

# ONTARIO'S CLIMATE PLAN

Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future  
Generations: A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan

## Problems and Questions

# Introduction: Framing

- Replaces cancelled Liberal climate action plan
- Acknowledges Ontario's past achievements: Coal plant closure; clean electricity; 22% below 2005 levels
- Frames Ontario's contribution as unfair -" ....doing Canada's heavy lifting on greenhouse gas emission reductions has come at a cost to Ontario families..."pg. 17
- Positions economic concerns - "takes into consideration the commitment the people of Ontario have already shown..., as well as our commitment to growing Ontario's economy...." pg. 22
- No Carbon Tax
- Setting "achievable" rather than science dictated targets
- Admits wide-ranging threats & costs of climate change BUT also minimizes-
- "While forest fires pose a serious threat to public safety, communities, and infrastructure, they are also an important natural process in Ontario's forest ecosystems." pg. 47

# 4 Main Problems

- Targets are not good enough
- Methods are Vague
- Funding is Insufficient
- Accountability?

# ISSUE #1: TARGETS ARE INSUFFICIENT



## New Plan:

Replaces former targets

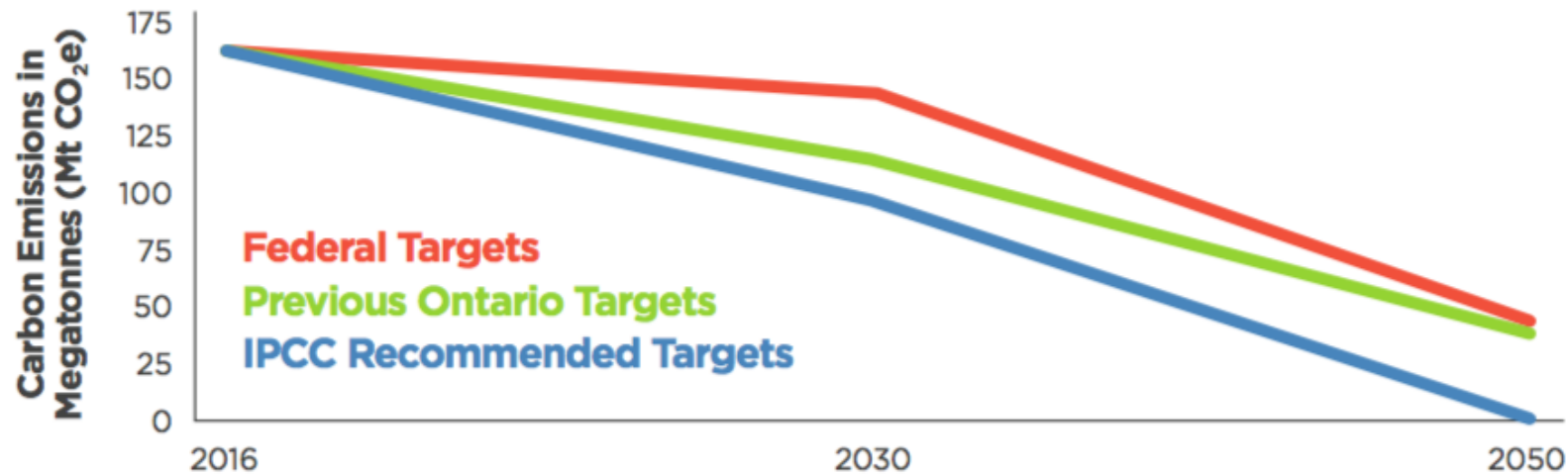
*Weakens* ambition for Ontario's GHG reduction targets by 27%

From 46MT below 1990 levels by 2030 (old target)  
to 18MT below 1990 levels

New plan doesn't mention 2050 target, which in past plan was 80% below 1990 levels

