

Accountability and Management Framework for the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy

Date: April 8, 2022

To: Infrastructure & Environment Committee

From: Executive Director, Environment & Energy Division

Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report presents an Accountability and Management Framework ("the Framework") to guide implementation of the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy on climate, as requested by City Council. It outlines the creation of two advisory groups and management processes that will guide the City's accountable and inclusive implementation of the Net Zero Strategy. In addition, this report outlines the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy reporting schedule to Council and the ongoing approach to peer review.

Council adopted the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy in December, 2021 ([IE26.16](#)) with the aim of creating a future Toronto that is zero-carbon, equitable, healthy, prosperous and resilient. City Council set a target of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions community-wide by 2040 and ambitious interim targets for 2030.

Approximately five percent of GHG emissions are the direct responsibility of, and under the direct control of, the City of Toronto government. To successfully address the other ninety-five per cent of emissions, all levels of government, the private sector, the non-profit sector and residents will together have to identify appropriate resources and mechanisms to achieve community-wide climate targets. A whole city approach is needed to reach net zero and our 2030 interim targets. Success in meeting climate-related targets will also require focusing on equity and social inclusion during design and implementation.

Council's recognition of these two elements, a whole city approach and an equity focus, have helped shape the Framework presented in this report. The Framework has also been shaped by public and stakeholder feedback in 2019 and 2021 that identified that an inclusive, external Climate Advisory Group is required to provide accountability and transparency, and to act as a catalyst for meaningful community-wide climate action.

This report also provides an update on progress exploring the opportunity for the City of Toronto to host a future United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP) as directed by Council ([MM37.7](#)).

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Environment and Energy Division recommends that:

1. The Infrastructure and Environment Committee receives this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no additional financial impacts expected in 2022 arising from adoption of this report. Costs related to the Framework for 2022 will be managed from the Environment and Energy Division's existing allocation. Any additional financial impacts for future years will be included in future year Budget submissions for Council's consideration.

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

EQUITY IMPACT

The Net Zero Strategy Accountability and Management Framework outlined in this report has been designed to centre equity and include the voices of Indigenous communities, youth and equity-deserving communities while moving toward the Net Zero Strategy's GHG reduction targets. Issues of affordability and accessibility of services are key considerations as the City develops policies and programs to reduce GHG emissions.

The Climate Advisory Group described in this report will provide a venue for organizations and individuals with diverse perspectives to advise the City's staff and leadership on how these issues affect Toronto's communities and sectors, and how they can be addressed. The City will seek, as members of the Climate Advisory Group, representatives of Indigenous communities, youth and equity-deserving communities. All members of the Climate Advisory Group will receive training on climate equity and will be expected to consider equity impacts in their advice.

DECISION HISTORY

On December 15, 2021, City Council adopted the report, TransformTO - Critical Steps for Net Zero by 2040. In adopting that report, City Council endorsed the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy on climate, including the TransformTO Short-Term Implementation Plan 2022-2025.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.IE26.16>)

This report responds to a number of Council decisions from the adoption of IE26.16:

Council decision Part 6 requested the Director, Environment and Energy, to report back in the second quarter of 2022, on the accountability and management framework for TransformTO and the Net Zero Strategy, including:

- a. the composition, meeting frequency and reporting framework for the Climate Advisory Group and Joint TransformTO Implementation Committee as well as any additional advisory bodies, working groups, climate change corps, and consultation tables;
- b. the reporting schedule to City Council; and
- c. any plans for external peer-review.

Council decision Part 1h directed the Director, Environment and Energy to centre the voices of equity-deserving groups, including youth, civil society organizations, labour and workers' rights organizations, academia, Indigenous rights holders and urban Indigenous communities by:

1. establishing a Climate Advisory Group that centres the voices of equity-deserving groups, and includes youth, civil society organizations, labour and workers' rights organizations, and academia and work with Indigenous rights holders and urban Indigenous communities to share knowledge and learnings to inform climate action and reporting back to City Council on a terms of reference developed by city staff and the Climate Advisory Group; and
2. reporting back on the feasibility of creating a Climate Change Corps to support the goals and objectives of the Transform TO Net Zero Strategy;

Council decision Part 37 requested the City Manager and the Director, Environment and Energy to strike a Joint TransformTO Implementation Committee with appropriate City Staff and trade unions representing workers employed by the City, including construction trades, to provide expert advice on implementation of the TransformTO goals for City operations and facilities, starting in 2022.

