

Established in 1889, the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) is the self-regulating body for the province's architecture profession. It governs the practice of architecture and administers the Architects Act in order to serve and protect the public interest.

City of Toronto Planning and Housing Committee
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5G 1P5

June 24, 2021

Re: Letter of Support for Toronto Green Standard Version 4

Chair Bailao and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA), I am writing to express our support for Version 4 of the Toronto Green Standard (TGS). I urge the Committee to support its adoption and to continue to utilize it as a guide for sustainable site and building design. We have heard from members that the TGS and the projected escalation of minimum tier requirements is the most persuasive tool available for architects to argue for the development of sustainable buildings in Toronto.

Based on estimates from various sources, our country's built environment is responsible for approximately one third of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions. In Toronto, building-related emissions account for a far higher amount of the city's emissions. As the first municipality in Ontario to implement a step code, Toronto is uniquely positioned to demonstrate leadership in energy efficiency standards by adopting Version 4 of the TGS.

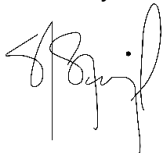
The OAA has demonstrated its own commitment to a zero net carbon future through the retrofit of our building. When faced with aging systems inside the building, the Association had to decide between rebuilding, relocating, or retrofitting. The OAA HQ Renew + Refresh project aims to achieve a low-energy building standard to meet the 2030 Challenge, including a 70% energy use reduction that was achieved upon the reopening of the building in May 2019 and a 100% reduction by 2030.

With respect to our industry's capacity to meet energy efficiency standards, the OAA supported development of an energy benchmarking tool that enables architects to check an energy model against the current TGS. The OAA also launched its [TEUI Calculator](#) that measures total energy use intensity of any building by entering simple utility bill data.

Objective, tiered performance metrics for buildings help all stakeholders understand energy use in buildings and can help everyone do their part to achieve the 2030 targets. Our membership is prepared to meet the highest tier of the Toronto Green Standard—some already have as demonstrated by the [OAA Design Excellence](#) award recipients.

The OAA remains committed to working with the City to protect and improve environmental quality for all Ontarians. We look forward to continued collaboration.

Sincerely,



Susan Speigel, Architect
OAA, FRAIC
President