- EXCUSE: New plan is in line with Canada's overall targets: TRUE (Matches Canada's commitment of 30% below 2005 levels by 2030)
- PROBLEM : Science: Canada's current federal targets will not keep us below 2 degrees warming (our Paris Commitment), let alone 1.5 degrees (IPCC recommended) but put us on target for 4-5 degrees warming (catastrophic!)
- PROBLEM: Canada's current target depends on Ontario's old target

**Comparison of carbon emission reduction targets**



- EXCUSE: Ontario has already done it's fair share: "We have already been a leader when it comes to climate. Indeed we are on track to meet Canada's commitment under the Copenhagen Accord of 17% below 2005 levels by 2020."(p. 17)--TRUE
- PROBLEM: As acknowledged in the plan, Ontario's reduction up to now wmainly achieved by coal phase out. We cannot phase out coal again, further reductions will be more difficult. How will these be achieved?
- (From Rod Phillips Intro: "[Ontarians] are understandably frustrated to see their hard-earned tax-dollars being put towards policies and programs that don't deliver results" —and yet plan goes on to praise effectiveness of Ontario's "results" on reducting GHG emissions thus far...)

EVEN IF WE IGNORE INADEQUATE TARGETS...HOW  
WILL NEW TARGETS BE ACHIEVED??

