Phasing Out Coal in Ontario



"Window of Opportunity"

for Energy Sector Reform

Source: IISD

Context (e.g.)

- Energy sector structure and ownership
- Resource endowment
- International commitments
- Beliefs and values

Champions (e.g.)

- Activists
- Politicians
- Government officials
- Industry
- Broad-based consultations with stakeholders

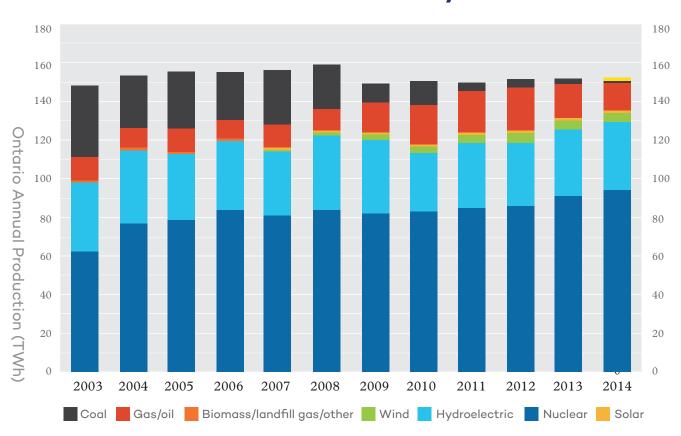
Concerns/arguments (e.g.)

- Health
- Climate change
- Energy security
- Jobs
- Alternative solutions

Complementary policies (e.g.)

- Social protection
- Energy efficiency measure
- Renewable energy support
- "Green" industrial policies

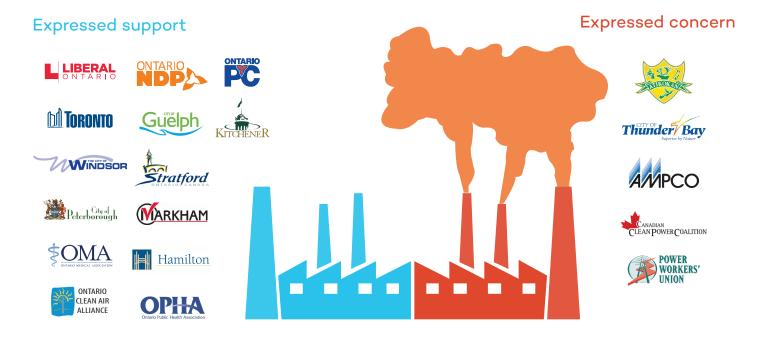
Fuel mix in Ontario's electricity sector



Key actors

The initial goal to eliminate coal generation in Ontario was strongly driven by civil society actors and the advocacy coalitions they formed to gain public support for their economic, environmental and medical arguments in favour of the phase-out. Initial opposition for the policy was largely driven by economic concerns regarding potential job loss and increased energy costs.

This is not an exhaustive list of all main stakeholders in Ontario's coal phase-out, but reflects key actors as identified in interviews.



Timeline

Ontario Clean Air Alliance is established.

Ontario Public Health Association publishes report on health impacts of coal power generation. Two coal-fired units are shut down at Nanticoke Generating Station.

Nanticoke Generation Station stops burning coal entirely and 4 generators may be converted for alternative fuels in the future.

Ontario Medical Association publishes economic cost-benefit analysis of air pollution in Ontario.

Lakeview Generating Station closes. Atikokan Generating Station stops using coal and is being converted to use biomass









2005



2010



2012



2013

1997

2000

2002

2007

2011

2013

2014

1998



2001

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OMA publishes study linking coal-fired generation to negative health impacts Coal phase-out becomes an election issue with support from three major parties, Liberal party wins and Premier McGuinty reaffirms commitment to phase out by 2007.

Four coal-fired power units are shut down two at Nanticoke Generating Station and two at Lambton Generation Station.

coal-fired power plant in Thunder Bay stops burning coal and is converted to use advanced biomass.

The Government of Ontario issues regulation requiring the phase-out of coal burning at the Lakeview Generating Station in Mississauga by April 30, 2005.

Ontario government passes legislation to close Ontario's four remaining coal-fired power plants by December 31, 2014. The coal plant in Lambton closes operation entirely, three months ahead of schedule.