

TransformTO Net Zero Strategy Draft Action Plan (2026-2030) at a Glance



TransformTO Vision: What It Means For You



The City is facilitating the installation of new renewable energy capacity and planning for district energy systems.

See Actions 4 and 5.

The City prioritizes climate actions through a Carbon Budget and is working to phase out fossil-fueled equipment in City buildings.
See Actions 13 and 14.

Buildings are the largest source of GHG emissions in Toronto. The City is moving forward with improving new buildings, existing buildings and City-owned buildings.

See Actions 1-3.

Toronto is making it easier to get around more sustainably by improving transit service, cycling routes and access to EV charging.

See Actions 6-9.

The City is focusing engagement on community priorities, building relationships with Indigenous community and growing Toronto's green industries.

See Actions 15-17.

Toronto is working to build a zero waste culture, increase renewable natural gas production from waste, and reduce emissions.

See Actions 10-12.

Introduction

The TransformTO Net Zero Strategy is Toronto's long-term, community-wide climate strategy. With a goal of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2040, it is one of the most ambitious climate strategies in North America.

The Net Zero Strategy Action Plan (2026-2030), ("the Plan") is the second action plan for the strategy, and it is summarized in this document. The Plan focuses on opportunities with greater impact on GHG reductions to align with the long-term target of net zero emissions. The Plan applies an equity lens to climate actions and seeks to lessen the burdens of climate change.

While this Plan will not meet the targets of 65 per cent reduction of GHG emissions by 2030, it moves climate action forward by supporting residents with their everyday essential life activities while reducing future risks from an increasingly unpredictable climate.



In 2023, a 2 km trail connection in The Meadoway opened in Scarborough, linking Military Trail to Neilson Avenue.

Introduction cont'd

The Plan has been informed by engagement with the public and the City's Climate Advisory Group, and it was co-developed with City Divisions, Agencies and Corporations. It incorporates lessons learned from a jurisdictional scan of Indigenous-municipal relationships in Canadian municipal climate planning.

The Plan advances five updated critical steps to achieve net zero to reflect new information and advice. Refer to the [City's full report on the Net Zero Strategy Action Plan \(2026-2030\)](#).

Critical Steps to Net Zero



Accelerate a rapid and significant reduction in fossil (natural) gas use in buildings.



Increase local renewable energy to contribute to a resilient, carbon-free grid.



Increase access to low carbon transportation options, including walking, biking, public transit and EVs.



Address emissions from waste and wastewater.



Demonstrate carbon accountability locally and globally by establishing a carbon budget.

Critical Steps to Net Zero, as detailed in the Net Zero Strategy Action Plan (2026-2030), addresses the key sources of GHGs in Toronto, including buildings, energy sources, transportation and waste.

Actions: Buildings

Critical Step: Accelerate a rapid and significant reduction in fossil (natural) gas use in buildings.

Overview of high-impact GHG reduction actions for buildings:

Rapidly reducing fossil (natural) gas use in buildings is the most important step for achieving net zero emissions in Toronto. This is the single largest source of GHG emissions community-wide.

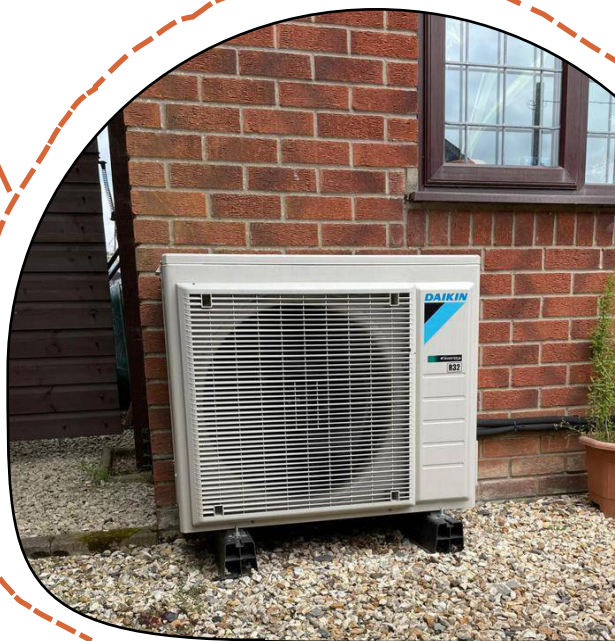
Key actions of the Plan on buildings:

Action 1: Develop and implement support programs for voluntary emissions reductions actions in all buildings.

Action 2: Uphold Toronto Green Standard (TGS) performance measures to achieve more resilient, low GHG new construction.

Action 3: Lead by example by moving City of Toronto buildings toward net zero.

Success Story: In 2025, the City launched the Furnace Upgrade Program to support residents in upgrading their home heating and cooling. This initiative supports homeowners to replace aging furnaces with electric heat pumps, contributing to improved home comfort, more efficient energy use and a healthier environment.



