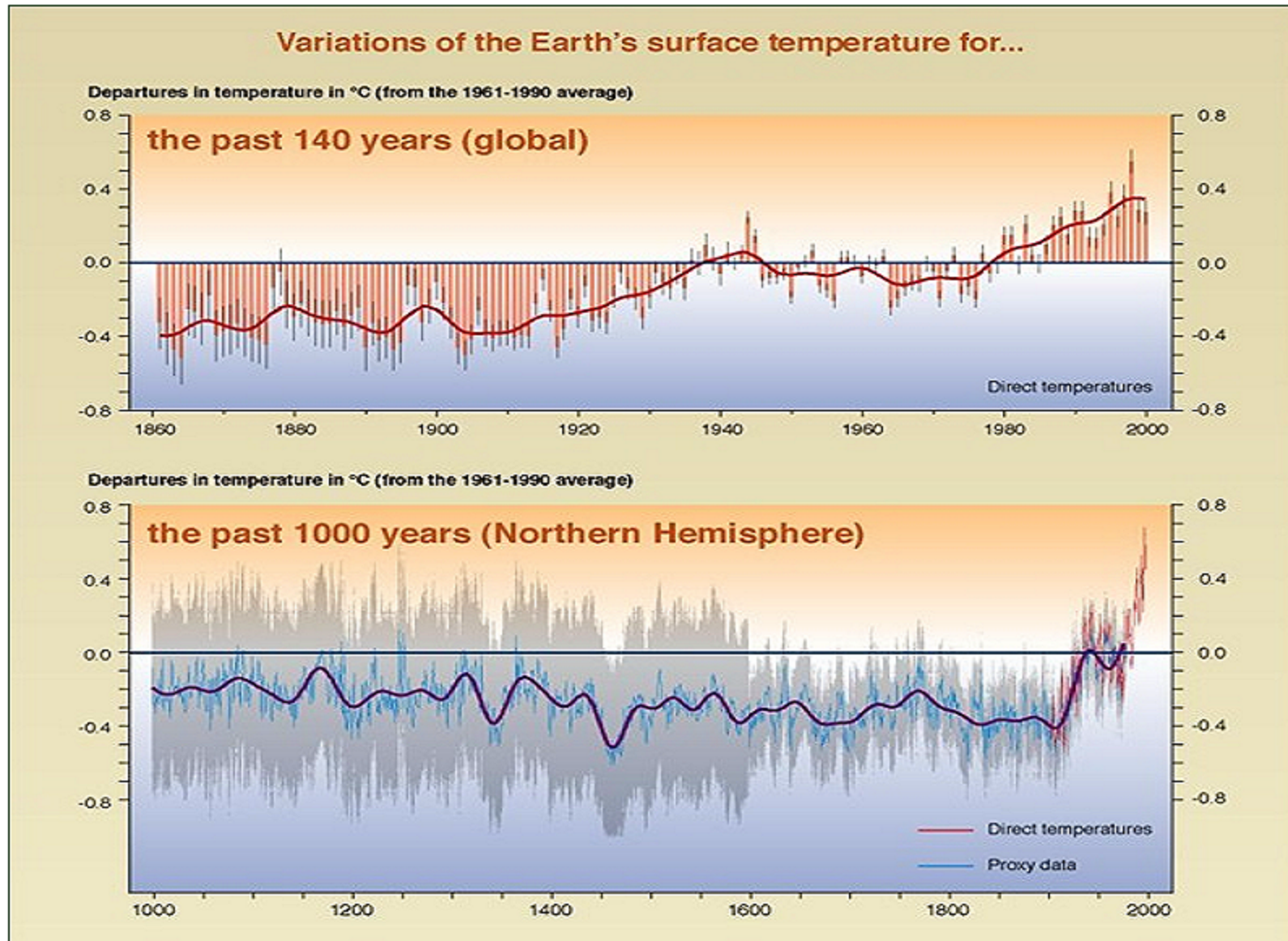


Where Do We Go From Here?

