



Canada Green Building Council  
*Every Building Greener*

Conseil du bâtiment durable du Canada  
*Verdir tous les bâtiments*

July 14, 2021

**RE: Net Zero Existing Building Strategy**

Dear Toronto City Councillors,

The Canada Green Building Council strongly supports passing the Net Zero Existing Buildings Strategy. The City of Toronto has committed to being carbon neutral in just under 30 years. There is no scenario where this is achieved without significant reductions in existing building emissions. Addressing over 400,000 homes and tens of thousands of commercial and institutional buildings in this timeframe is going to be a challenge, but it is work that must be done, and requires strong leadership from the City.

This work also represents an opportunity. Much of the work required on existing buildings represents wholly new investments – billions of dollars worth of capital expenditures and tens of thousands of new jobs – in the city of Toronto. It will fuel many new entrepreneurs and create local expertise with global value. It represents a chance to not only address greenhouse gas emissions, but to fix critical maintenance issues, improve occupant health and wellbeing, lower operating costs, and build in resilience measures to better manage risks from flooding and extreme weather.

The Net Zero Existing Buildings Strategy is also a policy that is important for Toronto in the National and Global context. The conversations and policy actions under this policy are happening in major cities everywhere. This is an issue that will not go away and only become more urgent. This is a chance to ensure that Toronto is a leader and not left behind other global cities.

As a national organization at the forefront of Zero Carbon Buildings with an industry membership representing over 1000 companies and 15,000 professionals, we know that it will be a challenge to meet the goals of the Net Zero Existing Building strategy. But we also know that property owners, the financial community, the building industry and our training ecosystem is ready to step up. What they need is policy certainty and City leadership to provide that market signal that the time has come us to build a strong retrofit economy.

We strongly encourage you to accept the Net Zero Buildings Strategy.

**Jeff Ranson**

Sr. Associate (Former GTA Regional Director), Canada Green Building Council



**Head office / Siège social**  
400-100 Murray Street  
Ottawa, ON K1N 0A1



613.241.1184  
Toll free / Sans frais: 866.941.1184  
Fax / Téléc: 613.241.4782



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