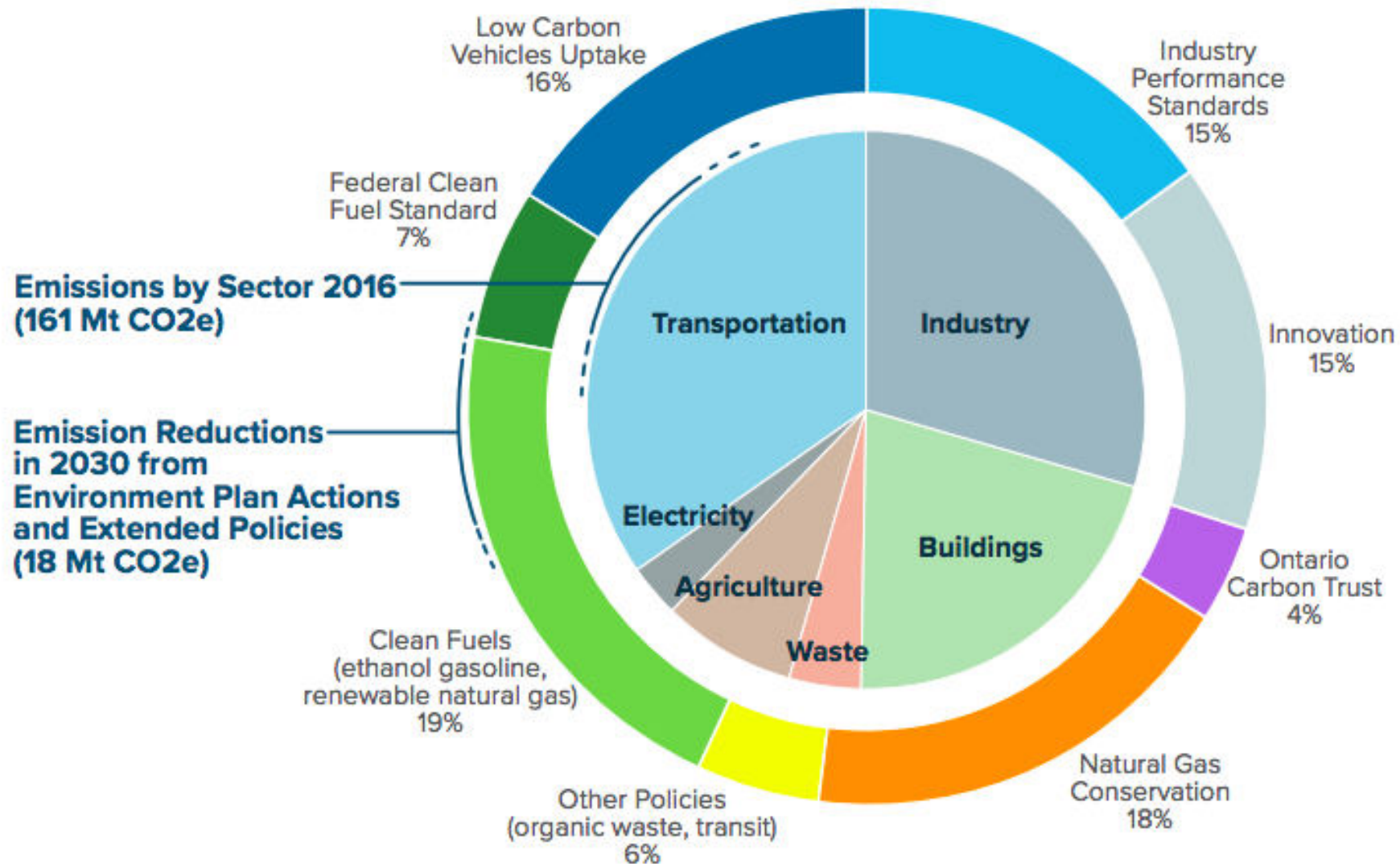
# ISSUE #2: HOW? METHODS ARE VAGUE

- **ONTARIO OPTS FOR HIGHER CARBON EMISSIONS, OFFERS 'SCANT DETAILS' ON NEW CLIMATE PLAN** FULL STORY: [CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION @CBCNEWS](#)
- **Ontario climate plan 'thin on details,' says McKenna**
- “actual reductions achieved will depend on how actions identified in our plan are finalized based on feedback we get from businesses and communities.” Pg. 23



# ISSUE #2: HOW? METHODS ARE VAGUE

## Planned Emission Reductions in 2030 by Sector



## HOW? Methods Are Vague: Industry Performance Standards-15%

- Cancelled Cap and Trade, which set a hard cap on emissions/industry
- Instead “will create and establish emission performance standards ...for large emitters...The program may include compliance flexibility mechanisms such as offset credits and/or payment of an amount to achieve compliance.”(p.27)
- “Guiding principle 1: Clear Rules and Strong Enforcement”Pg. 8
- Similar to federal price on carbon? “The final impact of this approach will depend on consultation with industry partners”
- **PROBLEM: No guarantee this will achieve 15% of emissions cuts**
- **No mention of what will be done with any funds (ie: will they be returned to consumers to offset increased costs?)**
- **“allow the province to grant across-the-board exemptions for industries of particular concern, like the auto sector, as needed.”Pg. 25**

