

**Tuesday Oct 22, 2024**

**RE: EC 16.2 Action Plan for Toronto's Economy (2025-2035)**

Dear Members of the Economic and Community Development Committee,

We would like to thank you and the City staff for your work on this initiative, and for considering how this plan can contribute to a greener, healthier and more equitable future for Toronto. TEA is writing to request your support in further integrating the City's own strategies to advance a circular, inclusive and low-carbon economy into the proposed Action Plan for Toronto's Economy.

We know that incredible economic and employment opportunities lie ahead for Toronto communities if Toronto implements its ambitious plans to address the climate crisis, and build a circular, zero-waste economy. Toronto's plans to spark retrofits in existing buildings alone are expected to create over 18,000 full-time jobs over the next 30 years in local construction, energy services and supportive work, and we must connect this critical undertaking to our city's urgent need for more green, climate-safe and affordable housing. We are excited about the opportunity this plan brings to shape prosperity that truly benefits residents and communities instead of continuing to concentrate wealth in fewer hands.

We have the following specific requests for the Action Plan:

- Explicitly reference City's commitment to a low-carbon jobs strategy, and include pathways for equity-owned communities to access good green jobs and community benefits initiatives
- Explicitly reference the City's Circular Economy commitments - including the City's approved [Circular Economy Procurement Framework](#) whose stated goal is to apply circular economy principles to the City's purchasing decisions driving waste reduction, economic growth, and social impact
- In addition to advancing the Toronto Green Standard, integrate TransformTO's explicit commitments to advancing equity and affordability and reducing poverty
  - e.g. including economic opportunities presented by green, climate-safe housing for both new buildings and existing building retrofits
  - e.g. more emphasis on transit as a critical service to enable economic activity, while also advancing affordability and Toronto's climate action plan

- Expand on the multiple benefits of green infrastructure for both local economic development and mitigating and preventing impacts of extreme weather such as floods and heat waves

This plan will benefit from the City's continued work on inclusive economic development. TEA supports an approach where economic activity is regenerative, inclusive, and helps communities thrive within a greener city. This approach must also consider future generations who will be more heavily impacted by climate emergencies, which will have an exponentially larger economic impact. We support an approach which fosters economic activity that addresses the climate crisis and supports communities.

We thank you for all of your work, and your further consideration of how we can work together to bring forward a vision for Toronto's economic future that builds a better city for all.

Sincerely,



Emmay Mah  
Executive Director  
Toronto Environmental Alliance