



CARBON FREE TORONTO

February 6, 2017

Dear Mayor and members of the Executive Committee,

We are calling on our Mayor and City Councillors to support the budget request of Transform TO for \$1.6 million when the budget comes to a vote in Council on Feb 15th.

In December of 2015 our Mayor signed the Paris Declaration to undertake the steps needed for the City of Toronto to do its part in the reduction in carbon emissions together with other cities around the world. We commend the powerful [video](#) statement expressing this commitment. Yet the preliminary budget includes just 1/5th of what the Transform TO program has requested for 2017, \$330,000. This funding covers three programs only.

We urge you to raise the allocation for 2017 to the full \$1.6 million request. That's just \$1.60 per household, the price of a cup of coffee, to help us reach our carbon emissions reduction goals. It's a small and required investment to accomplish extremely important goals for our city.

The effects of unmitigated climate change are steep and imminent. In 2013 alone [weather related claims were \\$3.2 billion](#). This is a serious and long-term threat to the health and wellbeing of our city. The city's forecast max daily rainfall estimates exceed both the July 8th 2013 and Hurricane Hazel deluges by 40 and 45 mm respectively. We have experienced both flooding and ice storms and will experience much worse impacts without the needed action being taken by our City. By 2040 heat alert days will increase to 66 days, av. 44 degrees C.

We understand that to reach the City's 2050 goal of 80% reduction we need to start these programs this year. All the programs outlined are needed and should start now, without delay.

Many of these programs will have **co-benefits for our community, particularly in job creation**. For example, buildings have been shown to be the source of 53% of the city's carbon emissions. A longterm program of retrofits is required to bring these emissions down. Retrofitting will create many new jobs which can result in youth employment and skills development in priority neighbourhoods. These two links provide the background information

- 1) Summary of the 2017 budget request
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2017/bu/bgrd/backgroundfile-100376.pdf>
- 2) Attachment A, which describes each of the programs that need funding. 5.1 is the Transform TO Community Engagement request of \$340,000.
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2016/cc/bgrd/backgroundfile-99127.pdf>

We especially want to ensure that Transform TO has the funds needed to work with community groups so together we can make sure Toronto achieves the support needed to reach our carbon emission reduction goals. **The Transform TO Business Case 5.1 on Community Engagement estimates a total operating expenditure of \$340,000** which includes 2 FTE staff (at an estimated staffing cost of \$120,000). The additional requested funding would support consults to deliver additional modelling, visualizations, and community engagement.

5.1 ENGAGING AND COLLABORATING WITH STAKEHOLDERS – CONTINUE TRANSFORM TO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - 2017 BUDGET REQUEST: \$340,000

Objective: Large-scale mobilization of Toronto residents through visualizations of low-carbon futures and engagement of under-represented communities in climate action.

Action: Three new temporary staff positions will support the next stages of TransformTO. 1) Continue the ongoing analysis of GHG emissions reduction potential with the model of GHG emissions calibrated to Toronto that can provide important ongoing analysis of the GHG implications of different long-term strategic directions. 2) Focus mobilization efforts on under-represented communities including youth, equity-seeking groups, and residents and businesses outside of the typically engaged downtown core.

Risk/Dependency/Limitation: Achieving Toronto's long-term low-carbon goals will require transformational change of residents' day-to-day behaviours and City of Toronto's infrastructure planning priorities.

Alignment with Toronto's Strategic Actions:

- ✓ Support Environmental Sustainability
- ✓ Implement Smart Urban Growth Strategies
- ✓ Engage the Public
- ✓ Develop a Long-term Transportation Plan
- ✓ Enhance the City's Quality of Life

TRANSIT FUNDING

We are extremely concerned about the impact of cuts in transit funding on the 'modal shift' of car drivers to transit, cycling and walking. This modal shift is essential to achieve the cuts to CO2 emissions caused by transportation, approximate 35% of Toronto's total emissions.

We appreciate the City's efforts to fund transit. For example some of the funds from the proposed road tolls could have been directed to transit. As this financing is not available at this time **it's urgent that the city find other sources of funding for both the operating and capital funding. Cutting transit service and increasing the cost of transit will have a huge cost in carbon emissions far and away more costly than investing the needed funds now.**

The funds we do invest must be carefully spent. It does not make sense to spend \$3 billion for a one stop subway extension and leave the much needed 24 stop LRT network unfunded.

Please see attached a summary we prepared of the costs for proposed strategies for Transform TO in 2017. **These all have value and should be funded in 2017** in order to leverage other funds and resources. Toronto can be a climate leader – today.