## Methods Are Vague- Innovation (15%) Carbon Trust (4%)

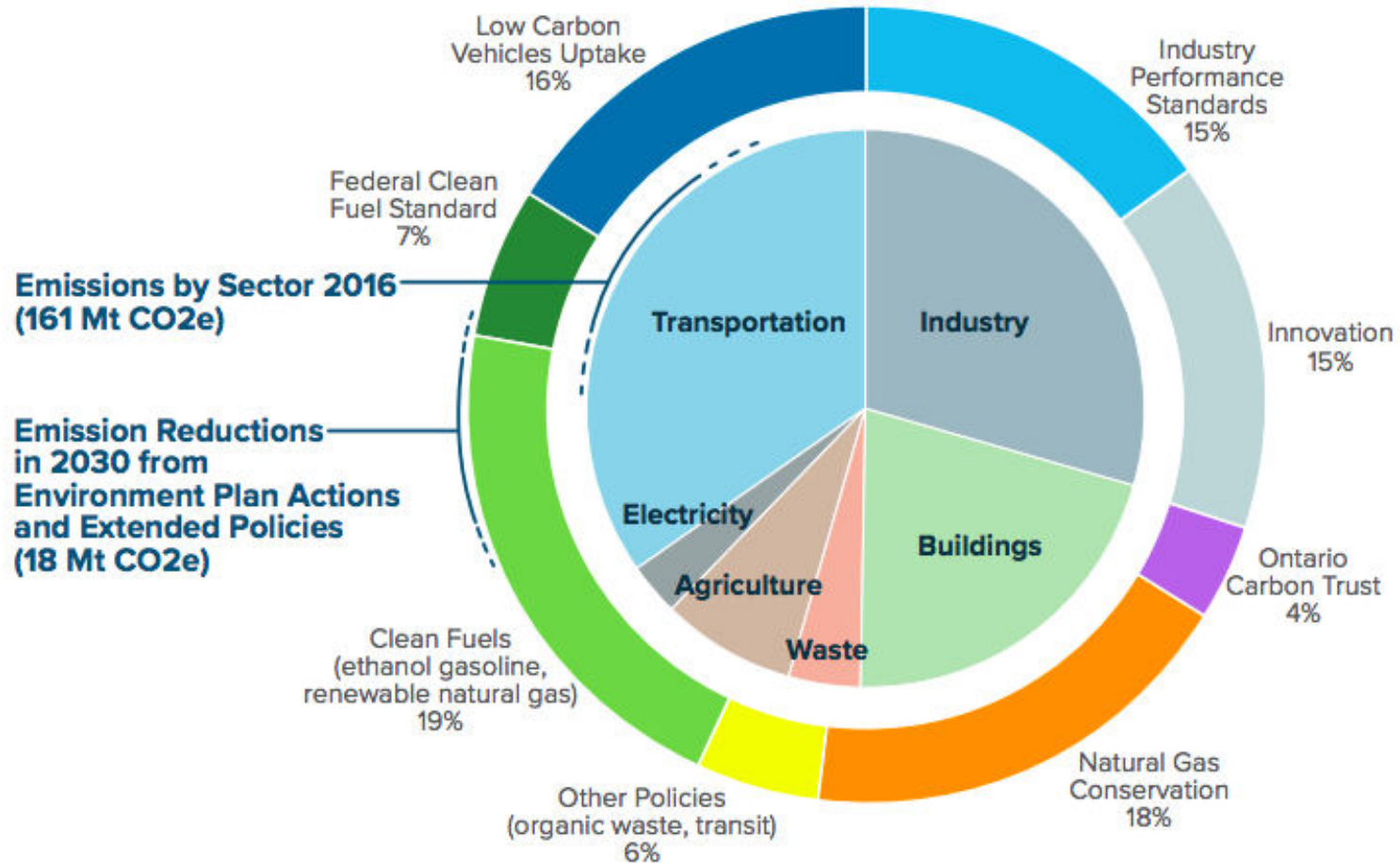
- Notable actions: echoes federal changes to the Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance (lowers corporate taxes on investments in clean infrastructure/systems)
- “Innovation” reductions tied to proposed **Carbon Trust**, to “use public funds to leverage private investment in clean technologies.”
- **Carbon Trust**=\$350 million over 4 years, plus \$50 million for “reverse auction”(companies paid to take on GHG reduction projects)
- **PROBLEM:** The 4 sentences devoted to this do not explain how it will account for 15% + 4% of Ontario’s carbon pollution cuts.
- **Reverse Auction** modelled on the Australian plan which has NOT succeeded in reducing GHGs. Paying Industry to do it’s part?
- Government has recently dismantled renewable energy projects

- “Rather than imposing a price on carbon pollution as a cost of doing business, the Tories are shifting the burden to taxpayers by making them subsidize big business. Instead of polluters paying up, polluters are being paid off.”<sup>9</sup> Martin Regg Cohn, The Toronto Star

## ISSUE #2: METHODS ARE VAGUE: TRANSPORTATION

GHG emissions from the transportation sector in 2016 were 34% higher than 1990 levels. That increase was primarily due to emissions from driving freight vehicles (trucks and trains). However, on-road passenger vehicles make up the majority of GHG emissions.

