

## **ATTACHMENT #A3**

### **Change is in the Air Toronto's Commitment to an Environmentally Sustainable Future**

#### **Moving from a Framework to Action The Climate Change and Clean Air Action Plan, Phase I**

#### **Report on Civic Engagement Discussions**

**April 29 to June 5, 2007**

## About the *Change is in the Air* Civic Engagement Process

In March 2007, the City of Toronto released *Change is in the Air*, a Framework for Public Review and Engagement. This framework document outlined the City's commitment to tackle climate change and improve air quality, and contained 27 proposed actions that the City, residents, business and industry can take to meet the City's goals. Between April 29 and June 5, 2007, Mayor David Miller, City Councillors, and the Toronto Environment Office listened to feedback from Toronto residents and businesses about the targets and proposed actions in *Change is in the Air*.

The first major public engagement event took place at the Climate Change Action Forum on April 29, 2007 at the Direct Energy Centre, where over 225 attendees provided their thoughts and feedback on the framework *Change is in the Air* document. Several hundred submissions were also received via telephone, email and the City's online comment card. In addition, several smaller forums were held with various communities and stakeholders, including events with the residents of ward 31, of the Moore Park area, of the area around the Eastview Community Centre (assisted by the Toronto Community Housing Corporation), in the priority neighbourhoods and with the business community, with sports groups and clubs and with the Toronto Environmental Volunteers.

Those who attended the forums took part in facilitated, small group discussions. Forum participants and those who submitted comments online were asked two main questions:

- Thinking about the 27 potential actions outlined in *Change is in the Air*, what do you like? Is something missing? Should anything be changed?; and
- How can the City of Toronto help you to live a more environmentally friendly lifestyle?

In addition, those who attended the forums were asked to select the single best idea that they felt had been suggested during the event.

The answers to the questions revealed a remarkable coalescence of public opinion amongst participants. Overwhelmingly, Toronto residents were enthusiastic that the City has made the commitment to take action on climate change and air quality, and are expecting strong leadership and bold action to ensure Toronto's success. In fact, main areas of concern revolved around whether the proposed actions and timelines for implementation would be enough to meet the City's targets, as well as whether the necessary leadership, political will, and resources would be made available for the plan's implementation. Many residents also expressed a lack of faith in voluntary programs and recommended that early voluntary programs designed to ease the transition be replaced with mandatory programs within a fairly short timeframe.

Residents further stressed that strong efforts will be needed both on infrastructure changes, as well as on programs to educate residents and market the desired behaviour changes. The majority of comments advocated bold actions on the part of the City to bring about these changes, with strong regulatory or financial backstops to ensure progress on this plan within the designated timelines.

While opposing viewpoints amongst residents were rare, on several topics participants qualified the opinions of others by specifying that the proposed initiative should be supplemented with another program to better produce the desired behaviour change, that the program should target certain groups before others, or that the program should be carefully designed so as to not impose any further burdens on the already disadvantaged.

## **Target Groups**

As a starting point for reaching out to communities and individuals, some different methods were piloted to reach out to various target groups. While some of these events were better attended than others, responses did not generally vary considerably from what was heard in the broader public engagement process.

The responses from the participants at the forum held at the Eastview Community Centre expressed support for the plan and made suggestions relating to such things as community outreach, various funding mechanisms to facilitate retrofits, and a desire to see more community gardens. To seek input from community sports groups, questionnaires were distributed to the Toronto Sports Council and various sporting associations. Responses tended to focus on issues related to active transportation, as well as the provision of adequate sports and recreational facilities in order to encourage healthy, active lifestyles. Given the small response rate, these responses have all been incorporated into the data for the broader community consultations.

Questionnaires were also distributed by staff in the Social Development, Finance and Administration Division to residents of priority neighbourhoods through the City's Neighbourhood Action Teams. Those questionnaires were returned on June 12 and therefore the results are not included in this report. An additional report summarizing the results of these consultations will be made available at the Parks and Environment Committee meeting on June 18, 2007.

