

Housing is a fundamental human right, and yet an increasing number of residents across the Greater Toronto Area are struggling to pay rent or find an affordable place to live. What policies and actions do you believe need to be implemented to address this crisis?

The housing crisis congruent to affordability can be helped in Milton, by initiating proposals for new inclusionary zoning by-laws. These have been adopted in Montreal and Toronto before, which resulted in nearly 6000 affordable units for low-income and moderate-income households. With this, we can require private developers to allocate as low as 5% and as high as 20% of all new developments for affordable units. This includes a cap on rent offered on these developments. I think it is not enough to reside between municipal jurisdictions in times of crisis, council has to be equipped to gather resources from the provincial and federal government, as the jurisdictions of each level of government can be malleable and are meant to collaborate together. If we plan the streetscape correctly, building bus stops and carbon sinks surrounding the new builds, to equip the families and individuals residing here with the best experience as they climb up their personal ladders.

The design, construction and operation of our built environment accounts for nearly 40% of energy related carbon emissions, contributing to the ongoing climate crisis affecting us today. What do you believe needs to be prioritized to reduce carbon emissions within the built environment?

The built environment accounts for nearly 40% of carbon emissions locally, but even more so, adding up the costs of carbon emissions in the sourcing, manufacturing, and transportation of materials for the builds, also adds up the emission output of a given project significantly. How do we offset this? Well, when we take-on vertical development in Milton, adding green rooftops can be highly beneficial. It is affordable, it is beneficial, and it is necessary to offset the pollution created from growth. Green rooftops do not cost 6 figures, in fact, they often do not even cost five figures per building. They reduce energy usage as the buildings are better insulated, heating and cooling of the building are not needed as much. Further, they save owners money as the green rooftops protect the roof from direct ultraviolet light and damage to the surface. It also requires minimal maintenance. Roughly, each square foot of the roof can absorb approximately 1.79kg of CO₂ from the air, and produce 1.3 kg of O₂. That is progress.

To add, as councilor I want to open up the exploration of building with eco materials- houses, buildings, poles and everything in between. Moving away from conventional steel, aluminum, and plastic, while employing renewable, recycled, strong and protective materials + constructing developments to run off renewable energy instead of non-renewable energy reliancy, can have a profound impact on the decrease of our contribution to climate change. More importantly, it will protect the citizens of Milton under the threat of climate disasters. Power outages, shut down heating or cooling systems and broken infrastructure is something we do not have to risk, if we take proactive measures.

In towns and cities, so much of life happens in the shared public spaces—in our parks, libraries and streets. How can we ensure these civic spaces achieve design excellence in their initial conception and construction, and that they are properly maintained so they may continue to serve future generations?

Beautiful public spaces are the hub for creativity, inspiration, attraction, growth, productivity and improved mental health for the community. We have an increasingly high active population, people use our side walks to run, they use our parks to enjoy the view of our beautiful escarpment and the youth use shared public spaces all year round to spend their leisure time, especially due to the lack of big malls or activity establishments in Milton as of currently. To ensure that these civic spaces achieve design excellence in their initial conceptions and construction, I think a crucial step is considering- how are we incorporating culture and art in public spaces? The use of *colors, landmarks, unique features such as water falls or biodiversified plantation, and lights* all add to how citizens **feel** being in these spaces.

To really evolve our design and construction of public spaces, councilors in collaboration with developers have to think about what experience we want our citizens to be left with, when they decide to spend their valuable time outside of their homes. The way people feel goes longer than any of us think, sometimes it pivots their quality of life altogether. Thus, focusing on using bright colors, ambient lighting, a unique feature enhancing beauty, and diverse plantation and art are necessitated to give *life*. A vital source for the maintenance of these spaces takes the shape of the materials we use. Iron used for benches, which rusts quickly, gravel for walking pathways, which creates heating during summers and does not add to the space visually, and metal street lights are all examples of features needing desperate replacement. By using recycled, and renewable/eco materials & renewable energy use systems in the construction of these spaces, provides easily maintainable spaces that do not decay. As well, it sits as a visual reminder for the locals of the values Milton holds and prioritizes. That is inspiring and meaningful.