In adopting report 2021.IE26.16, City Council endorsed the Net Zero Strategy Short-term Implementation Plan 2022-2025, including:

- Action #19: Work with Indigenous rights holders and urban Indigenous communities to share knowledge and learnings.
- Action #21: Design and launch a climate advisory group for 2022 and beyond to ensure implementation of the Net Zero Strategy is equitable and reflects the priorities and interests of the community.

On October 2, 2019, City Council declared a climate emergency and strengthened Toronto's carbon-reduction goal by establishing a net-zero GHG emission target for Toronto by 2050 or sooner.

(<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.MM10.3>)

On July 4, 2017, City Council unanimously adopted TransformTO: Climate Action for a Healthy, Equitable and Prosperous Toronto. TransformTO is the City's climate action strategy to meet Council's long-term, GHG-reduction target while creating an equitable, healthy, prosperous and resilient Toronto that benefits all.

(<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.PE19.4>)

On November 9, 2021, City Council adopted Member Motion MM37.7 - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change directing the City Manager to explore the opportunity for the City of Toronto to host a future United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties and provide an update on progress to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee.

(<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.MM37.7>)

COMMENTS

1. Background

The concept of the City convening an external advisory group to assist with implementation of the Net Zero Strategy is well supported by Toronto residents and stakeholders. Residents want to be involved in reaching the goal of an equitable, zero-carbon, healthy, prosperous and resilient Toronto. The TransformTO Net Zero Strategy ("the Strategy") underlines that achieving Toronto's ambitious targets will require collaborative action by the public sector, private sector, non-profit sector and residents at a scale and pace rarely seen.

Responding to Previous Public and Stakeholder Input

In 2019 and 2021, as part of consultations on TransformTO and the Strategy, the City received input from the public and stakeholder organizations on accountability, advisory groups and equity. Individuals and stakeholder organizations also commented on these topics during Net Zero Strategy deputations in December, 2021.

Participating members of the public and stakeholder organizations expressed support for establishing accountability structures including a Climate Advisory Group and provided initial considerations including:

- The advisory group should act as a catalyst for accelerated action on climate, it should co-develop and collaborate on climate solutions, and its work should include an equity focus;
- Voices of youth, Indigenous communities and equity-deserving groups should be included in an advisory capacity;

- The City should consider including a mix of experts and residents with geographic representation from populations impacted by climate change and related policies and programs;
- Honoraria should be provided to members from equity-deserving and Indigenous communities;
- Members can provide information specific to their community or sector and participate in communications activities so as to have strong community and sector linkages;
- Community organizations and equity-deserving communities need the opportunity to lead climate action work, and to provide input on what support is needed from the City;
- Transparency, accountability and decision-making power should be considered in the formation of the group;
- A transparent system of reporting and metrics is needed to oversee progress against TransformTO's targets and enable improvement through accountability;
- Flexibility should be exercised so that sector-specific sub-groups can be established as needed, for example a transportation- or transit-focused group.

The Framework and advisory bodies outlined in this report have been designed to address and incorporate this feedback.

2. Recommended Accountability and Management Framework

The purpose of the Accountability and Management Framework for the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy is to ensure clear accountability and effective management of Net Zero Strategy implementation. Accountable, effective management will enable deliberate and collaborative progress toward meeting our shared goal of a zero-carbon, healthy, equitable, prosperous and resilient Toronto. An overview of the Framework is provided in Attachment A.

Development of the Framework is an opportunity to embed an equitable approach and include diverse voices in Strategy implementation. City Council, in adopting the Net Zero Strategy Short-term Implementation Plan 2022-2025, directed staff to ensure opportunities for Indigenous representation in engagement and advisory processes and to continue to involve youth in developing and implementing the Net Zero Strategy. The Framework has been designed to centre equity and include the voices of Indigenous communities, youth and equity-deserving communities while moving toward our Net Zero Strategy targets.

The Framework creates relationships of advisement and accountability for implementation of the Strategy by establishing three main groups:

1. Climate Advisory Group (CAG) made up of community members;
2. Joint TransformTO Implementation Committee (JTIC) made up of City staff and labour union organizations; and
3. TransformTO Climate Leadership Table (TCLT) made up of internal, inter-divisional City senior management staff.