## **Business Community**

Two workshops were held for members of the business community. Discussions and comments at these events were far more varied than those heard at the other forums, although virtually all businesses noted that there is certainly enormous potential for improvement. Some businesses were very keen on environmental initiatives, and similar to residents, were looking to the City to provide programs to inform them of the changes that need to be made and to facilitate those changes in their workplaces. Time and resources were expressed as recurring concerns, particularly for small businesses. Interest in the GreenTBiz program (of the Toronto Association of Business Improvement Area's) was high, as it addresses many of these concerns. Some participants also felt very strongly about the necessity of better environmental building standards as soon as possible, as they felt that retrofitting new buildings for energy efficiency only a few years down the road does not make good business sense.

There were other members of the business community, however, who expressed greater reservations about municipal engagement in climate change issues. These participants stressed the existing regulatory roles of the Federal and Provincial governments. They also warned that certain taxes or fees can affect a business' profitability and may force some businesses to re-locate. Reservations were also expressed about the proposed

community right-to-know by-law, stressing that members of the public would be confused based on the limited ability of a business to adequately explain their operations through limited explanation on a website.

### **Toronto Environmental Volunteers**

Over 60 members of the Toronto Environmental Volunteers (TEV) participated in a forum to offer their comments and suggestions on *Change is in the Air*. Members of TEV range in age from 14 to 70+ and their cultural, socio-economic and educational backgrounds are a reflection of Toronto's demographic make-up. TEV members speak over 47 languages and all share a passion for protecting and improving our environment. Members receive 20 hours of classroom training and participate in at least 40 hours of community outreach. They are well versed in environmental issues such as solid waste management, water efficiency and quality, transportation and air quality.

Members of TEV had similar input to that received in the broader public engagement process. Many suggestions were made that touched on environmental education, the improvement of public transit and conditions for cyclists, the provision of incentives to encourage residential energy efficiency, and the implementation of better waste management and waste reduction practices.

A synopsis of the opinions heard through the public engagement process is presented in the following pages. While other ideas were also heard and taken into consideration in the development of the plan, the following represents a summary of the dominant or recurring themes heard from participants.

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## Question 1 - Thinking about the 27 potential actions outlined in “Change is in the Air,” what do you like? Is something missing? Should anything be changed?

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### Transportation

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*People see transportation as the #1 sector where Toronto can make a big difference. They want a renewed emphasis on Toronto's city streets on people instead of on cars.*

- Increase funding for public transit for better service, more capacity, and cheaper fares
- We need more subways and high speed transit; the only way to increase ridership is to make transit faster than driving
- Implement the Transit City Plan
- The framework needs more emphasis on cycling; we need a better bike network that is practical, safe and fast for cyclists to get around
- Implement road tolls or congestion charges
- The cost of street parking should be much higher
- Reduce road space for cars and parking to make more room for wider sidewalks, bike lanes and trees
- Make car-free zones or pedestrian malls in the downtown core, such as Queen St. W or Yonge St.
- Have more regular car-free days or car-free Sundays where certain boulevards and streets are closed to traffic
- Close designated streets to traffic on smog days to provide Clean Air Corridors for cyclists, pedestrians and rollerbladers
- Reduce the emissions associated with shipping food by instituting and promoting local farmer's markets around the city

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### Energy Efficiency and Conservation

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*People want to see a combination of regulation and financial tools to ensure that Toronto homes and businesses stop wasting energy as soon as possible.*

- Make a Green Building Code and make it mandatory for all new buildings and renovations as soon as possible (sooner than 2012)
  - Make it mandatory for office tower lights to be turned off at night
  - Make timers or motion sensors mandatory for office building and apartment building lights
  - Use regulation for enforcing an appropriate indoor air temperature in office buildings and retail businesses
  - Make energy efficiency retrofits mandatory for all rental properties by 2015
  - Provide more incentives (loans, subsidies, green mortgages) for home retrofits and the purchase of energy efficient appliances
  - Ensure that property taxes do not increase for those who have made energy efficiency improvements, or provide a tax incentive so that energy efficient buildings pay less property tax
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## Solid Waste

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*People are most interested in reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfills in the first place (in addition to collecting methane from all landfills).*

