

From: donboothca@gmail.com on behalf of [Toronto East End Climate Collective](#)
To: [Councillor Perks](#); [Budget Committee](#); [Councillor Bradford](#); [Councillor Saxe](#); [Councillor Kandavel](#); [Councillor Fletcher](#)
Cc: [Lyn Adamson](#)
Subject: [External Sender] Toronto East End Climate Collective - Budget requests
Date: January 26, 2024 1:11:51 AM
Attachments: [TEECC ltrhead.png](#)

Dear Chair, Budget Committee Members and Members of Council,

The Toronto East End Climate Collective (TEECC) discussed the proposed city budget at our meeting tonight. We did so in the context of requests from other grassroots groups like our own. Though the city's climate program represents only a small percentage of the budget, these dollars are important. They go far to reduce the city's greenhouse gas emissions and to make the air and water cleaner. They make the city livable today and for our children and for their children.

We endorse three requests along with other climate groups.

1. \$0.5 - \$1M starter fund to assist the MURA program.

Newly acquired older properties should be properly retrofitted for energy efficiency. Many buildings purchased through the MURA program need immediate upgrades and basic repairs. While it makes financial sense to do energy upgrades at the same time, often the dollars needed are not available. Of course, making upgrades for energy efficiency is least expensive when carried out in tandem with other, major renovations. A starting grant will assist MURA building owners in applying for federal grants for more extensive retrofitting. The work we do to aid in energy efficiency also makes the buildings less expensive to operate.

2. Return the tree planting program to 120,000 trees per year

That's an increase of only 2,000, less than 2%. A modest increase in this program will increase our tree canopy coverage. All of you know the pleasure of walking down a shaded street on a summer's day. The fact that these same trees make heating and cooling the homes and building that lie in their shade more comfortable, less expensive to heat and cool and that the trees themselves absorb CO2 seems incidental but, of course, it is not.

3. Support funds for the Scarborough busway.

This should go without saying. How many people ride this temporary bus route each day? Is it possible to quantify the impact that poor transportation takes on the people of Scarborough? Please fully fund this temporary measure and if there is any way to expedite all aspects of this vital project, we will support that extra effort.

Lastly, we highlight a fully staffed the Emissions Performance Standards implementation. Buildings are Toronto's largest source of CO2 emissions.

Thank you,

Don Booth
per TEECC (Toronto East End Climate Collective)

cc: Budget Committee, Councillor Carroll, Councillor Saxe, Councillor Bradford, Councillor Perks, Councillor Kandavel, Councillor Fletcher

