

John TORY

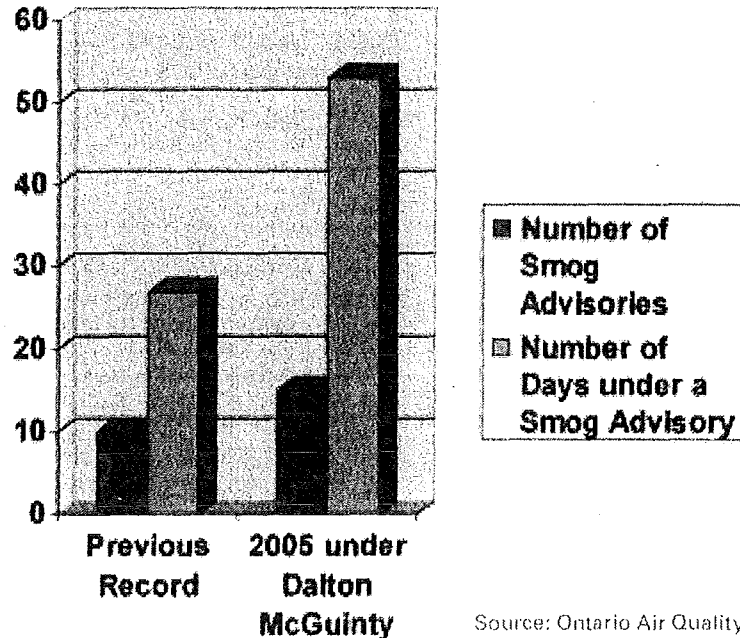


**For a Better Ontario
Leadership Matters**



The PC Party Plan
for Ontario's Future

Smog Days in Ontario



Under Dalton McGuinty, Ontario has seen record levels of smog days.

The most important point is having the courage to establish strong targets, and the flexibility to find the best ways of getting there.

Environmental responsibility is not a choice; it is a necessity. This is the new normal. That means our plan has to work with the economy, not against it, and harness the power of incentives and innovation. The increased responsibility will be shared by business, government and individual Ontarians.

John Tory will tackle all aspects of the environmental challenge... air pollution and greenhouse gases, conserving green spaces for future generations, protecting our water supply and reducing toxic contaminants. Clean energy is one of the keys to success and a cornerstone of the energy plan explained in the next section of this paper.

There must also be a role for individuals to play, through both regulations and incentives for environmentally responsible behaviour – such as more efficient vehicles, technologies and appliances, and homes that use energy more efficiently and are constructed with environmentally friendly building materials.

A realistic, ambitious environmental plan must balance many different interests. It is, however, critical to get it right to achieve the cleaner environment Ontario needs today – and that our children deserve tomorrow.

A John Tory government will:

- **Reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs)** created in Ontario, which are responsible for approximately 30% of Canada's emissions. We will:
 - **Set strong short- and long-term targets** for the province – 10% below 1990 levels by 2020 and 60% below 1990 levels by 2050.
 - **Build a clean energy system** in Ontario, using a mixture of co-generation, renewable energy sources and nuclear power. We will move immediately to clean up Ontario's coal-fired power plants, taking the steps delayed by the McGuinty government's broken promises. 'Building a Clean Energy System' on page 47 goes into more detail on how Ontario can have clean, affordable and reliable energy.
 - **Make GHG reductions a priority for industry**, using the tax system to provide incentives for investments in energy efficiency. The industrial sector has a great track record for improving efficiency in the face of competition; now it needs to direct that same energy to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We will help by removing the barriers to co-generation, allowing many industries to produce their own clean power. Other steps will include stricter requirements in industrial and commercial building codes, and encouraging industries that share the processing of waste products to locate near one another.
 - **Help individuals contribute to the solution**. We will offer consumer incentives to reduce GHG emissions, including rebates on buying more efficient vehicles, technologies and appliances (and scrapping the old ones). In order to achieve our targets, we must require Ontario's new homes to be significantly more energy efficient. There must also be appropriate help for the industry and its workers as they adjust to the new rules. For those in existing homes, we will offer incentives for efficiency upgrades, including solar power, and promote voluntary energy audits.
 - **Lead by example** with programs to purchase more green power for government use, making new government buildings 30% more energy efficient, reducing energy use in our offices by a further 10% over four years, and eliminating high-emission government vehicles.
 - **Support the use of ethanol** and other fuels that produce fewer GHG emissions. Government fleets will be converted to the E85 standard to kick start demand for ethanol stations, and we will provide tax credits for gas stations that convert their operations.
 - **Research and develop new technologies** and improvements to existing ones. Ongoing improvements in fuel efficiency, particularly for trucks, will be a big help in reducing GHG emissions. Fuel cell technology and lightweight materials hold much promise for cars, while micro utilities can reduce the energy demands of homes and office buildings. We will support research into these and other promising areas.

• **Clean up our environment with reductions in pollutants and toxins**, and safeguarding our air, water and land. We will:

• **Work with the federal government to define a list of high-risk chemicals in Ontario**, and require businesses that use the listed chemicals to inform themselves of innovative opportunities to phase them out or replace them entirely. We will support business in meeting this challenge and examine the idea of grants or targeted tax credits. While our plan draws from successful programs in other jurisdictions, it will be a made-for-Ontario strategy that respects the unique nature of our economy.



• **Conserve green spaces for the future**, including the greenbelt area around the GTA, which we will preserve with its present boundaries. We will create a Land Conservation Challenge Fund to help people near the greenbelt deal with its impact, and to fund projects across the province that protect ecological features. We will also extend tax incentives for conservation easements and treat all types of conservation land equally.

• **Protect Ontario's clean water supply** by fully implementing all of the recommendations of the O'Connor Commission into contaminated water. Lake Simcoe and the Great Lakes will be the focus of our plan for conservation and protection. We will also take action across the province, eliminating every single site where primary treated sewage is released into water courses by 2015, and tackling the entire Ontario Areas of Concern list of water pollution problems.

• **Create a special commission with just one job** – to make current environmental legislation work faster and more efficiently. Too often, regulations designed to protect the environment can prevent green innovations. We will fast-track effective green projects and make it easier to conserve and protect our environment today.

• **Implement an integrated waste management strategy** in Ontario. It's now 2007 and our diversion rate is only half what Dalton McGuinty promised by this time. We will focus on increasing diversion and using new technologies to improve the management of the remaining waste.

• **Protect and enhance our natural resources**, and restoring pride and purpose to our Ministry of Natural Resources and Conservation Officers. We need to ensure that unscrupulous people don't exploit our fish and wildlife or endanger people's lives in the outdoors and that they do protect and respect the environment. We will:

• **Match annual angling and hunting licence revenue contributions** with new investments.

• **Put more Conservation Officers in the field** to promote better enforcement of the rules and enhance protection of our resources and the environment.

• **Dramatically increase the fines** for the worst offenses against our natural resources.