Actions: Energy

Critical Step: Increase local renewable energy to contribute to a resilient, carbon-free grid.

Overview of high-impact GHG reduction actions:

Moving cities to net zero GHG emissions means transitioning the energy we use in our daily lives from fossil fuels to clean electricity. Electrifying Toronto, including buildings and transportation, requires a sufficient supply of affordable, resilient, low-carbon electricity. Investments made by individuals, the municipal government, the local utility Toronto Hydro and the private sector to switch from fossil fuels to electricity will need to be complemented by provincial and federal government actions to support and maintain a clean and carbon-free electricity grid.

Key actions of the Plan on energy:

Action 4: Facilitate installation of new renewable energy capacity and storage and promote innovative practices.

Action 5: Develop a plan that identifies the feasible scale of low carbon thermal energy networks (district energy systems) located in the city and engage in understanding how partnerships with the academic and business communities may facilitate their implementation.

Success Story: The City's Wastewater Energy Program has enabled a wastewater energy transfer project by Noventa at Toronto Western Hospital, which will supply it with low carbon and affordable heating and cooling. Annually, the hospital will avoid 8,400 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) and will save \$685,000 in energy costs.

Photo by R.V. Anderson

What is carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e)?

CO₂e stands for carbon dioxide equivalent, a metric used to measure the impact of different greenhouse gases on climate change by converting them to a common unit.



Actions: Transportation

Critical Step: Increase access to low carbon transportation options, including walking, biking, public transit and electric vehicles.

Overview of high-impact GHG reduction actions:

Transportation is the second largest source of GHG emissions in Toronto. Increasing access to low-carbon transportation options including walking, biking, transit and zero-emission vehicles is a critical step to achieving a net zero GHG city. Better access to safe, affordable, low-carbon transportation increases access to employment, education and services, and has a profound, positive impact on quality of life for people across the city.

Key actions of the Plan on transportation:

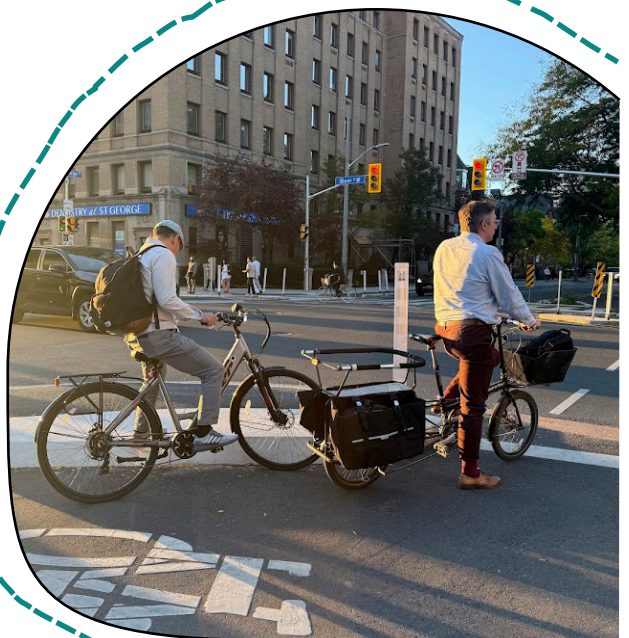
Action 6: Enhance the transit network by improving service levels, speed and reliability, and accessibility.

Action 7: Increase access to public electric vehicle charging while focusing on equitable access and support.

Action 8: Expand and maintain safe cycling and pedestrian infrastructure to enable affordable active transportation.

Action 9: Lead by example by moving City of Toronto vehicles, fuels and transportation infrastructure toward net zero.

Success Story: In 2024, City Council approved in principle the 2025-2027 near-term cycling implementation program, which commits to delivering 100 km of new and major upgrade bikeways, 40 km of renewal projects, and numerous studies for implementation in 2028 and beyond. Pictured is the protected intersection at Bloor St. W. and St. George St.



Actions: Waste and Wastewater

Critical Step: Address emissions from waste and wastewater.

Overview of high-impact GHG reduction actions:

Waste is the third largest source of emissions in Toronto, accounting for approximately 9 per cent of community-wide emissions. The City is working towards an aspirational goal of zero waste, while including activities to move Toronto toward a circular economy. The circular economy refers to a society-wide approach to production and consumption that aims to eliminate landfill waste and maximize resources by recovering as much as possible from used products. The Plan also includes expanding the production of renewable natural gas (RNG) from the Green Bin waste.

Waste and wastewater is also being introduced in the Plan as a new critical step for success in meeting net zero emissions. The 2023 emissions inventory identified that water, wastewater and waste together account for about 31 per cent of GHG emissions from the City's own corporate operations.

Key actions of the Plan on waste and wastewater:

Action 10: Move Toronto toward a circular economy.

