



TransformTO

TransformTO: Climate Action for a Healthy, Equitable, and Prosperous Toronto

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

2015-2016



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Overview

TransformTO is a collaborative project engaging the community in achieving an 80% reduction in Toronto's greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The project is supported by community engagement and technical scenario modelling to help understand how deep carbon reduction will affect Torontonians over the long term. It's not just about climate change. TransformTO will explore low-carbon solutions that support public health, our local economy, and social equity.

TransformTO will establish a direction that will be used to achieve the City's greenhouse gas emissions goals over the next 34 years. As a part of this process, a short-term action plan and a long-term pathway documents will be produced. TransformTO will lead to a long-term climate strategy that will update the existing City of Toronto Climate Change Action Plan. The City of Toronto's Environment and Energy Division and the Toronto Atmospheric Fund are co-leading this initiative.

In 2007, Toronto City Council unanimously adopted three ambitious greenhouse gas reduction goals, based on 1990 levels:

- 6% reduction by 2012;
- 30% reduction by 2020;
- 80% reduction by 2050.

To date, Toronto has successfully achieved a 25% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, exceeding the short-term reduction goal of 6% by 2012. While the city continues to make progress towards the 30% reduction goals, new strategies and actions are required to achieve the emission reduction targets. Moreover, all levels of government, Toronto's residents, community groups, businesses and local organizations will need to work together to successfully build a low-carbon, healthy, prosperous and equitable Toronto by 2050.



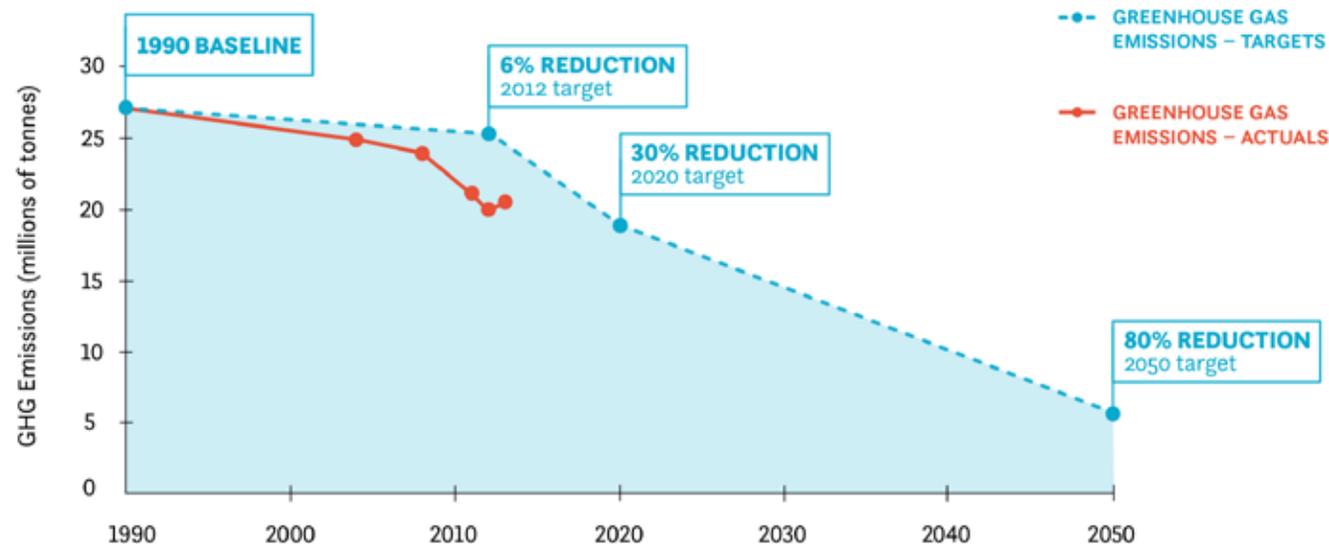
TransformTO Community Engagement

With co-creation as one of its guiding principles, TransformTO is initiating, developing, and strengthening partnerships across Toronto to engage the broad community, incorporate their ideas and interests, and build long term commitment to Toronto's low carbon future.

