



April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

**For Consideration by Parks and Environment Committee RE: PE 18.4 Home Energy Loan Program and High-Rise Retrofit Improvement Support Program Evaluation.**

Dear City of Toronto Parks and Environment Committee:

The Clean Air Partnership and the Clean Air Council would like to thank the City of Toronto for undertaking the Home Energy Loan Program (HELP) and High-Rise (Hi-RIS) Retrofit program and encourage Toronto Parks and Environment Committee and Toronto City Council to support the recommended amendments to the two Programs.

The Clean Air Partnership is a charitable environmental organization that serves as the facilitator for the Clean Air Council, which is a network of 29 municipalities representing just over 60% of Ontario's population, who work collaboratively on the development and implementation of clean air and climate change mitigation and resilience actions.

The City of Toronto's HELP and Hi-RIS program was the first of its kind in Ontario and has served a valuable contribution by testing out the use of a Local Improvement Charge (LIC) mechanism to provide financing for the residential energy efficient retrofit market. Energy used in homes and buildings account for nearly half of the City of Toronto's greenhouse gas emissions. Advancing energy efficiency retrofits within the residential sector is a huge environmental and economic opportunity. The delivery of this program has been instrumental in addressing the necessary, but nonetheless difficult to reach residential market. The lessons learned from the pilot phase of this program have been extremely valuable in advancing the understanding of the components and program design that make for a comprehensive and effective residential energy efficiency retrofit program.

The leadership shown by the City of Toronto in undertaking this program is serving to advance the collective understanding of other Ontario municipalities who are also very interested in using the LIC mechanism to address the upfront capital costs barrier of energy efficiency retrofits. In addition, Toronto's advancement of residential energy efficiency is playing a significant role in getting municipalities and the Province of Ontario to work more collectively to spread the HELP and Hi-RIS program model to many other Ontario communities.



# Clean Air Partnership

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The Clean Air Partnership would like to thank the City of Toronto for taking on this vital leadership role and for working with others to share the lessons learned in order to ensure that the long-term aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and energy use from Ontario's residential sector continues to expand its scale, scope and reach. As such, we very much support the extension to the timeframe for this program and the expansion of eligible measures to include renewable energy technologies. As the province moves away from the FIT model and more into net-metering this extension of the eligible measures will be a welcome and necessary addition to the eligible measures and provides further support for the increase in the maximum special charge eligibility amendment.

On behalf of the Clean Air Partnership and the Clean Air Council thank you once again for undertaking the HELP and Hi-RIS program. I would also like to extend appreciation to City staff who have been so willing in sharing their experiences and lessons learned with other Ontario municipalities and the Province of Ontario in order to ensure that our collective understanding of how best to reach and serve the challenging residential market is enhanced.

Sincerely,

Gabriella Kalapos  
Executive Director, Clean Air Partnership  
Co-Chair of the Clean Air Council