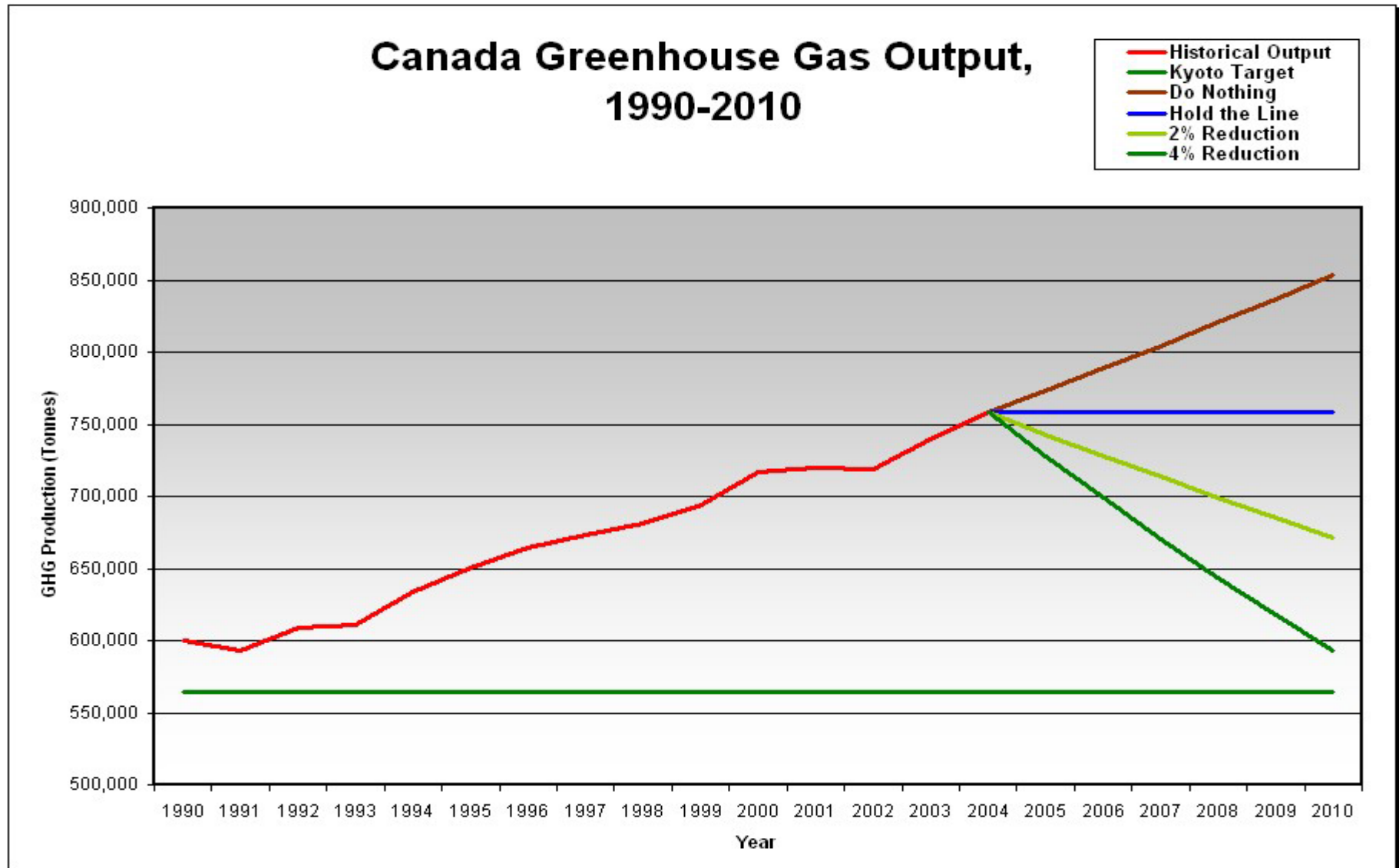
**Possible Futures for the
“Ambitious City”**

Climate Change is Happening



Source: *United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)*

Possible Futures



Source data: *Canada's Greenhouse Gas Inventory, 1990-2004*, Environment Canada

Climate Change is an *Energy* Crisis

Climate Change is caused by our energy use:

- **Building** energy use (heating, cooling, appliances)
- **Transportation** energy use (commuting, shopping, goods transport)
- **Manufacturing** energy use

These are determined mainly by our **land use and infrastructure** decisions.