August 2015 to July 2016, TransformTO's first phase of engagement encouraged residents to submit their ideas for a shared vision of a low-carbon Toronto in 2050. A variety of engagement and outreach tools promoted participation from residents, community groups and stakeholders online and at events. Environment and Energy Division

City staff have summarized the ideas and feedback submitted by participants in this report. The Community Engagement Report will be submitted to the TransformTO Technical Scenario Modelling team and included in reports to Council.

Toronto's Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Targets



Community Engagement and Outreach

Purpose

Community engagement and outreach provided multiple opportunities and methods for the public to share their ideas on how to achieve a low-carbon, healthy, prosperous and equitable Toronto, including:

- an online TransformTO survey,
- a Centre for Social Innovation TransformTO event, and
- City-hosted and community-hosted TransformTO Conversations.

The purpose of the engagement was:

- to provide an opportunity for community feedback on the initiative,
- identify key community priorities for a low-carbon future,
- promote community awareness of the TransformTO initiative and its recommendations.





Methodology

As a part of all engagement activities, residents identified actions and solutions that would help decrease greenhouse gas emissions in Toronto. The TransformTO Community Conversations also encouraged attendees to imagine what a low-carbon, healthy, equitable and prosperous Toronto would look like in the year 2050 and share their vision with other participants.

The responses submitted as a part of the engagement activities were collected and reviewed by the TransformTO team. Community ideas were collected via written submissions to an online survey; transcribed notes from roundtable conversations at City-hosted events; reports written by residents that organized the community-hosted events; as well as individual submissions sent by email to the TransformTO team. The team compiled all of the community

feedback that was submitted as a part of the activities into a single document. This document will be released through City of Toronto's OpenData in the Fall 2016.

Overview of Events and Activities

From August 2015 to July 2016, nearly 2,000 residents participated in TransformTO events and online survey. In addition, information about TransformTO was provided to over 1,500 residents through a variety of Live Green Toronto outreach events including community-based events, festivals and educational workshops. In order to make the events more accessible to Torontonians across the city, both the Community Conversations and the *TalkTransformation!* Speaker series were hosted across the four city districts: North York, Etobicoke, Scarborough and downtown.

Event/Activity	Description	# of Participants	Dates
<p><i>Online TransformTO Workbook Survey</i></p>	<p>Survey was available online to collect the community's ideas for initiatives that would help reduce the city's overall greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Questions were organized into six key topic categories: Resilience; Energy; Transportation; Green Space; Health and Behaviour Change. In each category, participants provided their solutions for relevant low-carbon initiatives and supported their ideas with examples of successful local and international projects.</p> <p>Input obtained through the survey was summarized into several reports and incorporated into the <i>TalkTransformation!</i> Speaker Series events.</p>	<p>200</p>	<p>August 2015-February 2016</p>
<p><i>TalkTransformation! Panel Discussions – 3 events</i></p>	<p>Subject matter experts shared their ideas with residents on low-carbon initiatives and answered questions in a question and answer period.</p> <p>Three events took place at various venues across the city from September to November 2015. The three topics of discussion were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience • Energy & Buildings, and • Transportation. <p>The events aimed to educate the public on current low-carbon initiatives within each topic area, as well as start a community dialogue about future opportunities in each sector. A summary of community ideas, provided as a part of the TransformTO Workbook survey, were incorporated into the panel discussions.</p>	<p>400 in person 150 via periscope online streaming</p>	<p>September to November 2015</p>

Event/Activity	Description	# of Participants	Dates
<p><i>Centre for Social Innovation Event: The Six in 2050</i></p>	<p>Subject-matter experts and social innovation leaders engaged in discussions about systemic changes that would be essential to our city’s low-carbon, healthy, prosperous and equitable future. The TransformTO team reviewed the feedback provided by the attendees and summarized the key findings in the event Summary Report.</p>	70	April 2016
<p><i>TransformTO Community Conversations – 4 City-hosted event</i></p>	<p>Four City-hosted Community Conversation events were held in North York, Scarborough, Etobicoke and downtown in April and May.</p> <p>All events were designed to identify a shared community vision for a low-carbon Toronto in 2050 and the community’s view on the key actions needed to achieve it.</p> <p>The four City-hosted events included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an open-house exhibit featuring informational boards that summarized the TransformTO project and related City initiatives; • a City staff presentation about TransformTO including an overview, timelines and deliverables; • roundtable community conversations, based on a TransformTO Conversation Kit (Appendix II), with facilitators guiding and recording the discussions. <p>Community Conversations Report summarizes the community ideas shared at the City-hosted events.</p>	200	April - May 2016

