before committing to multi-million-dollar programs.

Council is encouraged to consider these points, hold an open public review of the climate strategy, and explore more balanced approaches (e.g. resilience and adaptation

measures) that prioritize Grey County's financial stability, democratic values, and local control.

Background and Context

Grey County has officially declared a climate emergency and endorsed the "Going Green in Grey: Climate Change Action Plan (2022–2050)", which aims for net-zero emissions by 2050. The County is participating in the FCM–ICLEI *Partners for Climate Protection (PCP)* program, a voluntary five-step framework of emission targets and action plans^{pcp-ppc.ca}. PCP membership is **free** to join^{pcp-ppc.ca}, but it commits municipalities to inventorying emissions, setting reduction targets, and implementing expensive policies over decades. Grey's "Climate Action Progress" report lists many initiatives – from EV chargers at County depots to net-zero-ready buildings^{grey.ca} – reflecting this mandate. While well-intentioned, these measures warrant a careful, evidence-based review before entrenching long-term obligations.

As a Georgian Bluffs resident deeply concerned about fiscal prudence and local democracy, I present the following analysis to urge a more cautious approach.

1. Reliability of Climate Projections

Climate models are a key basis for declaring an emergency. However, there is **significant uncertainty** in their projections. A *Cato Institute* review of 13 leading climate models found they **"have been 'running hot,' predicting about 2.2 times as much warming as what actually occurred over 1998–2014."** In fact, 97.6% of model forecasts overshoot the real temperatures^{cato.org}. In plain terms, the models' dire warming forecasts have so far proven exaggerated. This does not deny any warming, but it *does* undercut claims that catastrophic temperature rise is imminent. Scientific uncertainty – especially regarding clouds, feedback, and future human emissions – means we should be cautious about the urgency implied by model-based alarmism. Policy should be grounded in observed trends and local impacts, not worst-case projections. Similarly, long-term scenarios used by media (e.g. the RCP8.5 "business-as-usual" case) rely on extreme assumptions (runaway coal use, minimal tech progress) that many analysts now admit are **highly implausible**. As one climate scientist observed, pushing these unlikely scenarios to justify "future catastrophes" is akin to expecting the audience to believe "six impossible things before breakfast"^{judithcurry.com}. Councils should not rely solely on sensational forecasts, but rather on balanced science and risk assessment.

2. Inflated Narratives and Fear-Driven Policy

Public discussion often exaggerates climate impacts, which can distort policy choices. Media reports habitually attribute every extreme weather event to "the fingerprints of

manmade climate change,” even when historical records show similar extremes in pre-industrial times^{judithcurry.com}. For example, heat waves and storms are inevitable in Canada’s climate, yet each new event is often cast as unprecedented doom. These narratives pressure local governments to act hastily.

Provincial and international commentators have also cautioned against **alarmist rhetoric**. Overblown claims can reduce public confidence and distract from effective action. When policies are justified primarily on sensational claims rather than clear local evidence, communities grow cynical. Grey County should ensure its messaging is factual and proportionate, distinguishing *validated local risks* (e.g. the actual flood history or extreme-weather data for Grey County) from global fears. Overstated narratives can lead to public resentment if promised crises do not materialize or if “solutions” prove costly without visible benefit.

3. Financial Cost and Misallocated Spending

Implementing a climate plan has real costs. Even though the PCP program is free to join^{pcp-ppc.ca}, each milestone can trigger significant expenses. Critics describe PCP as a “**freemium business model**”: the initial steps (resolution and data collection) are easy and zero-cost, but once data is gathered, towns are sucked into spending commitments^{imtimes.ca}. For example, Milestone 1 forces Grey County to inventory entire-community emissions – an exercise requiring staff time, specialized software, and possibly smart meters or consultants. All this data is then handed to ICLEI, with little transparency on how it is used. Once an emissions baseline is set (Milestones 2–3), municipalities “feel compelled” to continue, often writing lofty targets into by-laws to justify sunk costs^{imtimes.ca}. Grey County might feel pressured to set aggressive reduction goals (20%, 40%, net-zero 2050, etc.) without legal requirement or funding. Yet these self-imposed targets **justify further spending**: fleet electrification, EV charging stations, green building retrofits, battery storage, carbon capture pilots, and so on^{imtimes.ca}. In practice, these policies funnel municipal resources toward expensive “tech solutions” and global contractors. A recent analysis warns that such measures “favour large corporate investors and global franchises” while making it harder for local businesses and taxpayers^{imtimes.ca}. For example, mandating LEED-certified public buildings or subsidizing EV chargers may seem green, but they come with price tags (charging stations often cost \$30K–\$50K each) and questionable ROI.

