

December 14, 2021

Marilyn Toft, City Council Secretariat
City of Toronto
City Hall, 100 Queen Street West
12th floor, West Tower,
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Via email: councilmeeting@toronto.ca



Dear Councillors and Mayor Tory,

RE: IE26.16 TransformTO - Critical Steps for Net Zero by 2040

We are writing to show our support to you to **amend*** and **adopt** the **draft TransformTO Net Zero Strategy** *as outlined here.

Recommendations:

Support local food, food waste reduction and local decentralized composting

“With **nine years left** to reach [the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)] there is an **urgent** need to **accelerate action to reduce food loss and waste.**” - UN

“We have **only nine harvest seasons remaining to do so.**” - FAO, via UNEP

“Preventing food from being wasted [...] is a better way to lessen the impact on the environment; diverting food waste to composting is better than sending it to a landfill.” - FAO¹

Council adopted HL10.2² in support of: Mayor Tory “committed to the C40 Good Food Cities Declaration to [...] introduce policies that make healthy, delicious and low-carbon food affordable and accessible for all [and] **reduce food loss and waste by 50%** from 2015 figures.”³

“The province's goal is to attempt to reduce and reuse [organics] waste.” “Canada should be looking at solutions beyond composting.”⁴

1. Urge the provincial government to mandate food waste reduction training for all food businesses as it does SmartServe and Food Handler Certification, to be delivered by Second Harvest (since they've done the leading food waste research for Canada⁵ and are well set up and connected to deliver it already).

¹ Calls for Increased Action on International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste: [UN](#), [UNEP](#) and [FAO](#) September 29, 2021

² Food Systems Transformation and Toronto Food Strategy - Update: [City Council](#), November 26, 2019

³ Cities Commit to Sustainable Food Policies [to] Address Climate Emergency: [C40](#), October 10, 2019

⁴ The issue with Ontario's plan to ban food waste from landfills: [CBC](#), October 3, 2019

⁵ The Avoidable Crisis of Food Waste [Technical Report & Roadmap](#): Second Harvest, January 17, 2019

Food belongs inside people or animals(4), or its nutrients composted and returned to the soil(4, 6); backyard and community composting seem best as third options; renewable natural gas from anaerobic digesters is great as a fourth option and removes nutrients that are best placed in the soil.⁶

Backyard, community composting, and anaerobic digesters can address residential food waste; not, however, all of the industrial and retail food waste.

2. Create support at all levels of government, including funding starting in 2022 and annually, to rapidly increase existing and new cooperative, social enterprise, decentralized:
 - local organic regenerative agriculture;
 - backyard and mid-scale community composting;
 - circular value-added food social enterprises that use food-industry waste to make new foods available, distributed locally via low carbon transportation means, in reusable, refillable glass or stainless steel containers; and
 - arrange for adequate personal food prep training including also food waste reduction training to be provided to all single adults who live below the poverty line (including those who are single and not only seniors, parents, youth, have diabetes or heart disease, etc.), free of charge, offset by sliding scale rates for people with moderate and full priced sales for people with higher incomes, and delivered in new and existing community kitchens as close to every neighbourhood as possible to make it equitable and accessible.
3. Create support at all levels of government to ban **deforestation** and unnecessary **virgin content** in paper and forest products effective starting in 2022; mandate and support 100% locally recycled content (or local industrial hemp) in all paper and forest products; lead by implementing these in City operations, agencies and contracts effective 2022;
4. Create support at all levels of government to fund, preserve and protect **peatlands**, and organic regenerative permaculture nurturing of the top 1 to 2 meters of **soils** everywhere (together they hold 95% of the CO₂ that's stored in Canada's landscapes; [1](#), [2](#));
5. Accelerate rehabilitation of leaking and replacement of aging **pipes** to eliminate 103 million litres of water leaking daily, thereby reduce the lifecycle emissions for treating and transporting non revenue (lost) water. (Toronto's water and wastewater systems combined are 30-35% of its GHG emissions, powered 24% by natural gas which is responsible for 62% of its emissions) ([1](#));
6. Create support at all levels of government, and fund starting in 2022, annually, to rapidly increase existing and new cooperative, social enterprise, decentralized:

⁶ Written submission to [IE26.16](#): Green Thumbs Growing Kids, December 2, 2021

- stainless steel, glass, paper/board, textile, bike parts, art supplies, electronics, wood, ceramics (and more) refill, reuse, repair, and remanufacturing; and,
- local growing of ingredients for and making of low waste petrochemical-free candles, soap and other bodycare and cleaning products ...

package free or in reusable refillable (non plastic) containers, to grow local, resilient circular systems, support highest best use of all resources, reduce unnecessary life cycle emissions, and create good green jobs, sooner and more rapidly;

7. a.) Ban unnecessary single use and takeaway items sooner and rapidly; and

b.) require a **public health lens be applied** to all City decisions

Plastics; are set to produce more emissions than coal by 2030; are toxic; are not part of a circular economy as they downcycle into micro and nanoplastics, found in drinking water, air and food; and recycled content has not been proven safe for food-contact use.

Doing everything possible to significantly reduce the **heat island effect** rapidly starting in 2022 is critical for **public health** for all in Toronto, especially marginalized peoples;

8. Accelerate the consumption based emissions inventory to account for emissions from the goods and services we use, and export, and adjust targets and reduction pathways;

9. Accelerate free transit, and provide adequate bicycles and accommodating bike workshops, and zero waste reusables kits for

residents who live below the poverty line, offset by sliding scale rates for people with moderate and full priced sales for people with higher incomes, including sales at Live Green Toronto and other kiosks at 5 increasing to 50+ locations in Toronto and online.

(Access to public transit, cycling and waste reduction and reuse must be equitable and inclusive also of people with disabilities and other residents who are the most in need.

Plastic is set to generate more emissions than coal by 2030 (1).);

10. Ban two stroke/small engine leaf blowers May to October effective in 2022 (it's necessary, low hanging fruit, would show quick visible progress, that the City listens and cares, and reduce excessive, unnecessary, chronic, stressful noise and pollution, improve people's quality of life, equitable access to and reasonable enjoyment of the city and help reduce the unnecessary, chronic, excessive heat island effect);

11. Develop and pilot onsite greywater treatment systems, and composting toilets, to decentralize and decrease demand (on water and wastewater treatment systems, large scale centralized biosolid and anaerobic digester capacities) and life cycle treatment, transportation and energy emissions (1, 2), and increase local resilience;

12. Also, we concur with and support the recommendations in submissions re: IE 26.16 via:

- Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA);
- Toronto Urban Growers (TUG);
- Drawdown Toronto;
- Cycle Toronto; and,
- more.

Thank you,
Ms. A. Pope
Coordinator (Volunteer)
Toronto, ON M6J 0A8

About Zero Waste Hub Toronto

Zero Waste Hub Toronto (est. 2018) is a grassroots not for profit organization, the founder and organizer of Toronto's first two zero waste fairs (May 2018 and 2019), and works with established local organizations and green groups to help promote waste reduction education, awareness, and opportunities, and create a zero waste future for Toronto.