Details of the CAG and JTIC are outlined in draft Terms of Reference, in Appendix B and Appendix C, respectively.

The Framework is designed to be flexible and respond to the Strategy's and community's needs over time. This flexibility will include the ability to establish working sub-groups of these structures, and potentially other bodies, as needed. The Framework also articulates the need for ongoing dialogue and collaboration with other levels of government because no municipality can achieve net zero GHG emissions on its own.

The Terms of Reference for the CAG and JTIC will also remain flexible. They will be reviewed periodically, with amendments approved by the Executive Director of the Environment and Energy Division.

In addition to Council's most recent decision, this Framework also incorporates feedback received from the public and stakeholders during TransformTO consultations in 2019 and 2021.

Climate Advisory Group

The purposes of the Climate Advisory Group (CAG) are to:

- Enable advice and peer review from Toronto's diverse community to inform community-wide implementation of the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy and the Short-term Implementation Plans;
- Ensure ongoing two-way information sharing and collaboration between the City and external parties; and
- Help mobilize all sectors and communities to move toward our shared goal of a zero-carbon, healthy, equitable, prosperous and resilient Toronto.

Members and Roles:

The CAG will be made up of organizational representatives as well as individuals. The City will actively seek to include representation from Indigenous communities, youth and equity-deserving groups such as the Black community. It is estimated that the CAG will have 15 - 20 members, with the final number determined based on interest and other factors. This summer, the City will seek interested parties to participate on the CAG, and members will be selected through the City's public appointments recruitment mechanism. It is anticipated that the CAG will be established and hold its first meeting in autumn 2022.

To achieve the purposes of the group, CAG members will act as advisors, champions for climate action and peer reviewers of the Strategy and related policies, programs and initiatives as needed.

As advisors, the CAG will advise on effective implementation of the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy and the Short-term Implementation Plan 2022-2025, with a focus on community-wide GHG emission reductions, climate resilience and equitable implementation. The CAG will review proposed Net Zero Strategy implementation

policies and programs presented by the City and provide advice, documented through meeting minutes or reports.

As champions, CAG members will lead and mobilize communities and sectors to move quickly toward shared net zero goals and share opportunities for collaboration with the City. The CAG will include members representing the sectors with the greatest emission reductions in the coming years in order to meet Toronto's 2030 community-wide interim targets.

As peer reviewers, CAG members will offer their expertise, whether in a particular sector or industry or from lived experience, to ensure implementation is done with best practice in mind. Members will also provide peer review and advise on the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy Short-term Implementation Plan 2026-2030 in advance of the Plan's consideration by Infrastructure and Environment Committee (IEC). The CAG's peer review function is described in more detail, below.

Draft Terms of Reference:

Draft Terms of Reference for the Climate Advisory Group define the purpose, roles, composition, meeting frequency and reporting framework for the CAG in more detail (Attachment B). The draft Terms of Reference were developed based on a review of current and recent advisory structures and processes and best practices. The Terms of Reference will remain in draft until after CAG members are in place and begin their term, at which point, they will be finalized collaboratively by CAG members and City staff. These Terms of Reference will be reviewed as appropriate to ensure the group is meeting its purpose.

The CAG will meet at least quarterly, with the first term for members extending until December, 2025. This timing is to enable members to advise on the implementation of the current TransformTO Net Zero Strategy Short-term Implementation Plan 2022-2025, and to review the proposed Short-term Implementation Plan for 2026-2030 that will be developed in the coming years. The CAG will advise and report through the Executive Director, Environment and Energy. The CAG will also engage with the City's TransformTO Climate Leadership Table. The CAG may create sub-groups to focus on specific issues as necessary to fulfill its mandate.

Indigenous Communities, Representation and Engagement

The CAG will include members who are part of Toronto's Indigenous community and can advise on how to ensure an Indigenous worldview is brought into the process. Meaningfully working with members of Toronto's Indigenous communities, and including an Indigenous worldview in implementation, are important to the ongoing relationship with Indigenous communities on climate issues and the successful implementation of the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy.

It is important to note that CAG members from the Indigenous community will not be able to represent or speak to all aspects of identity and experience related to Toronto's diverse Indigenous communities. The Climate Advisory Group will be one input into City climate policy and program work and does not replace other important engagement

processes. The City will undertake additional and separate processes to engage with local First Nations and urban Indigenous communities on climate issues.

