



December 4, 2025

To: City of Toronto Infrastructure and Environment Committee

From: Shelly Gordon on behalf of Seniors for Climate Action Now! (SCAN!) Toronto

Re: IE26.3 - TransformTO Net Zero Strategy: Action Plan (2026-2030)

We will present as much of this deputation as time allows to the IEC on December 4. We are submitting it in writing as well in case we don't have time to say it all.

SCAN! is a group of seniors compelled to urgent action to mitigate the climate crisis. We are all volunteers, we come from every background, and we come from every corner of the City. Some of you have worked with our members in your constituencies. We believe that climate action must be based on social justice and economic transformation to succeed. We know that urgent action is needed now to combat climate change.

We prepared to see this report last June, when it was originally intended, so a year ago we had our own meetings and wrote a brief that we shared with staff in the Environment, Climate and Forestry Division. That seems like a long time ago now.

Overall, our thoughts were the same then as they are now.

This is the time for **bold** action. Transform Toronto – Getting to Net Zero by 2040 is an excellent policy. The City has declared a climate emergency and you already know the consequences that we face individually and collectively if we don't bring it under control. But Toronto hasn't been meeting its targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

It is too late for incremental measures.

Last winter we wanted to urge you to:

- Bring forward the targets for reducing GHGs from buildings. Implement the green building standard for new buildings more quickly. What gets built now will be in place for decades. Bring forward performance standards for existing buildings to get them off natural gas as soon as possible.
- Begin to deal with the GHG emissions that come from putting up new buildings and taking down buildings – both the up-front emissions and those attached to unregulated disposal of construction and demolition waste.
- Keep your 2030 targets for reduction of GHGs from transportation by convincing more people to take transit rather than private cars. That requires low fares, more service, and service that gets people where they are going quickly and reliably.
- Target closing the Portlands Energy Gas plant and replacing it with renewables by 2030. That’s an ambitious target but one that is critical to the overall goals.
- We support the proposals for more circular economy measures. Increased attention, especially in the building sector, will have meaningful impacts.
- Green the City in every way we can. Increase canopy cover, natural areas and biodiversity.
- SCAN! supports the city in finding new means to fund these activities through measures such as stormwater charges, vehicle registration fees, and congestion taxes. We support the City in efforts to get more funding and more fund-raising authority from the provincial and federal levels of government.

And of course, a year later, we still are urging you to do all of those things.

As the report in front of you for implementing Transform TO for the next five years points out, things have changed since the beginning of the year. Our own provincial government, our federal government and the behemoth state to the south are all backing away from measures which will reduce GHGs, acting as if there is some desirable economic future which includes them.

In consideration of that, the report in front of you backs away from targets and timelines and tough decisions.

We are here to urge you not to do that. In the face of the reversals from other levels of government, the residents of Toronto need the City to lead. To avoid a climate crisis the next 5-year plan for Transform TO has to be stronger and it is within your power to do that.

We urge you to add ambitious and stringent targets for GHG reductions from the major sources of pollution in our City back into this 5-year plan.

- We want to see green buildings standards getting more stringent for new buildings.

- We want to see the City bringing in programs to get existing buildings off natural gas and polluting less.
- We want to see the Portlands Energy Centre gas-plant closed by 2030, particularly we would like to see renewables make it redundant.
- We want to see priorities for buses and streetcars on many more roads, and lower fares or no fares.
- We want to see more green everywhere and in every way we can.

Anything that you start now will be implemented sometime in the next five years. Anything you leave out now gets put off until who knows when. There isn't time to delay fighting the climate crisis. The effects of climate change are here now.

A year ago the presentation we were going to make to you ended by urging Council to “Be Audacious”.

That's still our position. We sincerely urge you to show audacious leadership now.

Thank you for your time.

Shelly Gordon for

Seniors for Climate Action Now! Toronto

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