



TransformTO

**PE15.1
Attachment B**

**TransformTO: Climate Action for a Healthy,
Equitable, and Prosperous Toronto**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

2015-2016



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Overview

TransformTO is a collaborative project engaging the community in achieving an 80% reduction in Toronto's greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The project is supported by community engagement and technical scenario modelling to help understand how deep carbon reduction will affect Torontonians over the long term. It's not just about climate change. TransformTO will explore low-carbon solutions that support public health, our local economy, and social equity.

TransformTO will establish a direction that will be used to achieve the City's greenhouse gas emissions goals over the next 34 years. As a part of this process, a short-term action plan and a long-term pathway documents will be produced. TransformTO will lead to a long-term climate strategy that will update the existing City of Toronto Climate Change Action Plan. The City of Toronto's Environment and Energy Division and the Toronto Atmospheric Fund are co-leading this initiative.

In 2007, Toronto City Council unanimously adopted three ambitious greenhouse gas reduction goals, based on 1990 levels:

- 6% reduction by 2012;
- 30% reduction by 2020;
- 80% reduction by 2050.

To date, Toronto has successfully achieved a 25% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, exceeding the short-term reduction goal of 6% by 2012. While the city continues to make progress towards the 30% reduction goals, new strategies and actions are required to achieve the emission reduction targets. Moreover, all levels of government, Toronto's residents, community groups, businesses and local organizations will need to work together to successfully build a low-carbon, healthy, prosperous and equitable Toronto by 2050.



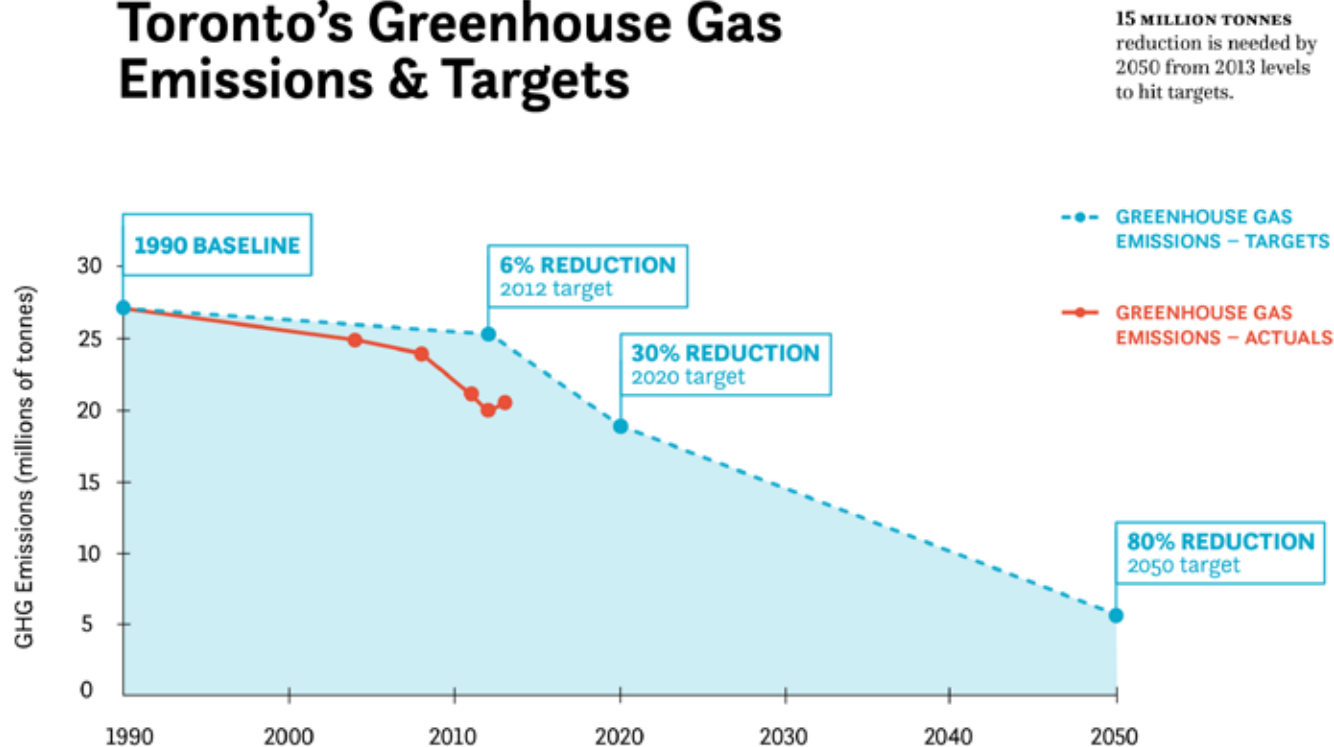
TransformTO Community Engagement

With co-creation as one of its guiding principles, TransformTO is initiating, developing, and strengthening partnerships across Toronto to engage the broad community, incorporate their ideas and interests, and build long term commitment to Toronto's low carbon future.

August 2015 to July 2016, TransformTO's first phase of engagement encouraged residents to submit their ideas for a shared vision of a low-carbon Toronto in 2050. A variety of engagement and outreach tools promoted participation from residents, community groups and stakeholders online and at events. Environment and Energy Division

City staff have summarized the ideas and feedback submitted by participants in this report. The Community Engagement Report will be submitted to the TransformTO Technical Scenario Modelling team and included in reports to Council.

Toronto's Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Targets



Community Engagement and Outreach

Purpose

Community engagement and outreach provided multiple opportunities and methods for the public to share their ideas on how to achieve a low-carbon, healthy, prosperous and equitable Toronto, including:

- an online TransformTO survey,
- a Centre for Social Innovation TransformTO event, and
- City-hosted and community-hosted TransformTO Conversations.

The purpose of the engagement was to:

- provide an opportunity for community feedback on the initiative,
- identify key community priorities for a low-carbon future,
- promote community awareness of the TransformTO initiative and its recommendations.





Methodology

As a part of all engagement activities, residents identified actions and solutions that would help decrease greenhouse gas emissions in Toronto. The TransformTO Community Conversations also encouraged attendees to imagine what a low-carbon, healthy, equitable and prosperous Toronto would look like in the year 2050 and share their vision with other participants.

The responses submitted as a part of the engagement activities were collected and reviewed by the TransformTO team. Community ideas were collected via written submissions to an online survey; transcribed notes from roundtable conversations at City-hosted events; reports written by residents who organized the community-hosted events; as well as individual submissions sent by email to the TransformTO team. The team compiled all of the community

feedback that was submitted as a part of the activities into a single document. This document will be released through City of Toronto's OpenData in the Fall 2016.

Overview of Events and Activities

From August 2015 to July 2016, nearly 2,000 residents participated in TransformTO events and the online survey. In addition, information about TransformTO was provided to over 1,500 residents through a variety of Live Green Toronto outreach events including community-based events, festivals and educational workshops. In order to make the events more accessible to Torontonians across the city, both the Community Conversations and the *TalkTransformation!* Speaker series were hosted across the four city districts: North York, Etobicoke, Scarborough and downtown.

Event/Activity	Description	# of Participants	Dates
<p><i>Online TransformTO Workbook Survey</i></p>	<p>Survey was available online to collect the community’s ideas for initiatives that would help reduce the city’s overall greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Questions were organized into six key topic categories: Resilience; Energy; Transportation; Green Space; Health and Behaviour Change. In each category, participants provided their solutions for relevant low-carbon initiatives and supported their ideas with examples of successful local and international projects.</p> <p>Input obtained through the survey was summarized into several reports and incorporated into the <i>TalkTransformation!</i> Speaker Series events.</p>	<p>200</p>	<p>August 2015-February 2016</p>
<p><i>TalkTransformation! Panel Discussions – 3 events</i></p>	<p>Subject matter experts shared their ideas with residents on low-carbon initiatives and answered questions in a question and answer period.</p> <p>Three events took place at various venues across the city from September to November 2015. The three topics of discussion were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience • Energy & Buildings, and • Transportation. <p>The events aimed to educate the public on current low-carbon initiatives within each topic area, as well as start a community dialogue about future opportunities in each sector. A summary of community ideas, provided as a part of the TransformTO Workbook survey, were incorporated into the panel discussions.</p>	<p>400 in person 150 via periscope online streaming</p>	<p>September to November 2015</p>

Event/Activity	Description	# of Participants	Dates
<p><i>Centre for Social Innovation Event: The Six in 2050</i></p>	<p>Subject-matter experts and social innovation leaders engaged in discussions about systemic changes that would be essential to our city’s low-carbon, healthy, prosperous and equitable future. The TransformTO team reviewed the feedback provided by the attendees and summarized the key findings in the event Summary Report.</p>	70	April 2016
<p><i>TransformTO Community Conversations – 4 City-hosted event</i></p>	<p>Four City-hosted Community Conversation events were held in North York, Scarborough, Etobicoke and downtown in April and May.</p> <p>All events were designed to identify a shared community vision for a low-carbon Toronto in 2050 and the community’s view on the key actions needed to achieve it.</p> <p>The four City-hosted events included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an open-house exhibit featuring informational boards that summarized the TransformTO project and related City initiatives; • a City staff presentation about TransformTO including an overview, timelines and deliverables; • roundtable community conversations, based on a TransformTO Conversation Kit (Appendix II), with facilitators guiding and recording the discussions. <p>Community Conversations Report summarizes the community ideas shared at the City-hosted events.</p>	200	April - May 2016

Event/Activity	Description	# of Participants	Dates
<i>TransformTO Conversations – 11 Community-hosted events</i>	Eleven conversation events were organized by various community groups and Toronto City Councillors. The TransformTO Conversation Kit was available to the public to use at the community-hosted events, however, many community groups designed their own roundtable discussions.	250	April - June 2016
<i>Youth Engagement</i>	<p>To engage younger residents, the TransformTO team designed several interactive activities that encouraged participants to create (draw, build with clay, or describe) their vision for Toronto in 2050.</p> <p>Participants created their own versions of a low-carbon, future Toronto at the Kids World of Energy event and My World My Choice Conference for high-school students.</p> <p>While some participants portrayed a very desolate and struggling future with many forest fires and no green space or animals, most focused on a hopeful image of the future.</p> <p>Common themes included: a variety of alternative transportation infrastructure; renewable energy on all buildings; a city surrounded by green space and nature, as well as urban agriculture.</p>	~ 400 youth age 9 – 12; 35 high-school students	May 2016

Event/Activity	Description	# of Participants	Dates
<i>TransformTO Activation and Engagement at Events</i>	<p>TransformTO team members presented information about the project, its goals and timelines to community groups and professional associations in Toronto.</p> <p>TransformTO hosted an interactive information table at the United Nations Association in Canada Toronto (UNACTO) Earth Day event on April 23rd, 2016. Through an interactive ‘dotmocracy’ activity, attendees identified actions that they believed should be prioritized to help us reach our greenhouse gas emissions reductions goal.</p>	~200	February – July 2016
<i>Additional Outreach</i>	<p>Information about the TransformTO campaign and upcoming events was also communicated to the attendees of a number of City of Toronto and community-hosted events through April to July 2016 (e.g. Environment Days, Lovin’ Local Food Fest, Green Living Show and more).</p> <p>Live Green Toronto Volunteers updated the public on upcoming TransformTO events and encouraged participation in the TransformTO Community Conversations.</p>	~1500	February – July 2016

While the style of each one of the above-mentioned engagement opportunities differed from one to the other, similar themes and ideas were consistently identified in the community feedback. The TransformTO Team reviewed all of the community ideas for common themes and actions that were frequently prioritized by the participants. Key findings from the community feedback are summarized below.