Joint TransformTO Implementation Committee

The purposes of the Joint TransformTO Implementation Committee (JTIC) are to:

- Collaboratively identify barriers and actionable solutions to enable City operations and facilities to reach TransformTO Net Zero Strategy goals and interim targets;
- Provide expert advice and peer review on implementation of the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy and the Short-term Implementation Plans for City operations and facilities;
- Ensure ongoing two-way information sharing and collaboration on climate between the City and its labour unions; and
- Champion and share best practices in climate action among City staff and labour union members in relevant trades across the community to move toward our shared goal of a zero-carbon, healthy, equitable, prosperous and resilient Toronto.

Members and Roles:

This group will be made up of representatives of the City's labour unions and City staff, and its focus will be on City operations and facilities. The City's labour unions will be represented on the JTIC by one Co-Chair and Committee members. Similarly, the City will be represented by one Co-Chair and Committee members who are staff of those Divisions with accountability for emission reductions from City operations and facilities. Collectively, the members of the JTIC will bring a range of perspectives and a wealth of knowledge to the City's climate challenges and opportunities.

To meet the purposes of the Committee, members of the JTIC will act as advisors, peer reviewers, collaborative problem-solvers and champions of climate action to help enable City Divisions to meet TransformTO Net Zero Strategy emission-reduction and environmental performance targets in their operations and facilities, while also focusing on equitable implementation.

As advisors, JTIC members will advise on effective and equitable implementation of the Net Zero Strategy and the Short-term Implementation Plan 2022-2025, with a focus on achieving emission reductions from City facilities and operations and improving climate resilience. The JTIC will review existing practices and proposed policies and programs presented by the City and provide advice, documented through meeting minutes or reports.

As collaborative problem-solvers, JTIC members will review existing and proposed practices, policies and programs related to City operations and facilities and provide information, advice, collaboration and problem-solving to help identify barriers and propose solutions to reach Net Zero Strategy goals and interim targets in City facilities and operations.

As peer reviewers, JTIC members will apply their expertise to Net Zero Strategy implementation and proposed policies and programs that are intended to reduce

emissions from City operations and facilities. Members will also provide peer review and advise on relevant elements of the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy Short-term Implementation Plan 2026-2030 in advance of the Plan's consideration by IEC. The JTIC's peer review function is described in more detail, below.

As champions, JTIC members will share information and best practices with City staff and labour union members across relevant trades in the community to collaboratively move toward meeting TransformTO Net Zero Strategy goals and interim targets within the City and community-wide.

Draft Terms of Reference:

Draft Terms of Reference for the JTIC have been defined (Attachment C). As with the CAG, the JTIC Terms of Reference will remain in draft until JTIC members are in place and staff and members can collaboratively finalize the Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference will be reviewed from time to time as appropriate.

This Committee will be a collaborative space for labour unions and City staff to develop climate solutions for City operations and facilities. The JTIC will meet a minimum of quarterly and have the ability to establish topic-specific sub-groups as needed. The JTIC will report through the Executive Director, Environment and Energy, and it will engage as appropriate with the City's TransformTO Climate Leadership Table.

TransformTO Climate Leadership Table - Coordination and Connection to the City's Senior Leadership

The TransformTO Climate Leadership Table is an internal, inter-divisional and agency team that will provide leadership on implementing climate action across City divisions, agencies and corporations. It will manage high-level issues, track accountability for the City's climate-related activities, direct City staff across the divisions, agencies and corporations, and lead the City's corporate transformation to enable success in meeting Net Zero Strategy targets. Environment and Energy Division (EED) staff, led by the Executive Director of EED, will convey key findings and reports from the CAG and JTIC to the City's leadership through the TransformTO Climate Leadership Table. The CAG and JTIC will also engage with the TransformTO Climate Leadership Table as appropriate, facilitated by the Executive Director of EED. This approach is designed to ensure that key advice and findings of the CAG and JTIC reach the City's cross-Corporate senior leadership accountable for implementing the Net Zero Strategy, and to enable appropriate direction and collaborative follow-up.

EED - Secretariat

The CAG and JTIC will be coordinated by EED performing a Secretariat function. EED will provide orientation training, develop agendas, facilitate meetings, prepare minutes, and facilitate development of advisory reports from the CAG and JTIC. EED staff, in concert with the CAG and JTIC, will also identify key issues and proposed policies and programs to be brought to these bodies for consideration and advice.