- Reduce the amount of waste going to landfills by making recycling and composting mandatory for all apartment buildings, retail, commercial and institutional establishments
- Provide a better system for the collection of batteries, CFL's and hazardous waste
- Lobby the federal or provincial government to reduce overpackaging
- Ban plastic bags or impose a hefty tax on them
- Provide a better recycling program that accepts more materials
- Address the litter problem in Toronto – enforce the littering law and impose stiffer penalties, including mandatory community clean-up duty

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## Renewable Energy

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*People are interested in the potential for renewable energy and are looking to the City to provide leadership, information and incentives.*

- Build more windmills
- Promote the development of geothermal heating and cooling
- Provide more information and more financial incentives or loans to help residents install renewable energy systems at their homes
- Make integration of renewable power systems a mandatory part of the Green Building Code, and ensure that new buildings maximize renewable energy potential
- The City should purchase solar panels in bulk in order to sell them to residents at a lower cost
- Reduce the red tape associated with installing renewable energy systems

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## Communication and Education

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*Residents see public education as an essential tool for change, and want to see the City pursue a variety of means to get the message out.*

- Provide public education about environmental issues through websites, ads and commercials
  - Market green living and the benefits of going green through a variety of media
  - Ensure that all teachers have environmental training and educate kids in schools about the kinds of changes we should be making
  - Implement energy conservation, renewable energy, green roof and tree planting projects in cooperation with schools in order to involve and educate youth
  - Outreach to the community through neighbourhood committees or residents associations
  - Ensure that the public education campaign is offered in many different languages and is targeted to different cultures
  - Have awards for the greenest neighbourhoods, homes, or individuals to highlight leaders and encourage others to go green
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## Leadership by Example: Greening City Government

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*People are expecting the City to lead by example and demonstrate environmental consciousness in all of its operations.*

- Retrofit Toronto public housing and City Hall to showcase green building standards
- Ensure that any new City buildings are LEED certified
- Review all City policies and operations to ensure environmental sustainability (eg. Madvacs and sidewalk snow removal, free parking spaces for staff, etc.)
- Educate all City staff to consider the environmental implications of their life and work habits
- The City should transition to green fleets for all of its vehicles and use licensing powers to require hybrid taxis
- The City should send all documents and packages through sustainable couriers whenever possible
- City Councillors must set an example and do things like declare their environmental footprints and ride their bikes to work

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## Parks, Trees, Lawns and Gardens

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*People are enthusiastic about healthy, clean and green outdoor spaces, and recognize that more trees and greenery result in a win-win situation for City aesthetics as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation.*

- Ban leaf blowers and gas lawnmowers immediately and replace 2-stroke with 4-stroke engines for City equipment as soon as possible
- Promote local growing and support community gardens
- Promote gardens and trees instead of manicured lawns, and plant native or natural gardens in public parks
- Aggressively plant more trees and maintain them better to ensure their health
- Plant more trees along streets, not in boxes
- Impose tax consequences or penalties on those who don't comply with a recommended number of trees per area of yard space
- Provide support for more green roofs and make them publicly accessible
- Require downspout disconnect and rain barrels for watering lawns

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## Financial Tools

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*People recognize and accept that this plan will require significant funding and support the use of new or increased fees or taxes both to encourage behaviour change as well as to raise the required funds.*

- Place a tax on gas and other environmental bads and report annually on how much revenue is generated and what projects it has funded
- Issue municipal bonds or hold an annual municipal lottery
- Impose fees on garbage pick-up, drive-thru visits, take-out food, coffee cups and plastic bags
- Implement a vehicle registration fee pro-rated to the fuel efficiency or horsepower of the vehicle
- Impose road tolls or congestion charges and use funds to support improved sustainable transportation
- Raise property taxes and designate a certain percentage to go towards green programs or transit
- Raise the cost of on-street parking permits and charge a prohibitive fee for 2-car households, but provide a rebate to those who also use the TTC
- Seek funding from the provincial and federal governments
- Be sure to pay attention to equity concerns in instituting any new taxes or fees

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## Question 2 – How can the City of Toronto help you to live a more environmentally friendly lifestyle?

