

FALL 2016

Recommendations to fix Ontario's Greenbelt and Growth Plans

Action Checklist



Ontario's Greenbelt and Growth Plans need some major fixes if the provincial government is serious about protecting the Greenbelt and enabling smarter growth in the Greater Golden Horseshoe for the decades to come. While the proposed government amendments to the Plans have a solid foundation addressing climate change and ensuring agriculture thrives, they need more work to shore up the protection of the Greenbelt's boundaries and stop urban expansion onto prime farmland and natural areas.

Here are the recommended actions needed to get these Plans right for Ontarians.

- Grow the Greenbelt to protect vulnerable water supplies in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.
- Protect sensitive headwaters south of the Greenbelt including Carruthers Creek, Rouge River, Don River and Humber River.
- Freeze municipal urban boundaries.
- Extend Greenbelt protection to the natural heritage system across the Greater Golden Horseshoe and protect it in law.
- Cancel proposed changes that weaken protection for species at risk.
- Restrict linear infrastructure like highways and major transmission lines from fragmenting the Greenbelt's agricultural and natural systems.
- No expansion or construction of new 400 series highways in the Greenbelt.
- Extend Greenbelt protection to the agricultural system in the Greater Golden Horseshoe and protect it in law.
- Require all municipalities to meet intensification and density targets for urban growth centres to 2041 without granting exceptions.
- Increase targets for mandatory intensification around transit hubs and corridors. Link transit investment policy to the achievement of mandatory intensification in these areas.
- Require specific municipal climate change actions, including metrics and timelines.
- Require transparent, yearly municipal reporting on climate change action milestones.
- Establish a provincial body in legislation to oversee the implementation of the updated Greenbelt and Growth Plans including a clear process for monitoring and enforcement, public engagement, and transparent reporting.