Sincerely,

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¹ [http://www.abc.ca/yt/resources/media-centre/media-releases/canada-inundated-by-severe-weather-in-2013-insurance-companies-pay-out-record-breaking-\\$3-2-billion-to-policyholders](http://www.abc.ca/yt/resources/media-centre/media-releases/canada-inundated-by-severe-weather-in-2013-insurance-companies-pay-out-record-breaking-$3-2-billion-to-policyholders)

CLIMATE CHANGE – OVERVIEW OF IMPACTS AND GLOBAL CONTEXT

We care for climate change because we have already warmed Earth's surface temperature by 1.2 degrees Celsius since the beginning of the industrial era (World Meteorological Organization, 2016). The current rate in which humanity emits greenhouse gases into the atmosphere puts us on track to warm Earth's surface temperature by 4-6 degrees Celsius by the end of this century (IPCC, 2014, Synthesis Report, pp. 17-25).

This warming means that by the end of this century the ability to grow food in vast regions across the globe will decline by 40-60% (ibid, pp. 64-73), and sea levels will rise by at least one meter (ibid, pp. 42-43). Recent estimations published by a group of leading scientists studying loss of ice mass in Greenland (Kjeldsen *et al.*, 2015) and in Antarctica (Hansen *et al.*, 2016), claim that by the end of this century sea levels are anticipated to rise by several meters. This rise will submerge low-lying coastal regions and cities (IPCC, 2014, Synthesis Report, pp. 42-43; Hansen *et al.*, 2016).

A substantial sea level rise, coupled with a sharp decline in the ability to grow food, will cause hundreds of millions of people to become refugees (IPCC, 2014, Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability, pp. 766-771).

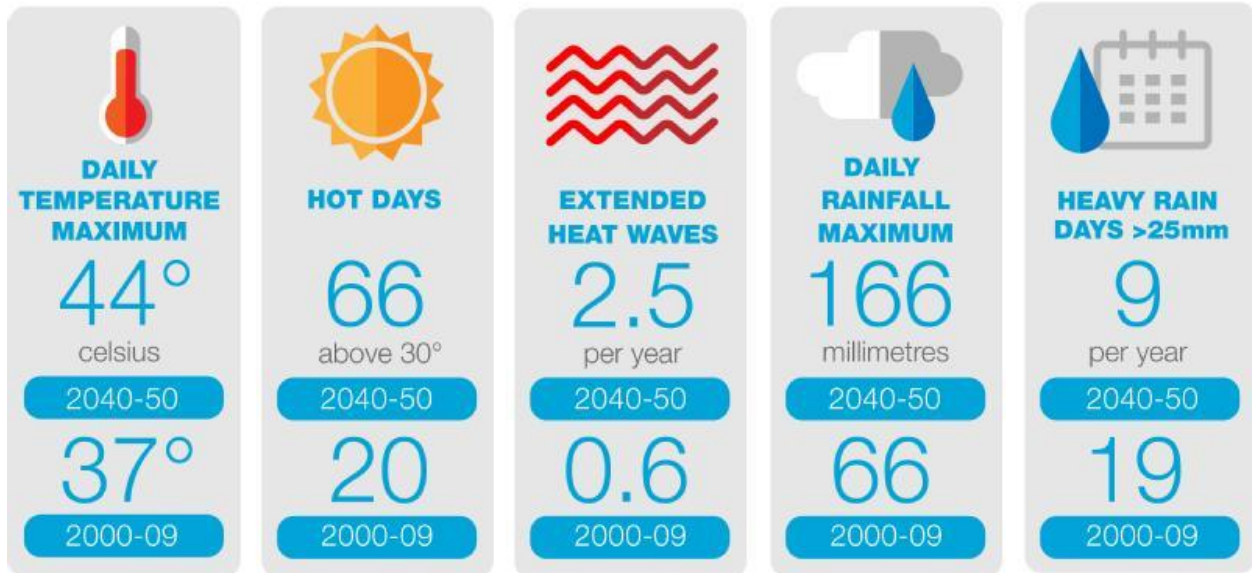
The technology to generate 100% of humanity's energy via renewable energies already exists. A work promoted by several technological universities delineates a detailed roadmap on how to transition 139 countries into using 100% renewable energies (wind, water and sunlight) in all sectors (electricity, transportation, industry, agriculture, aviation, shipping) by the year 2050 (Jacobson *et al.*, 2016).

Implementing this transition would cost humanity approximately \$2.9 trillion every year from 2016 to 2050 (ibid, p. 1). However, the resources to make this transition exist. According to the International Monetary Fund, the oil-coal-gas industry receives subsidies and tax relief every year that amount to \$5.3 trillion (IMF, 2015, p. 5).

References

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Toronto's Future Weather*



*Source: Toronto's Climate Driver Study, 2011