Planned Emission Reductions in 2030 by Sector



## HOW: Methods Are Vague: **Transportation**

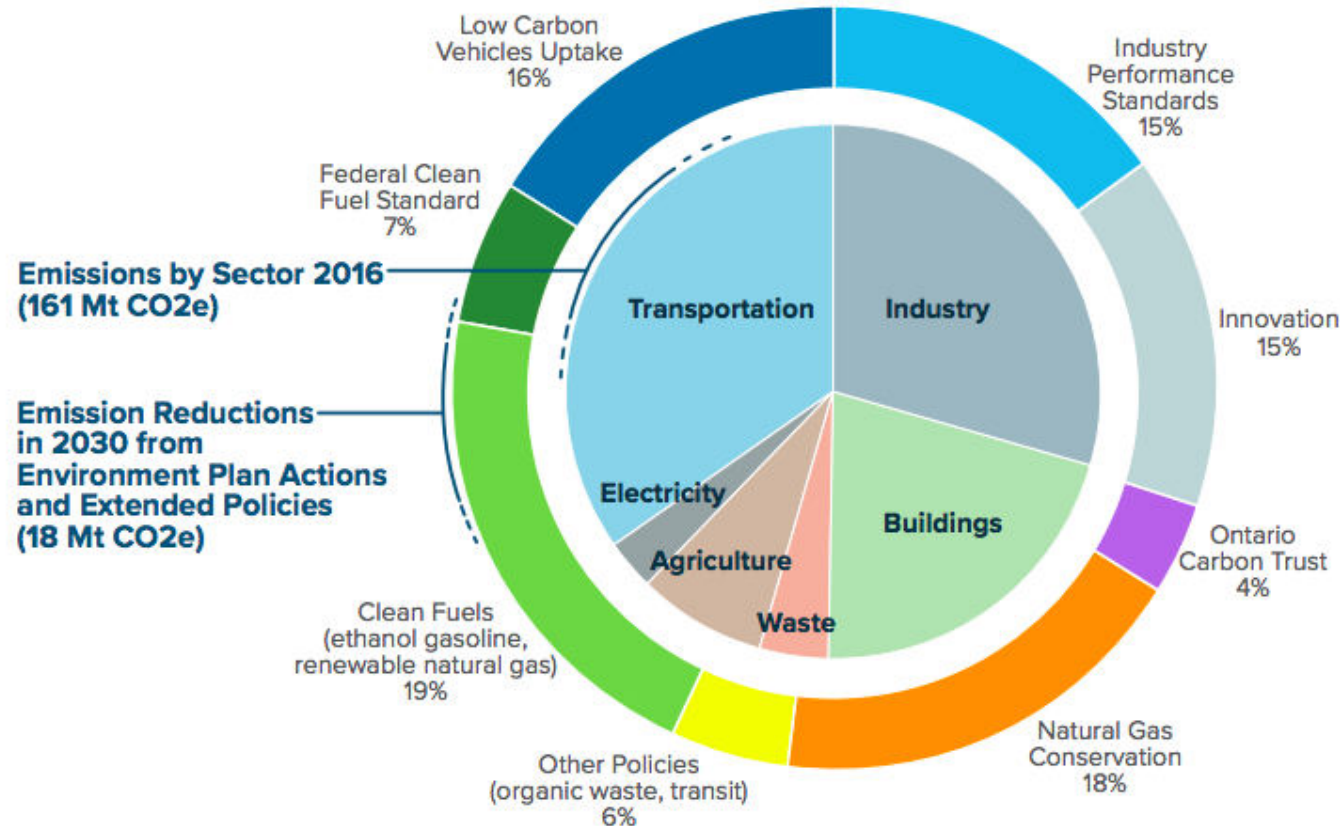
- No commitments to help transition to active methods like cycling or walking
- 16% of planned reductions being credited to “low carbon vehicles uptake”  
**Problem: pulled from 2017 plan that relied on now-cancelled electric vehicle subsidies-no details on how new plan will support transition**
- 7% attributed to cleaner fuel standards--Federal plan
- 19% Clean Fuels: “Clean Fuels refer to increasing the ethanol content of gasoline to 15% as early as 2025”