Grey’s own Climate Action Progress notes plan to install 20 EV chargers at County sites^{grey.ca}. This project alone could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Meanwhile, issues like road and bridge maintenance, rural water infrastructure, and public health are pressing concerns for residents. We must ask: is this an effective use of scarce capital? The County should conduct a **cost–benefit audit** of each proposed initiative.

As one municipal review urges, governments should be extremely transparent about climate spending and weigh it against other needs.

Importantly, PCP Milestone 5 requires **continuous monitoring and compliance**. In practice, councils become locked into a perpetual spending cycle: each year adds data-reporting tasks and tech upgrades to chase ever more ambitious goals^{lmtimes.ca}. The Last Mountain Times op-ed sums it up: “once enrolled in PCP, councils feel obligated to continue spending on expensive projects that provide no measurable return on investment”^{lmtimes.ca}. Grey’s council should consider whether it wants to obligate itself in this way, especially since municipalities are **not legally required** by higher law to meet any particular emissions target^{lmtimes.ca}. All PCP obligations are voluntary commitments, which Grey can exit anytime by simply rescinding its original resolution^{lmtimes.ca}. We should not tiptoe into open-ended financial commitments without periodic public review.

4. Operational and Local Economical Risk

Beyond direct costs, the climate plan may pose operational risks. Smaller municipalities often lack expertise and budgets to manage complex sustainability programs. Mandates like expanded bike-lane networks, 15-minute city zoning, or digital emissions monitoring may not suit Grey’s rural demographics and geography^{lmtimes.ca}. For instance, wide rural distances and severe winter weather make complete car-restriction schemes impractical. Imposing such policies could hamper local industries (e.g. agriculture, tourism) that rely on flexibility.

There is also a risk of **service shortfall**. Every dollar allocated to climate initiatives is a dollar not spent on core services. Grey County already faces infrastructure pressures (bridges, flood control, public transit). If budgets stretch to cover climate programs, important services may be deferred or rely more on property taxes. Critics note that some Canadian cities have actually raised taxes or cut services to fund ICLEI-style climate projects^{lmtimes.ca}. We must avoid repeating that error.

Moreover, it’s worth asking whether investing in mitigation here yields meaningful climate benefits. Canada, with its vast forests and wetlands, is a **net carbon sink** – we absorb more CO₂ than we emit^{lmtimes.ca}. Grey County alone contributes a trivial fraction of global emissions. While any reduction in emissions is not harmful, the marginal impact on global climate from Grey’s cutbacks would be extremely small. This raises the question of opportunity cost: Are we imposing local burdens for a negligible global effect? Many residents would prefer investments in **adaptation** (flood-proof infrastructure, emergency preparedness, energy reliability) which have clear local value, rather than symbolic mitigation that yields no local benefit.

If the County does proceed with climate actions, it should focus on *practical resilience* measures (e.g. water management plans, shade and cooling for vulnerable

neighbourhoods, support for soil conservation) rather than large-scale tech mandates. This pragmatic approach serves **the community's interests first**.

5. Public Consultation and Democratic Accountability

As elected officials, Council has an obligation to ensure broad public support for major initiatives. To date, the Climate Change Action Plan drafting process has involved technical committees and staff meetings, but it appears to have limited citizen engagement beyond online surveys. Democratic accountability demands more: thorough public forums, debates, and impact studies.

Numerous governance experts warn that “**de facto**” **policy decisions made without community consultation oversimplify complex problems and undermine local democracy**policyoptions.irpp.org. If residents feel bypassed – hearing only one side of the story – skepticism grows. In practice, many in our community have expressed surprise that the

County is accelerating net-zero goals without a clear vote or extensive public debate. Even Ontario’s Auditor General recently noted that provincial decision-making on big issues often lacked evidence and engagementpolicyoptions.irpp.org. Councils have seen public backlash on development plans when consultation was weak; climate policy should not repeat that mistake.

Grey County can and should pause to solicit input. This might include town halls, citizen advisory panels, and independent reviews of the proposed action plan. Transparent cost estimates and alternative scenarios should be presented. Doing so would honour the council’s commitments to **open governance** and could identify local solutions that work for *our* communities – not just global talking points. It would also help ensure that any climate actions are **aligned with local values**: stewardship of our watersheds, support for local agriculture, energy affordability for seniors, and other priorities.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In summary, the premise and process of Grey County’s current climate initiative warrant careful reconsideration. Unreliable model predictions and alarmist narratives should not drive binding policies. The PCP/ICLEI framework, while well-intentioned, risks locking the County into costly obligations with unclear local benefitlimtimes.calmtimes.ca. These policies could burden taxpayers, impose hidden debts, and strain the County’s operational capacity, all without significantly affecting global emissions.