Event/Activity	Description	# of Participants	Dates
<i>TransformTO Conversations – 11 Community-hosted events</i>	Eleven conversation events were organized by various community groups and Toronto City Councillors. The TransformTO Conversation Kit was available to the public to use at the community-hosted events, however, many community groups designed their own roundtable discussions.	250	April - June 2016
<i>Youth Engagement</i>	<p>To engage younger residents, the TransformTO team designed several interactive activities that encouraged participants to create (draw, build with clay, or describe) their vision for Toronto in 2050.</p> <p>Participants created their own versions of a low-carbon, future Toronto at the Kids World of Energy event and My World My Choice Conference for high-school students.</p> <p>While some participants portrayed a very desolate and struggling future with many forest fires and no green space or animals, most focused on a hopeful image of the future.</p> <p>Common themes included: a variety of alternative transportation infrastructure; renewable energy on all buildings; a city surrounded by green space and nature, as well as urban agriculture.</p>	~ 400 youth age 9 – 12; 35 high-school students	May 2016

Event/Activity	Description	# of Participants	Dates
<i>TransformTO Activation and Engagement at Events</i>	<p>TransformTO team members presented information about the project, its goals and timelines to community groups and professional associations in Toronto.</p> <p>TransformTO hosted an interactive information table at the United Nations Association in Canada Toronto (UNACTO) Earth Day event on April 23rd, 2016. Through an interactive ‘dotmocracy’ activity, attendees identified actions that they believed should be prioritized to help us reach our greenhouse gas emissions reductions goal.</p>	~200	February – July 2016
<i>Additional Outreach</i>	<p>Information about the TransformTO campaign and upcoming events was also communicated to the attendees of a number of City of Toronto and community-hosted events through April to July 2016 (e.g. Environment Days, Lovin’ Local Food Fest, Green Living Show and more).</p> <p>Live Green Toronto Volunteers updated the public on upcoming TransformTO events and encouraged participation in the TransformTO Community Conversations.</p>	~1500	February – July 2016

While the style for each one of the above-mentioned engagement opportunities differed from one to the other, similar themes and ideas were consistently identified in the community feedback. The TransformTO Team reviewed all of the community ideas for common themes and actions that were frequently prioritized by the participants. Key findings from the community feedback are summarized below.

Community Ideas and Vision for Toronto in 2050

From the community feedback, community-submitted reports and other submissions, common ideas and themes were identified and grouped together into key categories. Overall, seven main priority categories were identified:

