

## Bill 23 - Urgent Threat to Climate Action

The provincial “More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022”, known as Bill 23, includes a substantial number of changes to Ontario’s most significant land use planning legislation. The proposed changes will have direct and measurable consequences on climate adaptation and mitigation in the Hamilton-Burlington Bay Area, including unprecedented impact on climate related measures municipalities and regulatory bodies across Ontario can take.

Listed here are key climate impacts of Bill 23. Share with others and use as a guide when submitting your own comments to the province, whether calls to MPPs, via the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) or submissions for upcoming committee hearings. For the latter, [making a submission online](#) is a quick and easy option or you may appear in person. Deadline for online submissions is Thursday November 17, 2022 at 7pm.

### Key climate related aspects of Bill 23 include:

1. Removing municipal green building standards
  - Green, sustainable development is a key to many Ontario cities’ long-term climate change strategies, as they aim to lower GHG emissions
  
2. Wetland loss and significant changes to wetland management
  - Wetlands are major carbon sinks; disturbing carbon stores during construction means releasing more GHG into the atmosphere
  - Wetlands play a major role in flood management, increasingly important in the face of climate change and extreme weather
  - Biodiversity under stress due to climate change will be further burdened by habitat loss
  
3. Limits amount of ground-based housing in areas already serviced by infrastructure and transit
  - Compact cities provide greater transit and mobility options; carbon budgets show that sprawling out induces greater GHG emissions
  - When infrastructure dollars are diverted to sprawl, away from maintaining existing infrastructure, there’s increased risk of flooding and substantially reduced ability for climate adaptation



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#### 4. Reduced permitting role of Conservation Authorities

- Floodplains and wetlands are significant aspects of the natural landscape which afford us a level of resiliency in the face of more extreme weather caused by climate change
- These natural assets are essential natural capital which municipalities and communities rely on heavily in the face of climate change

#### 5. Reduced requirements for public park lands

- Access to public outdoor greenspace during extreme heat events is vital for vulnerable populations without cooling in their buildings; this is an important climate equity issue
- Greenspace and natural areas in urban settings are important for countering urban heat island effect

Thank you for your engagement on these critical climate issues and helping to ensure a climate resilient future for Ontario and the Bay Area.

The Bay Area Climate Change Council represents a collaborative voice for climate action in the Hamilton-Burlington region. Members of the Council and our implementation teams span the two cities and represent organizations in the non-profit, education and private sectors.

**Prepared by the Bay Area Climate Change Council Office  
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