
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM10.3	ACTION			Ward: All
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Declaring a Climate Emergency and Accelerating Toronto's Climate Action Plan - by Mayor John Tory, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Mayor John Tory, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton, recommends that:

1. City Council declare a climate emergency for the purpose of naming, framing, and deepening our commitment to protecting our economy, our ecosystems and our community from climate change.
2. City Council endorse a net zero greenhouse gas emissions target that is in line with keeping global average temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius, immediately strengthening Toronto's goal of becoming net zero before 2050, and City Council request the Director, Environment and Energy to report back by the fourth quarter of 2020 on the feasibility of actions that could achieve net zero by 2040.
3. City Council commit to:
 - a. looking for opportunities to invest in and accelerate high priority emission reduction areas in TransformTO, such as building retrofits and transportation, as part of the 2020 Budget;
 - b. exploring all viable and equitable financing mechanisms to adequately finance and encourage climate actions and adaptation in the 2021 Budget cycle;
 - c. accelerating the implementation of TransformTO climate actions at every opportunity; and
 - d. engaging job-seekers, workers, unions, relevant sectors, and social service agencies in the creation of a low-carbon jobs strategy that supports a decent work agenda, career pathways for equity-seeking groups, and the expansion of green industry sectors across Toronto.

4. City Council direct the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer to report to City Council on possible amendments to the Statement of Investments and Procedures to become a green investment city by reflecting current responsible investment best practices, excluding fossil fuels from the portfolio, and actively investing in clean energy and climate solutions.
5. City Council direct the Director, Environment and Energy to report annually in the second quarter on the implementation status of climate actions and progress made towards meeting interim and 2030 emission reduction targets.
6. City Council direct the Director, Environment and Energy to include in the 2021-2023 TransformTO implementation plan:
 - a. actions to achieve a net zero greenhouse gas emissions in line with keeping global average temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius;
 - b. strategies that would accelerate timelines for existing TransformTO actions;
 - c. the feasibility of establishing interim 2023 and 2027 targets and actions that put Toronto on track to meet its 2030 target, including quick-wins in the transportation and building sectors;
 - d. a strategy for securing dedicated and sustained climate funding to adequately finance climate actions necessary to meet 2030 emission reduction targets;
 - e. a climate lens that evaluates and considers the climate impacts of all major City of Toronto decisions, including financial decisions;
 - f. a plan to measure, monitor and reduce consumption-based (lifecycle) emissions;
 - g. engaging residents and stakeholders in decision-making and provide greater public accountability;
 - h. a commitment to meaningfully consult and cooperate with Indigenous communities on the development and implementation of TransformTO in accordance with the City's commitment to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
 - i. a plan to apply the City's Equity Lens to TransformTO decision-making in order to ensure that strategies include and benefit equity-seeking groups;
 - j. a plan to collaborate with youth, including youth from equity-seeking groups, to increase youth participation in the development and implementation of TransformTO strategies; and
 - k. the feasibility of creating a Toronto Carbon Budget to aid in the implementation of TransformTO.

Summary

The serious impacts of climate change on people's health, our economy and our infrastructure in Toronto are clear. The City of Toronto and its residents and businesses will spend billions of dollars rebuilding the homes, businesses and municipal infrastructure damaged by ever-

stronger floods, storms, heat waves and flash freezes. We will spend even more proactively to make our City more resilient in the face of those impacts.

Canada's per capita emissions are among the highest in the world. Climate scientists widely agree on the need to rapidly reduce global carbon emissions over the next ten years.

City Council has adopted an ambitious climate change action plan - TransformTO. As the City continues to embark on major initiatives and investments to realize the goals laid out in TransformTO, it is important to keep in mind that accelerating our transition to a low-carbon society is an investment for future generations and offers opportunities of health, equity, employment and prosperity for residents and workers in our City.

Hundreds of governments around the world and major cities across Canada have recognized the urgency of the climate threat by declaring a climate emergency. It is time for Toronto to do the same and to take bolder action to meet our goals of reducing emissions and building a City that is greener, healthier and resilient.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM10.3

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-138112.pdf>