To ensure transparency and accountability, key advice and findings from the CAG and JTIC will be made public through annual TransformTO Net Zero Strategy progress reports. Key findings of the CAG's and JTIC's review of the proposed Short-term Implementation Plan 2026-2030 will be provided to IEC along with the proposed Plan. Key findings and materials from the CAG and JTIC will also be posted more frequently on the City's website.

3. Feasibility of a Climate Change Corps

City Council requested staff to report on the feasibility of creating a Climate Change Corps to engage members of the public in climate action. The City currently has programs that provide the important function of public engagement on climate, including the Live Green Toronto Volunteers program and the City's Neighbourhood Climate Action Champions program.

Based on Council discussion, and further engagement with partners, there is the potential for the creation of a Climate Change Corps to create awareness of opportunities to reduce emissions broadly with individuals and businesses across the city, and then efficiently link those who wish to reduce emissions with the information and services they require to do so. This could help address an identified challenge that some residents and businesses are ready to take steps to reduce emissions; such as installing technologies including heat pumps, solar panels or electric vehicle chargers; but find it difficult to find the information and services they need to efficiently move ahead. It is envisioned that a Climate Change Corps could advise which experts and service providers may be able to quickly connect residents and businesses with the equipment and services they need. This work could aim to reach diverse communities throughout Toronto, including equity-deserving groups and those communities who have not generally been involved in the climate conversation, as well as labour groups. The Climate Change Corps could help to connect people with programs that contribute to reaching our TransformTO Net Zero Strategy goals, in ways that are appealing, appropriate and accessible.

EED will review the suite of its existing advisory programs, such as BetterHomesTO, SolarTO, and the Green Will Initiative, as well as those offered by Partners, that already offer valuable information and guidance. The aim of the review will be to identify opportunities to ensure coordinated effort with community engagement programs, to enable residents and businesses to easily identify and adopt the technologies and practices needed to reach net zero.

As part of this work, the City will seek the advice of the Climate Advisory Group on how the City should engage and involve the public most effectively to reduce emissions.

4. Reporting schedule to City Council

City Council asked staff to provide a reporting schedule to Council for the Net Zero Strategy. Recent TransformTO public reporting includes an annual status update report and GHG inventory report.

A TransformTO Net Zero Strategy progress report will be provided to IEC in the first quarter of 2023. This report will:

- Identify cross-Corporate progress in 2022 on implementing the 30 actions of the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy Short-term Implementation Plan 2022-2025;
- Include the latest findings from the GHG Inventory, indicating progress towards the community-wide 2025 and 2030 GHG targets and the 2040 net zero target;
- Summarize key activities to date from the CAG and JTIC.

Simultaneously, in the first quarter of 2023 IEC will receive for consideration a report on design and implementation options for a Toronto Carbon Budget covering Corporate and community emissions in Toronto (as per Council decision 2021.IE26.16, Part 14).

It is anticipated that the mechanism for reporting progress in implementing the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy will shift to a new, annual carbon budget reporting process starting with the 2024 budget cycle. The carbon budget will focus on the GHG-reduction impact of Net Zero Strategy actions as its key metric. This metric will be complemented by further information on implementation of the 30 actions of the Net Zero Strategy Short-term Implementation Plan 2022-2025 and progress toward interim targets.

In the second quarter of 2025, IEC will receive for consideration a TransformTO Net Zero Implementation Plan for 2026-2030 on additional actions and authorities required to achieve the City of Toronto's 2030 GHG-reduction target (as per Council decision 2021.IE26.16, Part 3b). The information for IEC's consideration will include input from the CAG and JTIC on the proposed Implementation Plan.

5. Peer review

The City is currently engaged in peer review processes related to its work on climate in two main ways -- ongoing and periodic.

Climate Action Planning and Climate Reporting - Ongoing Peer Review

The C40 Climate Action Planning Framework (CAP) was established to support cities in developing climate action plans that are aligned with the objectives of the Paris Agreement. The framework sets out the essential components of a climate action plan that is deemed to be compatible with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, according to three pillars: commitment and collaboration, challenges and opportunities, and acceleration and implementation. In 2021, C40 Cities evaluated if TransformTO aligns with the Paris Agreement and the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) science-based targets to limit planetary warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and TransformTO was in compliance.