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### Our Modes of Transportation

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*Torontonians want to embrace sustainable modes of transportation, but the City must provide the necessary infrastructure and tools for them to do so.*

- Make it safer and less scary for me to ride my bike – build properly-designed and well-maintained bike lanes on all main streets, make bike lanes wider and protected from traffic, and educate motorists about interacting with cyclists
- Provide secure and convenient bike parking so that my bike won't get stolen
- Make public transit faster, more frequent and more convenient
- Increase and improve dedicated transit routes to travel faster, stop less often, and not wait at intersections
- Reduce transit fares and make the TTC free on smog days
- Redesign roads to make all forms of sustainable transportation safer, more convenient, and more pleasant
- Provide tools to facilitate carpooling
- Promote telecommuting to my employer

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### Our Waste

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*Torontonians are very concerned about the amount of waste they produce and they need the City to help them reduce that amount and deal with the waste that remains in a more sustainable manner.*

- Help me to be able to recycle or compost anywhere - make recycling and composting mandatory for all apartment buildings, businesses, schools, festivals and events
- Provide a better system for me to deal with hazardous waste – implement a take-back program at hardware or grocery stores for batteries, CFL's, electronics, paints, etc.
- Provide an incentive for me to reduce my waste by implementing a bag tag program
- Help me to produce less waste by regulating overpackaging
- Improve the recycling program by accepting more materials and making it clearer which items go where
- Ban Styrofoam and require all fast-food restaurants to use biodegradable containers
- Impose a surcharge on disposable coffee cups and plastic bags

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### Communication and Education

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*Torontonians need easily accessible information to access environmental programs and make the right decisions.*

- Inform me – provide visible and multiple advertisements about environmental issues
- Communicate clearly what is required of me as an individual
- Have a central website where I can find info about all environmental initiatives and the subsidies available from each level of government, or an environmental hotline I can call
- Have “demonstration neighbourhoods” to showcase green living
- Provide me with the necessary information to select environmentally-friendly products and local foods



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## Energy and Our Homes

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*Torontonians are looking to the City for information and financial assistance to make their homes more energy efficient and to produce their own clean energy.*

- Help me to retrofit my home and install renewable energy systems by providing low-interest or interest-free loans or subsidies, and ensure that my property taxes won't increase as a result
- Help me to purchase energy efficient appliances by providing more rebates
- Educate me about how to improve the energy efficiency of my home, about which renewable energy system is appropriate for my home, what the applicable regulations are, and provide information about contractors who are experienced in these things
- Reduce the red tape and fast-track the permitting process associated with green building and renewable energy
- Establish and support renewable energy co-ops

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## Our Yards and Gardens

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*Torontonians need the information and the tools to create healthy and sustainable yards and gardens.*

- Educate me about green roofs, show me more green roofs on residential properties, and provide financial incentives to support green roofs
- Provide information and assistance to homeowners who want to plant trees, establish natural gardens, or grow vegetables
- Help me to reduce my water use by offering me a system where grey water can be used for my toilet or for watering my lawn and garden

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## Question 3 –What do you feel is the single best idea that has been raised today?

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### Communication and Education

- Recognition of best practices of individual, street, community, ward, business, industry level
- Provide Information on smog related deaths (with updates: how many each year? each day?)
- Neighbourhood Energy Efficiency Ambassadors
- Establish one-stop shopping / self help with information on how citizens can take actions to reduce GHG's
- Everyone should tell at least one person to do one thing to reduce greenhouse gas emission and tell the person to do the same
- Grass roots / neighbourhood activities & "To Do" available on a cable TV information forum and on the internet
- Ask the City Councillors to declare their environmental footprint annually to act as role models
- Website that tells users best bike paths, other transportation alternatives for given trip(s)
- Promotion of green resources on television and radio / publicity
- Have City Councillors declare their environmental footprint annually to show leadership by example
- Google Maps for TTC, walking, etc
- Create "action teams" to educate the whole city about what each person can do to reduce greenhouse gases and other pollutants
- Building strong community with ideas implemented at a neighbourhood level and local resource hubs.
- Let individuals know what services are in walking distance from their homes
- Educate me and my local community about what our utility consumption must be to meet the targets
- Coordinated environmental services to assist ordinary people to wade through environment how-to, by-laws, sources, etc.
- Streamline the process the ask the City for information
- Promote Green citizenry
- Integration of sustainable communities, climate change, global warming, eco awareness into the school curriculum from Kindergarten to high school
- Provide resources and coordinate city information to build capacities and actions for change (i.e. an enviro portal)
- More education goes a long way in greening in a sustainable way
- Using churches to promote energy efficiency and greening
- Include in all school curriculum an environmental/ecological thread
- Greater initiative at ward level - councillors should show leadership in setting up neighbourhood information sessions
- Use non-traditional media to educate the public, like you-tube
- Create greater awareness and education
- Have mandatory environmental courses in teacher's college so that teachers can reach the future generations

