

October 1, 2019

City Council
City of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario

Re: MM10.3 Declaring a Climate Emergency and Accelerating Toronto's Climate Action Plan

Dear City Council,

Toronto's declaration of a climate emergency will acknowledge the scale of the problem for our city and the planet, and signal to our citizens and the world that Toronto is making climate action an immediate priority. ***TAF strongly supports the Mayor's Motion to declare a climate emergency.***

We are particularly pleased to see that this Motion goes beyond declaration by embracing the goal of net zero emissions before 2050 to limit global warming to 1.5°C, exploring opportunities to become a green investment city, and identifying concrete actions to accelerate implementation of TransformTO, the climate action plan which TAF co-developed with the City of Toronto.

The proposed changes to the 2021-2023 TransformTO implementation plan will ensure that the City is working towards an ambitious, bold, and equitable climate action plan. Transitioning towards a low-carbon economy not only supports deeper emissions reductions, but also presents multiple economic and social benefits for the City and the residents of Toronto. Prioritizing climate action will support job creation, innovation, and improved public health outcomes.

Let there be no mistake, declaring a climate emergency is not merely a symbolic act; it is a commitment to ambitious and accelerated climate action, starting now. By making this declaration, Toronto will stand with other municipalities across the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area, and around the world, who have made similar declarations. ***From this day forward, climate needs to be considered - and prioritized - in all City decision-making,*** from major infrastructure projects to minor bylaw updates. ***All City divisions, agencies, boards, commissions and corporations must be mobilized to support climate action.*** TAF stands ready to partner with the City in the effort to eliminate carbon emissions and build a healthy, resilient City.

Sincerely yours,



Bryan Purcell
VP Policy & Programs
The Atmospheric Fund

The Atmospheric Fund (TAF) is a regional climate agency that invests in low-carbon solutions for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) and helps scale them up for broad implementation. Please note that the views expressed in this submission do not necessarily represent those of the City of Toronto or other GTHA stakeholders. We are experienced leaders and collaborate with stakeholders in the private, public and non-profit sectors who have ideas and opportunities for reducing carbon emissions. Supported by endowment funds, we advance the most promising concepts by investing, providing grants, influencing policies and running programs. We're particularly interested in ideas that offer benefits in addition to carbon reduction such as improving people's health, creating local jobs, boosting urban resiliency, and contributing to a fair society.