Community Ideas and Vision for Toronto in 2050

From the community feedback, community-submitted reports and other submissions, common ideas and themes were identified and grouped together into key categories. Overall, seven main priority categories were identified:

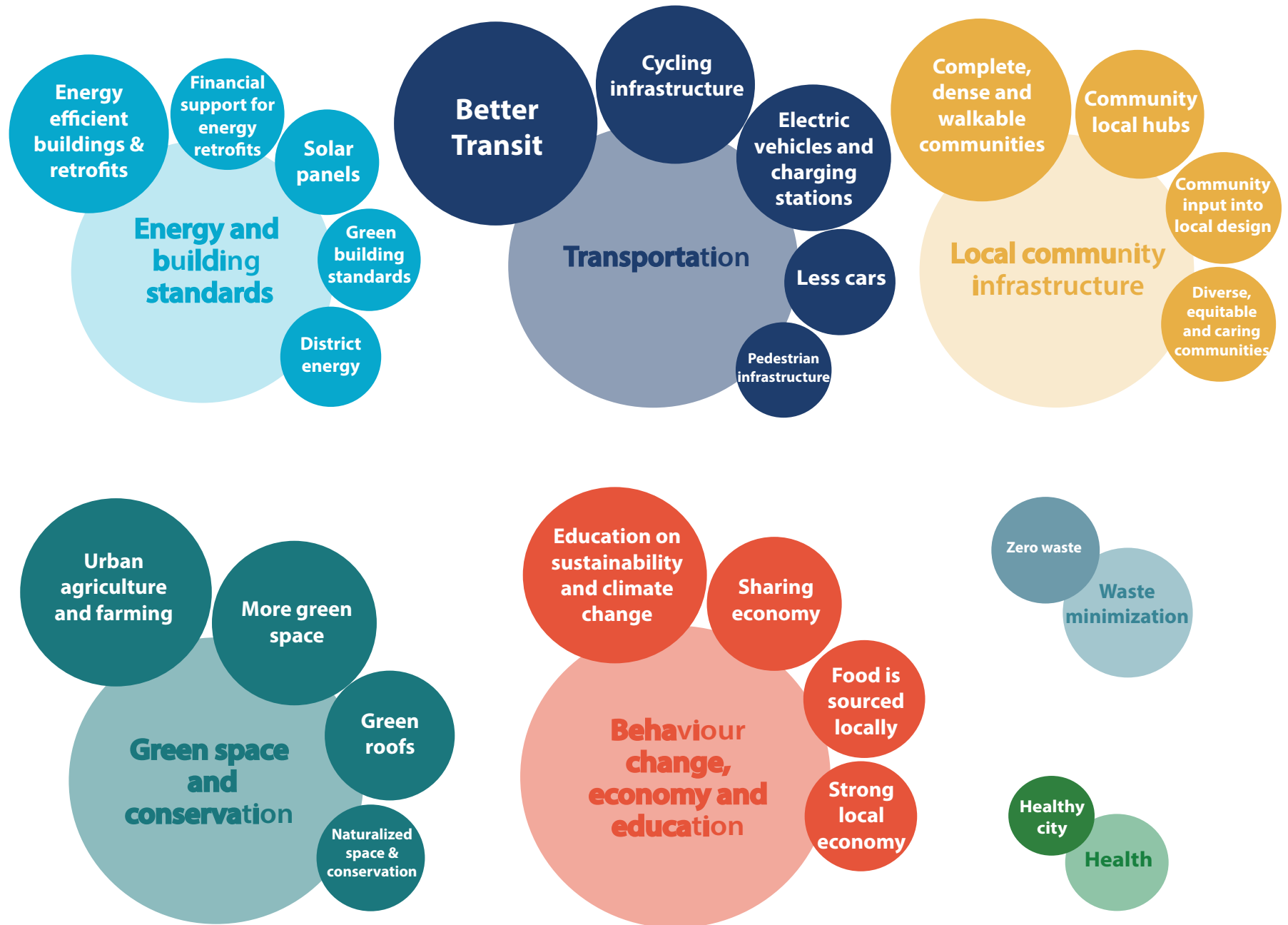
- Transportation
- Behaviour change, economy and education
- Green spaces and conservation
- Energy and building standards
- Local community infrastructure & urban design
- Waste minimization
- Health

Transportation and behaviour change were most-highly prioritised by participants. The most mentioned ideas overall, across categories were: better transit (transit that is reliable; accessible; affordable, clean and expanded); complete, dense and walkable communities; urban agriculture; cycling infrastructure and presence of green space.

Figure 1 on page 10 visualizes the most frequently mentioned ideas, where the relative size of the circles represents the frequency a given idea was mentioned during the consultations.



Figure 1: Visual overview of key community ideas and actions for a low-carbon Toronto





Transportation

Many ideas shared by the participants focused on the topic of sustainable transportation (Figure 1). Residents called for more action around better transit infrastructure that would be more reliable, physically accessible to all users, affordable and powered by clean energy (e.g. electricity). A regional transit system that would provide better connections both locally and throughout the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area was also supported. Overall, community members saw transit as a key solution to traffic and related greenhouse gas emissions in Toronto.

Active-transportation infrastructure, both for cycling and walking, was also frequently mentioned. Many ideas included bike lanes,

bike parking as well as wider and safer routes for pedestrians. Some participants felt that better cycling and pedestrian infrastructure would motivate more residents to leave their car at home, which would reduce our greenhouse gases and improve our health.

Electronic vehicles (EVs) and charging stations for EVs were identified as a desirable solution to vehicle-related greenhouse gas emissions. Participants also suggested expanding the use of car shares and road tolls to reduce the overall presence of cars on Toronto's streets.

Behaviour Change & Education

Education on climate change and how to lead a sustainable lifestyle was identified as one of the top solutions to help the community reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The community felt that a better understanding of the effects of climate change and the actions we can take to mitigate it, could encourage more residents to adopt more sustainable lifestyles. Residents also felt that they would benefit from specific information on various aspects of individual sustainability such as gardening classes, cycling workshops, and clear information on waste management, etc.

Aspects of sustainable lifestyles that were frequently mentioned, included: the sharing economy (buying less and sharing items that are used infrequently); sourcing more food locally (within the province or city); working more flexible hours or working from home more frequently to reduce emissions. Financial incentives for behaviour change, more City staff engagement with community, and implementation of a carbon tax were also suggested as ways to encourage behaviour change.

Participants also described their desire for communities that were more inclusive of the city's diversity, more equitable and caring.





Green Space

Many community members identified green space as a desirable component of a low-carbon Toronto. More parks, green rooftops, trees, native plants and naturalized (wild) space were amongst the most popular ideas mentioned in this category. Residents felt it was important to conserve the green space already present within the city, and to replace currently paved areas (such as parking spaces) with green space instead.

Additionally, participants strongly supported urban agriculture in Toronto. Many identified a need for better infrastructure (access to land, designated gardening space, etc.) to spur the growth of the local food movement.

Energy & Building Standards

Many community members identified the importance of mandatory, regulated and enforced energy-efficiency and green building standards for all buildings in Toronto. Participants emphasized that in order to reach our greenhouse gas emission reduction goal, all older building in the city must be retrofitted to improve energy efficiency, and all new construction must meet stricter energy-efficiency standards. Grants, incentives and financial support for energy-retrofits must be readily available to support this necessary progress.

Community feedback also supported the installation of more renewable energy sources, such as solar panels and wind turbines. District energy systems and more energy storage capacity were also popular ideas.



Local Community Infrastructure

As a part of their future Toronto, participants frequently identified community design that prioritizes densely populated, walkable and complete neighbourhoods that include all desirable amenities and services. This vision of a ‘village within a city’ often included more community hubs (a centre for local information, key services, community support and meeting space) as well as more space for outdoor recreation and activities. In general, although many participants were supportive of denser communities, they were also in-favour of mid-rise and low-rise buildings and less supportive of high-rise condominiums.

In order to achieve this vision, participants felt that more community-input, and better consultation processes for local community design are necessary.

Waste minimization

A ‘zero waste’ goal for Toronto was frequently mentioned in community responses. Participants suggested a ban on packaging and plastic bags to reduce the volume of waste produced in the city. Also, the enforcement of mandatory recycling and composting for all sectors - residential, commercial and industrial - was commonly supported.

Health

In their vision of the future, community members describe Toronto as a healthy and beautiful city. The need for better awareness and education about the health effects of climate change, and healthy food alternatives, were frequently highlighted by participants.

Online Engagement & Social Media

TransformTO maintained an online presence throughout 2015 and 2016.

A TransformTO City of Toronto website provided an overview of the project and updates on opportunities for community input and involvement. The website was visited nearly 10,000 times in 2015 and 2016.

Twitter, Facebook and Instagram were used to promote participation in the campaign and notify the community about upcoming events. The #TransformTO hashtag was used in over 560 tweets by Live

Green Toronto, other City of Toronto divisions, Toronto Atmospheric Fund, City Councillors, community organizations, residents and other stakeholders. Over 110 unique Twitter users posted about the TransformTO campaign. The total number of engagements via social media as of July 2016 was 1,828.

