

April 2, 2026

Infrastructure and Environment Committee
100 Queen St W
Toronto, ON

RE: IE28.4 – The Electrification Advantage

Dear Chair and Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

The Atmospheric Fund (TAF) is a regional climate agency that invests in low-carbon solutions in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. We thank city staff for consulting with us through the development of the Electrification Advantage report, and Toronto Hydro for their robust engagement.

TAF supports the acceleration of electrification and distributed energy resources (DERs) as a critical pathway to reducing carbon emissions, lowering reliance on fossil fuels, strengthening energy security, and improving energy affordability. As the report outlines, clean electrification paired with local renewable generation, energy storage, and demand flexibility can deliver climate, economic, and public health benefits while enhancing system resilience.

We want to emphasize the timely opportunity to integrate DERs into coordinated platforms such as virtual power plants. Aggregating rooftop solar, batteries, electric vehicles, and flexible loads can unlock the full value of DERs by reducing peak demand, improving reliability, and deferring or avoiding costly large-scale electricity infrastructure investments. When DERs are planned and managed as active grid assets, they can become a powerful non-wires alternative that benefits all ratepayers.

We also highlight the opportunity to leverage DER and electrification initiatives to attract investment from other orders of government. Provincial and federal programs are offering unprecedented levels of funding to support electrification and DERs —funding that could amount to well into the billions of dollars for Toronto over the next five years based on its population share. Securing that capital depends on well-designed City and Toronto Hydro programs, which will draw new capital into local infrastructure, clean technology deployment, and job creation.

TAF remains committed to working closely with the City and Toronto Hydro to advance electrification and DERs. This includes launching TAF's [Home Solar Accelerator](#) program this April, in collaboration with Toronto Hydro, to provide homeowners with free, independent guidance to accelerate rooftop solar and

battery adoption. We look forward to continuing our partnership to help deliver an affordable, resilient, and net-zero energy future for Toronto.

Sincerely,

Bryan Purcell

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