

From: [Toronto 350](#)
To: [Budget Committee](#)
Cc: [Councillor Saxe](#)
Subject: [External Sender] Toronto 350 response to question during budget deputation
Date: January 25, 2024 9:02:38 AM

Dear Members of the Budget Committee and Councillor Saxe:

During Toronto350's deputation to the Budget Committee, Councillor Saxe asked what would be the most transformative climate action the city could take? We offer the following answer.

As the city has redirected capital funding from the retrofit program into decarbonizing its own buildings, we recommend furthering this approach and also redirecting capital funding into greening City-led affordable housing developments with an emphasis on densifying near conveniently accessible transit. Greening buildings brings down emissions while saving money. Greening affordable housing near transit amplifies the emissions reduction.

Greening buildings should include funding to implement Emissions Performance Standards, and the cessation of natural gas (fossil gas) usage. As the cost of housing and energy bills continues to increase, green development standards help homes and businesses be more efficient and affordable. These standards lower carbon emissions and lower the burden on our electricity system.

As severe weather events become more frequent, standards for buildings can improve resiliency, increase comfort and protect people's health.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendation.

Sincerely,

Dawn Pearson, on behalf of Toronto350

Communications Coordinator
Toronto350.org