I respectfully recommend that Council **slow down and reopen this discussion**.

Specifically:

- **Commission an independent review** of the proposed Climate Change Action Plan, including a cost–benefit analysis of major initiatives (EV charging, building codes, etc.) and consideration of non-mitigation priorities (flood control, social programs).
- **Engage residents and businesses** through public consultations or workshops to gather input on climate risks they perceive and solutions they support.
- **Reaffirm local values** by prioritizing resiliency and stewardship: ensure any climate measures also advance local jobs, infrastructure needs, and fiscal health.
- **Consider formal withdrawal** of PCP commitments if they are found to exceed Grey County’s core mandates. Note that PCP is voluntary: councils can “rescind the resolution” and exit the program with no penalty [lmtimes.ca](https://www.lmtimes.ca).

Grey County has always prided itself on practical governance and community-minded policy. We have handled emergencies (like severe weather) by focusing on local priorities and evidence-based planning. Let us apply the same prudent approach here. In doing so, we honour both our responsibility to the environment and our duty to the residents who elected us.

Prepaid by: Jennifer Shevalier

Date: May 29, 2025

Appendix: Sources

- Patrick Frank, “*A Fatal Flaw in Climate Models*,” Cato Institute (2016) – Analysis of climate model errors [cato.org](https://www.cato.org).
- Judith Curry, “*The toxic rhetoric of climate change*,” Climate Etc. (2019) – Commentary on climate alarmism [judithcurry.com](https://judithcurry.com/judithcurry.com).
- Jan Derwores, “*OpEd – Will Rural and Urban Municipal Amalgamations in Saskatchewan Become Reality (Part 4)*,” Last Mountain Times (Feb 11, 2025) – Critique of ICLEI/PCP program and its costs [lmtimes.ca](https://www.lmtimes.ca).
- Grey County Official Website – “*Climate Action Progress*” (2023) – County’s list of ongoing climate initiatives [grey.ca](https://www.grey.ca).
- PCP (Partners for Climate Protection) Program Website – “*About*” page – Description of FCM/ICLEI five-step framework [pcp-ppc.ca](https://www.pcp-ppc.ca).
- Policy Options (IRPP), “*Demanding participation and transparent policymaking in urban Ontario*,” (May 9, 2024) – On the importance of evidence-based policy and public consultation [policyoptions.irpp.org](https://www.policyoptions.irpp.org).
- Additional sources and local county records as cited above.

Citations

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[OpEd - Will Rural and Urban Municipal Amalgamations in Saskatchewan Become Reality \(Part 4\)](https://www.lmtimes.ca/oped-will-rural-and-urban-municipal-amalgamations-in-saskatchewan-become-reality-part-4/)

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[About - Partners for Climate Protection](#)

<https://www.pcp-ppc.ca/about>



[About - Partners for Climate Protection](#)

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All Sources



Supplementary Resource Links

Submitted as Additional Information for Council Consideration

Municipal Governance and Climate Policy

- Partnership dissolved- <https://www.thoroldtoday.ca/local-news/partnership-dissolved-thorold-pulls-out-of-climate-program-9107003>
- Financial Transparency- Waterloo Regional Council Feb 26, 2025 Time: 2:43:25
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JkoxSWy8svk>
- The City of Lethbridge Sets the Standard: A Model for Municipalities Scrutiny of the PCP Program https://open.substack.com/pub/kiclei/p/the-city-of-lethbridge-sets-the-standard?r=1vg5kt&utm_medium=ios

International Resolutions

- Kansas
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- Tennessee <https://www.capitol.tn.gov/bills/107/bill/hjr0587.pdf>
- Nevada <https://nevadagop.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Nov-17-2012-Agenda-21-Resolution.pdf>
- Georgia <https://www.legis.ga.gov/api/legislation/document/20112012/122846>

EV Fire Hazards

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<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.6980119>
- Tesla fire burns for 17 hours: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/tesla-fire-ev-1.7228493>

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- CTV News-Fire Officials Raise Concerns Over EV fires: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/london/article/fire-officials-raise-concerns-over-ev-fires/>

EMF and Health

- Dr. Magda Havas – Health impacts of EMFs: <https://magdahavas.com/>
- Electromagnetic Radiation Safety (Joel Moskowitz): <https://www.saferemr.com/>
- Defender shield: https://defendershield.com/blogs/travel/electric-cars-emf-radiation-could-your-tesla-be-bad-for-you?srltid=AfmBOooWbv_hW1-1L_ABg1TlyX5z8MFrA8WWYHpYXDvcdzvRVd0cTmNp
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9ywWYqmpgc>