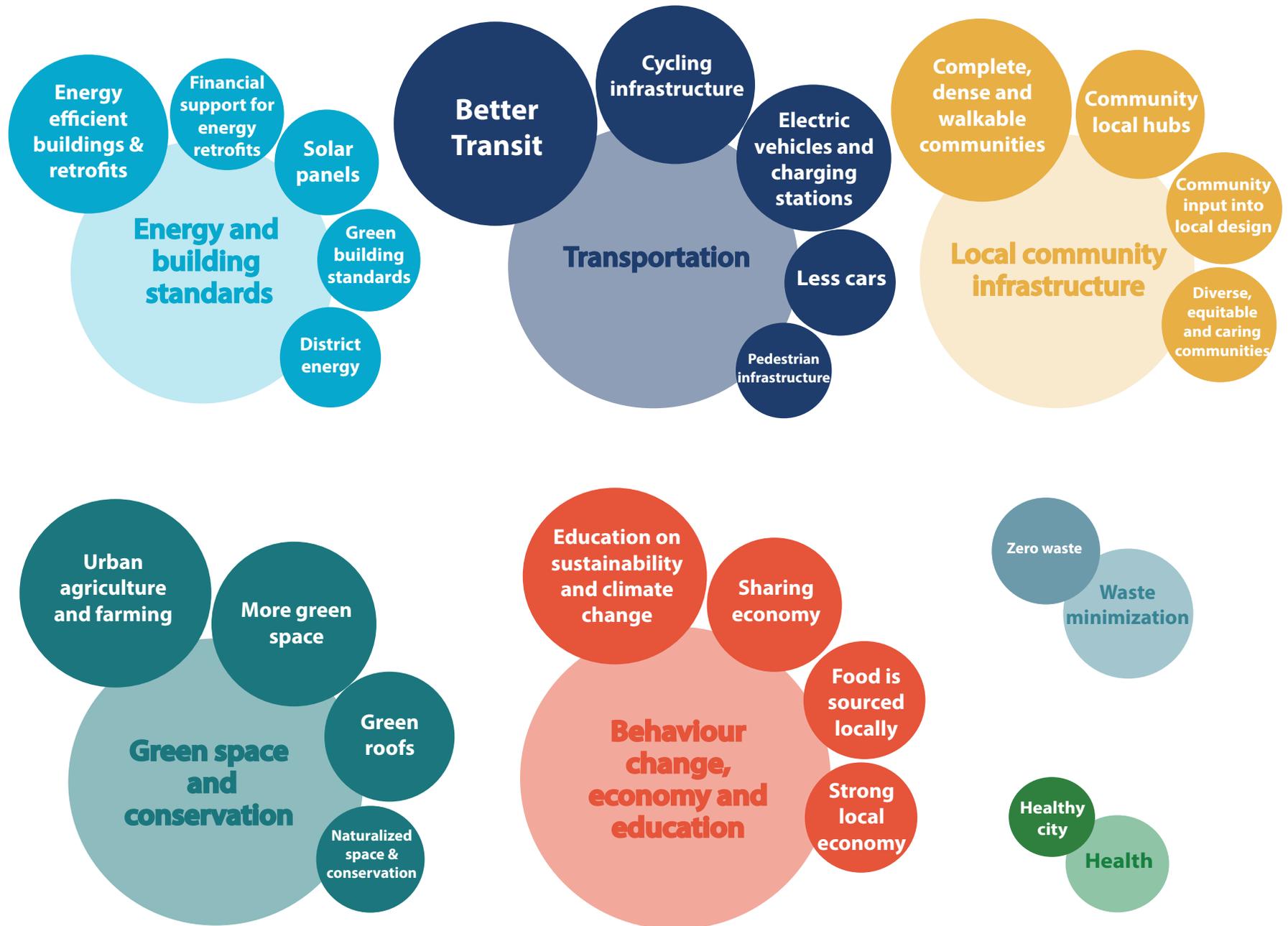
- Transportation
- Behaviour change, economy and education
- Green spaces and conservation
- Energy and building standards
- Local community infrastructure & urban design
- Waste minimization
- Health

Transportation and behaviour change were most-highly prioritised by participants. The most mentioned ideas overall, across categories were: better transit (transit that is reliable; accessible; affordable, clean and expanded); complete, dense and walkable communities; urban agriculture; cycling infrastructure and presence of green space.

Figure 1 on page 10 visualizes the most frequently mentioned ideas, where the relative size of the circles represents the frequency a given idea was mentioned during the consultations.



Figure 1: Visual overview of key community ideas and actions for a low-carbon Toronto





Transportation

Many ideas shared by the participants focused on the topic of sustainable transportation (Figure 1). Residents called for more action around better transit infrastructure that would be more reliable, physically accessible to all users, affordable and powered by clean energy (e.g. electricity). A regional transit system that would provide better connections both locally and throughout the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area was also supported. Overall, community members saw transit as a key solution to traffic and related greenhouse gas emissions in Toronto.

Active-transportation infrastructure, both for cycling and walking, was also frequently mentioned. Many ideas included bike lanes,

bike parking as well as wider and safer routes for pedestrians. Some participants felt that better cycling and pedestrian infrastructure would motivate more residents to leave their car at home, which would reduce our greenhouse gases and improve our health.