Additionally, monthly project updates were provided via the TransformTO Newsletter to over 800 subscribers.

Next Steps

We would like to thank all of the residents of Toronto who participated in the TransformTO Conversations, attended and organized community events, and demonstrated their support for the initiative.

TransformTO would not be successful without the support of Toronto's diverse community. Encouraging diverse participation and collecting representative responses was a challenge. In the next phase of engagement, particular emphasis on engaging a diverse audience in terms of geography and demographic will be made.

The feedback received to-date will be included in the next phase of the project, the technical scenario modelling. The community ideas will be combined with an analysis of various actions and solutions

that will help identify the most effective pathway to reach our greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. Both the community feedback and technical modelling will be included in the first report to Toronto City Council in 2016.

Based on the decisions made by Council and project recommendations, further community engagement and opportunities for input will be developed in 2017.

Appendix I: Other Engagement and Feedback

Modelling Advisory Group

A group of thirty-seven community leaders, academics, City staff and subject-matter experts was convened to provide input on the TransformTO initiative and technical scenario modelling. The group membership was carefully selected to include a diverse representation from multiple perspectives (energy, environment, economy, health, equity and social justice). Led by the Technical

Modelling Consultants (SSG and WhatIf? Technologies), the MAG were consulted on the criteria, limitations and approach to the technical modelling.

Three meetings of Modelling Advisory Group (MAG) are scheduled to be hosted in the Summer 2016 and Winter 2017.



Community Reports, Individual Submissions and Comments

All of the reports and individual comments submitted by community groups and residents are available online on the City of Toronto [TransformTO web page](#).

Appendix II: TransformTO Conversation Kit



TransformTO



Welcome to TransformTO:

Climate Action for a
Healthy, Equitable, and
Prosperous Toronto



Welcome to TransformTO:

Climate Action for a Healthy, Equitable, and Prosperous Toronto

Welcome to TransformTO Community Conversations. Thank you for sharing your vision of a sustainable Toronto. Your ideas will contribute to TransformTO, the City's long-term climate action strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

TransformTO will help shape Toronto into a healthy, prosperous and equitable city with low greenhouse gas emissions.

Our target is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050. The initiative will use community ideas and technical modelling to create a long-term pathway to a low-carbon future.

In December 2016, TransformTO will present to City Council:

- 1. A short-term action plan (2017-2020)** to meet Toronto's goal of 30% greenhouse gas emissions reductions by 2020.
- 2. A pathway document** that will outline strategies to reduce Toronto's greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050, while generating a healthier, more prosperous and equitable city.

For more information on the project, please visit toronto.ca/transformto



Toronto's Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Targets

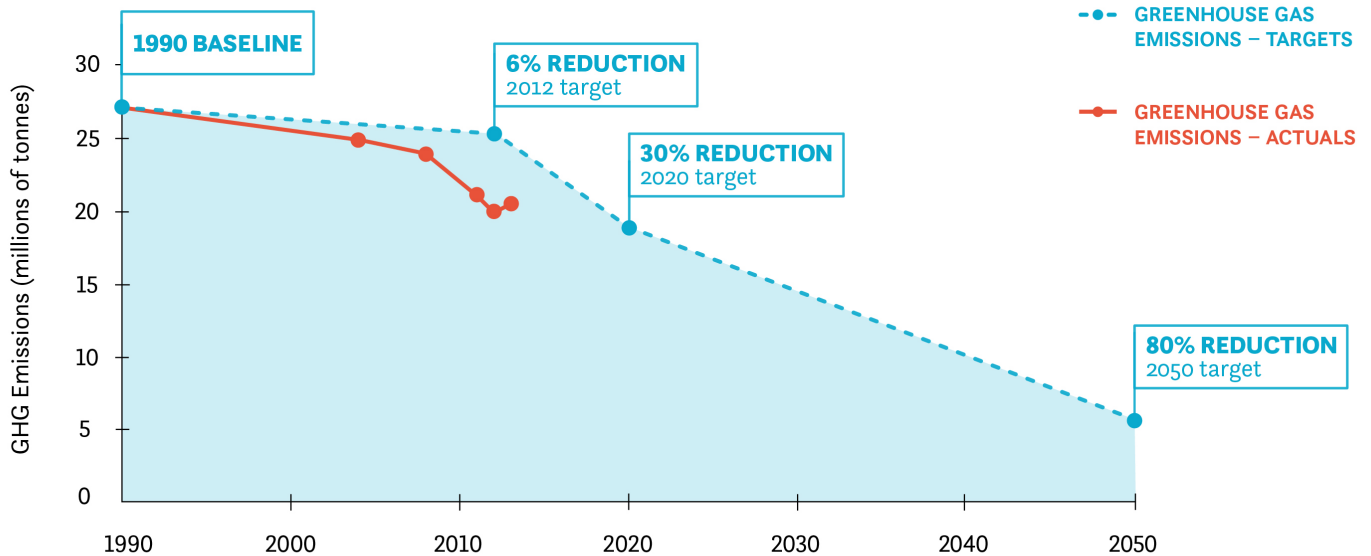
Toronto has ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals. Based on a baseline of 1990, Toronto's three emissions reductions targets are:

- 6% reduction by 2012
- 30% reduction by 2020
- 80% reduction by 2050

In 2013, our city-wide emissions were estimated at 24% below 1990 levels. We are moving in the right direction, but more action by residents, businesses and government is needed to reach our long-term goals.

Toronto's Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Targets

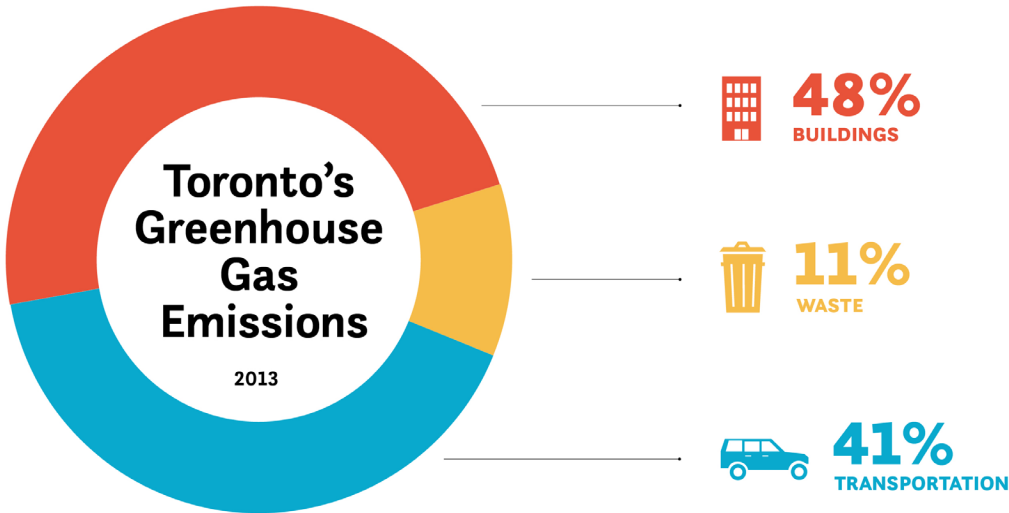
15 MILLION TONNES reduction is needed by 2050 from 2013 levels to hit targets.



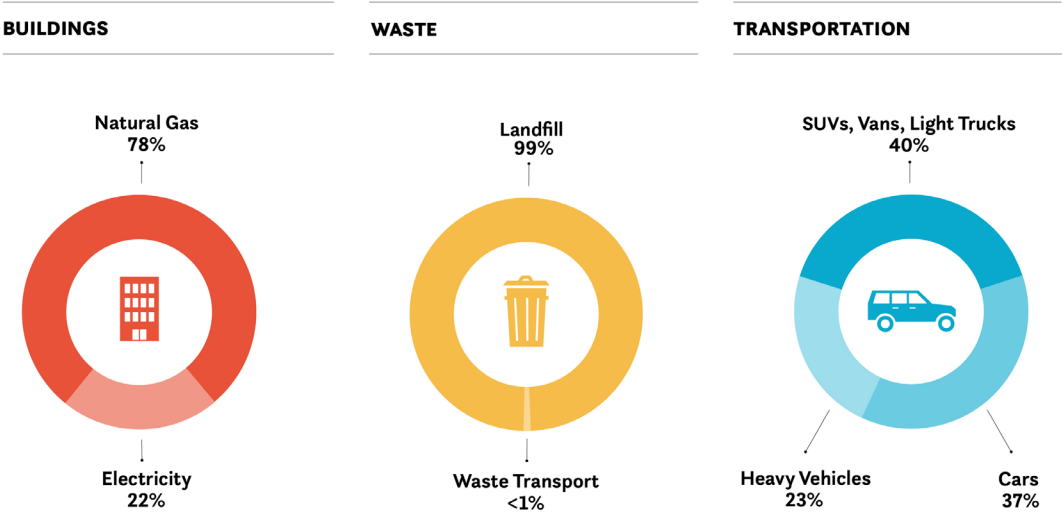
Working Together to Prepare for the Future

We are already starting to experience the effects of climate change in our city. Based on current predictions, extreme weather will become more common in the future.

Reducing our emissions to address climate change will involve a community-wide effort. We know that the biggest sources of greenhouse gas emissions are transportation, heating space and water in our buildings, and waste.



Breakdown of GHG emissions



*Since 2014 and the closure of Ontario's coal-fired power plants, electricity consumption creates far few greenhouse gas emissions.

TransformTO Conversation Questions

Please answer the following questions to help us build a clear shared vision of a sustainable low-carbon Toronto in 2050, and identify what needs to happen to achieve our vision.

1. **Imagine that we have succeeded. By working together, community leaders, local organizations, corporations and residents have created a prosperous, healthy and equitable Toronto that has low greenhouse gas emissions.**

a) Describe what that future Toronto in 2050 looks like to you.

Prompt: What do you want to see around you? What do you want your street to look like? What do you want your house to look like? How do you want to get around?

Examples: I walk to work in 10 minutes.
There are lots of green spaces and trees in my neighbourhood.
My community centre has solar panels and is net-zero energy.
I throw out only one bag of garbage a month.

b) Select and describe one of your ideas for Toronto's future to your group. Discuss your group's ideas and choose three that you think would be important to Toronto's diverse residents. Write down your group's shared vision of Toronto in 2050.