Environmental & Ethical Concerns

- Child labor in cobalt mining (Amnesty): <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/01/child-labour-behind-smart-phone-and-electric-car-batteries/>
- Cobalt mining video (Amnesty Int'l): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JcJk3W4u4Eo>
- Canada's Ring of Fire controversy: <https://thenarwhal.ca/what-is-ring-of-fire-ontario-explainer/>

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- EV charger fire risk study (Fire Safety Journal):
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0379711219303293>
- Insurance costs for EV charging sites:
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- [Climate Intervention Risks – Nature Communications](#)
- [The Folly of Net Zero – Net Zero Watch](#)
- Getting Canada to Net-Zero Cost Several Fortunes-
<https://financialpost.com/opinion/getting-canada-net-zero-cost-several-fortunes>
- Net Zero's Cost-Benefit Ratio is Crazy High-
<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/commentary/net-zeros-cost-benefit-ratio-crazy-high>
- Green Technologies Cause Massive Waste and Pollution-
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Failed Climate Predictions

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- [Greta Preaches Many First Earth Days' Failed Predictions – New Geography](#)
- [Climate Alarm Failed Prognostications – Institute for Energy Research](#)

- [Warming predictions failing to match observed data – Nature Communications](#)
- [Climate Models vs. Reality – AP](#)
- [Speech by Dr. Noel J. Brown – Pace University \(early UN warnings\)](#)
- [Climate Scare Predictions \(Compilation 1988–2023\) – Facebook Video](#)
Collection of historical news clips showing failed climate doomsday predictions.
- [NASA & UN Warnings From the 80s and 90s – Climate Scare Flashback](#)
Historical footage from mainstream media pushing alarming, now-debunked claims.
- Climate Crisis Timeline: 50 Years of Failed Eco-Predictions –
<https://realclimatescience.com/fifty-years-of-failed-apocalyptic-forecasts/#gsc.tab=0>

Weather Trends and Context

- [Number of Natural Disaster Events – Our World in Data](#)
- [Limitations of Disaster Data – Our World in Data](#)
- Bringing Some Empirical Sense to all the Hurricane Hype-
<https://www.cato.org/commentary/bringing-some-empirical-sense-all-hurricane-hype>
- Are Hurricanes Really Getting Worse?- <https://atlanticfisherman.com/are-hurricanes-really-getting-worse/>
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Positive Role of CO₂ and Scientific Debate

- [More Efficient Plants – PubMed](#)
- [Global Plant Growth Surging – NOAA](#)
- [CO₂ Fertilization Effect Greening the Earth – NASA](#)
- [CO₂ Fertilization in Wheat and Forests – Wiley](#)
- [Carbon Dioxide and Global Change – Cambridge University Press](#)
- [GEOCARB III – Harvard/ADS](#)
- [YouTube: CO₂ Has No Impact on Climate](#)
- [CO₂ is Plant Food – CO₂ Coalition](#)
Organization of scientists promoting the beneficial role of CO₂.
- [CO₂ and Photosynthesis Benefits – ScienceDirect](#)
- [A Greener Earth Thanks to CO₂ – NASA Earth Observatory](#)

Alternative Scientific Perspectives

- [CLINTEL: There is No Climate Emergency](#)
- [Reality Check: No Climate Emergency in Vancouver – Vancouver Sun Op-Ed](#)
- [140 Papers: Minimal Effect of CO₂ on Temperature – NoTricksZone](#)
- [Warming Driven by Solar Radiation, Not Human Emissions – NoTricksZone \(2021\)](#)
- [Natural Variability & Solar Forcing – NoTricksZone \(2017\)](#)
- [New Peer-Reviewed Study – ScienceDirect](#)
- [Some Coolness Concerning Global Warming – Lindzen \(1990\)](#)
- [Greenhouse: 200 Years of Climate Debate – Archive.org](#) Page 200, 203-204, 234
- CO₂, The Gas of Life: Dr. William Happer -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXJ7UZjFDHU>
- [NASA Study Suggests Arctic Ice Changes Due to Wind, Not Just Warming](#)
- [Documentary: The Great Global Warming Swindle – YouTube](#)
A well-known but controversial film featuring dissenting scientists.
- [The Climate War – Book by Rupert Darwall](#)
Explores how climate science has been influenced by politics and ideology.
- What if Our Climate Models are Flawed? -
<https://www.deepskyclimate.com/blog/what-if-our-climate-models-are-flawed>
- [Climate Change Hoax Collapses as Mann's Hockey Stick Debunked – Climate Science News](#)
- [UK Met Office Invented Data – Daily Sceptic](#)
- [UK's Weather Service Caught Falsifying Data – European Conservative](#)
- [Questionable Climate Data Could Harm Industries – Google Drive](#)
- [Imaginary World Conditions in Climate Studies – NoTricksZone](#)
- [Climate Models: Strengths & Limitations – Global Change \(See Page 13\)](#)
- [SARM: Policies That Penalize Natural CO₂ Cycles May Be Misguided](#)
- Are Climate Models Overstating Future Warming? –
<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/commentary/doomsday-predictions-rely-flawed-climate-models>
- [Satellite Data vs. Climate Models – Roy Spencer, PhD](#)
- Data Tampering – <https://realclimatescience.com/alterations-to-climate-data/#gsc.tab=0>
- [Weather Channel Founder John Coleman Speaks Out](#)
Critiques mainstream climate science and emphasizes media bias