Electronic vehicles (EVs) and charging stations for EVs were identified as a desirable solution to vehicle-related greenhouse gas emissions. Participants also suggested expanding the use of car shares and road tolls to reduce the overall presence of cars on Toronto's streets.

Behaviour Change & Education

Education on climate change and how to lead a sustainable lifestyle was identified as one of the top solutions to help the community reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The community felt that a better understanding of the effects of climate change and the actions we can take to mitigate it, could encourage more residents to adopt more sustainable lifestyles. Residents also felt that they would benefit from specific information on various aspects of individual sustainability such as gardening classes, cycling workshops, and clear information on waste management, etc.

Aspects of sustainable lifestyles that were frequently mentioned, included: the sharing economy (buying less and sharing items that are used infrequently); sourcing more food locally (within the province or city); working more flexible hours or working from home more frequently to reduce emissions. Financial incentives for behaviour change, more City staff engagement with community, and implementation of a carbon tax were also suggested as ways to encourage behaviour change.

Participants also described their desire for communities that were more inclusive of the City's diversity, more equitable and caring.





Green Space

Many community members identified green space as a desirable component of a low-carbon Toronto. More parks, green rooftops, trees, native plants and naturalized (wild) space were amongst the most popular ideas mentioned in this category. Residents felt it was important to conserve the green space already present within the city, and to replace currently paved areas (such as parking spaces) with green space instead.

Additionally, participants strongly supported urban agriculture in Toronto. Many identified a need for better infrastructure (access to land, designated gardening space, etc.) to spur the growth of the local food movement.

Energy & Building Standards

Many community members identified the importance of mandatory, regulated and enforced energy-efficiency and green building standards for all buildings in Toronto. Participants emphasized that in order to reach our greenhouse gas emission reduction goal, all older building in the city must be retrofitted to improve energy efficiency, and all new construction must meet stricter energy-efficiency standards. Grants, incentives and financial support for energy-retrofits must be readily available to support this necessary progress.

Community feedback also supported the installation of more renewable energy sources, such as solar panels and, wind turbines. District energy systems and more energy storage capacity were also popular ideas.



Local Community Infrastructure

As a part of their future Toronto, participants frequently identified community design that prioritizes densely populated, walkable and complete neighbourhoods that include all desirable amenities and services. This vision of a ‘village within a city’ often included more community hubs (a centre for local information, key services, community support and meeting space) as well as more space for outdoor recreation and activities. In general, although many participants were supportive of denser communities, they were also in-favour of mid-rise and low-rise buildings and less supportive of high-rise condominiums.

In order to achieve this vision, participants felt that more community-input, and better consultation processes for local community design are necessary.

Waste minimization

A ‘zero waste’ goal for Toronto was frequently mentioned in community responses. Participants suggested a ban on packaging and plastic bags to reduce the volume of waste produced in the city. Also, the enforcement of mandatory recycling and composting for all sectors - residential, commercial and industrial - was commonly supported.

Health

In their vision of the future, community members describe Toronto as a healthy and beautiful city. The need for better awareness and education about the health effects of climate-change, and healthy food alternatives, were frequently highlighted by participants.

Online Engagement & Social Media

TransformTO maintained an online presence throughout 2015 and 2016.

A TransformTO City of Toronto website provided an overview of the project and updates on opportunities for community input and involvement. The website was visited nearly 10,000 times in 2015 and 2016.

Twitter, Facebook and Instagram were used to promote participation in the campaign and notify the community about upcoming events. The #TransformTO hashtag was used in over 560 tweets by Live

Green Toronto, other City of Toronto divisions, Toronto Atmospheric Fund, City Councillors, community organizations, residents and other stakeholders. Over 110 unique Twitter users posted about the TransformTO campaign. The total number of engagements via social media as of July 2016 was 1,828.

Additionally, monthly project updates were provided via the TransformTO Newsletter to over 800 subscribers.

Next Steps

We would like to thank all of the residents of Toronto who participated in the TransformTO Conversations, attended and organized community events and demonstrated their support for the initiative.

