



Feb 29, 2024

Re: Ex 12.3
Implementation of a Commercial Parking Levy

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I am Lyn Adamson, Co-Chair of ClimateFast. We are a volunteer climate advocacy initiative with members living across the city and I live in Toronto St. Paul's. I am here to support the implementation of the commercial parking levy.

ClimateFast has supported the development of the TransformTO program since its initial consultations in 2015. We applaud the forward-looking resolutions that the city has passed. In 2017 the city adopted the TransformTO plan with an 80% by 2050 target. In September 2019 tens of thousands of people flooded Toronto's streets, along with millions around the world, led by Greta Thunberg, and youth climate strikers, Fridays for Future in our own city. In response City Council passed the Climate Emergency declaration on October 2nd and instructed staff to review the plan to see if climate action could be accelerated.

Staff followed through by developing the Net Zero by 2040 climate action plan adopted in 2021. This is an [award-winning](#) plan. We know how to achieve these targets, **now we need to make the changes required.**

We cannot achieve our interim target of 45% reduction by 2025 and 65% by 2030 without shifting the balance in favour of emissions reduction across all of our city's departments.

City Council has made a commitment to view all decisions through a climate lens. This is a moment to apply that lens.

To achieve the climate targets we must implement the plan! Key to achieving our emissions reduction is a modal shift from car dependence to transit and active transportation. When transit is reliable and affordable more people will take transit. To maintain service levels while freezing fares we need to find ways to fund transit. This parking levy will use a modest fee for parking to help keep transit affordable.

The cost is low, 1 – 2 cents per hour, and the benefit is significant, sufficient revenue to pay for the Scarborough busway twice over - and to provide additional transit lines, or to support active transportation.

When more people take transit, congestion will be reduced. And we will have taken a step along the path to a more sustainable future.

The Atmospheric Fund has released its [2022 inventory of emissions](#) and the bad news is that our emissions are increasing, with an 8% rise in 2022. Our climate plan requires that we cut emissions by 9% annually. So there's a large gap that can only be made up by taking actual steps that reduce emissions.

Last week my son said to me 'Mom the world is not going in a very good direction these days, is it?' I had to agree with his concern, but I added 'a lot of good people are working hard to make things better'.

I would very much like to count all of you among the good people that are making things better.

The city has set a direction we can be proud of. Let's take the next step forward by implementing the parking lot levy and give the youth of our city hope for a sustainable future.

Sincerely,

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

Lyn Adamson
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[Earth just experienced the hottest 12 months in recorded history.](#)

In May 2, 2022, the City's TransformTO Net Zero Strategy won [the Environment, Climate and Energy Award at the 9th annual American Planning Association](#) achieving a nearly perfect score. The award honours a plan or project that addresses current and future needs related to climate change mitigation or adaptation, energy or water efficiency, renewable or alternative energy, green jobs, air quality, green infrastructure, or other efforts related to environment, climate, and energy planning.