TORONTO Atmospheric Fund

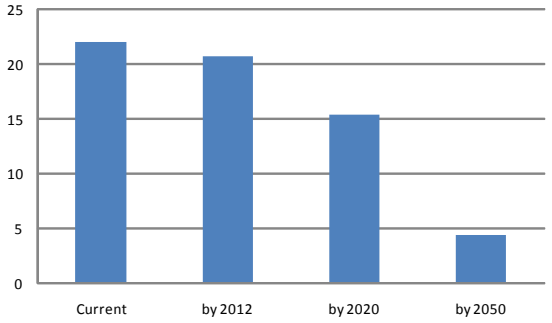
A clean air legacy fund for Torontonians

For 20 years, the Toronto Atmospheric Fund (TAF) has been sparking local action to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gases and air pollution in Toronto. Recognized locally and internationally for its innovative and effective programs, TAF has invested $51 million in practical emission reduction projects city-wide and helped the City shave millions of dollars off its energy bills. These investments include grants to Toronto groups and profitable green lending.

TAF covers all its grant, program and operational costs at no expense to city taxpayers by raising outside funding and making use of the investment income from the $23 million endowment fund provided to TAF by the City of Toronto in 1991.

TAF plays a unique and complementary role by assisting the City's departments, divisions and agencies in working to achieve Council-approved emission reduction targets. A blue-chip Board of Directors, expert volunteer committees and experienced advisors provide TAF with programmatic and financial guidance and a results focus, while thousands of volunteer hours help keep TAF lean and effective.

Toronto's Emission Reduction Targets



Toronto's city-wide targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, from the 1990 levels of approximately 22 million tonnes per year, are: 6% by 2012, 30% by 2020 and 80% by 2050. The reduction target for locally generated smog causing pollutants is 20% below 2004 levels by 2012.

TAF is entering its third decade ideally positioned to help our City reap the economic and health benefits that reduced pollution and increased energy efficiency can bring.

TAF has helped the City reduce air emissions and energy costs by:

- financing the conversion of the City's **streetlights** to more efficient technology, saving approximately $20 million to date
- assisting with the conversion of the City's **traffic signals** to highly efficient LEDs, saving $19 million to date
- co-funding energy retrofits in more than **100 City buildings** in cooperation with Toronto's Facilities Management Division
- providing funding and expertise for **energy efficiency and renewable power projects** at Exhibition Place, the Toronto Zoo, Harbourfront Centre, Toronto Community Housing, community centres and seniors' residences
- funding a pilot program to install money-saving **solar water heating** technology at four City pools and financing the "utility" that will soon provide solar hot water to five City facilities at a fully competitive cost
- structuring a leasing arrangement that allowed Toronto Community Housing to purchase thousands of **energy-efficient appliances**, saving $10 million, and funding a pilot program to install advanced energy-saving lighting and controls in their underground garages
- funding a feasibility study for Enwave's **deep lake water cooling**, now used to air condition dozens of downtown buildings

TAF has also helped climate-friendly enterprises in Toronto get their start and green their game, including:

- **AutoShare**, Toronto's first personal car-sharing service
- **Green$aver**, which piloted the concept of incentives for home energy retrofits that have been accessed by over 36,000 Toronto residents, who have saved an average of 21 percent on their home energy bills
- **Tridel**, which worked with TAF to design the Green Condo Loan to support energy-saving high-rise construction, saving condo owners an average of $500,000 per building
- **Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas**, to develop and deliver greenTbiz, an energy efficiency advisory service for small businesses
- **University of Toronto's Institute for Optical Sciences**, which is commercializing new super-efficient lighting technologies
- **University Health Network**, which is pioneering a new approach to engaging all staff in saving energy and, as a result, achieving annual savings of $2 million

TAF by the numbers

Original endowment provided in 1991	**$23 million**
Grants and loans provided by TAF since 1991	**$51 million**
City energy budget savings supported by TAF	**$55 million**
TAF average annual budget	**$1.9 million**
Average administrative costs	**19%**
External funds raised (2007-2010)	**$1.3 million**
Annual cost of TAF to City operating budget	**Zero**

