



environmental
defence

June 24, 2021

Nancy Martins
Clerk, City of Toronto
100 Queen Street West Toronto
M5H 2N2

Re: PH25.17 Toronto Green Standard Review and Update

Dear Toronto Planning and Housing Committee,

Environmental Defence supports the adoption of the Toronto Green Standard Version 4 and requests that the City move forward with stronger incentives for projects that meet the ambitious tier 2 and 3 requirements.

Despite commitments from federal, provincial, and municipal leaders to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Canada, Ontario, and Toronto all experienced rising greenhouse gas emissions in recent years. Clearly, stronger action is needed to curb these growing emissions. This is particularly true in light of the City of Toronto's 2019 climate emergency declaration.

Buildings are responsible for 59% of Toronto's carbon emissions. The adoption of leading Green Development Standards is the most powerful climate action we can take to curb increasing emissions, and move towards TransformTO's goal that 100% of new buildings be built to near-zero emissions by 2030.

The Toronto Green Standard's tiered system is an important tool to progressively push development beyond minimum standards, and provide a predictable pathway to industry on the next steps in the process. The proposed updates in Toronto Green Standard Version 4 will advance TransformTO and other City strategies, contribute to economic prosperity, environmental health, cultural vibrancy and social well-being.

New buildings approved today will be part of our city for decades, or longer. That means decades of wasted energy, additional costs, and mounting greenhouse gas emissions if they are not built to higher, more sustainable standards. Setting the bar high now for greener, more energy efficient buildings is far more cost effective than retrofitting buildings down the road.

Sincerely,

Sarah Buchanan
Ontario Climate Program Manager
Environmental Defence