

Chair Councillor Ana Bailão and Members
Planning and Housing Committee
City of Toronto

June 23, 2021

Dear Chair Bailão and Committee Members,

Re: Item PH25.17 Toronto Green Standard Review and Update

Passive House Canada (PHC) is a national organization representing members of the building industry, including architects, engineers, manufacturers, trades and general contractors. Our members have hands-on experience designing and constructing all building forms to PHC standards. PHC supports government and the building industry in the transition to zero emissions buildings through education, certification and policy development. We have been supportive of the Toronto Green Standard and the city's effort to advance sustainability in building design for new private and city owned developments.

We are writing today to express our support for Item *PH25.17 Toronto Green Standard Review and Update* and ask for your support to approve the report's recommendations. There are several reasons why we believe this item should be adopted. First, this update takes a critical next step for the city toward near zero emissions building construction. By making Tier 2 of the TGS mandatory, Toronto remains on track to achieve its emission reduction targets for buildings as laid out in its Zero Emissions Building Framework.

Second, we hear often from our members that while Toronto is headed in the right direction, the city needs to do more – and do it faster – to both mitigate and adapt to the reality of climate change. We encourage the city to advance its building policies to help accelerate the current marketplace transformation to zero emissions buildings. We understand some industry members have concerns about capacity. Frankly, the experience of our members, and those of our colleagues operating worldwide, is that capacity is addressed only when change is legislated. Good builders and designers will reach the higher tiers and create demand for high-performance building product. Suppliers of high-performance building components tell us they are ready to meet demand. The less engaged builders and designers will be forced to catch up, but not if the city opts to maintain the status quo.

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The Toronto Green Standard established the City of Toronto as one of the leading municipalities in Canada when it comes to advancing sustainable building practices. Toronto has also been recognized internationally for this policy. Our global colleagues frequently ask us about Toronto. A delay in rolling out Version 4 will signal that Toronto is not committed to good building policy and isn't serious about achieving its climate targets. We don't believe this to be true.

There are areas we would like to see the city push further faster, including fuel switching, incentives for Tier 3, as opposed to Tier 1 and 2, higher embodied carbon content and moving the adoption of Version 5 to 2025.

As always, Passive House Canada remains committed to the City of Toronto and we are available to meet to explain our position.

Sincerely,



Chris Ballard
Chief Executive Officer
Passive House Canada