

Attachment 9: Complementary Actions and Programs

There are several complementary actions and program that the City already undertakes in its approach to hot weather, indoor temperatures, climate resilience and building efficiency of Toronto's existing buildings, through other strategic policy commitments and operational programs overseen by various City divisions. These actions and programs continue to be improved to accommodate the changing climate landscape.

Heat Relief Strategy and Heat Relief Network

The City of Toronto's [Heat Relief Strategy](#) is a protocol for hot weather response to reduce the incidence of heat-related illness and death in Toronto due to extreme heat. One important component of the Strategy is Toronto's Heat Relief Network, which maximizes the use of existing air-conditioned and other cool spaces on hot days. Toronto Public Health is responsible for organizing the Heat Relief Network and raises awareness regarding the availability of these spaces (and their role in reducing heat exposure) through various promotional campaigns on City webpages, social media channels and local media. This messaging is also amplified through existing stakeholder networks to reach vulnerable communities, such as Social Development's Community Coordination Plan, Toronto Public Health's prenatal and parenting groups, the Community Paramedicine Clinics, and Seniors Services and Long-Term Care's Supportive Housing Program and Homemakers & Nurses Services Program.

The Heat Relief Network features [cool spaces](#) that are open throughout the summer, including on days when Heat Warnings are issued. The Heat Relief Network includes locations such as libraries, community centres and several private and non-profit organizations including some shopping malls and YMCA locations.

In June 25 and 26, 2025, City Council adopted [2025.MM31.21](#), which directed the City Manager to report back in Q4 2025 on a review of the City's heat relief strategy and recommendations for improvements, such as increased public communications, enhanced operational readiness for indoor and outdoor pools, and greater access to cool spaces through the report titled *Strengthening the City's Heat Relief Strategy*.

City Communications to Property Owners/Operators and Residents

RentSafeTO circulates an advisory notice and semi-annual newsletter during the shoulder seasons to landlords and property owners/operators regarding heating and cooling for tenants and their buildings. This supports owners/operators to understand their responsibilities, outline the impact that warm spring and fall days can have on tenants, and advise them to use their judgement and turn the heat off when/if the outdoor weather consistently raises or is expected to raise the temperature of apartment units above 21°C.

The City uses the poster, [Beat the Heat: Tips for Staying Cool](#), to encourage residents to use A/C, keep blinds or drapes closed during the day, avoid using an oven, use fans

Attachments to Towards Implementing a Maximum Indoor Temperature Requirement for Rental Units and Cooling Rooms

properly and turn off lights when not in use. Toronto Public Health also encourages property owners/operators of multi-unit residential buildings to develop a Hot Weather Plan which includes designating a cooling room, updating their Summer Heat Safety Notice, and arranging for staff to conduct checks on tenants that may be at increased risk for heat-related illnesses.

Lastly, the City issues a news release and circulates reminders on corporate social media channels at the start of every heat season, to support residents in hot weather and outline the responsibilities of property owners/operators during high temperatures.

There is an opportunity to enhance education for property owners/operators and landlords when renovations are being conducted in residential units about strategies to reduce temperatures indoors such as choosing building materials with low thermal conductivity, installing high efficiency appliances, and improving ventilation, among others. Opportunities to enhance education for landlords will also be considered as part of a proposed workplan for the City's Environment, Climate and Forestry Division that includes exploring opportunities to enhance public communications about climate resilience.

Building Emissions Reductions and Indoor Temperatures

The building sector is the primary source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Toronto, contributing 55% of the city-wide total. In December 2021, City Council adopted the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy (TransformTO) and a net zero by 2040 GHG emissions target recognizing a need to accelerate actions to reduce emissions from the previous net zero by 2050 target ([2021.IE26.16](#)). The adoption of the new target followed the endorsement of the Net Zero Existing Building Strategy (the Strategy) ([2021.IE23.1](#)) in July 2021. The City Council-endorsed Strategy sets out several critical actions for the City to consider reducing building sector emissions and demonstrate the City's long-term commitment to addressing challenges faced by Toronto's building stock.

The City will develop new and enhance existing support resources and programs to enable voluntary action to reduce emissions from all buildings. These programs and resources will center on increasing education and awareness among building owners and tenants and focus on the realization of retrofit benefits (e.g. improved air quality, improved thermal resilience, etc.), particularly for equity-deserving or vulnerable communities.