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Oxford County Council
21 Reeve Street
Woodstock, ON N4S 7Y3

To: Oxford County Council Members

Subject: A Citizen's Request to Withdraw from the FCM-ICLEI PCP Program

Dear Council Members,

You've been placed in a position to serve the public—not external agendas. That responsibility requires sound judgment, open dialogue, and the courage to ask hard questions—especially when it comes to programs that claim to solve “climate change” but may, in reality, cause more harm than good.

Let me be clear: I am asking Oxford County to **withdraw from the FCM-ICLEI “Partners for Climate Protection” (PCP) program** and any affiliated net zero or climate control commitments. These schemes are expensive, ideologically driven, and increasingly disconnected from scientific and environmental reality.

To make the right decisions, we need facts—not fear.

CO₂ Is Not Pollution—It's Essential to Life

Let's start with a foundational distinction: climate doesn't change, but temperatures do fluctuate. As the saying goes, “*Climate is what you expect, weather is what you get.*” The Earth has always experienced natural temperature cycles—warmer decades, cooler centuries. We still have four seasons. Summer is still summer, and winter is still winter. The panic over minor temperature variations has been exaggerated beyond reason.

Historical climate data—such as ice core and sediment records (e.g., Vostok Ice Core Studies)—show that CO₂ levels have historically lagged behind temperature increases, not caused them. Furthermore, NASA has confirmed that the Earth is greener than it was 35 years ago, thanks in part to higher atmospheric CO₂ levels.

CO₂ is not pollution. It's the foundation of photosynthesis and essential to plant growth and oxygen production. Greenhouses often boost CO₂ to 800–1200 ppm to improve crop yields (Mortensen, 1987). At just 150 ppm, plant life begins to collapse. So why are we being told to suppress what sustains life?

The Real Cost of Net Zero Technology

At a recent meeting in Mount Elgin, I spoke with an engineer who raised a critical issue: what happens when the solar panels, EV batteries, and wind turbine blades expire?

Globally, these materials are piling up in waste facilities. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) projects that solar panel waste will exceed 78 million tonnes by 2050 (IRENA, 2016). EV battery recycling is energy-intensive and still in early development. Meanwhile, mining for lithium, cobalt, and rare earth elements poses serious environmental and ethical concerns. This isn't "clean" energy—it's just exported pollution.

FCM-ICLEI Programs Are Not Free or Harmless

These programs require municipalities to:

- Commit to perpetual tracking and emissions reporting (Milestone 1 and 5)
- Align with UN Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Accord (Milestone 2)
- Accept policy influence from unelected global organizations such as the UN and ICLEI (Milestone 3 and 4)

Municipalities—not global institutions—are left holding the liability. The Town of Thorold, Ontario, voted to withdraw from PCP in June 2023 after recognizing the long-term cost and erosion of local control ([Thorold Council Minutes, 2023]).

This isn't simply voluntary participation—it's incremental compliance by design.

Practical Alternatives for Local Stewardship

Oxford County does **not** need the net zero doctrine to protect its environment. We can pursue meaningful stewardship by investing in:

- Water protection and conservation
- Sustainable agriculture and soil health
- Reforestation and urban greening
- Localized waste reduction without top-down mandates

Please consider exploring **alternative resources** and grassroots initiatives:

- *Canadians for Sensible Climate Policy* – <https://friendsofscience.org>
- *Cornwall Alliance for the Stewardship of Creation* – <https://cornwallalliance.org>
- *KICLEI Canada* – A national grassroots initiative: <https://kiclei.ca>

Closing

I respectfully request that Oxford County Council pass a motion to withdraw from the FCM–ICLEI Partners for Climate Protection program and redirect efforts toward locally led, science-based environmental initiatives that serve our community’s interests—not international policy agendas.

Let us serve the people—not fear campaigns orchestrated from abroad.

Thank you for your time and public service.

Sincerely,

Martin Driesse

Concerned Citizen

References

1. Mortensen, L.M. (1987). *Review: CO₂ Enrichment in Greenhouses*. Scientia Horticulturae.
2. NASA Earth Observatory (2016). *Carbon Dioxide Fertilization Greening Earth, Study Finds*. <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov>
3. International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). (2016). *End-of-Life Management: Solar Photovoltaic Panels*. <https://www.irena.org>
4. Thorold City Council. (2023). *Meeting Minutes – June 2023*.
5. Vostok Ice Core Data, Petit et al. (1999). *Climate and atmospheric history of the past 420,000 years*. Nature.