Geopolitical Influence and Funding

- [Massive Cover-Up: 285 Global Cooling Papers from 1960s–80s – NoTricksZone](#)
- [Climate: The Movie – Rumble](#)
- The Limitations of Climate Models- Steven Koonin-
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acyErLNL7kQ>

- Hot or Not: Steven Koonin Questions Conventional Climate Science and Methodology-
<https://www.hoover.org/research/hot-or-not-steven-koonin-questions-conventional-climate-science-and-methodology>
- [Global Warming as a Tool of Control – Michael Crichton Lecture \(Transcript\)](#)
Critiques the politicization of science.

Broken or Outdated Government Links

- www.ontario.ca/page/why-we-need-address-climate-change
- There is great concern with the reliability of information coming from the Ontario government and 404 error links.
- Footnote [1] Man et al 2013ab Study determined that they could not connect this issue to climate change.
- Footnote [2] on Ontario government website had outdated information from 2014
- Footnote [3] on Ontario government website had outdated information from 2014
- Link [3.3°C above its 1986-2005 average](#) Why was this specific range used for their simulation? Note says "reference period is 1986-2005; LIKELY ranges are in parentheses; Unit:(°C). Range is only 19 years of data used yet they predicated the temperature from 1981-2099 using this data (118 years). This “study” is marked by significant uncertainty, and its predictions are so implausible that they strain credibility. Reference was produced by LAMPS, Laboratory of Mathematical Parallels System which is a research and training laboratory in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, York University.
- The director/professor Huaiping Zhu is being funded by China. He has 185 publications. Prior to 2010 he was supported by NSERC (Canada) in partnership with National Sciences Foundation of China. Since 2010 all publications have been supported by National Sciences Foundation of China, National Sciences Foundation of Shanxi Province, National Social Science Foundation of China, National Statistical Science Research Project, Natural Science Foundation of the Jiangsu Higher Education Institutions of China, Special Science and Technology Innovation Program for Carbon Peak and Carbon Neutralization of Jiangsu Province, National Key Research and Development Program of China, Key Research Project of Zhejiang Province, Key Scientific and Technological Project of Henan Province, China Postdoctoral Science Foundation, Strategic Research and Consulting Project of Chinese Academy of Engineering.
- His colleagues that he collaborates with are also of concern, Ziwang Deng, York University is from Nanjing, China, studied at Nanjing University and [Xin Qiu](#), York University who was the Director of Nanjing Environmental Research Protection Institute, Ministry of Electric Power China from 1989-1996, also studied at Nanjing University.

- Link [1.3°C per 100 years from 1900 to present.](#) Using outdated projections. Actual temperature last logged 2012. This model (IPCC AR5 RCP8.5) should be updated to include the last 12 years of actual temperature.
- Link [2016 was the hottest year on record for the planet.](#) is a 404 error on the World Meteorological Organization.
- Link [the rate of global warming over the last 50 years is almost double the rate of warming over the last 100 years.](#) Is also a 404 error IPCC page not found
- Link [17 of the 18 hottest years on record have occurred since 2000](#) Is also another 404 error on the World Meteorological Organization.

In conclusion, almost all links on the Ontario website led to 404 errors or are significantly outdated and according to the Web Archive they never actually existed. The County uses this as reference/footnote 2 in the Report PDR-CCTF-10-22 "According to the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Ontario is already experiencing the effects of climate change and extreme weather"². The Ontario government's content lacks credible references, undermining the reliability of the information presented.