

May 24, 2017

Mayor Tory and Toronto City Councillors  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5H 2N2

Re: TransformTO: Climate Action for a Healthy, Equitable and Prosperous Toronto – Report #2 –  
The Pathway to a Low Carbon Future

Dear Mayor Tory and Toronto City Councillors,

The Greater Toronto Chapter of the Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC) supports and encourages the recommendations by the Parks and Environment Committee for City Council to approve and adopt the action plan laid out in the staff report [TransformTO: Climate Action for a Healthy, Equitable and Prosperous Toronto - Report #2 - The Pathway to a Low Carbon Future](#). We applaud the City of Toronto, Live Green Toronto, and TAF on the release of this Report and presenting bold recommendations that have stayed true to Toronto's commitments to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 80% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels.

The Report cites how the City will miss its 2050 greenhouse gas reduction target by 8.7 million tonnes unless three new acceleration campaigns are launched along with the short-term strategies approved by City Council in Report 1. Mobilizing low-carbon neighbourhoods, preparing for electric mobility and developing a workforce to support the construction and maintenance of high-performance buildings through training and education, are essential to meeting the City's GHGs emission targets. We support the Long-Term Goals set out in this Report which align and support the vision and mission of the CaGBC.

The Chapter acknowledges and supports the leadership of the City of Toronto in adopting higher requirements for its new buildings to achieve near zero GHG emission levels of performance by 2026, ushering in the next generation of high performance buildings. In alignment, both the Province of

Ontario<sup>1</sup> and the federal government<sup>2</sup> have identified a need to build to net zero levels of performance. Indeed, if all new large buildings in Canada were built to achieve a net zero carbon level of performance between now and 2030, GHG emissions from this sector would be reduced by 17 percent from 2005 levels, eliminating 7.5 megatonnes of GHG emissions annually by 2030.<sup>3</sup> As the largest city in Canada, the City of Toronto is now leading by example and setting a path for others municipalities to follow.

With higher standards of performance for new City facilities, greater efforts can be directed towards existing buildings, 80 percent of which will still be in operation in 2030. Existing buildings present a key opportunity for the City to improve building energy efficiency while lowering costs. Additionally, retrofitting existing buildings through recommissioning, deep retrofits, adding renewables and fuel switching will result in dramatic GHG savings and economic benefits.<sup>4</sup> We have been working with Federal and Provincial governments to drive retrofit policies and incentives for Canada's existing buildings and are committed to supporting the City of Toronto in its efforts to retrofit 100% of existing City-owned buildings by 2040 to achieve an average energy savings of 40%. With almost 13,000 members, existing relationships with key stakeholders in Southern Ontario, and expertise in stakeholder engagement, the CaGBC is well positioned to assist the City in increasing the uptake of building energy disclosure through outreach and engagement with stakeholders.

As the largest green building member-based network in the GTA, the Toronto Chapter and its members commend the City of Toronto for taking important steps to achieving a path forward to a low-carbon city and support the Parks and Environment Committee recommendations for City Council to approve and adopt the long-term goals and actions described in the Report. We champion collaborative approaches to driving climate change action and welcome partnership opportunities with the City to provide outreach, training and education on achieving zero carbon buildings and incentivizing commercial building retrofits to achieve our mutual climate change objectives.

Sincerely,



Andy Schonberger, P. Eng.  
Chair, Leadership Board



Muktha Tumkur, P. Eng., MBA  
Regional Director, Greater Toronto Area

<sup>1</sup> Province of Ontario, 2016. *Climate Change Action Plan*.

[http://www.applications.ene.gov.on.ca/ccap/products/CCAP\\_ENGLISH.pdf](http://www.applications.ene.gov.on.ca/ccap/products/CCAP_ENGLISH.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Government of Canada, 2016. *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*.

<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/themes/environment/documents/weather1/20170125-en.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> CaGBC, 2016. *Zero Carbon Buildings Framework*.

[http://www.cagbc.org/cagbcdocs/NetZero/2016\\_CaGBC\\_Zero\\_Carbon\\_Framework\\_Exec\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.cagbc.org/cagbcdocs/NetZero/2016_CaGBC_Zero_Carbon_Framework_Exec_Summary.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> CaGBC, 2016. *Building Solutions to Climate Change: How Green Buildings Can Help Meet Canada's 2030 Emissions Targets*.

[http://www.cagbc.org/cagbcdocs/2016\\_Building\\_Solutions\\_to\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Public.pdf](http://www.cagbc.org/cagbcdocs/2016_Building_Solutions_to_Climate_Change_Public.pdf).