



May 10th, 2017

Councillor Gary Crawford, Chair,
and Members of the Budget
Committee

Dear Councillors,

ClimateFast would like to express our appreciation for the work done by TransformTO staff, employees from other city divisions and consultants on the 2050 Climate Action Plan. We are excited about the possibility to transform our city while meeting our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals.

Climate change poses serious, long-term threats to the wellbeing of Torontonians. This year, our city has seen double the average amount of rainfall thanks to ground moisture from unseasonably warm temperatures.¹ Toronto received 64 mm of rain in the first 5 days of May alone, leading to personal property and infrastructure damage.² Flooding is the number one risk facing Canadian homeowners, the average cost of a flooded basement totaling \$42,000, a financial liability well beyond the means of many Torontonians.³

*Toronto's Future Weather & Climate Drivers Study: Outcomes Report*⁴ predicts that severe weather events will be both more frequent and of greater severity due to climate change. It is urgent that we act as quickly as possible to both reduce our emissions and to implement climate change mitigation strategies.

In response to the TransformTO's second report, *The Pathway to a Low Carbon Future* (April 2017), ClimateFast advocates that:

- **TransformTO receive the funds required to implement all strategies outlined in the TransformTO Report #1 - *Short-Term Strategies*, that is, \$22 million between 2018 and 2020.**
- All city departments use a climate lens in their decision making processes, and in particular **when developing the city's long-term financial plan.**



Carbon Free Toronto Campaign

- TransformTO establish working groups for each of the campaigns highlighted in the report, namely:
 - Campaign 1 – Mobilize Low-Carbon Neighbourhoods,
 - Campaign 2 – Prepare for Electric Mobility, and,
 - Campaign 3 – Develop the Workforce for High-performance Buildings.

We would like to see active, ongoing engagement between the city and volunteer community groups, as is the case with the Mt. Dennis neighbourhood carbon-neutral campaign. We also aspire to have the green neighbour group network extend to all wards.

The TransformTO 2050 plan will result in many residual benefits for the city, particularly in terms of employment. Retrofitting homes and businesses will create many new jobs, bolstering youth employment and skills development in priority neighbourhoods, as outlined in the TransformTO *Modelling Advisory Group Summary Report*.⁵

Again, we urge the budget committee to ensure that the funding targets as outlined in the first report are met in order for the city to meet its objectives. Toronto's Climate Action Plan gives us hope for the future.

Sincerely,

Lyn Adamson,
Chair, ClimateFast,
CarbonFree TO Campaign
carbonfreeTO@climatefast.ca
(416) 731-6605
www.climatefast.ca/carbonfreeTO

¹ <https://www.thestar.com/news/starweather/2017/05/rainfall-warning-ends-in-toronto.html>

² http://climate.weather.gc.ca/climate_data/daily_data_e.html?StationID=51459

³ <http://globalnews.ca/news/3434210/climate-change-cost-homeowners-damages/>

⁴ *Toronto's Future Weather & Climate Drivers Study: Outcomes Report*⁴ pp. 10-15.

⁵ TransformTO Modelling Advisory Group Summary Report, p.4.