2. How can we achieve the vision you described above?

a) Over 200 Torontonians have contributed their ideas in previous consultations. We've grouped the most frequently mentioned ideas into categories below.

With your group, discuss what you think the City's top priorities should be and why. Add any new ideas!

Transportation	Behaviour Change	Green Space	Energy	Buildings
Improve public transit (accessibility, affordability, reliability)	Provide resources and incentives for community networks	Plant more trees	Provide financial support for energy efficiency projects	Strengthen / enhance green building standards for new construction
Implement road tolls	Support stronger local & sharing economies	Support urban agriculture/ food production (allocate space, educate)	Install more renewable energy (geothermal, solar, deep lake water cooling)	Require energy retrofits to existing buildings
Invest more in cycling and pedestrian infrastructure	Support carbon pricing (e.g. carbon tax/ polluter pays)	Naturalize unused areas (hydro corridors, brownfields, lawns)	Install more district energy systems	Provide information/ incentives for less energy use in our homes and offices
Build complete, compact, walkable communities	Increase environmental education, awareness & research	Create more green spaces & parks	Switch from natural gas and car gasoline to electricity	Install more green roofs on existing buildings

3. How would you tell your neighbour that climate change is an important issue?

To reach our 2050 goals and vision, we know we will need the help of all Torontonians. People are busy and have lots of priorities. Tell us what makes climate change important to you so we can engage more of Toronto's residents in the critical work of reducing GHG emissions.

What issues or messages would you stress?

- How climate change connects to your health, or the health of vulnerable citizens like children or the elderly?
- Issues of employment and economic growth and the green economy?
- Equitable access to green space and pollution-free environments?
- Cost to future generations?
- Other?

As a group, write a short message that the City could use to encourage others to participate in our vision and actions for emission reduction.



Individual Submissions & Comments

Comment 1

At COP21 the Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna, committed Canada, its Provinces and Territories to limit the global average temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius, as well as pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees. She stated that: “We need to do this to avoid the harshest impact of climate change on our geography, livelihoods and health.”

More recently, the Ontario Minister of the Environment and Climate Change has committed Ontario and its communities to Ontario’s five year plan – the Climate Change Action Plan - to fight climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and pollution.

The Ontario plan allows for a transition to:

- a low-carbon economy;
- a low carbon future;
- clean renewable energy production; and,
- energy efficiency that targets low/net zero carbon energy solutions.

Transform TO must embrace Canada’s commitment and Ontario’s Plan including its timelines and Actions not featured in the Plan.

I was fortunate to hear Chair of the Sustainable Canada Dialogues (SCD), Dr. Catherine Potvin, from McGill University, present the SCD ideas at a recent Summit on the Environment held by the Muskoka Watershed Council on May 27 and 28, 2016. Canada’s commitment on Climate Change, Ontario’s five-year Climate Change Action Plan

and the Sustainable Canada Dialogues from 62 Canadian Scholars from across Canada have finally brought together action plans that we can all work on together to achieve a sustainable and equitable future for all.

The Canadian Scholars identified 10 policies in their Executive Summary and Position Paper – Acting on Climate Change: Solutions from Canadian Scholars illustrated by actions that could be immediately adopted to kick-start Canada’s necessary transition towards a low-carbon economy and sustainable society.

For me the following 10 policies (see below) represent a summary of what I expect Toronto through Transform TO to support, to act on, and to fund for implementation and action. This may mean that Toronto through Transform TO may have to find additional municipal funding mechanisms for implementation of solutions in addition to measuring, reporting and verifying GHG and pollution reductions as Toronto meets timelines and achieves successes.

POLICY 1

Put a price on carbon nationally.

POLICY 2

Include aggressive goals and targets for low-carbon electricity production in federal and in provincial climate action plans and support interprovincial electricity transportation infrastructure.

POLICY 3

Integrate the oil and gas production sectors into climate policies and the low carbon economy, eliminate all direct and indirect subsidies to the fossil fuel industries and develop a clear regulatory framework coherent with the transition to a low-carbon economy.

POLICY 4

Adopt a national multi-level energy policy with energy efficiency and with electrification at its core in the transition to a low-carbon energy future. Ensure national efficiency standards and government procurement policies. Implement energy use efficiency targets for extractive industries.

POLICY 5

Rapidly adopt low-carbon transportation strategies...update emissions standards, support fuel diversification and new models of transportation. Favor active transportation. Electrify road transport. Improve and increase intercity and intermodal transportation.

POLICY 6

Integrate landscape, land use, transportation and energy infrastructure planning policies at multiple scales to ensure climate change mitigation. Integrate climate change into the heart of territorial and urban planning and identify new avenues for financing. Acknowledge the importance of and support for green infrastructure and “smart growth” planning.

POLICY 7

Support evolution of the building sector toward the transition to a carbon neutral or carbon-positive sector. Adopt ambitious targets for energy demand and efficiency of buildings. Include climate change mitigation in national building codes. Invest in ambient and renewable energy for new and existing buildings.

POLICY 8

Safeguard biodiversity and water quality during Canada’s transition to a low-carbon society, while aiming for net positive approaches.

POLICY 9

Support fisheries, forestry and agriculture practices offering opportunities to limit GHG emissions, enhance carbon sequestration and protect biodiversity and water quality.

POLICY 10

Facilitate the transition to a low-carbon society through the implementation of more participatory and open government institutions.

ADDITIONAL NOTES from the Canadian Scholars: Climate simulations, carried out by the consortium OURANOS based on mitigation scenarios of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, show that immediate global action would successfully limit temperature increases in Canada.

Because renewable energy resources are plentiful, the Canadian Scholars believe that Canada could reach 100% reliance on low-carbon electricity by 2035. This makes it possible, in turn, to adopt a long term target of at least 80% reduction in emissions by 2050.

The Scholars examined how Canada can reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by:

1. producing electricity with low carbon emissions sources;
2. modifying energy consumption through evolving urban design with a transportation revolution; and,
3. linking transition to a low-carbon economy with a broader sustainability agenda, through creation of participatory and open governance institutions that engage the Canadian public.

Their proposal takes into account Canada's renewable energy assets and are based on the well-accepted "polluter pays" principle. Canada's renewable energy assets are presented in detail on a map included in their documents. The map can be downloaded from the SCD website.

In the short term, the policy orientations that could trigger climate action include:

- implementing a national carbon price;
- eliminating subsidies to the fossil fuel industry and fully integrating the oil and gas production sectors into climate policies; and,
- integrating sustainability and climate change into landscape planning at the regional and city levels to ensure that, amongst other goals, maintenance and new infrastructure investments are consistent with the long-term goal of decarbonizing.

Access to the two Sustainable Canada Dialogues (SCD) documents and the map are included in the accompanying attachment in the e-mail.

I would like to comment on the SCD by adding that they have included the preservation of the environment and its biodiversity as critical components of sustainability. Transform TO must do the same.

Transform TO must really be about engaging individuals in everyday living and in making their transition to a low carbon future accessible and equitable.

Transform TO is about Prosperity TO - matching the plan to the creation of good employment.

Transform TO is about Healthy Design – ensuring that local land use planning is creating healthy and safe communities with accessible green spaces, public transit and healthy food, water and air.

Transform TO is about working together to accomplish the targets and goals set by Toronto, Ontario and Canada.

Transform TO is about measuring, reporting and verifying reductions in GHG emissions and pollution and the reporting of Toronto's successes and how Toronto is meeting climate change commitments, targets and timelines in the transition to a low-carbon economy and low-carbon future.



Comment 2

T-Notes Proposal

Project: Launch a complementary currency¹ in Toronto, called T-notes, to help foster a healthy city by linking local, small-scale, sustainable agriculture with people in need of affordable, healthy food choices, thereby reducing the environmental damage and high costs of non-local food sourcing.”

Background:

There are reportedly over 4,000 complementary currencies worldwide. Meant to link unmet needs with unused resources, these currencies have a range of focuses to remedy such issues as a scarcity of central currency, currency being extracted from a community by global chain stores and inflation/deflation. In Canada one such currency is the Calgary Dollars (C\$\$) system, which focuses on helping local businesses attract customers, as well as funding local charities. C\$\$ circulate among dozens of local businesses, and the City of Calgary accepts up to 50 per cent of business licence payments in C\$\$.

The City of New York’s Healthy Bucks program increases the buying power of people on social assistance at local farmers’ markets. In Germany, the Chiemgauer currency helps boost employment for students and the unemployed by paying them in this “turnover credit”² used solely for the exchange of goods and services. T-notes’ focus is to increase healthy food choices by connecting local food suppliers (underused resources) with people in need of affordable, healthy food (unmet needs) while increasing employment opportunities, as farm workers could be paid in T-notes, and reducing greenhouse gases linked to importing from outside the local area or even country.

Pilot Project Design:

A grant would be sought to create a buy-local campaign, which would include vendor and consumer education, start-up administration and

creating a supply of T-notes, securely printed by a company such as Canadian Bank Note Company that would be issued by the City of Toronto to volunteers in exchange for work done by them (i.e., at libraries, parks, events, etc.). The notes would be accepted by participating vendors at local farmers’ markets, food co-operatives, etc., throughout the city at a value of \$1 per T-note (what portion of sales in T-notes they accept will be left to the discretion of the vendors). Volunteers wishing to do so could donate their T-notes to one of the city’s food banks.

Vendors could circulate the notes they receive by using them to purchase products from other participating vendors and to compensate farm workers, as well as pay 50 per cent of the cost of their business licences from the City of Toronto. For direct exchange, T-notes would be accepted back at an exchange rate of one T-note to \$0.95 Cdn. (the five per cent difference would go toward administration of the project by local credit unions or non-profits and, if the program expands, could be used to tie in a low-cost local business loan program).

Results:

The city grows healthier in multiple areas as farmers, co-operatives and the city can offer people coupons to increase purchasing power of healthy, local food. The city’s economy is strengthened as local food providers attract more customers and are able to compensate local workers, thereby keeping currency from leaving the area. The environmental benefits from the reduction in fossil fuel usage linked to globally based chain stores.

Comment 3

I would like to voice my concern over the use of leaf blowers in my Deer Park neighbourhood. I have a home office and the noise coming from these nuisance, useless machines is deafening. There is also a distinct smell of gasoline that invades my home. What can be done to ban these noise and environment polluting machines, especially in our densely populated Toronto neighbourhoods.

