

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Sharon Bider and I am a long-time resident of Ward 11 and a volunteer with [ClimateFast](#), a climate advocacy organization based Toronto. I want to congratulate the staff for an excellent report -- something this city can be proud of and that goes a huge distance towards positioning us to achieve our GHG reduction commitments. All recommendations of the full Net Zero Existing Buildings Strategy need to be implemented. If ever there was a moment where we can appreciate the urgency of moving ahead with aggressive programs it is now, as we see our sister cities and provinces struggling under unimaginable heat conditions, facing deaths and property destruction.

With this in mind there are three areas where I would like to see enhancements to the staff proposal included in this Committee's recommendation to Council:

1] Without exception, analyses of successful deep retrofit initiatives in Europe have shown that well-developed concierge or one-stop-shop services that actively support building owners, particularly SFH and smaller MURBs, are critical to success in delivering existing building retrofits. They help owners to identify needs, select solutions and contractors, and provide jurisdictions with the information on how to streamline and improve performance. I ask that this Committee amend Recommendation 14 to include a specific reference to establishing such retrofit coordination services on a priority basis, including engaging and funding "non-profit, public, and private sector organizations" in pilot initiatives, so that the City can quickly identify successful models that can be scaled up rapidly to achieve the level of retrofit investment that is required.

2] I am very concerned that there is no reference to engaging Toronto Hydro, our city-owned utility, in actively supporting an aggressive program of deep retrofits. I ask that the Committee amend Action 9 to include "other institutions" as well as orders of government" and that an additional recommendation be made to Council that staff engage Toronto Hydro in two areas:

- designing and implementing financing instruments that use the fiscal authority of Toronto Hydro to extend financing to eligible property owners on terms that include longer amortization, provisions of transfer of indebtedness with property transfer, and repayment using utility billing.
- designing and delivering public engagement and marketing programs to support uptake of the financial instruments as well as energy conservation and deep retrofitting for small MURBs and SFH in general Toronto Hydro must step up as a major player in the challenge of achieving the rate of retrofitting that we need if we are to meet our GHG reduction targets.

3] Last, but not least, I note that this submission has been identified as having no financial impacts. I have a deep concern that we vastly underestimate the work involved in preparing policy, drafting bylaws, negotiating with partners and other levels of government, etc. If COVID has taught us anything it is that the science must be respected. We MUST deliver these, and other initiatives that are yet to be presented, on timelines that reflect the science if we are to avoid the unimaginable living conditions that the West is previewing for us. So I ask that, along with its approval of the first set of initiatives with amendments suggested, this Committee request a detailed costing of staff effort required to deliver them, so that we can ensure that we have a real program, not empty promises.

Thank you for your time.