Action 11: Increase the City's local Green Bin organic waste processing capacity and the amount of RNG that can be generated.

Action 12: Lead by example by moving the City's water and wastewater services toward net zero.

Success Story: The Circular Food Innovators Fund reduces waste and promotes sustainable consumption. Over \$260,000 was awarded to nine small businesses to replace single-use takeout containers with reusable systems.



Actions: Carbon Budget

Critical Step: Demonstrate carbon accountability locally and globally by establishing a Carbon Budget.

Overview of high-impact GHG reduction actions:

The City of Toronto is among leading cities worldwide in establishing and implementing a Carbon Budget and related processes, as enshrined in the Climate Change Goals and Governance Bylaw (Municipal Code Chapter 669). Each year new steps are being undertaken to report on the City's carbon accountability process.

The City continues to implement the Carbon Budget process to prioritize new and enhanced climate actions through the annual Budget process. Previously, the City set Emissions Budgets for corporate emission sources from buildings and transportation over 2026-2030. For the first time, the City has developed plans that detail activities to keep corporate emissions within these emission budgets.

Key actions of the Plan on the Carbon Budget:

Action 13: Implement the annual Carbon Budget and Emissions Budget processes.

Action 14: Identify and implement opportunities for further alignment between the City's procurement policies and the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy, including updating the Environmentally Responsible Procurement Policy and enhancing specifications, evaluation criteria and disposal of surplus goods.

Success Story: The Carbon Budget Prioritization is a new process, adopted by Toronto City Council as part of the codified Carbon Budget Accountability system (2023), implemented in 2024. The process is made up of a consistent set of steps and technical guidance used by City Divisions, Agencies and Corporations to identify and prioritize GHG reduction actions for submission to the City's Budget.



Cross-cutting activities: Focus on equity, advance reconciliation and encourage economic development.

Overview of activities:

The TransformTO vision is a net zero future that is equitable, healthy, prosperous and resilient. Achieving this vision will require everyone to play a role. Engaging residents, other levels of government, the private sector and NGOs is essential to bringing everyone together.

Where possible, actions should address the existing inequities of climate change. Climate engagement activities have been re-oriented to focus on equity considerations and the needs and priorities of Black, Indigenous and equity-deserving groups. This includes listening to communities so that engagement and climate action are rooted in community interests, priorities or concerns.

Climate action and engagement can include and be led by the private sector. An opportunity also exists to create new jobs and grow our green industries, which account for 60,700 jobs and more than \$6.55 billion of Toronto's gross domestic product. These efforts are being pursued as part of the "Action Plan for Toronto's Economy", recently approved by City Council, and are being led by the Economic Development and Culture Division.

Key actions of the Plan on the cross-cutting activities:

Action 15: Support Indigenous climate action and advance the Reconciliation Action Plan.

Action 16: Focus climate outreach and engagement on community priorities and equity.

Action 17: Continue to grow Toronto's green industries and train the workforce required to develop, deploy and maintain net-zero technologies.

Success Story: In 2026, the City's climate grants are expanding to better engage Toronto residents with the Black-led climate action grants and the Indigenous Climate Action Grant. This expansion accompanies continuing support, such as the Neighbourhood Climate Action Grant, PollinateTO and the Women4Climate mentorship program.



Cross-cutting activities: Focus on equity, advance reconciliation and encourage economic development.

Climate Change and Equity

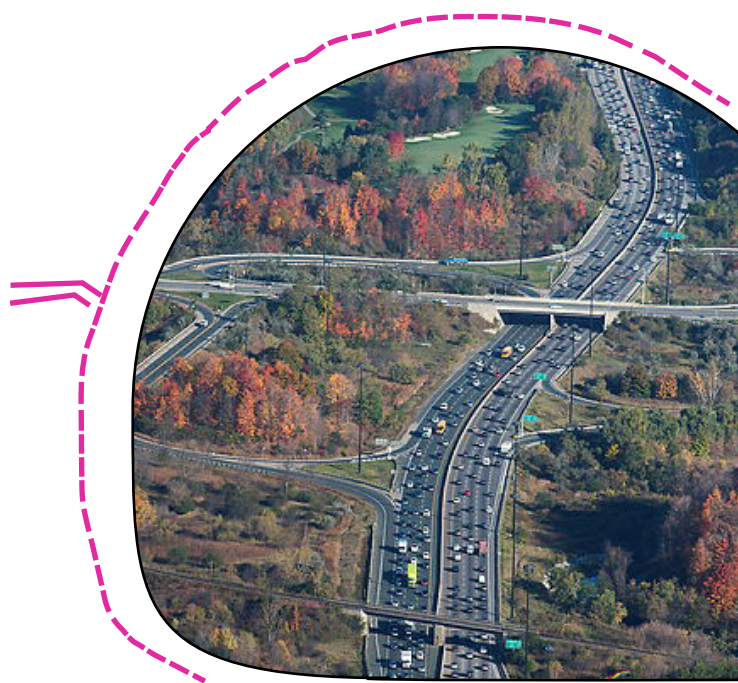
TransformTO's vision is a future Toronto that is equitable, as well as being zero carbon, healthy, prosperous and resilient. Climate equity is the principle that everyone – regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, ability and any other characteristic – should benefit from a healthy environment and have access to resources and opportunities they need to protect themselves from the impacts of climate change.

