

December 2, 2021

Matthew Green, Infrastructure & Environment Committee Secretariat
City of Toronto, City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, 10th floor, West Tower
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Via email iec@toronto.ca



RE: IE26.16 TransformTO - Critical Steps for Net Zero by 2040

Dear Councillors and Mayor Tory,

We are writing to ask that you **amend** and **adopt** the **draft TransformTO Net Zero Strategy**.

Recommendations:

1. accelerate free transit, and provide adequate bicycles and accommodating bike workshops, and zero waste reusables kits, for everyone living below the poverty line, offset by sliding scale rates for people with moderate and full priced sales for people with higher incomes, including sales at also Live Green Toronto and other kiosks at 5, increasing to 50+, locations across Toronto (access to public transit and cycling must be equitable and inclusive also of people with disabilities and other people who are the most in need; and, plastic is set to generate more emissions than coal by 2030 (1));
2. urge all levels of government to ban **deforestation** and **virgin content** in paper and forest products effective starting in 2022 and mandate and support 100% locally recycled content or industrial hemp in all paper and forest products, and lead by implementing these measures in City of Toronto operations, agencies and contracts effective in 2022;
3. urge all levels of government to fund and support, preserve and protect **peatlands**, and organic regenerative permaculture nurturing of the top 1 to 2 meters of **soils** everywhere (together they hold 95% of the CO2 that's stored in Canada's landscapes; 1, 2);
4. accelerate rehabilitation of leaking, and replacement of aging, **pipes** to eliminate 103M+ litres of water leaking daily and reduce the related lifecycle emissions for transporting treated water (Toronto's water and wastewater systems combined are 30-35% of its GHG emissions, powered 24% by natural gas - responsible for 62% of its emissions) (1);
5. create support at all levels of government, and fund starting in 2022, annually, to rapidly increase existing and new cooperative, social enterprise, decentralized:
 - o local organic regenerative agriculture;
 - o backyard and community composting; and,
 - o stainless steel, glass, paper/board, textile, bike parts, art supplies, electronics, wood, ceramics (and more) refill, reuse, repair, and remanufacturing; and,
 - o local growing of ingredients for and making of low waste petrochemical-free soap and other bodycare, candles, and cleaning products ...

in reusable refillable (non plastic) containers and package free, to grow local, resilient circular systems, support highest best use of all resources, reduce unnecessary life cycle emissions, and create good green jobs, sooner and more rapidly;

6. a.) ban unnecessary single use and takeaway items sooner and rapidly; and
b.) require a **public health lens be applied** to all City decisions

(plastics are set to produce more emissions than coal by 2030, are toxic; are not part of a circular economy as they downcycle into micro and nanoplastics, found in drinking water, air and food; and recycled content has not been proven safe for food-contact use)

(doing everything possible to significantly reduce the **heat island effect** rapidly starting in 2022 is critical for **public health** for all in Toronto, especially marginalized peoples);

7. accelerate the consumption based emissions inventory to account for emissions from the goods and services we use, and export, and adjust targets and reduction pathways;
8. develop a municipal low-carbon jobs strategy that supports a decent work agenda and creates workforce pathways and expands the green sector for equity-deserving groups
9. support existing and create new structures for meaningful resident participation which enable community-led and place-based engagement, education, and recommendations;
10. create and support new and existing active and meaningful engagement, listening to, and implementation of responses prioritizing and centering Indigenous people, and equity-deserving communities, among feedback from local residents, and civic society organizations, including also people who experience the lowest incomes, disabilities, renters, newcomers, women, families, single adults, youth, and seniors

(the people who are the most in need and are most at risk, deserve the most support, first, sooner and rapidly; what is good for first peoples whose traditional lands we are on, and/or for people who are the most in need, enriches and serves us all);

11. ban two stroke/small engine leaf blowers May to October effective in 2022 (it's necessary, low hanging fruit, and would show quick visible progress, and that the City listens and cares, reduce excessive, unnecessary, chronic, stressful noise and pollution, improve people's quality of life, equitable access to and reasonable enjoyment of the city and help reduce the unnecessary, chronic, excessive heat island effect);
12. articulate how the City will do a better job of engaging Indigenous communities as rights holders in decision-making on the Net Zero Strategy;
13. a concrete plan that enables meaningful involvement of residents in the design, development, and evaluation of actions that goes beyond "advice giving";