Comment 4

Let's move Bike Month and Parks & Rec Month from Pride Month where they're overshadowed to May. And really promote Them. That way we may have a sustainable future.

Comment 5

1. Limit the following characteristics of replacement homes or “newbuilds” in mature residential neighbourhoods:

- a) Gross floor area. This will reduce electricity and fossil fuel consumption for climate control;
- b) Building height; This will reduce electricity and fossil fuel consumption for climate control;
- c) Limit building footprint as a percentage of lot area. This will increase the amount of green space available for stormwater absorption, a critical concern when Toronto's aging sewer infrastructure is considered;
- d) Limit pavement and driveway areas. These hard surfaces increase heat buildup which contribute to the “heat island effect”;
Mature trees in Toronto's residential neighbourhoods must be retained at all costs when threatened by newbuild development. These mature trees provide shade and cool our neighbourhoods in the summer, they are a strong defence against climate change and help absorb stormwater and should no longer depend on local councils to vote on their survival. Increase the minimum fine for tree removal to a minimum of \$250,000.00 per tree. To quote a recent Forestry Staff Report:

“Trees provide many economic benefits, including the enhancement of property values. Homes with mature trees have higher value when compared to similar types of homes in similar locations without trees. Mature trees are associated with reduced home energy consumption. Air conditioning costs are lower in a home shaded by trees and heating costs are reduced when trees mitigate the cooling effects of the wind in winter. Trees are a community resource, which can make the city more attractive to investors, tourists and prospective residents, thus contributing to growth and prosperity.”

Although a) to c) above are covered in Toronto's zoning by-law, some provisions are too permissive and variances can readily be obtained at the Committee of Adjustment. Variances that are denied can be appealed to the OMB. The zoning by-law and Toronto's Official Plan must be strongly aligned with Toronto's climate change initiative so that variance approvals are more vigorous and the climate impacts considered.

- 1. Ban leafblowers and other gas powered lawn maintenance equipment. To quote the Washington Post's September 16, 2013 article How bad for the environment are gas-powered leaf blowers?:** washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/how-bad-for-the-environment-are-gas-powered-leaf-blowers/2013/09/16/8eed7b9a-18bb-11e3-a628-7e6dde8f889d_story.html

“In leaf blowers, two-stroke engines have been shown to emit contaminants comparable to large automobiles. A 2011 test by the car experts at Edmunds showed that “a consumer-grade leaf blower emits more pollutants than a 6,200-pound 2011 Ford F-150 SVT Raptor.” The company subjected a truck, a sedan, a four-stroke and a two-stroke leaf blower to automotive emissions tests and found that under normal usage conditions — alternating the blower between high power and idle, for example — the two-stroke engine emitted nearly 299 times the hydrocarbons of the pickup truck and 93 times the hydrocarbons of the sedan. The blower emitted many times as much carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides as well. The four-stroke engine performed significantly better than the two-stroke in most of the categories, but still far worse than the car engines.”

In addition to the climate change, the noise and pollution these machines produce also adversely impact public health public health. There will be strong resistance to enact a ban since in practice business usually comes before the environment* and the general public's turf grass habit. One way to help prepare for this ban is encouraging homeowners to replace lawns with native plants that attract pollinators such as birds, bees and butterflies. Perhaps this could be easier than it seems since people are already planting milkweed in Toronto to attract monarch butterflies.



COMMUNITY CONVERSATION REPORT
Climate Action for Healthy, Equitable, and Prosperous Toronto



A Contribution to TransformTO by the People's Climate Movement

June 19, 2016

This report was prepared for the People's Climate Movement by:

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Introduction

The People's Climate Movement Canada (PCM), came together on May 14th to contribute to building the City's climate change vision by hosting our own Community Conversation event as part of Transform TO's public consultations.

The PCM is a volunteer-powered group of concerned citizens, who are working together to achieve urgent local and global climate action. We originally came together to organize the People's Climate March in Toronto in September 2014, and formed a collaborative movement that seeks to ensure an equitable and sustainable future. Ever since, we have met regularly as a group to develop and support local, national and international initiatives to tackle climate change in an effective, meaningful and just manner.

The PCM membership is very diverse and is comprised of people from different cultural and professional backgrounds, ages and neighbourhoods. Our members are extremely active in their communities and participate in a wide range of local groups and initiatives.

As residents of Toronto, we believe that all our actions matter and that we each have a role to play in addressing climate change. We applaud the City's efforts to work to transform Toronto into a healthy, prosperous and equitable city, and we look forward working with the City staff, Councillors and other champions to root this transformative change deep within Toronto's communities.

The PCM members who have contributed to this report live in the following **Wards: 13, 19, 27, 28, 31, 32, 40 and 42.**



Part One: Our Vision

Participants began the workshop with a visioning exercise. They were asked to respond to the following question:

Imagine that we have succeeded. By working together, community leaders, local organizations, corporations and residents have created a prosperous, healthy and equitable Toronto that has low greenhouse gas emissions. Describe what that future Toronto in 2050 looks like to you?

Our vision of the future of Toronto is best summed up by looking at Toronto from three unique but equally valid vantage points. The first vantage point is people. To view the future we need to have an understanding of the people who live there, as well as the communities they create through their relationships, and the culture created through the interaction of those communities. The second vantage point is place. Where do these people live, and how do they live there? How has the city landscape - the look of the city - changed? Why has it changed in this way, and how is this a better more likable and livable place? The third vantage point is systems. How does the city work? Who has power and how are decisions being made? What is the basis for those decisions and how do they change the way in which Toronto becomes a healthier, more prosperous and equitable city?

Toronto as its *People*

Torontonians of 2050 are empowered, connected and engaged. Their need for happiness, education, wellness and other basic needs have been met, allowing them to prosper and share their full capacity with their families and communities. The city has grown bonds around its diversity, embracing its stature as the world's most diverse city.

New paradigms in education allow for children to hold on to their youthful imagination and creative problem solving spirits. Children are encouraged to be themselves and explore their own unique talents. In doing so, children grow up to be innovative and entrepreneurial adults, who trust in their own intuition and feel empowered to carve out their own path. The result? A world that is adaptive to change and accepting of a diversity of ideas and ways of being.

When people in the Toronto of the future work, they can see its value in a local tangible way. The challenges created by ignoring waste that goes into landfill, long commutes and consumer cultures are recognized, connected to, and addressed in the way people make decisions. The circular economy is an expectation, along with a zero-waste mindset. As new immigrants come to the city, local people help new arrivals to acclimate to the choices of our community culture, while also enabling a two-way flow so that the ideas and concepts brought by immigrants' previous lifestyles and experiences enrich us.

Finally, by 2050, we have no low-income neighbourhoods. Overall, we are consuming less, and thus our previous never-ending need to accumulate more and more wealth is now unnecessary and obsolete. We are able to see the value of quality time – with others and with nature – as opposed to measuring it based on how much money we are making. Life is much more simple and people are able to enjoy the simplicity of it.

Being a Torontonian in 2050 means being an active and engaged community member – feeling valued, heard and cared for and contributing to making Toronto a welcome place for all.

Toronto as a Space



So what does Toronto look like as a space in 2050? Well it is much more green to start off. Green roofs, green walls and other green spaces are enjoyed by all, and we have created “pollinator friendly spaces” to help our bee friends. The city produces a great deal food, meeting more of its food needs than at present. Urban gardens are an incredibly common sight – in school yards, retirement homes, on the grounds of places of worship, and converted brownfields. Lastly, we plant fruit trees and berry bushes in public places, also leveraging

the pre-existing, non-profit infrastructures in our city for harvesting those valuable fruits.

Our living spaces have also changed. Community common spaces are attractive and well kept. They are the central hubs for each community and they feature art, gathering and green spaces, and reflect the character the community which they are in. These community hubs and kitchens are places for learning and building understanding for sustainable actions among community residents.

By addressing the challenges which have separated us from one other, such as individualized transportation and lack of common spaces, we can develop solutions that bring us together. Readily available common places, as well as accessible and affordable transportation systems, are a good example of city structures with this power to unite.

Toronto as a Model City

In 2050, communities play a crucial role in city decision making. Decisions are made in the area of architecture, manufacturing, water security, energy production, transportation, home heating and cooling and more. For example, communities maximize their energy production - learning

about solar co-ops and other energy decentralization from the city. This paradigm of the community as decision maker, and the city as supportive “guidance counselor,” is repeated for each aspect of sustainability including transportation, bike lanes, LRT, charging stations, buildings etc.

The City further works with local experts who are able to serve as advocates for communities. As an example, local experts can help to maximize the efficiency of land use by engaging their communities in decision-making. Their knowledge and local expertise are critical for the successful implementation of any new initiative. By enhancing the community in this way, climate adaptability is developed, making the city more resilient to climate change. This buildup of community autonomy also empowers the city to efficiently solve problems because so many local problems can be handled locally without their intervention.

Finally, there is a much stronger rural-urban alliance. Urban neighbourhoods own farms jointly with rural neighbourhoods and that – because we will all be putting in fewer hours at urban jobs – many urban workers will be able to put in a few weeks every year on the farm and be adequately compensated for it. Jobs like producing food and caring for each other will be valued. Worker-owners would be less subject to exploitation and the object would not be profit, but food for the collective owners, grown in a sustainable fashion.

In sum, the Toronto of the future is based on connected social structures. It is a place where people can live happy, healthy and productive lives, and feel at peace knowing that their children will too!



Part Two: How to Achieve Our Vision

In this exercise, participants were divided into pairs and circulated around the room to provide input on 5 categories outlined by the city: *Energy, Green Spaces, Buildings, Transportation and Behaviour Change*.

The ideas from the City's earlier consultations were posted and input from participants both expanded on these ideas as well as added new ideas.

Energy

1. Provide financial support for energy efficiency projects

- Labour legislation – shorter hours of work resulting in time for people to work on local energy efficiency projects
- Credit Unions
- Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement and other trade agreements must not impede our ability to do so.

2. Install more renewable energy (geothermal, solar, deep lake water cooling)

- Local co-ops for district heating/cooling via renewables
- Repurpose drinking water network to include cooling (already being done)
- Building regulations to include active/passive solar heat capacity
- Maximize use of public and commercial space for renewable energy installation e.g. grocery store roofs, parking lots
- All public buildings should be carbon-neutral by 2030, including schools, colleges and universities
- Develop more people-powered energy e.g. bicycle powered gyms
- Set target for % of jobs in renewable energy sector
- More R&D in NEW alternative energy- it is everywhere!

