



April 24, 2023

To the Chair and Councillors,

**Infrastructure and Environment Committee**

***Re. IE3.4 - Carbon Accountability: Institutionalizing Governance, a Carbon Budget and an Offset Credits Policy***

I am speaking today on behalf of the climate action group ClimateFast. I'm also a resident of Ward 11 where I'm one of the City's Neighbourhood Climate Action Champions.

There is a broad consensus that you can't control what you don't measure. This maxim is especially true of the response to the climate crisis. You also can't control things whose measurement system is so complex and filled with scientific terms that only the learned few can understand it. Control of our emissions will only be achieved if we have in place a measurement system whose rules are clearly defined and can be understood by people of all ages and backgrounds. Only in this way will Torontonians be able to monitor the City's progress toward net zero and a sustainable future.

The publically accessible accountability system of our carbon monitoring must make the links between financial decisions and carbon emissions abundantly clear to everyone, especially voters whose views and priorities tend to guide political decision-makers. It must also make clear the impact of individual actions - e.g. installing heat pumps, buying electric vehicles, and using transit or active transportation - on the carbon budget. It's been suggested that about 40% of carbon emissions can be eliminated through personal action.

We agree that Council must approve the Environment and Climate Division's recommendations that they add new Climate Change Goals and Governance to Toronto's Municipal Code; that they approve a new corporate Offset Credit Policy that clarifies the "net" in net zero; and that they agree to the proposed tools and resources for implementing the Carbon Accountability system. But, more important, is for Council to direct the Division to develop a method to communicate with the general public the need for a Carbon Budget and a clear means for them to monitor the proposed "dashboard" showing progress or lack thereof.

We also agree that time is of the essence...that we must begin with the 2024 budget cycle, learn from our mistakes and improve over time as data, tools and processes are perfected.

In closing, we want to commend the City's efforts to date to reduce its carbon emissions, but we urge you to work harder and more transparently to increase the likelihood that the City will reach its climate goals of 65% emission reduction by 2030 and net zero by 2040.

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