



Re: IEC 9.7

November 29, 2023

Dear Chair and councillors, IEC,

Thanks very much to the city staff for an excellent report.

We applaud the city for moving very much in the right direction in particular on solar energy.

Some questions that we'd like to ask:

1. Energy efficiency and conservation programs are extremely important place to start in reducing our environmental footprint. What is Toronto Hydro's plan to again roll out a suite of energy efficiency programs for residential, small business and commercial customers?
2. What progress has Toronto Hydro made on installing renewables on its own properties including parking lots? Goals, active projects, partners?
3. The parking lot solar array initiative should identify Toronto Parking Authority and their extensive parking lot assets. In addition there should be **no more black pavement** on parking lots – the ones the city owns and other parking lots as well.
4. Could Toronto Hydro provide a map of where the most congested spots on the grid in the city are? Also where the least congested spots on the grid are. We need to ask Toronto Hydro to explain how these areas of concern are being addressed and what the timeframe is for improvements.
5. Developing a standard city-wide approach to solar connections is critical and it needs to be widely communicated. Where is Toronto Hydro's public communication plan associated with embedding more solar on the grid?

6. There is a huge opportunity for the city and Toronto Hydro to do a sizeable project that includes both solar PV and green roof technology. What research is Toronto Hydro doing to work on these two beneficial technologies together? Many examples exist elsewhere.

7. Please identify the barriers and electricity regulations that exist at the provincial level that limit the ability to more fully embrace a renewable energy future for the city of Toronto. We need a proactive approach to change these.

8. One of these is the use of net metering that means those Hydro users who produce and contribute to the grid more power than they are using are not compensated for this. A different system is needed to incentivize residents to contribute as much power as they can. This will reduce emissions which is beneficial in moving toward our climate target goals. We need to rely less on the provincial grid that is increasingly dependent on fossil gas which is causing GHG emissions to rise.

9. The urgency of acting to reduce our reliance on the grid is clear in the recently released emissions report from TAF. This shows that emissions from electricity in the GTA have risen by 26% in the last year. The City has registered its opposition to both the expansion of gas plants into the grid and specific opposition to expanding the Portlands gas plant. However so far the province has not shifted its plans from fossil gas to renewables.

10. This report supports an increasing use of solar energy in our city. This is an excellent start. We encourage city staff to broaden consideration of other renewable energy options including geothermal and district energy. District energy is capital intensive so that a district energy project will require a financial plan that takes this into account. This could include spreading out the cost over 30 – 40 years in order to make the development of such projects financially feasible.

For reference regarding the urgency of action please note that global temperatures have registered more than 2 degrees above (which is in excess of the 1.5 target from the Paris climate accord) twice in the last month. The climate crisis is intensifying and our actions to reduce our city's emissions are so important to do our part – and to encourage other municipalities and cities around the world to step up and do more. Our children need us to act fast on the climate crisis.

For a sustainable future,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lya', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Lyn Adamson
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