3. Install more district energy systems

- Neighbourhood owned/decentralized
- Community hubs

4. Switch from natural gas and car gasoline to electricity

- Electric car co-ops
- Battery swapping
- Light rail
- Funding to help low income people/households to participate
- Funding to build public transit infrastructure that is electric

Additional suggestions:

- Ultimately, with energy, we need to use less and not see technology as the saviour. The efficiency paradox states that the easier things are, the more we use it.



Green Spaces

1. Plant more trees

- Including “Natural Infrastructure” (e.g. trees) in discussions around “Infrastructure Spending” and educating everyone on the benefits
- Plant berry bushes and fruit trees
- Plant more climate-resilient trees as carbon sinks, especially in lower-income neighbourhoods
- Educate public re: investing in trees

2. Support urban agriculture/food production (allocated space, educate)

- Teach Canning of local goods
- Ensure everything that’s built has a minimum amount of green space
- All schools have gardens that support meal programs or let students take produce home
- City-organized community potlucks
- Community food gardens
- Joint urban-rural co-ops

3. Naturalize unused areas (hydro corridors, brownfields, lawns)

- Provide for pollinators - e.g. expand pollinator-friendly gardens in public spaces
- Permeable streets

4. Create more green spaces/parks

- Designated safe zones in situations of environmental disasters (floods, heat waves)
- Green spaces for shared marketplaces

- Youth employment program focused on developing urban green space
- More programs for newcomers to experience nature
- Green roofs
- More free public events in green spaces
- Improve park permitting process for holding outdoor events, less bureaucratic and costly

Buildings

1. Strengthen/enhance green building standards for new construction

- Invest in R&D
- All new buildings must have gold LEED status
 - Both LEED construction and operation
- All buildings must have a community garden, especially schools
- There must be a law to build green/sustainable buildings
- Incentivize all new and existing buildings to have a renewable energy source especially solar panels on roofs

2. Require energy retrofits to existing buildings

- Make sure this is accessible
- Energy audits/inventory reports of cities

3. Provide information/incentives for less energy use in our homes and offices

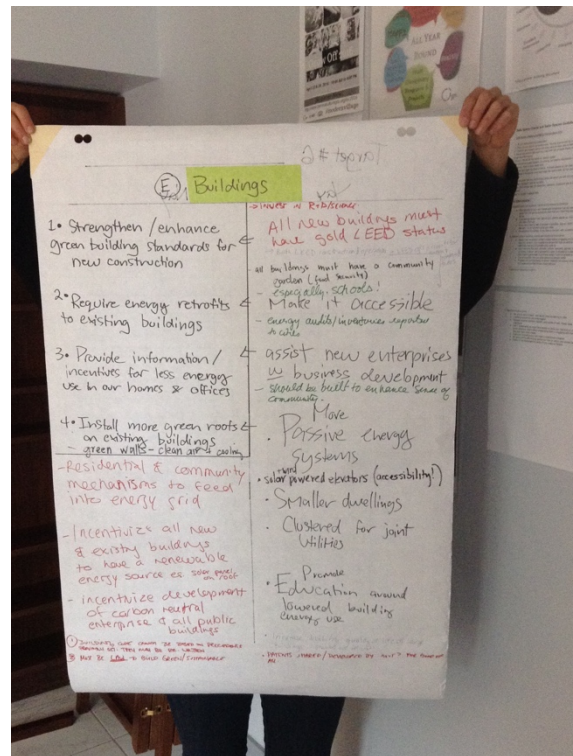
- Assist new enterprises that promote energy efficiency with business development
- Should be built to enhance a sense of community
- Promote education around decreased energy use

4. Install more green roofs on existing buildings

- More passive energy systems needed overall
- Green walls for clean air and cooling

Additional suggestions:

- Residential and community mechanisms to feed into energy grid
- Incentivize development of carbon neutral enterprise and all public buildings
- Building code cannot be based on precedents previously set. They must be re-written
- Smaller dwellings that are clustered for allow for joint utilities
- Increase livability, quality of life of large buildings
- Patents shared/developed by government



Transportation

1. Improve transit accessibility, affordability, reliability

- Make driving harder/less easy/make public transit easier, then let people choose
- Electrify all public transit e.g. move the Pearson UP Express off diesel

2. Implement road tolls

- Tax things that are bad for people to pay for it

3. Invest more in cycling and pedestrian infrastructure

- Cycling programs - safe routes, group ride
- Winter cycling (covered bike lanes)
- Bikes lanes connecting inner city with suburbs
- Shareable electric bikes



4. Build complete, compact walkable communities

- Things to see on the walk (beauty/inspiring) *Seattle makes developers pay 1% to local artists for work to make look nicer
- Research more walkable/runnable sidewalks that could also be porous etc. to promote activity and health (as opposed to concrete)

Additional suggestions:

- Research mixed zoning
- Encourage working from home (to reduce commuter traffic congestion)
- Parking lots have electrical charging stations powered by renewable energy
- Encourage/find electric car share programs - in bad weather or late at night, sometimes you need door to door rides

Behaviour Change

1. Provide resources and incentives for community networks

- Train community leaders on reflective listening principles
 - Use behaviour change literature in all city behavioural programs
- Encourage city dwellers to go to rural/nature areas to understand/learn in person

2. Support stronger and sharing economies

- Must be taught these values from a very early age – if you have always seen/thought negative things like war- that’s what you expect!

3. Support carbon pricing i.e. carbon tax/polluter pays

4. Increase environmental education, awareness and research

- Training program for urban agriculture skills for youth from low-income neighbourhoods
 - Employment at urban farms – also applicable for green spaces
- School program on outdoor education including Indigenous teachings
- Adopt a mindfulness-based perspective on civic engagement
 - The relationship between self and community
- Encourage entrepreneurship at early age (“entrepreneurship” = someone who starts something new)
 - Nurture creative problem solving and resourcefulness!

Additional suggestions:

- Tax on all products that can’t be composted or recycled e.g. plastic coffee cup tops
- Green bins and recycling mandatory at all apartments and commercial properties
- More public forums – reintroduce as community norm
- Grow a culture around sustainability and be proud
- Empowering empathetic communication
- Enhance empathy as a positive societal value

Arts & Culture

- Fund local/community arts and culture
- Reinstate arts/culture program in public school system
- Community spaces for cultural production and free/affordable space for artists

Other ideas to achieve our vision

- City report back to the community on annual basis based on targets set, through creative community engagement strategy
- Mentorship program for Toronto with Vancouver’s Greenest City team
- Create jobs, training and a livable wage
- No non-compete laws. Existing non-compete laws should be repealed



Part Three: Communications

In part three, the group discussed the City's climate change communication strategy. In light of Toronto's diverse communities, the following recommendations were made:

- Communications should be made available in multiple languages
- In-person approach is most effective
 - Real time conversations e.g. high school student animators, speakers panels, home and school, community ambassadors
- Host fun events
- Try a similar concept to garbage calendar for community events
- News media – should have daily “public good” report as we currently have business reports (as per CRTC requirements for balance). Needs to be on main news stations
- Educate people on their own political voice
- TTC Ads
- Listen to people
- Fund community arts projects
- Run an environmental campaign using city-wide art projects
- Run competitions for sustainability projects - winners get funded
 - By age groups (i.e. include school kids)
 - Community judging - NOT venture capitalists
 - OR: seek participants who will bring their own ideas and who will themselves decide by consensus which projects should get priority/funding, then manage the project(s) themselves (with support from city staff); de-emphasizes competition in favour of co-operation. For example, several participants might work together on a project.



Catchy Slogans for a Campaign!

- **Toronto, Earth (*big positive reaction to this one*)**
- Toronto, we are listening
- Let us empower you. Toronto is our/your city.
- Think globally. Act locally.
- World class city
- Reimagine Toronto! / Redesign Toronto!
- The Seventh Generation City - *Think Forward*

- The Future is Now
- Living City
- City of Communities
- Building/Creating...
the breathable / edible / walkable / resilient City
- Toronto 2.0
- Toronto - let's be the future now
- Toronto, the centre of the universe
- Toronto leads
- Toronto rocks!... and shines and grows green
- Toronto - Trees in the Water (original Indigenous name)
- The gathering / meeting place
- Toronto - Centered in Sustainability / Diversity
- Toronto - the diverse sustainability lab
- You have the power to change your city / Act on your power to change your city

-END-

Special thanks to Larry for hosting our visioning workshop!

Place: St. Joseph's Parish
Date: June 14, 2016

Q1. What does 2050 look like to me?

- More bicycles and bigger bicycles that fit families
- Healthy people, no need for gyms
- Everyone works from home
- More solar panels and energy is directed where it is needed in the home
- A networked conveyor belt on streets so no cars
- New buses would be long; surface transport would be as long as subways
- Higher density-compact communities that are accessible – more family condos and more affordable housing
- Become clean technology capital so we can create jobs eg. green cars for Torontonians
- Electric cars
- Less light pollution – takes care of mental effects
- Mass transit
- Solar panels on street lights
- Maximum use of solar
- No waste – no packaging; technologies that enable zero waste
- Repurpose roads and highways for walking/biking
- Buses in the air; using air for travel and creating jobs that would support this technology

Q2. How will we achieve our vision?

- Need to bring in the spiritual connection; that is not reflected in messaging
- More efficient/effective democratic structures so as to involve and educate people
- Daily communications on mass media
- Clearly articulate the City's vision and include youth in our vision
- Communicate with different audiences
- Work with corporations and universities to spur technological innovation eg. energy storage
- Interact and engage seniors
- Include mandatory City-focused curriculum with mandatory volunteering like programs in the Philippines such as Green Revolution

Q3. How do we talk to one another about climate change?

- Quantify the energy/climate impact so that its more tangible to people eg. calculate the ghg emisissions from an apple picked in Toronto vs. an apple for US and put that on a sign in the grocery store where the apples are
- Introduce messages through workplace committee
- Make the message relevant to different cultures
- Articulate how climate change will affect you!
- Incent and normalize 'green' behaviours
- Talk to one friend at a time and invite them to join in an activity, challenge

- Make more documentaries on climate change
- Emphasize how taking action will benefit the person so that they choose the environmentally friendly way

TransformTO Conversation Submission Form



TransformTO

Thank you for hosting a **TransformTO** Conversation. Please summarize the event, and the ideas that you heard from the community, by filling out the form below.