How? Methods are Vague

# Buildings

GHG emissions from buildings are growing faster than from every other source except transportation, mostly due to using natural gas for heating. GHG emissions from Ontario homes and buildings increased by 23% in 2016 from 1990. Commercial and institutional building emissions have increased, while residential emissions have not.

Planned Emission Reductions in 2030 by Sector





## HOW: Methods Are Vague: Buildings

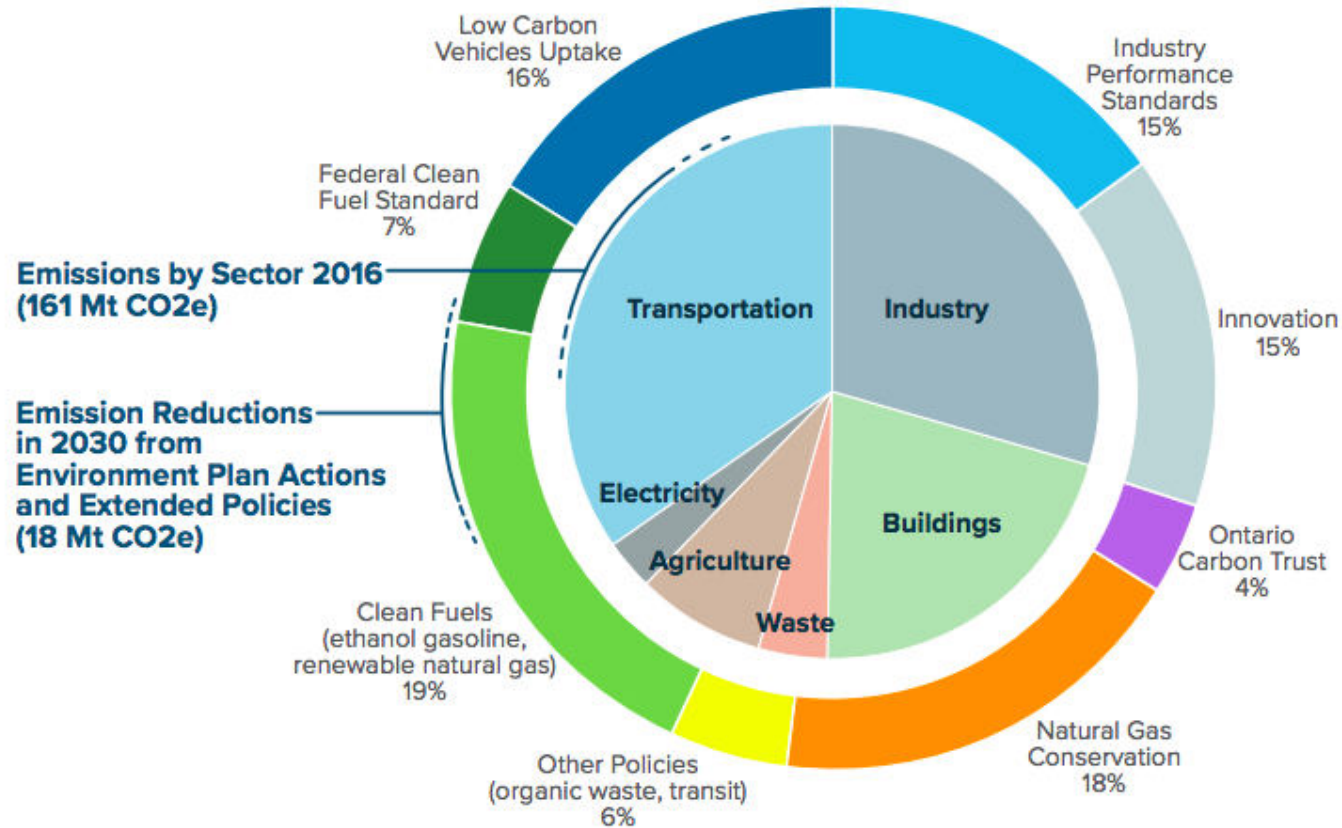
- PLAN: 18% reduction from Natural Gas Conservation – expand existing programs delivered by utilities. **subject to discussion with the Ontario Energy Board.**
- Review Ontario Building Code re: cost effective energy efficiency
- encourage voluntary energy efficiency info on homes for sale & voluntary renewable natural gas programs
- Consult on tax policy options to make it easier for homeowners to increase energy efficiency and save money
  
