

July 18, 2022

City Council, City of Toronto
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen St W
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Toronto City Council:

Re: Toronto Hydro's Climate Action Plan (Agenda item EX34.9)

On behalf of the Pembina Institute, we are pleased to submit comments in support of Toronto Hydro's Climate Action Plan, "Powering Forward – Building a greener city through climate action." We recommend that Toronto City Council approve Toronto Hydro's requests for new mandates to carry out critical climate actions set out in the Climate Action Plan, including establishing a new Climate Advisory Services business, proceeding with City-led LED street lighting, and investigating Climate Capital Investments opportunities in the future. We see that these aforementioned actions are foundational to unlock deeper and more impactful decarbonization efforts in the City.

The Pembina Institute, a registered charity and non-partisan think tank with offices in Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta has worked with governments, business, and local and Indigenous communities to advance climate and energy policy in Canada. Since July 2021, Toronto Hydro has sought advice from the Pembina Institute in developing their plan. We are aware that Toronto Hydro has also engaged a broad set of stakeholders in developing its Plan.

As the City's sole electricity distributor, Toronto Hydro has a significant role to play to create the conditions for success: a secure and reliable distribution grid to support future electricity demand. The new proposed Climate Advisory Services is one mechanism to facilitate climate action across the City by helping cleantech companies scale the installation of heat pumps and building retrofits that promote conservation and energy efficiency, the deployment of distributed energy resources like solar panels or battery storage, and electric vehicle chargers.

In order for the City to meet its bold new climate target of net-zero by 2040, we encourage that City staff move quickly in developing a memorandum of understanding with Toronto Hydro. Recognizing that Toronto City Council declared a state of climate emergency nearly three years ago on October 2, 2019, the city should move urgently to rapidly scale up action on climate

change. We recommend that the City Council approve the Memorandum of Understanding on or before the third anniversary of this declaration to so that implementation may begin by early 2023. Further, we recommend City Council request City staff and Toronto Hydro to report, as part of its annual reporting to Council, progress on how TransformTO and Toronto Hydro's Climate Action Plan are collectively resulting in tangible on-the-ground energy efficiency measures in homes, buildings, public spaces, as well making zero-emission mobility options more accessible.

We would be pleased to continue working with the utility and City staff to support next steps.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Simon Dyer", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Simon Dyer
Deputy Executive Director
Pembina Institute