If you have any questions, please contact the **TransformTO** team at transform@toronto.ca

Name of your organization:

Name of your event:

Location of your event:

Number of people who attended the event:

Date of your event:

Community Vision, Ideas and Comments

1. Imagine that we have succeeded. By working together, community leaders, local organizations, corporations and residents have created a prosperous, healthy and equitable Toronto that has low greenhouse gas emissions.

Please write down your group's shared vision of Toronto in 2050.

2. Over 200 Torontonians have contributed their ideas in previous consultations. We've grouped the most frequently mentioned ideas into categories (please refer to the Conversation Kit).

Based on the feedback provided by your group, share what the City's top priorities should be and why.

3. How would you tell your neighbour that climate change is an important issue? Write a short message that the City could use to encourage others to participate in our vision and actions for emission reduction.

4. Please share any other feedback or comments from your event:

Tell us more about your event:

5. What was the format of your event (e.g. roundtable dialogue, World Café)? Please describe below.

6. Who was in the room? If available, what was the demographic breakdown of the attendees (e.g. age, gender, social and cultural background)?

Please send this form and any other feedback to the Environment and Energy Division at the City of Toronto.

Attention: Tamara Tukhareli
Environment & Energy Division
Metro Hall
55 John Street, 3rd Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5V 3C6

Or email: transform@toronto.ca

Summary Report: Ward 13 Brainstorm for a Sustainable City

Tuesday May 17th, 2016 | West Toronto Baptist Church

Report summary by Stephen G. Robinson



Contents:

1. Context
2. Presentation: City of Toronto Environment & Energy Office
3. Open space "visioning" session
4. Brainstorming Phase 1: key ideas
5. Brainstorming Phase 2: participatory group discussions
 - a. Sustainable Community Hubs
 - b. Rethinking Food
 - c. Sharing Economy
 - d. Infrastructure Pricing
 - e. Bike Infrastructure
 - f. Buildings & Energy
6. **Appendix A:** Other participant ideas
7. **Appendix B:** "Dotmocracy" interactive exhibit results
8. **Appendix C:** Selected feedback from participant survey
- 9.

1. Context:

The City of Toronto has set a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 80% by 2050, and is currently seeking community input for its climate action plan through [Transform TO](#) community conversations. In recognition of Toronto's goal to include health, equity and prosperity in its climate action plan, [Green 13](#) and [Project Neutral](#) brought together community members from Ward 13 to generate additional ideas to



feed into the city's plan. The brainstorming session was hosted on Tuesday May 17th, 2016, at the West Toronto Baptist Church (3049 Dundas Street). The outputs of these discussions are summarized here for the benefit of city planners and all those supporting to the TransformTO initiative.



2. City of Toronto Opening Presentation

Ward 13 Councilor Sarah Doucette opened the event by introducing the City of Toronto's TransformTO initiative and Linda Swanston (Project Lead, Environment and Energy Office, City of Toronto). Ms. Swanston gave a brief presentation on overarching goals of TransformTO. The presentation underlined key activities that are now taking place, and also detailed how the initiative came about, and how it relates back to the larger issue of climate change and Toronto's carbon emissions. Ms. Swanston:

- Emphasized the vital need for public input and large-scale community engagement
- Clarified the city's current leadership agenda; Toronto needs to keep up with other leading municipalities, and progress in the direction of social, cultural, and environmental sustainability.



3. Open Space "Visioning" Exercise

Paul Antze (event facilitator and [Green Neighbours 21](#) Organizer) asked participants to close their eyes and envision what Toronto will look like in 2050. Among other things, participants were asked: how will we move around? What will our food systems look like? What kinds of jobs will be available? Will our economy look the same?

Community members were then invited to verbally articulate how they envisioned Toronto in the future, and what their impressions were.

Communities were imagined as:

- More vibrant, healthy, and lush
- More tightly knit and densely populated
- More localized and more cooperative; more strongly flourishing neighborhoods that are better integrated with one another
- More friendly toward and encouraging of pedestrian traffic
- Better equipped in terms of public transportation and transportation infrastructure
- More socially and economically inclusive; still affordable to low income residents
- More green in their appearance; more gardens and outdoor green spaces
- Less driven by consumerism and less wasteful; better at recycling and sharing
- More vibrant local industry; goods and services produced and consumed on a more local scale



4. Key Themes/Ideas

Participants were asked to reflect and deliberate on the vision that was put forth, and to then consider how the City might undertake to make that envisioned future scenario a reality. Six idea categories were introduced:

- Create Sustainability Hubs/visibly promote sustainability leadership
- Rethinking food/food production
- Rethinking our economy and modes of consumption/production; transitioning to a 'sharing economy'
- Infrastructure pricing
- Energy
- Strengthening cyclist networks and infrastructure

5. Breakout/Group Discussions

Group discussions were led by appointed facilitators. Following a World Café model, participants were free to join any one/number of groups, and encouraged to contribute their ideas. The six breakout

groups were encouraged to: (i) explore the topic further with more detailed discussion; and (ii) produce viable recommendations for the City to consider going forward. Using an assigned template, facilitators recorded these discussions, and then the results were pooled together for the sake of later being documented in this report.

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who helped organize the event and facilitate the breakout discussions!



Summary of Group Discussions:

A. Create Sustainability Hubs/Visibly Promote Sustainability Leadership



Group Facilitator: Helen Vassilakos

Identified problem:

- Mobilizing interest and support on a large scale
- Engaging historically uninvolved members of the population
- Promoting a culture of positive politics and sustainability → we need a 'constituency for change' that emboldens political leadership to take real initiative

Objective:

- To deeply embed sustainability within our communities and our everyday lives and mindsets

Brainstorming Ideas:

- Promote a culture of sustainability and environmental leadership by transforming community centers into multi-purpose green/sustainability "hubs"

- Create and promote sites of independent sustainability leadership throughout the city → encourage sustainability teaching and learning, and increase the everyday visibility of sustainability leadership
- Improve community programming to support sustainability platforms and agendas
- Make community centres 'living laboratories' of sustainability and sustainable design

Suggestions for City of Toronto:

N/A

Other considerations:

N/A

B. Rethinking Food/Food Production

Group Facilitator: Kathryn Tait



Identified Problem:

Our relationship with food (i.e. how we produce, consume, and distribute it on a large scale) is highly unsustainable. The abundance of meat in our diet has many unhealthy environmental impacts. We need to rethink how we relate to food/the food industry to minimize waste and environmental degradation.

Objective:

- Make how we produce, consume, and distribute food more sustainable
- Recycle more and produce less unnecessary waste
- Think about food and its production more holistically

Suggestions for the City:

- Improve the extent and quality of food education among adults and school children
- Promote healthier dietary choices, and an broader understanding of how our dietary choices impact ecosystems/the environment
- Introduce legal requirements for food labelling in stores and restaurants; encourage more accurate accounting of the true total costs of different food products—the cost of food should include some consideration of the non-economic environmental costs associated with its growth/manufacture

- Design and widely distribute a City of Toronto Food Guide
- Promote awareness with a city marketing campaign; emphasize the financial and health benefits of a less meat centric diet
- Create an app that tracks the carbon footprint of your diet, and that ranks you alongside other people in your community

Other considerations:

N/A

C. Rethinking Our Economy – Developing Our Local Sharing Economy



Created by Baruch Moskovits
from Noun Project

Group Facilitator: Paul Mero

Identified problem:

Our current economy is wasteful and survives on highly unsustainable MODES of production and consumption. It prioritizes spending and consumerism and discourages responsible forms of household planning. We need to reverse this trend, and start encouraging healthier, more sustainable patterns of behavior. Communities and neighbourhoods should be brought closer together and more deeply integrated, and holistic planning should be prioritized to minimize unnecessary waste, and environmental threats.

- How can the City of Toronto support the sharing economy to reduce carbon emissions?
- How can the City of Toronto support community banking to build a more environmental sustainable local economy?

Objective:

- To transition away from wasteful consumerism toward a philosophy of collectivism, conscious consumption, and sharing
- Shifting our economic paradigm, and promoting a more sustainable economic mindset

Brainstorming:

- There are many resources that can be shared within communities, below is a list of some of the resources that can/should be shared.

- Tools, cars, bikes, energy (district based systems – electrical production and storage, and heating and cooling).
- Communities can fund, build and operate aspects of the sharing economy if the policy framework us there to support them.
- The City has property resources that can support the sharing economy and they should be made available; can include community centres, libraries and other properties in local neighbourhoods.
- Food co-op where people can sell produce grown in their yards.

Suggestions for City of Toronto:

- Support the idea of a sharing economy by providing space, access to capital, and expertise
- Help identify and remove legislative and non-legislative barriers
- Consider establishing a City owned bank to support the local economy

Other thoughts/considerations:

- Organize an event to educate, promote and discuss sharing economies in Ward 13.
- Identify places within Ward 13 where people can organize aspects of the sharing economy.
- Identify web tools that support local sharing.
- Promote associations such as Green 13, Project Neutral, etc...



D. Infrastructure Pricing

Group Facilitator: Natasa Zupancic

Created by Vineet Kumar Thakur
from the Noun Project

Identified problem:

Inefficient, inadequate, inequitable pricing / incentives for usage of infrastructure

Objective:

- User-based rate infrastructure fees
- Pricing of infrastructure should be consumption- or usage-based, which would lead to more efficient infrastructure usage, revenue generation, and stimulation of low carbon choices

Brainstorming:

- Those riding their bike to work daily shouldn't be paying the same taxes for roads as a single driver in an SUV
- Developers building large parking space that creates huge amounts of storm water should be charged accordingly for sewage

Main issues / vehicles for achieving a better system:

- Taxes
 - Need for transparency – breakdown of property tax
 - Tax consumer
- Road tolls – should be differential
- Education
 - current system
 - City's infrastructure budget
 - Policies already in place / recently introduced – e.g. City's new Storm Water Charge
 - best practices – examples from other cities
 - Zone-based pricing in transportation
 - Singapore's congestion pricing (and/or Tax Structure for Cars?)
 - Free early morning rides and other Travel Smart incentives / rewards on public transport in Singapore
 - Another city mentioned: Stockholm
 - Proper messaging to ensure buy-in for the new models
- Embedded Costs

Challenges / barriers to adoption

- complexity of the issue / specifics and details
- general change resentment
- fairness
- communication / messaging

Suggestions for City of Toronto:

- Collect more and better data
- Experiment with hypothetical modelling
- Look at best practices and new policies from other jurisdictions
- Look for solutions from hackathons, tech companies
- Start a small scale pilot program possibly for city employees

Other considerations:

- Understanding the role of province in creating new policies and regulations

E. Enhance Infrastructure for Bikes and Thereby Increase Cycling as a Choice in Zero Carbon Transit



Group Facilitator: Rita Bijons

Identified problem:

Need to reduce reliance on cars by encouraging more active transportation and zero carbon transportation. "Toronto's Official Plan mandates to reduce auto dependency, improve air quality, and provide an integrated, accessible transportation system for all users." (p. 24, Toronto Environmental Progress Report 2015)

- Many people do not feel safe biking on city streets. We need to improve the safety of bike network and hope thereby to increase ridership.
- Need to improve security for cyclists.
- Need to expand the access to bike sharing.