- Promote energy efficiency standards to the public such as energy consumption for a 4-person family
- Focus on motivation through education and building public alignment
- Demonstration neighbourhoods developed by non-profit delivery system
- Translate environmental information on website to be offered in many languages

## **Energy Efficiency and Conservation**

- Issue fines to companies who don't reduce their energy use
- Monitor and control inefficient energy use by corporations
- Use air curtains to reduce amount of energy (heat and air conditioning) lost through open doorways
- Require city hospitals to make public their energy use because hospitals need to be much more active in energy consumption
- Smart Meters
- Incentives for green improvement to homes/yards (solar panels, insulation, tree planting, naturalization, rainwater retention)
- Retrofit all residential housing stock for GHG reduction 5% per year (similar to Germany)
- Assist homeowners with heat loss
- Offer free home audits
- Cut the use of air conditioners through home and property redesign
- Measure water, gas and electricity use, provide targets per person, and share monthly statistics broken down by neighbourhood
- Use model homes to showcase energy efficiency
- Mandatory retrofits of landlord-owned homes
- Implement a retrofit program for apartment buildings
- Mandate green development standards for public & private buildings
- Provide Incentives for converting to tankless water heaters
- Mandatory Retrofits (Residential & Commercial) funded by conservation programs & carbon taxes on major emitters in the City
- Retrofit all buildings to use less energy
- Provide subsidies for the retrofit of existing buildings to be more energy efficient
- Use of silos on the waterfront to produce ice at night and use this for cooling during the day
- All new buildings must be built to new standards that drastically reduce carbon and all new neighbourhoods must be off-grid, walking, medium-density neighbourhoods
- Reduced taxes (GST or property taxes) on R-2000 Homes

## **Leadership by Example: Greening City Government**

- Use Toronto Community Housing as a model for retrofitting, garbage management - reward positive efforts
- Retrofit public housing as a showcase project
- Toronto Community Housing should showcase green buildings through retrofits
- Refit social housing projects with new appliances/insulation, etc.
- Getting the Toronto Environmental Office up to Speed!

## **Financial Tools**

- Raise taxes by 2% and apply it to Green causes with accountability
- Have the City do a Green Lottery - federal climate change cost: \$8 billion/year; gambling in Canada: \$14 billion/year
- Property tax incentives for green improvements to homes/yards i.e. Solar panels, insulation, naturalizing yards, removing pavement, planting trees, rainwater retention, etc.
- Graduated tax levels/fee payments for new residential and commercial developments according to the level of energy efficient design. - could be revenue neutral (penalty for bad design, subsidy for good design)
- Green Municipal Funds - for investment. Then used for Green causes.
- Support tax for green programs
- Set up a dedicated "Ecofund" to tax bad behaviour (i.e. hummers) and use the fund to subsidize good behaviour (New transit, Cell Lights, appliance rebates)
- Incentive (e.g. property tax rebates) for environmental actions - solar panels, solar hot water, green roofs, etc)
- Tax incentives & disincentives for Environmental Programs
- Tax break for people who live within 10km of work
- Increase the cost of electricity and everything that causes pollution and decrease the cost of energy-efficient products
- Tax environmentally harmful products and use the revenue to support the production of green products
- For every gallon of gasoline sold at the pumps, the consumer will pay a tax and it will go into an Eco Fund dedicated to climate change efforts
- Local Improvement Changes so owners can make retrofits or renewable purchases & attach costs/ benefits to property

