

September 23, 2024

Via Email

Planning and Housing Committee
City of Toronto
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Chair Perks, Vice Chair Bradford, and the Planning and Housing Committee,

RE: 2024.PH15.1 – OPA 528 Updating Policies for Infrastructure Projects in Parks and Open Space Areas

Geothermal heating and cooling systems continue to grow in popularity and now represent one of the most influential technologies for the development community in meeting climate change and energy transition mandates of the City of Toronto. As our technology is gaining traction and becoming a staple in most multi-residential designs, the size of the projects is also increasing, creating challenges in meeting the capacity requirements for the buildings. As the buildings become larger and taller, the challenge we face is finding space within the building footprint for the geothermal heat exchanger to provide the entire heating and cooling load without the need to offset with natural gas.

The ability to drill on an angle from within the building site area where applicable will either eliminate the need for additional fossil fuel or at least reduce the consumption. It would be our intent to not encumber the parkland in any way physically (at or near grade level).

We wish to express our support for Official Plan Amendment 528.

It is our recommendation that the Planning and Housing Committee ensure OPA 528 explicitly allows:

1. Geo-exchange as an “alternative energy system”
2. Private alternative energy systems as part of “public works and utilities”

Allowing alternative energy systems access to *Parks and Open Space Areas* can meaningfully support development that requires fewer, if any, fossil fuels to operate.

Should you have any questions do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours Truly,

Tim Weber
CEO Diverso Energy