The Inequitable Impacts of Climate Change

Some communities may face significant collective challenges because of barriers to equal access, opportunities and resources due to disadvantage and discrimination. This may include persons with low incomes, immigrants and refugees, gender diverse communities, women, seniors, children, persons with disabilities and racialized groups.

Those that experience the burdens most extensively tend to be those least responsible for climate change, while the highest contributors to climate change often possess the resources and capacity to protect themselves.

Success Story: For the first time, the City has developed a set of climate equity indicators to more realistically evaluate whether equity priorities are being addressed through climate action to reduce GHG emissions.



Cross-cutting activities: Focus on equity, advance reconciliation and encourage economic development.

Indigenous Views, Voices and Actions

In 2024-2025, the City undertook a jurisdictional scan of what relationships with Indigenous communities look like in other Canadian cities, with specific focus on climate action work. At the same time, the City moved forward with a series of conversations with Indigenous community members called “listening sessions” which addressed concepts related to climate change.

Some key learnings to date:

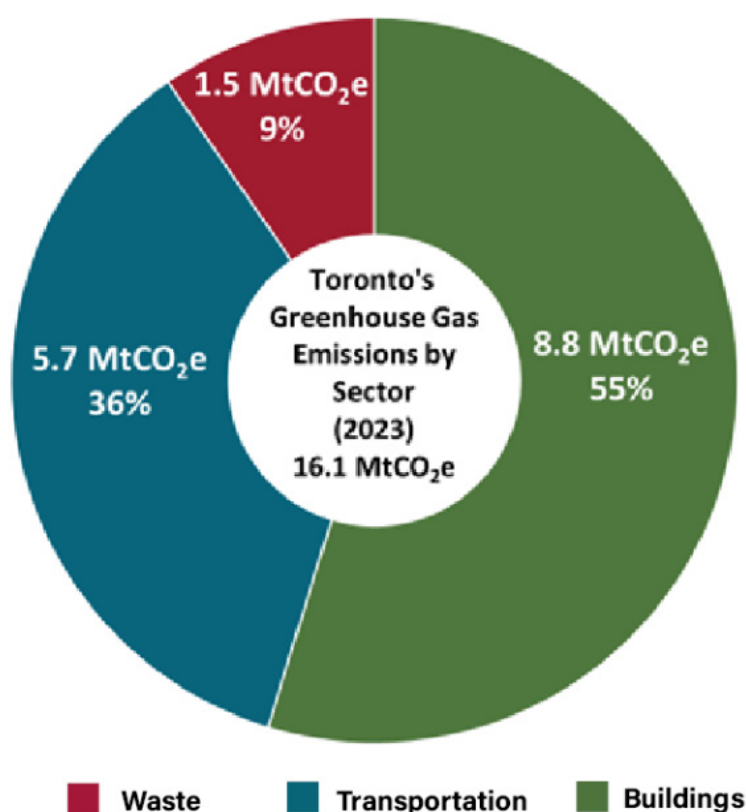
- The City has shown a clear desire to strengthen its relationships with Indigenous communities; however, meaningful collaboration is restricted within the constraints of colonial municipal structures.
- The City’s climate strategies, though advancing towards net zero emissions, often do not directly relate to perspectives on lands, waters and the world around us.
- To move forward, City staff must continue to build internal capacity and learning so that engagements with Indigenous partners are informed, respectful and reciprocal. At this stage, relationship building remains the central and necessary focus.



Where do Toronto's GHG Emissions Come From?

The City's Sector-Based Emissions Inventory (SBEI) is Toronto's main tool for measuring community-wide and City corporate-wide progress towards net zero. The most recent SBEI (2023) indicates that the largest source of GHG emissions in Toronto is buildings (55 per cent), and this is primarily from burning fossil (natural) gas to heat residential buildings. Transportation is the second largest source of GHG emissions in Toronto (36 per cent). The third largest source of GHG emissions in Toronto is waste (9 per cent). Toronto's community-wide GHG emissions showed a 1.4 per cent increase over 2022.

Refer to the [City's full report on the Sector-Based Emissions Inventory \(2023\)](#).



Toronto's GHG emissions by sector (2023) shows that buildings are the highest source of emissions with 55 per cent, followed by transportation with 36 per cent, and the lowest source is waste with 9 per cent.