Change those decisions and our greenhouse gas production will change. It's that simple.

Hamilton Can't Solve all of Canada's Problems, but -

- We can stop contributing to the problem.
- We can demonstrate that we can reduce air pollution without hurting business.

Cities produce $\frac{3}{4}$ of the world's greenhouse gases. That means cities have **the most opportunities to improve.**

How can we do this? →

Our Planning Guides All Point in the Same Direction

- **Intensification** – infill, adaptive reuse, redevelopment throughout the city
- **Firm urban boundary** and protection of local farmland
- **Preserving urban heritage** – the greenest building is the one already built
- **Mixed use development** – *bring destinations together* to reduce transportation costs
- **Sustainable transportation** modes (walking, cycling, transit, rail)
- **Sustainable business** development
- **Energy production** and **conservation**

Our Policy Guides All Point in the Same Direction

- Peter Ormond's Climate Change Report
- Vision 2020
- Places to Grow
- Richard Gilbert's Peak Oil Report
- Agriculture Action Plan
- GRIDS Directions

The Direction from Peter Ormond's Climate Change Report

- Protect **existing greenspaces** to buffer impacts of extreme weather.
- Establish a legislated **urban growth boundary**
- Support **rejuvenation of the downtown and development of existing brownfields** to foster a more efficient land use pattern and reduce sprawl.
- Facilitate the use of **non-vehicle modes of transportation**.
- Design **resilient infrastructure**.
- Facilitate **decentralized renewable energy supply**.

Source: Peter Ormond, *Hamilton's Vulnerability to Climate Change*, September 2004

The Direction from Vision 2020

“Urban development occurs within **firm boundaries**.”

“Architecture, green building technology and environmental design are commonly used to create **neighbourhoods that are models of energy-efficiency, waste-reduction and respect for nature**.”

“Hamilton is a model for other communities in the way in which we **integrate short-term economic benefits, long-term environmental and social costs, and indirect economic costs** in our evaluation of public and private initiatives.”

“New jobs are created in **sustainable businesses** that build on the community's strong academic, commercial, industrial, and cultural resources.”

Source: Hamilton's Vision 2020, City of Hamilton, 1993

The Direction from Vision 2020

VISION 2020 Goals for Climate Change:

- To ensure the City has the **best air quality** of any major urban centre in Ontario;
- To have **effective plans** that **identify, reduce,** and **manage risks**; and,
- To **reduce greenhouse gas emissions** (20 percent of 1994 levels in municipal operations and six percent of 1994 levels city-wide)

Source: *Hamilton's Vision 2020*, City of Hamilton, 1993

The Direction from Places to Grow

“The Government of Ontario recognizes that

- **building complete and strong communities,**
- making **efficient use of existing infrastructure,** and
- **preserving natural and agricultural resources**

will contribute to maximizing the benefits, and minimizing the costs, of growth.”

Source: *Places to Grow Act, 2005*

The Direction from Richard Gilbert's Peak Oil Report

“The City of Hamilton should **transform** rather than merely add to its current planning processes.

“The transformation should be one that puts **energy concerns first and centre** in all its planning.”

The Direction from Richard Gilbert's Peak Oil Report

- Make **energy use and production** the principal determinant of **land-use decisions**.
- Give greenfield development ***low priority***.
- Use **targeted intensification** to keep low density developments viable.
- Plan for a **mixing of uses**.
- Aggressively pursue **brownfield development**.
- Foster **vibrant centres**.
- Arrange development to support **low-energy transport**.