TransformTO would not be successful without the support of Toronto's diverse community. Encouraging diverse participation and collecting representative responses was a challenge. In the next phase of engagement, particular emphasis on engaging a diverse audience in terms of geography and demographic will be made.

The feedback received to-date will be included in the next phase of the project, the technical scenario modelling. The community ideas will be combined with an analysis of various actions and solutions

that will help identify the most effective pathway to reach our greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. Both the community feedback and technical modelling will be included in the first report to Toronto City Council in 2016.

Based on the decisions made by Council and project recommendations, further community engagement and opportunities for input will be developed in 2017.

Appendix I: Other Engagement and Feedback

Modelling Advisory Group

A group of thirty-seven community leaders, academics, City staff and subject-matter experts was convened to provide input on the TransformTO initiative and technical scenario modelling. The group membership was carefully selected to include a diverse representation from multiple perspectives (energy, environment, economy, health, equity and social justice). Led by the Technical

Modelling Consultants (SSG and WhatIf? Technologies), the MAG were consulted on the criteria, limitations and approach to the technical modelling.

Three meetings of Modelling Advisory Group (MAG) are scheduled to be hosted in the Summer 2016 and Winter 2017.



Community Reports, Individual Submissions and Comments

All of the reports and individual comments submitted by community groups and residents are available online on the City of Toronto [TransformTO web page](#).

Appendix II: TransformTO Conversation Kit



TransformTO



Welcome to TransformTO:

Climate Action for a
Healthy, Equitable, and
Prosperous Toronto



Welcome to TransformTO:

Climate Action for a Healthy, Equitable, and Prosperous Toronto

Welcome to TransformTO Community Conversations. Thank you for sharing your vision of a sustainable Toronto. Your ideas will contribute to TransformTO, the City's long-term climate action strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

TransformTO will help shape Toronto into a healthy, prosperous and equitable city with low greenhouse gas emissions.

Our target is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050. The initiative will use community ideas and technical modelling to create a long-term pathway to a low-carbon future.

In December 2016, TransformTO will present to City Council:

- 1. A short-term action plan (2017-2020)** to meet Toronto's goal of 30% greenhouse gas emissions reductions by 2020.
- 2. A pathway document** that will outline strategies to reduce Toronto's greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050, while generating a healthier, more prosperous and equitable city.

For more information on the project, please visit toronto.ca/transformto



Toronto's Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Targets

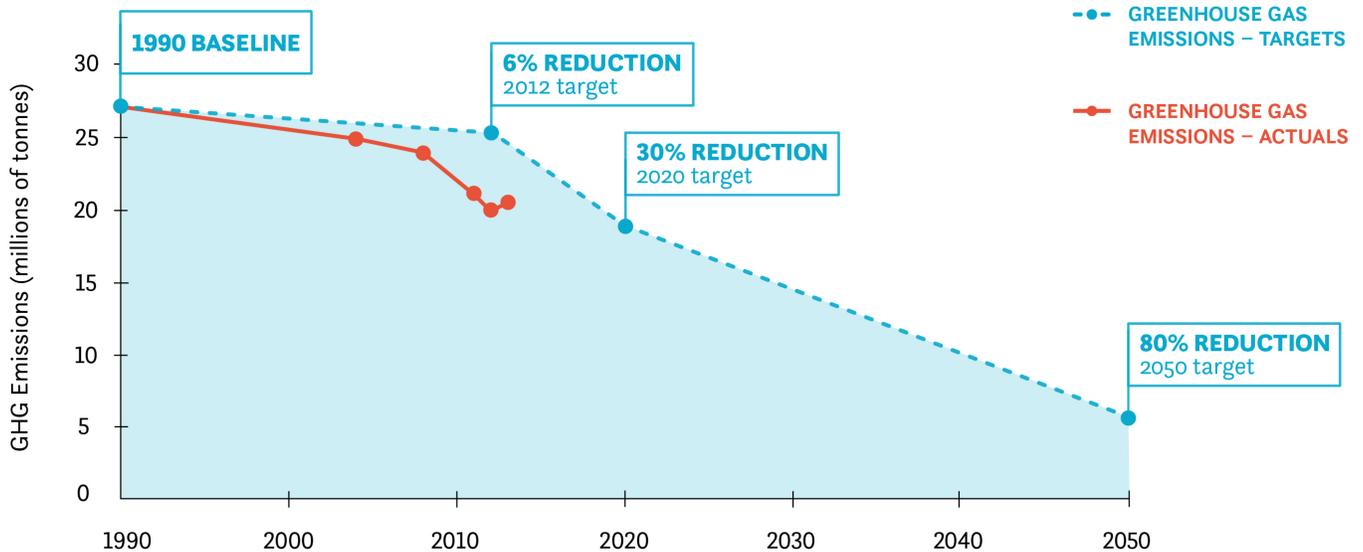
Toronto has ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals. Based on a baseline of 1990, Toronto's three emissions reductions targets are:

