

October 11, 2023

Mayor Olivia Chow and  
Members Toronto City Council  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen St. W.  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Email: [councilmeeting@toronto.ca](mailto:councilmeeting@toronto.ca)

Re: Embodied Energy in Toronto's Existing Building Stock  
Item 2023.IE6.6 Consumption-based Emissions Inventory and Cool Food Pledge Commitments

Mayor Olivia Chow and Members of Toronto City Council:

We are writing to commend the City of Toronto's initiative for further study of the embodied energy in Toronto's existing building stock, and encourage Council to continue gathering this important data, along with other areas under consideration as part of the ongoing Consumption-based Emissions Inventory and Cool Food Pledge Commitments.

For the past two years, ACO has visited MPP's to advance the message to "Keep Fix Re-use" Ontario's building stock. More and more ACO has come to realize that conserving our built resources is not just a matter of proving and retaining cultural value, as expressed through protection under the Ontario Heritage Act, but is part of a much broader environmental challenge posed by limited material resources. In an era of climate change it is just not possible to continually demolish and rebuild without serious environmental consequences. ACO would like to change the playing field, from one where issuing a demolition permit for existing buildings becomes the exception, rather than the norm.

As was pointed out by several speakers at ACOToronto's recent [Heritage and Housing Symposium](#), reusing existing buildings saves on emissions two ways

- no Green House Gas cost to demolish the existing building
- no Green House Gas cost to replace the demolished building materials.

In Toronto we are seeing 12-15 story housing being demolished and replaced with much higher structures, rather than conserving and repurposing what we have and building around it.

We commend the City of Toronto for this important study and look forward to seeing it advanced. We urge you to adopt the staff recommendations and continue this important analysis.

Yours sincerely,

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The past. Our present. Your future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Nasmith'.

Catherine Nasmith, Past-President ACOToronto  
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c.c. Stephanie Mah, President ACOToronto  
Will Coukell, COO ACO  
Dan Schneider, Chair ACO Policy Committee  
Diane Chin, ACO President