Source: Richard Gilbert, *Hamilton: The Electric City*, Report to City Council, April 13, 2006

The Direction from the Agricultural Action Plan

- Maintain the **agricultural land base** and promote financial sustainability
- Prevent **conflicting uses** that put agriculture at risk
- Ensure that agricultural interests are understood and factored into **infrastructure development**
- Protect **long term food security** with an emphasis on **locally produced food**

“The goals that the committee has put forward in implementing the vision would be first and foremost to **retain the agricultural land base** and to promote financial sustainability for future generations. Obviously if there's no land base, there's no farming, so that's fundamental.”

- Margaret Walton, AAP Coordinator

Source: Agriculture Action Plan Update, June 2006

The Direction from GRIDS

1. Encourage **a compatible mix of uses** in neighbourhoods that provide opportunities to live, work and play.
2. Concentrate new development **within existing built-up areas** and within a **firm urban boundary**.
3. Protect rural areas for a **viable rural economy**, agricultural resources, environmentally sensitive recreation and enjoyment of the rural landscape.
4. Design neighbourhoods to **improve access to community life**.
5. Retain and attract jobs in **Hamilton's strength areas** and in targeted new sectors.
6. Expand transportation options that encourage **travel by foot, bike and transit** and enhance efficient inter-regional transportation connections.
7. Maximize the use of **existing buildings, infrastructure and vacant or abandoned land**.
8. Protect ecological systems and **improve air, land and water quality**.
9. Maintain and create **attractive public and private spaces** and respect the unique character of existing buildings, neighbourhoods and settlements.

Source: 9 GRIDS Directions

The Direction from GRIDS

Based on the direction provided by the Province, the preferred growth option will plan for 80,000 units by 2031.

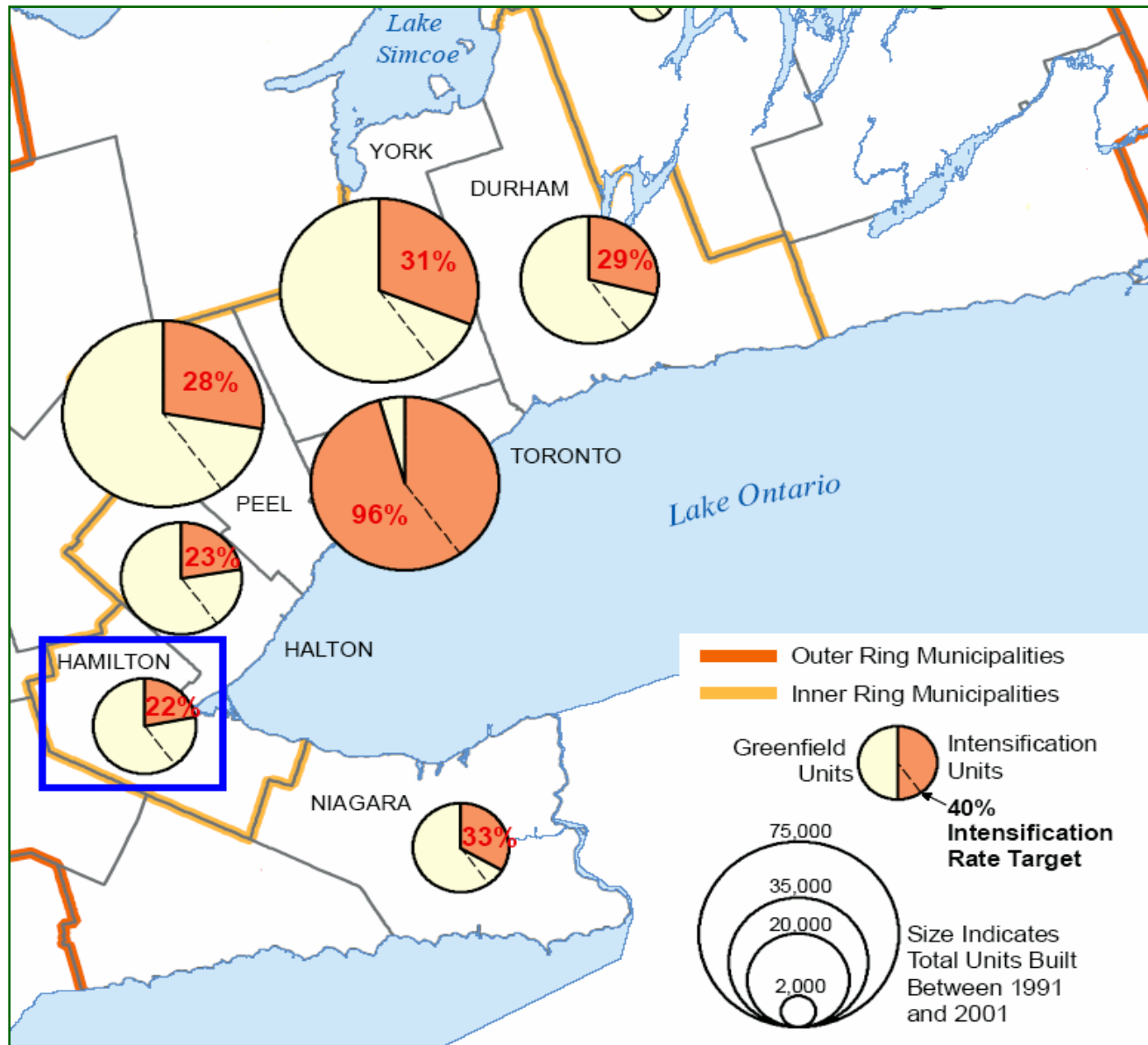
Intensification under the preferred growth option will be approximately 26,500 units.