TAF has covered all its operating, financing and granting activity since 1991 while retaining the original endowment capital

TAF works with companies, governments, agencies, community groups and citizens

By working with a wide range of partners, TAF is advancing the economic, environmental and health advantages of reducing emissions and increasing efficiency:

- TAF's **TowerWise** program brings together the Greater Toronto Apartment Association, the Canadian Condominium Institute, the Association of Condominium Managers of Ontario, utilities, engineers and many others to improve access to the technical and financial support the high-rise sector needs to reduce their energy costs.
- **LightSavers** leverages the experience and buying power of GTA municipalities to make it easier and more cost effective to implement advanced energy-efficient outdoor lighting such as LEDs and motion sensors in parks, on roadways and in parking lots and garages.
- Under the **FleetWise EV300** banner, TAF is working with public and private fleets to take some of the risk out of deploying zero emission electric vehicles and to help guide the development of charging infrastructure.
- The **SolarCity** program is dedicated to ensuring top-quality solar thermal and electric installations and diligent performance monitoring of large-scale projects through knowledge and results sharing.

Over the past 20 years, TAF has provided $17 million to over 350 Toronto initiatives that are striving to make Toronto neighbourhoods better places to live, work, play — and breathe. Many of these successful projects have become models for other cities and communities. With TAF's help:

- **Faith and the Common Good** developed Greening Sacred Spaces, which works with worship communities to save energy and cut operating costs
- **YWCA** integrated leading-edge efficiency and geothermal technologies in its Elm Street facility and in its King Street affordable housing project
- **Smart Commute North Toronto-Vaughan** created Toronto's first transportation demand program, offering a variety of ride-sharing services for businesses and their employees
- **South Riverdale Community Health Centre** established a local air quality education and monitoring program
- **Parkdale United Church** created sustainable affordable housing through the groundbreaking Green Phoenix project
- **Habitat for Humanity** assessed the potential for integrating renewable energy systems in their community-built housing

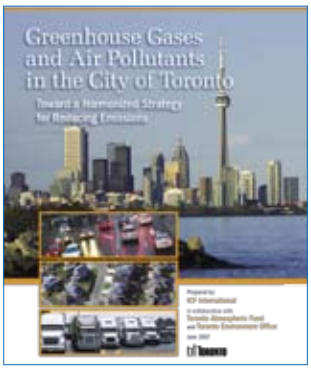
Photos from top: TAF's Green Condo Loan, developed with Tridel, helps residents save money on utilities while keeping unit costs affordable; Smart Commute takes some of the emissions — and frustration — out of rush hour; new appliances in Toronto Community Housing buildings have cut energy costs; solar panels generate energy for a Toronto Police garage.

Tracking toward a green and prosperous city

The old adage that "**you can't manage what you don't measure**" guides TAF's programming. Having developed the City of Toronto Air Emissions Inventory in cooperation with the Toronto Environment Office and Federation of Canadian Municipalities, TAF carefully targets its programs and funding to address major sources of greenhouse gas and smog emissions and the barriers to energy savings.

TAF does not directly implement ongoing emission reduction programs for the City but instead works as **a test bed for new technologies, finance approaches or community engagement strategies**.

TAF goes beyond the idea phase, testing prototypes and then refining and de-risking them for wider adoption and scale-up. TAF's nimbleness, experience and independence is recognized as an asset by a wide variety of government, utility and corporate partners who are actively seeking to learn from TAF's experience in program design and implementation, sector collaboration and knowledge sharing.



TAF worked with the City to develop the first post-amalgamation greenhouse gas and air pollution inventory, which was released in 2007. The inventory has proved very valuable for targeting emission reduction efforts.

Photos clockwise: the TowerWise program helps high-rise owners understand the advantages of new technologies, such as these condensing boilers; our FleetWise EV300 project is helping fleets make smart decisions about adding electric vehicles; TAF is working to assess advanced outdoor lighting opportunities; TAF has helped Torontonians tap into zero emission solar power for their communities.

We welcome your participation and involvement in our work, so please feel free to contact us directly or sign up for our regular e-newsletter, *The Atmospheric*, on our website at www.toronto.ca/taf.

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