



December 8, 2025

EX28.4 Heat Relief Strategy

ClimateFast is a grassroots Toronto group that believes we must act immediately on the fossil-fuel induced climatic crisis that we face here in the city and around the world. While identifying the causes and seeking ways to mitigate them, we thoroughly support the need to prepare for, and adapt to, the impacts of a fast-changing climate as well. Addressing the need for climate resiliency is an equity issue.

The fact that 77% of tenants when surveyed said that they are negatively impacted by extreme heat and a full third of tenants do not have access to cooling speaks for itself. The number of extreme heat days in Toronto is unprecedented, and it is forecast to get much worse and sooner than previously thought.

We commend the city on advancing an updated Heat Relief Strategy in time for summer 2026. We support all the recommendations including:

- Expanded access to cool spaces, including the introduction of a 24-hour cool space during Heat Warnings and**
- Strengthened emergency management, including a pre-season tabletop exercise in April 2026 and continuing to convene the Heat Warning Table ahead of forecasted alerts to coordinate Heat Warning-activated services**

This could assist in prevention and quick response to climate crises through coordination and teamwork. We have one concern with the strategy and that is the plan to have 50,000 bottles of water to hand out. Might the city consider handing out refillable bottles and having portable water refilling units instead? This seems more in keeping with our efforts to reduce single-use plastics and it is more in line with the city's other waste management strategies.

Sincerely,

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