



City of Toronto,  
Infrastructure and Environment Committee.

June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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## RE: IE23.1 Net Zero Existing Buildings Strategy

Dear Infrastructure and Environment Committee Members,

This letter is to express Clean Air Partnership's strong support for the recommendations contained within item IE23.1 to be considered by the Infrastructure and Environment Committee on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and by City Council on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Clean Air Partnership is a charitable environmental organization that enables municipalities to take bold climate action through network facilitation, research, and action. Recommendations for consideration by the IEC at this meeting are strongly aligned with many of Clean Air Partnership's existing projects, including the [Climate Action Support Centre](#), the [Ontario Energy Community of Practice](#), [Collaboration on Home Energy Efficiency Retrofits in Ontario \(CHEERIO\)](#) and the [Clean Air Council](#).

Key actions contained within the Existing Buildings Strategy include:

- Requiring annual energy and emissions performance reporting and public disclosure for Toronto's homes and buildings
- Establishing sector specific mandatory emissions performance standards



- Supporting efficient navigation of permitting and approvals process for deep retrofits
- Advocating and partnering with other orders of government

These are essential elements as we seek to advance retrofits of our existing buildings. Requiring annual energy and emissions performance reporting and public disclosure for our residential sector helps us bring visibility to energy efficiency. Our homes, the single largest purchase most Torontonians will ever make, currently have no such energy and emissions disclosure. Energy efficient buildings are universally recognized as the easiest and most cost-effective way to help consumers save energy and money, make housing more affordable, and reduce air pollution and GHGs. Public disclosure brings visibility to a home's energy efficiency, with the transformative power to change how homeowners view efficiency. This step is fundamental to the second action, establishing sector specific mandatory emissions performance standards.

Regarding the third action, supporting efficient navigation of permitting and approvals process for deep retrofits – this is key to driving program uptake for Toronto's HELP program. To achieve the efficiencies of scale we need to drive residential sector emissions reductions, efficient navigation of permitting and approvals is key. We strongly support this action.

Finally, regarding the final action, advocating and partnering with other orders of government; this area is core to what we do at Clean Air Partnership. As our longest serving Clean Air Council member, we would like to assist staff in achieving this goal however they see fit and look forward to discussing this with Toronto.

The recommendations within the Net Zero Building Strategy are key to our sustainable, prosperous future, and essential in achieving our TransformTO goals. As such, we strongly recommend that Committee and Council adopt them unanimously.

Sincerely,

Kevin Behan, Deputy Director  
Clean Air Partnership