## **Green Roofs**

- Make use of all roofs
- More green roofs

## **Lawns and Gardens**

- Community Gardening
- Have the city ban leaf blowers! Use a rake!!
- Eliminate ALL 2-stroke power equipment by 2010 by Switching to Electric or 4-Stroke Engines starting with the City's Fleet of Lawn/Garden Power Equipment and extending to small businesses and households: Goal 10% Elimination by 2015
- More community gardens
- Encourage urban farming
- Ban leaf blowers right away
- Get rid of noise pollution from leaf blowers and lawnmowers
- Ban 2-stroke motors for lawnmowers and others
- Zoning and planning policies oriented to environmentally friendly sustainable transportation and energy use

## **Parks and Trees**

- Ban non-native trees! (Promote planting of locally indigenous species)
- Create By-law that only native species of trees/shrubs will be planted on city property. Also, trees available to public by the city must only be native species.
- Support the creation of Urban Forest Improvement Areas (perhaps linked to Residents Association)
- Grow food in public parks and on rooftops
- Increase parks in the downtown area, more trees
- In order to achieve the doubling of the tree canopy, the City should use the successful Roncesvalles-MacDonell Residents' Association tree planting campaign as a model for other community-based initiatives
- More encouragement of urban food growing, more community garden space in city parks and on city property
- More young trees and protect existing trees
- Come up with an action plan to meet the tree canopy targets with TRCA and other partners

## **Renewable Energy**

- Speed up the connection of Enwave cooling to City Hall & University of Toronto.
- Mandate City/Toronto Hydro to procure 25% Renewable Energy by 2012
- Coupons for purchasing energy efficient technologies OR / retrofits OR / geothermal installations /PV solar, etc
- Encourage public participation in renewable energy cooperatives
- In order to achieve the renewable energy target of 25%, residential groups need a single point of contact to coordinate experience with renewable energy systems and provide access to information regarding city policies on zoning, tax, permitting, Toronto Hydro fees, etc.
- Shared community solar gardens to distribute power locally
- Subsidize solar and wind power
- Incentives for installing renewable energy sources and other retrofits

## **Transportation**

- Make Councillor ----- ride a bike to work!!
- Increase use of rail lines / promote active commuting
- More attention to bicycle infrastructure & promotion
- Actively Promote Bike Culture
- Implement Toronto Bike Plan
- Integrate cycling into Transit Plan
- Commuter Cycle Days from Burlington to Toronto
- The action plan to complete the bike network by 2012 should be accompanied by an education component for the general public about the Bike Network. Should also increase the number of CAN-Bike courses and locations
- Focus on public transportation to get people out of cars
- Anti-Car Campaign Like Anti-Smoking Ads
- Vehicle registration fees, road tolls and increased parking fees to fund public transit
- Car Free Days (i.e. Sundays in the summer)
- Link emissions tax to license plate renewal odometer reading plus vehicle type x % = tax based on actual carbon emissions
- Actively restrict car traffic, change parking fees, add congestion fees
- Develop a system for reducing auto dependency and access in the downtown core

