



May 3rd, 2018

Parks and Environment Committee
City of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario

Re: Home Energy Loan Program and High-rise Retrofit Improvement Support Program Update (PE27.4)

Dear Committee Members,

The Atmospheric Fund (TAF) is a public agency established in 1991 by the City of Toronto and endowed by the City and the Province of Ontario. TAF works closely with stakeholders across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) to test and advance innovative programs to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and air pollution. However, the views expressed in this submission do not necessarily represent those of the City of Toronto, the Province of Ontario or other GTHA stakeholders.

TAF supports the extension of the Residential Energy Retrofit Program until the end of 2019. Given that buildings are responsible for 53% of Toronto's GHG emissions,¹ improving building energy performance represents a key tenet of the City's TransformTO strategy to achieve an 80% reduction in community-wide emissions by 2050. Improving building energy performance will require deep and wide-scale retrofits to our existing building stock. There exist almost 4,000 kilotonnes in potential GHG reductions from Toronto's buildings, with just over 60% of this potential coming from existing buildings.² Programs such as the Residential Energy Retrofit Program are essential to address facilitating retrofits of our existing building stock to meet our climate targets.

On the direction of City Council, staff implemented refinements to the Residential Energy Retrofit Program in April 2017. These refinements have led to a 60% increase in applications received and a nearly 50% increase in the number of committed loans.³ TAF believes that extending the program to the end of 2019 would allow staff sufficient time to evaluate the impacts of the program and, where necessary, to overcome the key challenges identified through the pilot in order to maximize the chances of long-term program success.

¹ <https://web.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/9875-Zero-Emissions-Buildings-Framework-Report.pdf>

² <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2017/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-103086.pdf>

³ <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2018/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-114375.pdf>



TAF would like to thank committee members for their time and ask that the Parks and Environment Committee support the extension request for this valuable program. TAF also looks forward to working with the City on developing the longer-term vision and strategy for property based financing programs in Toronto.

Sincerely,

Bryan Purcell
Director of Policy & Programs
The Atmospheric Fund