14. establish an Advisory Group that centres the voices of equity-deserving groups and is resourced to produce an independent, annual review of the City's progress;
15. dedicate an action area to supporting community hubs, community centres, neighbourhood pods and other local support networks, as key social and physical infrastructure for strengthening community climate engagement and resilience;
16. work with equity-deserving people, including people with disabilities, racialized people, newcomers, and residents with low incomes, to advance benefits and prevent harms;
17. increase youth participation, particularly youth from equity-deserving groups, in developing and implementing climate strategies;
18. robust annual reporting on emissions;
19. develop and rigorously implement robust accountability structures that measure progress and outcomes toward TransformTO Net Zero Strategy goals across City programs and strategies (such as the Toronto Green Standard for buildings, Net Zero Existing Buildings Strategy, CycleTO, Official Plan, and numerous other strategies);
20. accelerate transit expansion plans, and implement RapidTO bus lanes;
21. move up the timeline for a zero-emission TTC fleet;
22. move the City's own fleet to EVs starting now (vehicles and bikes);
23. build complete streets that protect pedestrians and cyclists sooner and rapidly, especially in communities where active transportation infrastructure is the most lacking;
24. accelerate the implementation of Toronto Green Standard and the Net Zero Strategy for Existing Buildings to quickly transition off natural gas for heating;
25. develop a plan to ensure green renovations and energy retrofits avoid causing renovations or affect affordability for tenants and low-income residents;
26. put fair and equitable revenue tools in place in the 2022 City Budget, to create sustained and ongoing funding for climate action;
27. develop robust and transparent Climate Lens criteria to evaluate how climate impacts are being assessed in major City decisions including capital and operating budgets in the 2022 City Budget ;
28. accelerate the schedule for updating the Toronto Green Standard (TGS) versions five and six by one year each (the near zero design standards need to be in place by or before 2028), and strengthen incentives for projects that voluntarily build to near zero standards ahead of the requirements;

29. accelerate development of building emissions performance standards for large buildings (develop performance targets and policy details in 2022, to provide the buildings sector with two years notice to plan for compliance, to take effect by 2025);
30. develop and pilot a turnkey, no-up-front cost program to home and building owners to massively scale up solar PV (and/or other renewable energy) and storage systems, leveraging bulk procurement and city financing programs, and prioritizing not for profit, Co-Op, and other multi-residential housing, as well as single family homes, not for profit and civic society organizations, and businesses (this can be implemented quickly, decreases emissions, increases resiliency, and creates good, green jobs);
31. develop a clear definition of low carbon thermal energy sources to help enable monitoring of progress against the target (and ensure nuclear and ‘waste to energy’ are prohibited);
32. develop a definition of “low carbon energy sources” or revise the 2030 target to reference only renewable energy sources;
33. ensure plans and financing are developed in 2022 to take effect by or before 2025 to ensure 100% conversion from existing fossil-fuel based district energy systems to low carbon energy sources by-or-before 2030, potentially including the use of Local Improvement Charges or other financial mechanisms for implementation by 2023;
34. expand EV charging beginning in 2022;
35. develop and pilot onsite greywater treatment systems, and composting toilets, to decentralize and decrease demand (on water and wastewater treatment systems, large scale centralized biosolid and anaerobic digester capacities) and life cycle treatment, transportation and energy emissions (1, 2), and increase local resilience;
36. ensure increased funding in the 2022 budget year to accelerate climate action; and,
37. commit to fully funding the climate plan every year.

Thank you,
Ms. A. Pope
Coordinator (Volunteer)
Toronto, ON M6J 0A8

cc. Councillors McKelvie, Layton, Colle, Minnan-Wong, Pasternak, Perruzza, Bailao and Mayor Tory

About Zero Waste Hub Toronto

Zero Waste Hub Toronto (est. 2018) is a grassroots not for profit organization, the founder and organizer of Toronto’s first two zero waste fairs (May 2018 and 2019), and works with established local organizations and green groups to help promote waste reduction education, awareness, and opportunities, and create a zero waste future for Toronto.