Objective: to enable green responses (i.e. a shift towards low carbon transportation) and generate revenue; need to be conscious of health, environmental and social equity elements to avoid disproportionately affecting low-income groups

Brainstorming: what will transportation look like in the short term and long term (2050)? Group focused on the present, while recognizing that strategies will need to be scaled up over time as low carbon transportation management is integrated into regional planning efforts.

- Discussed issue of construction and industrial vehicles inhibiting public transit frequency and access, ways to reduce physical obstruction and ease transportation flow.

Suggestions for City of Toronto:

We need to consider the cultural context. We know that other cities bike in a big way – Copenhagen for instance. Our effort to boost cycling among Torontonians will benefit from a public education campaign highlighting the benefits of cycling - better health, lower GHGs, cleaner air, more economical than a car, faster in many circumstances... Our open space group recommends that the City develop Public Service Announcements that highlight and celebrate the benefits of cycling.

Improve the *safety* of our bike network

- Study examples of parts of the city such as Sherbourne St., Richmond St. - stanchions that separate the cycling lane from car traffic; blue paint to identify where cyclists need to be particularly vigilant of pedestrians (e.g. at Queen's Quay); Hoskin St. model of sidewalk, bike lane, parking, car lane

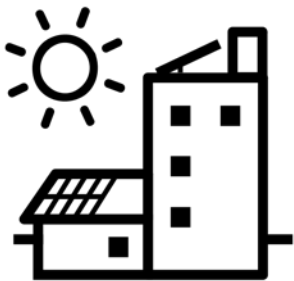
- Study the solutions worked out in other jurisdictions such as Vancouver, Ottawa, Montreal and adopt those that make sense here
- Enhanced education of cyclists, pedestrians, car drivers
- Accommodate the emergence of recumbent bikes, PodRide style bikes, e-bikes and trikes.
- Increase the presence of community tool kits, bicycle pumps (e.g. as exist presently at Keele station, Old Mill station)

Improve *security* for cyclists

- More and secure parking for bikes; CCTV monitoring
- Expand the access to bike sharing
- Expand the network of bike sharing
- Not everyone has a credit card; develop a new type of card that gives access to those who do not have a credit card→ somehow be linked to a Presto card.
- Reduce use of cars

Other considerations:

N/A



Created by silvio rebelo
from Noun Project

F. Buildings & Energy

Group Facilitator: Katie Harper

Identified problem:

- Many of Toronto's buildings are highly inefficient
- Replacing or altogether rebuilding these buildings is economically unviable, and also itself wasteful
- Buildings must be retrofitted to meet current building codes and standards

Objective:

To improve building performance all across Toronto and beyond

To minimize building emissions, and improve monitoring/reporting of building emissions

Suggestions for City of Toronto:

Drive retrofits to improve building performance – with particular focus on building envelope – through:

1. Incentive programs

- Should be performance-based (vs. prescriptive) to drive holistic improvements to the building as a system
- Requires pre/post audit, incentive \$ based on energy savings
- Needs to be flexible – recognize that solid masonry (e.g. double brick) buildings make up much of the older building stock, and efforts to re-clad these buildings (e.g. towards passive house standards) result in additional red tape. Find ways to approve these projects without requiring Committee of Adjustment.
- Additional benefits of incentive program: drive education/awareness of solutions (e.g. air-to-air heat exchangers) that are not yet commonly installed in Toronto

2. Energy benchmarking

- Mandatory disclosure of energy score at time of sale (and for rentals!!!)
- Benefits:
 - Helps integrate energy performance (and operating cost) into market value of home
 - Builds awareness of energy performance and costs with a broader population
 - Creates new social norms because energy scores are visible and shared

3. Training for Trades & Building Inspectors

- Many contractors upcharge for this work as they need to invest time to learn about new (to them) technology and solutions; better training reduces liability to contractors when they take on this work
- Building inspectors must be trained as a part of larger efforts to reduce red tape for energy performance retrofits

4. Financing

- Expand HELP program to reflect typical costs of renovations (\$25K limit is too low, barely covers typical kitchen renovation vs. whole home retrofit)
- Link financing with (performance-based) incentives to increase accessibility
- See Guelph's proposed GEERS (Guelph Energy Efficiency Retrofit Strategy) as model for end-to-end solution (which includes guidance to homeowners on process for undertaking energy efficiency retrofits)

Other considerations:

- Need Red List for bad contractors
- Improve building codes for new builds as well (not the focus of this conversation, but similarly important)
- Remove barriers to importing and implementing European technology

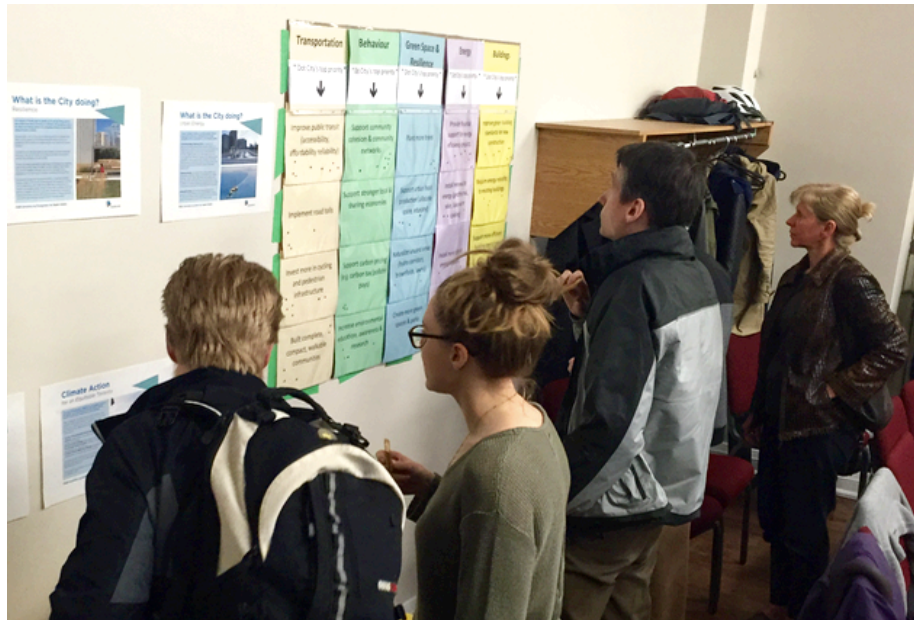
Appendix A: Other Participant Ideas

1. Include **train and airplane emissions** in Toronto's GHG accounting/reporting. The volume of train (freight, passenger) and plane (freight, passenger) in Toronto is high, and generates both particulate and GHG emissions in quantities that endanger human health, the health of our ecosystems, and weaken our professed ambition to reduce GHGs. Monitoring devices need to be set up in a rigorous manner that provides real time data accessible to the public.
 - The City could demand electrification of all passenger and freight traffic traveling in/through Toronto
 - Could also impose a fee on all passenger trips and all freight movement – impose a "pollution levy".
2. Establish a network of **electric charging stations** so as to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles. Collaborate with all other entities (e.g. provincial government, federal government, plugdrive, communities, parking lots... to bring this about rapidly.
3. Encourage the adoption of **ground-source geothermal** in both retrofits (for individual owners, and for community power projects) and new builds (condos, apartment buildings, long term care facilities, hospitals, etc.)
4. **Eliminate two stroke engines** from the city fleet, and prohibit their public use in home and garden equipment
5. **Lower speed limits.** Follow the example of Paris, France. 30 km per hour.
6. Create better **online sustainability tools and resources** for the public
 - More proactively educate the public about existing sustainability initiatives and programs
 - Develop better means of distributing information, news, bulletins, etc...
 - Better document municipal and citizen leadership happening throughout the city
 - Ensure that information being provided is clear, succinct, and easy to understand
7. The public has very poor understanding of the amount of energy used to pump, purify etc. water, and there is a great deal of waste of water. The city should develop public service announcements to educate the public on water and other relevant issues.

- **Charge more for water use.** There should be a marked increase in the cost of cubic metres of water as more is consumed. Citizens and companies alike should pay the true price of water, and be accountable for wasteful water usage.
 - Equip public facilities with so that water only runs on an 'as need' basis
10. Encourage the emerging market for **e-bikes, e-trikes, covered bikes and trikes.**
 11. Encourage residents to **benchmark their personal carbon emissions** to spark awareness and climate action

Appendix B: “Dotmocracy” Polling Results

All event attendees were given 5 dot stickers to place on a board of environmental areas identified by the city. The distribution provides insight to community’s priorities, and is the results are summarized below.



Transportation	Behaviour	Green Space & Resilience	Energy	Buildings
* Dot City's top priority *	* Dot City's top priority *	* Dot City's top priority *	* Dot City's top priority *	* Dot City's top priority *
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Improve public transit (accessibility, affordability, reliability)	Support community cohesion & community networks	Plant more trees	Provide financial support for energy efficiency projects	Improve green building standards for new construction
Implement road tolls	Support stronger local & sharing economies	Support urban food production (allocate space, educate)	Install renewable energy (geothermal, solar, lake water cooling)	Require energy retrofits to existing buildings
Invest more in cycling and pedestrian infrastructure	Support carbon pricing (e.g. carbon tax/polluter pays)	Naturalize unused areas (hydro corridors, brownfields, lawns)	Install more district energy systems	Support more efficient building operations
Built complete, compact, walkable communities	Increase environmental education, awareness & research	Create more green spaces & parks	Electrify Toronto's energy system	Install more green roofs on existing buildings