- **PROBLEM: expansion of energy efficiency programs needs to be real! This plan commits to a process of assessment, not action.**
- **No incentives to replace cancelled conservation programs, ie: upgrading furnaces, windows etc.**
- **funding not proposed to replace \$100 million cancelled for schools, hospitals & social housing - will some go back into these?**



How? Methods are Vague

# Other Policies

Planned Emission Reductions in 2030 by Sector



How? Methods are Vague

## Other Policies 6% Reductions

- plan acknowledges that preventing methane emissions means preventing organic waste from getting to landfills.
- Firm commitment to expanding green bin collection systems in big cities
- Commitment to “develop a proposal to ban food waste from landfills” - **-stops short of committing to a ban.**
- Mentions already existing investment in public transit (5 billion)
- need better integrated transit systems and solutions where people live and based on growth plan

# ISSUE #3: FUNDING

- Some of the plan's GHG reduction measures remain unfunded. Ex: electric vehicle uptake calculation relies on subsidies to encourage sales, but the plan contains no subsidies
- Unclear how proposed tax incentives will factor into provincial budgets, and whether rebates will be necessary to offset some cost increases from policies like raising ethanol requirements for gasoline, which will impact gas prices.
- \$400 million to support clean technology and a reverse auction sounds like a lot. **But there is no evidence that this will be enough to achieve the necessary reductions. What we do know is that this plan proposed \$500 million in total funding over four years. Cap-and-trade provided \$1.9 billion in a single year.**
- \$1 billion remained from cap-and-trade revenues. The money was supposed to be used for programs to reduce GHG emissions. The new plan commits \$500 million over four years. **So, where's the other \$500 million?** (lawsuits? \$30 million to take feds to court over carbon pricing?)
- **Does the plan include incentive or rebate programs to help Ontarians of all socio-economic backgrounds? Does the plan commit financial resources to help public buildings, like social housing, schools, and hospitals, become more energy-efficient? No.**

# ISSUE #4 ACCOUNTABILITY?

- PLAN: Will update & report on estimated emissions reductions once “details are finalized” & revisit every four years.
- Commitment to continue to consult with the public, stakeholders and Indigenous communities.
- Create an advisory panel on climate change
- Measure and report on progress - to point out how plan is saving people money & improving life quality; develop key indicators of progress
- **PROBLEM: Closing down Environmental Commissioner’s office**
- **Mentions submission of over 8,000 comments already, says they were incorporated but not how....**

# What can We Do?

- Comments open until January 28th, on Environmental Registry  
<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4208>
- Contact elected officials at all levels. They need to know:
- we want more done about climate change, current targets not good enough
- going backwards is not an option
- we are experiencing specific impacts (ie: health impacts)
- we need more information to support the proposed plan
- There was a communication that said Gov't expected to hear from the "usual suspects"
- So, need to hear from new & more people!
- Have discussions with friends and family in Conservative MPP ridings

# PEOPLE POWER IS REAL!