- Bloor-Danforth Car-Free Day 2007 from Mississauga to Scarborough
- Fix traffic congestion
- Expand emission test requirement to all vehicles
- Improve driver education
- Actively restrict car use into and out of downtown
- Reduce car use and increase electric bicycle use
- Monitor and enforce parking and vehicle idling
- Green Delivery Zones Goods deliveries during peak periods subject to congestion fee
- Subsidize retail space for sellers of locally-produced goods and use public spaces as destinations for locally-produced goods
- More expensive parking permits, but rebate for holders who also have TTC pass
- Increase capacity of public transit system to reduce reliance on cars & promote biking & walking
- TTC Improvements
- Get Federal \$ for developing light rail transit plan that is the best in North America
- Increase public transit around the GTA
- Implement Transit City Plan
- Totally revamp TTC
- Improve public transit by building more subway lines downtown
- Implement the Transit City Plan
- Build more subways, dedicated streetcar routes, and link bus routes
- Add more streetcars to East/West routes during rush hour
- Implement Transit City Plan
- Make transportation hubs around the City instead of just at Union Station in order to encourage people to use public transit and make it more advantageous than it is now
- Improve TTC Service
- Encourage people to use public transit and increase the penalty for parking fines
- Expand the public transit plan
- Implement the Transit City light rail plan and start planning for more subways - pay for the plan by increasing parking fees and cooperate with surrounding cities to put tolls on the 400 series highways
- Improved Park&Ride System to reduce commuter traffic into downtown
- Discounted rates for public transit during non-peak hours
- Make Driving Less Attractive and Biking & Public Transit More Attractive
- Congestion Charge
- Congestion Charges for the Downtown
- Congestion tax or tolls for driving into the downtown core, in conjunction with improved bike lanes and public transit
- Take Space Away from Cars, Dig up the lane and Plant a Thick, Wide Tree Canopy
- Clean Air Corridors
- Toll the motor Highways in and out of the City
- Fee for vehicles entering the City core
- Dismantle the DVP and replace it with GO Trains
- Actively restrict car usage/car access to the downtown core
- Make parts of the downtown core inaccessible to cars, and green these spaces with trees, local food, and local energy production
- Make downtown as car-free as possible and also make transit more frequent and convenient
- Restrict "905" commuters into the city core via single occupant vehicles - toll road
- Pedestrian-only streets
- Create car-free pedestrian friendly areas in downtown

- Reduce car usage in the downtown core and increase the number of intersections with no stopping grids
- Shared taxis (shuttles)
- City should license all hybrid taxis and limo services (i.e. Green Limousines)

## **Water**

- Rain Water Harvesting of Large Roof Buildings
- Rain garden in Toronto
- Household water management system: no waste into city system
- Reduce water consumption by 50% by 2015

## **Waste**

- Ban petroleum (plastic) bags
- Ban Plastic Bags! (by 2010)
- Green Bins in the City's High-rise
- Require take back programs for more items
- Encourage ban of plastic bags & provide cloth bags, paper bags, etc.
- Have pilot projects to help T.G. complexes to be able to use green bins.
- Biodegradable plastic bags sold by City of Toronto in local grocery stores to support greener alternatives & generate income for the City (no toxins)
- Have Toxic Waste Pick-up at residential & commercial places monthly.
- Free lotto ticket to households that don't have any garbage to pick up for the week
- No garbage incineration - too much air pollution
- Extend recycling to apartment buildings
- Implement a tag program for garbage - residents must buy tags and affix them to their garbage bag in order to have any landfill-destined waste picked up
- Clear Garbage bags for "social pressure"

## **Miscellaneous**

- Dealing with municipal permitting issues / i.e. Make it easier for folks to do the right thing
- Ensure that all city policies are in line with Toronto's ambition to be the greenest city
- Mandatory Green Building Standards for new & retrofit
- Have Councillors Environmental days all on the same day
- This is not a one best solution. It has to be attached from every angle, by various levels, groups, residents, workers, businesses, manufactures politicians. Complex issues need complex solutions!
- Yearly city goals and tying our City Planning with regional/GTA planning/resource/idea sharing to both advocate as a collective with our neighbours for other levels of governmental funding and also to expand upon good ideas to collectively benefit all (i.e. collective cost purchasing etc.)
- Implement all 27 ideas in this excellent plan as soon as possible
- Citizens need tools to monitor City's environmental performance (i.e. sustainability commissioner for City)
- Totally independent sustainable communities
- Change the Ontario Building Code to give easier access to permits when going Green
- Hold industry accountable for polluting rivers, air and soil
- Commitment to action rather than talk
- Mobilize citizens
- Require audit of embodied energy before demolition for redevelopment

- Because of the seriousness and urgency of climate change, City Council needs to aggressive actions, even if they are controversial or may upset some people
- Act now on all areas - there has been enough consultation and many cities are far ahead of Toronto
- City needs to show leadership and not back down in the face of opposition to programs promoting sustainability
- Planning and implementation must be integrated in order to ensure that the ecosystem approach governs decision-making and encourages better neighbourhood functioning socially and environmentally - use full-cost accounting as much as possible
- Have more programs to support small and medium-sized businesses that deal with the environment
- More incentives (carrot and stick)
- Provide incentives for green businesses (start-up capital and marketing)