The City of Toronto is one of 105 cities worldwide (out of more than 1000 in total) to be named to the CDP (Climate Disclosure Project) "A" List. To score an "A", a city must have a city-wide emissions inventory that is publicly disclosed, have emissions and

renewable energy targets, publish a climate action plan, complete a climate risk and vulnerability assessment and climate adaptation plan, and demonstrate progress towards achieving its ambitious but realistic goals. As a member of the "A" list for the third straight year, the City of Toronto is being recognized, in part, for the development and implementation of TransformTO and for transparently reporting climate-related information in its 2021 disclosure to CDP.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory Best Practice - Periodic Peer Review

The City also engages in peer review exercises on an as-needed basis or as opportunities arise. The Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC) is a best practice standard used by cities across the globe to measure and report GHG emissions in a comprehensive and consistent manner. In 2019, the City conducted a peer review on our GHG Inventory with the City of San Francisco, using the GPC Self-verification Toolkit. The toolkit assists cities in improving the quality of community-wide GHG emission accounting and reporting by guiding practitioners through a detailed assessment process to determine whether inventories have followed the requirements and principles of the GPC standard. This process was helpful in making improvements to the City of Toronto's GHG inventory.

In addition, in the fall of 2021, KPMG performed a readiness assessment on the City's GHG inventory. This included reviewing the GHG Inventory datasets, data sources and calculations; interviewing data suppliers; and performing a quality control review of data retention processes. This review was completed in late 2021 with a report submitted to EED in January 2022.

Climate Advisory Group and Joint TransformTO Implementation Committee Peer Review

EED also intends to seek peer review of Net Zero Strategy implementation through the Accountability and Management Framework described in this report. As peer reviewers, the CAG, which will be made up of representatives of external organizations and individuals, including equity-deserving groups and Indigenous communities, will play a key role in reviewing implementation plans and providing feedback and advice to the City. This will build on the work of previous advisory groups, including the Modelling Advisory Group (2016-2017) and External Advisory Group (2021), who provided valuable input into the development of both the original TransformTO and Net Zero strategies. Similarly, the JTIC, which will include City staff and labour unions representing workers employed by the City, will provide expert advice on implementation of the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy targets for City operations and facilities. The responsibilities of the CAG and JTIC will include peer reviewing key elements of the proposed TransformTO Short-term Implementation Plan for 2026-2030 before it is considered by IEC.

6. Next steps

City staff are setting up key structures and processes that will make up the Accountability and Management Framework for the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy.

Next steps include establishment of the TransformTO Climate Leadership Table, procurement of facilitation expertise, and recruitment of members for the Climate Advisory Group and Joint TransformTO Implementation Committee. Terms of Reference for these groups will be finalized collaboratively with the members of these groups once they are in place.

7. Update on MM37.7 - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

On November 9, 2021, City Council adopted MM37.7 - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change directing the City Manager to:

- Convene an ad-hoc working group to explore the opportunity for the City of Toronto to host a future United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); and
- Provide an update on progress to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee.

EED and the City Manager's Office (CMO) have engaged with federal staff at Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and internally with City staff as part of a preliminary feasibility review for the City of Toronto to host a future United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP).

Regarding the host country selection process, countries rotate COP host responsibilities within the five UN blocks, including the "Western Europe & Other" block of which Canada is a member. The COP host is determined based on internal consensus among countries within the block. With the UK most recently hosting COP26 in 2021, the next opportunity for the Western Europe & Other block to host is in 2026. As COP is hosted and led at the national level, federal leadership, commitment and long-term planning are required to not only assume the role of host country, but also as the COP President responsible for driving the agenda and leading negotiations.

Other considerations noted by City staff include alignment and coordination required across all three orders of government, the 2026 political landscape, potential costs borne and resources required from a municipal standpoint, and the City's capacity to host a major diplomatic event with significant security requirements in 2026. City staff will continue to engage with federal staff to determine the feasibility and likelihood of Canada hosting the 2026 COP, which will inform the City's approach on how best to move forward prior to investing further resources.

City staff will also be exploring other available opportunities beyond hosting COP to profile Toronto's leadership in climate change action, such as international leadership and partnership opportunities through the City's intergovernmental networks and climate change partners.

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Overview of TransformTO Net Zero Strategy Accountability and Management Framework
Attachment B: Climate Advisory Group - Draft Terms of Reference
Attachment C: Joint TransformTO Implementation Committee - Draft Terms of Reference