

From: [Toronto 350](#)
To: [Budget Committee](#)
Subject: [External Sender] Supplement to deputation by Toronto350
Date: January 26, 2024 2:59:19 PM

Dear Chair and budget committee members:

We would like to supplement our deputation and support the recommendations of other climate justice groups with this letter outlining three requests that we urge the budget committee to include in the 2024 budget.

The first request is for a \$0.5 - \$1M starter fund to assist the MURA program in ensuring that newly acquired older properties are 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 upfront dollars aren't there to perform energy audits and design upgrades. Grant funding would help affordable rental buildings preserved through the MURA program to go farther with their basic repairs and make their buildings more energy efficient. This will save them money in the long term. A starting grant would assist MURA building owners in applying for federal grants for more extensive retrofitting. Retrofitted buildings reduce energy costs for residents, are more climate resilient, provide greater comfort to residents, reduce demands on our energy grid, and reduce carbon emissions.

The second request is for the tree planting program to be returned to 120,000 trees per year as it was in past budgets, rather than the 118,000 trees in the current budget. A modest increase in this program would increase much-needed tree canopy coverage, which provides cooling during heat-waves, reduces storm water run-off, increases CO2 absorption, and is vital for our physical and mental health.

Thirdly, we support TTC Riders' request to include funds for the Scarborough busway. This is an urgent and overdue project. Scarborough residents need this support having lost their LRT. We want to ensure that the transit needs of Scarborough residents are met and that they are able to continue to use the transit system during the 7-year wait for their subway to be completed.

In addition, we continue to emphasize the importance of maintaining the commitment to fully and adequately staff the Emissions Performance Standards implementation. Buildings are the largest source of CO2 emissions in the city and this will accelerate our reduction of these emissions in existing buildings.

Thank you for your attention to these important issues.

Sincerely,

Dawn Pearson
Communications Coordinator