“The estimate *approaches* the 40 percent intensification level expressed in the province's Places to Grow Plan.”

$$26,500 / 80,000 = 33\%$$

Source: *GRIDS Final Growth Report*, pp. 67-68

We Need Transformation, not Window Dressing



Source: *Commentary on the Ontario Government's Proposed Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*, Neptis Foundation, March 2006

Possible Futures

Portland, Oregon decided in the early 1990s to take Climate Change seriously.

Portland Has:

- Planted 750,000 new trees
- Ripped up an expressway
- Constructed 3 light rail lines
- Established a firm urban boundary
- Set up an Energy Trust to help residents and businesses improve efficiency
- Planned to get 100% of city energy from renewable sources by 2010
- Added 230 km of bicycle lanes and paths
- Reduced per-capita gasoline use by 10 percent
- **Thrived, proving that sustainability and livability make good business sense.**



Portland is on track to meeting its Kyoto obligations (6% below 1990 levels) by 2010.

Possible Futures

Vancouver, BC just launched *EcoDensity Vancouver*, based on creating **high quality density**:

- Mixing house sizes and types in all neighbourhoods, not just adding “140 Century 21 Towers” downtown (to borrow a quote from Anthony DeSantis).
- Building density around **neighbourhood centres**, with European-style mixed-use streetwalls along main streets throughout the city.
- **Reduced parking requirements** as density increases and people no longer need need two or three vehicles per household.
- **High popularity** among neighbourhood residents, who often want higher density housing choices in their communities. This preserves **affordability**.

“We know that we are living in a way that is unsustainable. If everybody lived the way we did, it would take three to four planets to sustain us.”

- Sam Sullivan, Mayor of Vancouver

US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement

- Started in February, 2005
- Commitment from American Cities to meet their Kyoto targets
- 272 Mayors representing 48 million citizens have signed

“[I]n the face of federal inaction, our leadership has captured national and international attention, spawning numerous media stories and grassroots support from a variety of different organizations. Our message – that ***we, as cities and as a nation, can and should cut our contributions to global warming pollution*** – is being heard around the country and the world.”

- Greg Nickels, Mayor of Seattle

<http://www.cityofseattle.net/mayor/climate/pdf/MontrealLetter.pdf>

Which Future Will Hamilton Choose?



A parking lot for a suburban playground. Children should be able to walk to important local destinations.

Which Future Will Hamilton Choose?



Big box retail developments are impossible to navigate without a car.

Which Future Will Hamilton Choose?



Cities can be dense, green, and vibrant, conserving energy and improving everyone's quality of life.