



Tracey Cook
Deputy City Manager of Infrastructure and
Development Services

Tel: 416-338-7200
Tracey.Cook@toronto.ca
www.toronto.ca

2020 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

Investing in Resilience

Issue/Background:

- On Jan 17, 2020, Budget Committee directed the City Manager to "provide a budget briefing note on the City's proposed 2020 investments related to Resilience, including the distribution amongst various City Divisions, and a breakdown by tax-supported operating and capital budgets, as well as rate-supported budgets" ([BU14.2](#) motion 4a).
- In June 2019, the City Manager released the Resilience Strategy, which provides the City with a community vision for a 'Resilient Toronto' and actions to improve resilience in Toronto.
- In July 2017, City Council unanimously approve the TransformTO Climate Action Strategy to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and in October 2019, City Council declared a climate emergency that required accelerated climate action and established a net-zero emissions target for Toronto by 2050.

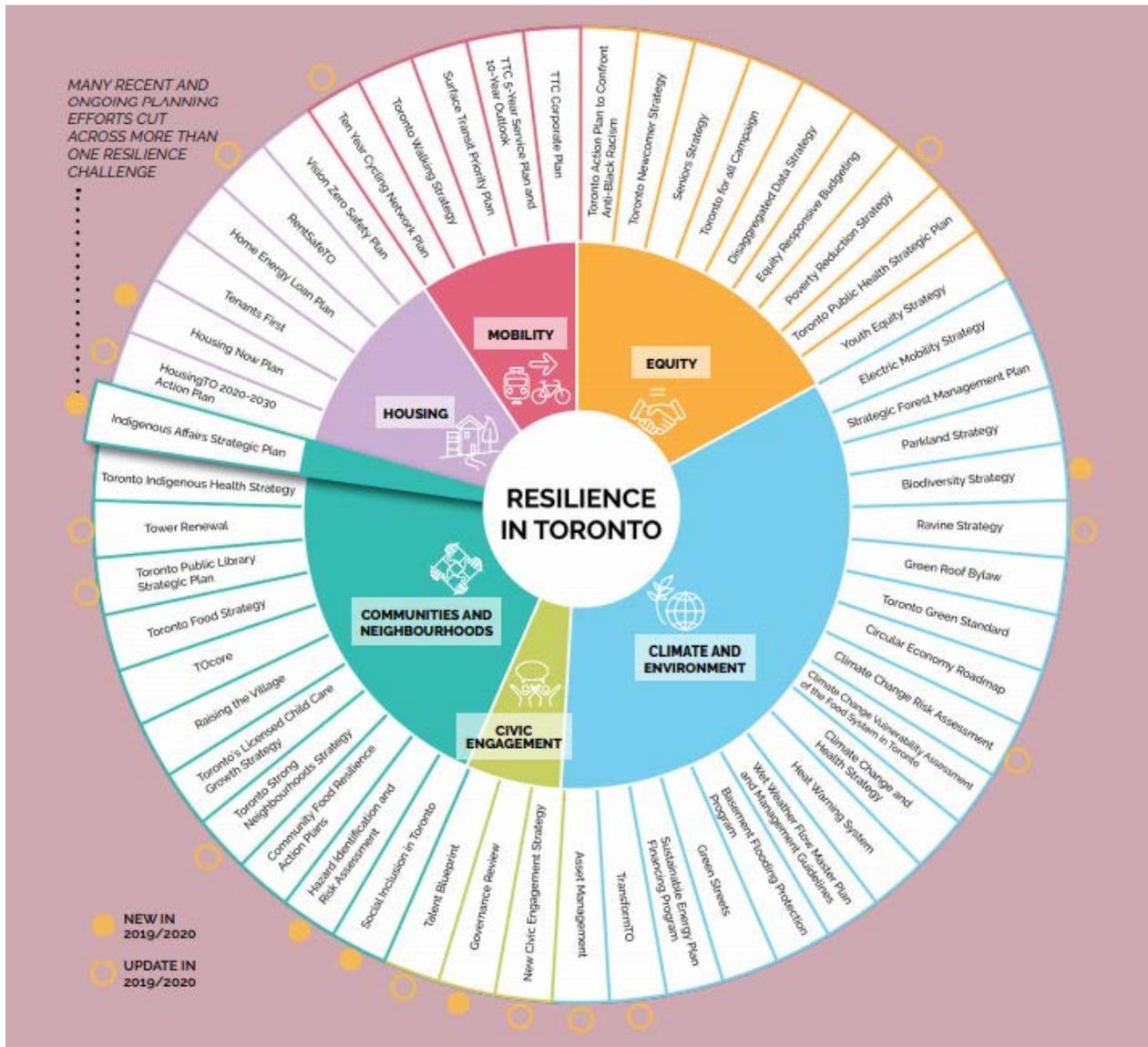
Key Points:

