

Update: Pocket Plus Neighbourhood Climate Action

Date: November 22, 2021

To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee

From: Director, Environment & Energy

Wards: 14

SUMMARY

This report responds to a Council request in February 2021 for the Director, Environment and Energy (EED) and the relevant Division Heads, City Corporation Officials, and School Boards, to support the next phase of Pocket Change Neighbourhood Climate Action Plan, including the creation of an institutional round-table, and that staff submit a report on the scope and opportunities for the institutional opportunities to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee.

The City is supporting the next phase of the **Pocket Change Plus project, as a neighbourhood scale implementation of TransformTO**, with efforts to leverage institutional assets and expertise to 'green' the neighbourhood and maximize opportunities for environmental transformation.

The EED led the coordination of institutional stakeholders by organizing regular discussions and supporting partner organizations in the review of capital budgets, the evaluation of asset conditions, and identifying potential sustainability initiatives.

Attached is the draft report with scope, opportunities, and quick starts for climate action, including, but not limited to:

- Institutional commitments to achieve climate objectives and targets set out by TransformTO net-zero plan (concurrently reporting to committee and Council)
- Efforts to embed climate and resiliency lens within decision making processes.
- Initiated Energy Audits & Feasibility Work streams: solar at Greenwood Yard.
- Exploring Net-Zero pathways for Toronto Community Housing & other City buildings
- Opportunities for public and/or institutional lands with potential for co-benefits: environmental, social, and net-zero initiatives.
- Potential design competition to synthesize the architectural, communal, and environmental components of sustainable neighborhoods - focus on public realm.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Environment & Energy recommends that:

1. City Council direct the Director, Environment and Energy and the relevant Division Head and Corporation Officials to continue to advance the next phase of Pocket Change Neighbourhood Climate Action Plan, including the community and institutional round-tables; and include updates in TransformTO progress reports.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This report is an implementation initiative of TransformTO. The resources required to support this initiative will be included in the Operating Budgets of affected Divisions and Agencies as required for 2022 and future years for consideration and reflected in through TransformTO progress reporting.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

On February 2, 3, and 5, 2021 City Council City Council requested the Director, Environment and Energy and the relevant Division Head and Corporation Officials to support the next phase of Pocket Change Neighbourhood Climate Action Plan, including the creation of an institutional round-table. City Council requested that staff submit a report on the scope and opportunities to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee.

[Agenda Item History - 2021.MM28.20 \(toronto.ca\)](#)

COMMENTS

Background

The "Pocket Change Project" a long-term transformation initiative focused on reducing the environmental footprint of the community through a suite of environmental actions for both residential and institutional stakeholders living and operating in the Pocket Neighborhood.

The community is made up of approximately 1,400 single-dwelling residential households and low-rise apartment buildings, but also contains a portfolio of publicly-owned infrastructure, including: Greenwood TTC Subway yards; Toronto Community Housing; Phin Park; Toronto District School Board's First Nations Junior and Senior

School (formerly Eastern Commerce Collegiate Institute; Fire Station; An Early Learning and Child Care Centre; École Élémentaire Catholique du Bon-Berger (French School).

Scope and Opportunities

The City is supporting the next phase of the Pocket Change Plus project with City-led efforts to leverage institutional assets and expertise to 'green' the neighbourhood and maximize opportunities for environmental transformation. The City's involvement has secured commitments to TransformTO's climate action through the engagement with partner organizations and cooperation from institutional stakeholders.

The EED led the coordination of institutional stakeholders by organizing regular discussions and supporting partner organizations in the review of capital budgets, the evaluation of asset conditions, and identifying potential sustainability initiatives.

A draft progress report of the scope and opportunities for institutional climate action is attached as Attachment 1.

Quick Starts

The Institutional Net-Zero Path aims to explore a suite of community-wide energy solutions and recommends a series of quick start institutional projects including, but not limited to:

- Net-Zero pathway for Toronto Community Housing & other City buildings
- Neighbourhood-based home retrofitting efforts
- Greening TTC Fleet, as a model for sustainability and innovation. Opportunity to pilot and replicate as part of TTC's Innovation & Sustainability Program
- EV Charging Infrastructure opportunities on institutional property including TTC employee charging stations
- 2MW of roof top PV (largest in Ontario) for TTC Yard, and potential energy storage opportunities
- Geothermal Systems in City and private lands
- Wastewater Energy Recovery
- Fire station resilience opportunities
- Design competition to synthesize the architectural, communal and environmental components of sustainable neighborhoods.

City staff have also been engaged in a parallel effort with the Pocket Community Association (PCA) and Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) through the Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) process. These are complementary efforts that will help identify emission reduction and sustainability opportunities in the local community.

These efforts further build on ongoing staff engagement with local communities and neighbourhood based groups looking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Staff are also working to finalize an agreement with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for

funding to support enhancements to the Home Energy Loan Program (HELP). These enhancements are intended to support residential decarbonisation efforts, including those in the Pocket.

Next steps

1. Support partner organizations and agencies to establish an energy and emissions baseline;
2. Initiate quick start action items; and
3. Continue to develop a long-term, comprehensive Net-Zero Community Energy Implementation Strategy, in cooperation with institutional stakeholders, residents, and other stakeholders, and a project delivery pathway including budgetary and capital expenditures.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENT

The Pocket Plus Scope, Opportunities, and Quick Starts - Nov 2021 (Draft)