- This briefing note responds to the request to understand resilience spending by highlighting examples of major investments in the 2020 operating and capital budgets related to climate action focused on both resilience and GHG reductions.
- Resilience is the ability of a city to survive, adapt, and thrive in the face of any challenge. Though resilience is broader than climate change, this briefing note focuses on actions related to **climate resilience**, which are actions that help the city prepare for a changing climate.
- **GHG reduction actions** are efforts made to reduce and ultimately eliminate GHG emissions associated both with the City of Toronto's own operations and the urban systems of our city.
- Resilience and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction actions are related and often overlap.
- Separating out exactly what portion of the City's budget contributes to resilience and GHG reductions is a challenge because of the complexity of resilience and the structure of the City's financial system, which is not currently set up to track investments focused on climate change.
- Staff are in the process of developing an implementation plan for the Resilience Strategy and developing the updated 2020 to 2023 implementation plan for TransformTO, which will be reported on in 2020. This will include a way to integrate the Resilience Strategy and TransformTO and improve the governance structure for this work so that better budgeting and accounting around climate action will be possible in future.
- Therefore, this note focuses on examples of major investments related to climate resilience and climate change mitigation, rather than a total dollar amount with a breakdown by division.
- The following are examples of climate resilience programs and projects from the 2020 recommended operating and capital budgets:

- Environment & Energy Division is investing in new staff and resources to deliver actions in the Resilience Strategy, including mapping flood risk and developing a long-term Heat Relief Strategy (\$0.650 million).
- Office of Emergency Management operating budget includes existing staff to implement the Resilience Strategy, including through a neighbourhood resilience pilot program (\$0.210 million).
- Parks, Forestry and Recreation capital budget includes investment in improvements and repairs to the City's tree canopy, trails, pathways, boardwalks, and shoreline infrastructure, as well as erosion control, which will help mitigate the impacts of changing climate, including extreme weather and flooding (\$23.3 million in the ten-year capital budget, and \$2.0 million in new and enhanced expenditures).
- There are a number of strategies that contribute to the City's resilience, listed below in Figure 1. The budget associated with each of these strategies are not included in this briefing note.
- There are also many examples of actions in the 2020 operating and capital budgets that contribute to a reduction in GHGs:
 - The Environment & Energy Division 10-year capital plan of \$149.7 million and \$17.1 million gross (\$13.0 million net) 2020 operating budget supports GHG reduction initiatives focused on building emissions reduction and energy efficiency.
 - Transportation Services is investing \$99.3 million in the 10-year capital plan for cycling infrastructure and \$158.1 million in the 10-year capital plan for sidewalks.
 - TTC has approved the purchase of fleet of electric buses and are working towards a zero-emissions fleet by 2040 (\$11.5 million).
 - Solid Waste Management Services is proposing to install renewable gas processing infrastructure to collect renewable natural gas (RNG) from anaerobic digestion facilities and existing landfills. RNG can be used to fuel City collection trucks and other vehicles, heat City buildings, or generate revenue that can be reinvested into other City projects (\$53 million in capital budget).
- Green debenture issuance continues to fund investments in subway expansion and improvements and City-owned building emissions reduction retrofits (2018 \$300 million and 2019 \$200 million) financing both mitigation and resilience work.
- Some projects are directly related to both climate resilience and GHG reduction, like the Tower Renewal Program, which supports the renewal of apartment buildings to improve resilience to climate change and reduce GHGs (\$2 million).
- Staff asked divisions to share projects and programs that contribute to Toronto's climate resilience and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They shared a list of projects totalling over \$900 million from the operating budget and \$8.1 billion from the capital budget.
- These totals are not comprehensive, as it is difficult to identify what projects directly build climate resilience and reduce GHGs. Additional context is provided below:
 - The operating budgets of many divisions are essential to a resilient city, but not all were listed here. (For example, the emergency shelter system and homelessness services are essential to ensure the most vulnerable Torontonians have a place to stay, especially during cold and warm weather months.)
 - These totals do not reflect the incremental cost of climate resilience and greenhouse gas reducing projects. For example, the TTC electric bus program costs \$11.5 million, but this reflects the total cost of the program, not only the incremental cost of buying electric buses compared to non-electric buses.

- These totals include programs that receive funding from other orders of government.
 - These totals do not distinguish between projects that are required for multiple reasons, including climate resilience (for example, the state of good repair budgets for the City's assets), and projects that are specifically needed to build climate resilience.
 - These totals do not include projects that build the city's resilience but are not related to climate change.
 - These totals exclude input from Toronto Water and input from a number of divisions on specific greenhouse gas reduction projects.
- As part of the report back on the implementation of the Resilience Strategy and TransformTO, staff will provide more detailed information about budgeting related to resilience and greenhouse gas reductions.

Figure 1: Strategies that contribute to resilience in Toronto, from page 15 of the [Resilience Strategy](#)



Prepared by: Amy Buitenhuis, Resilience Lead, Office of Deputy City Manager – Infrastructure and Development Services, 416-338-7743, amy.buitenhuis@toronto.ca

Further information: Tracey Cook, Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure and Development Services, 416-338-7200, tracey.cook@toronto.ca

Date: Jan 23, 2020