- 6% reduction by 2012
- 30% reduction by 2020
- 80% reduction by 2050

In 2013, our city-wide emissions were estimated at 24% below 1990 levels. We are moving in the right direction, but more action by residents, businesses and government is needed to reach our long-term goals.

Toronto's Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Targets

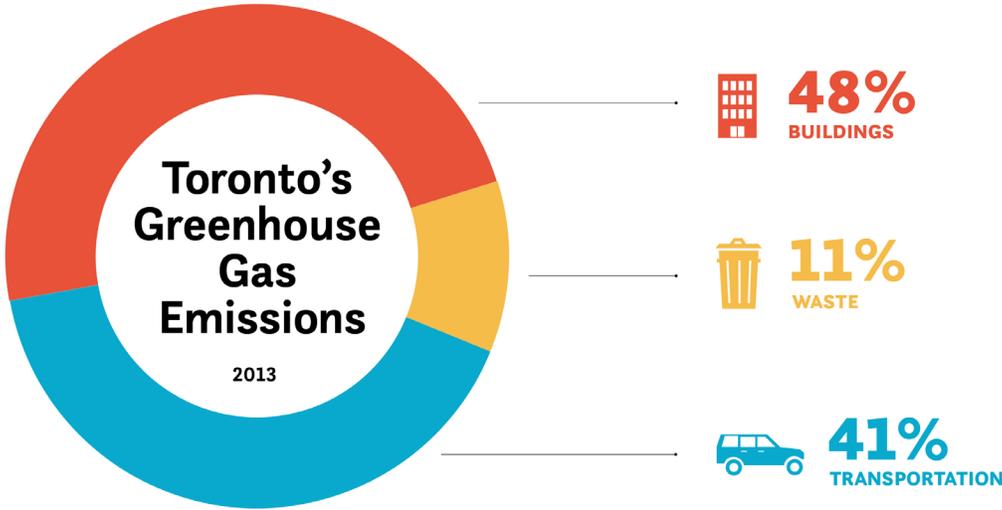
15 MILLION TONNES reduction is needed by 2050 from 2013 levels to hit targets.



Working Together to Prepare for the Future

We are already starting to experience the effects of climate change in our city. Based on current predictions, extreme weather will become more common in the future.

Reducing our emissions to address climate change will involve a community-wide effort. We know that the biggest sources of greenhouse gas emissions are transportation, heating space and water in our buildings, and waste.



Breakdown of GHG emissions



*Since 2014 and the closure of Ontario's coal-fired power plants, electricity consumption creates far few greenhouse gas emissions.

TransformTO Conversation Questions

Please answer the following questions to help us build a clear shared vision of a sustainable low-carbon Toronto in 2050, and identify what needs to happen to achieve our vision.

1. **Imagine that we have succeeded. By working together, community leaders, local organizations, corporations and residents have created a prosperous, healthy and equitable Toronto that has low greenhouse gas emissions.**

a) Describe what that future Toronto in 2050 looks like to you.

Prompt: What do you want to see around you? What do you want your street to look like? What do you want your house to look like? How do you want to get around?

Examples: I walk to work in 10 minutes.
There are lots of green spaces and trees in my neighbourhood.
My community centre has solar panels and is net-zero energy.
I throw out only one bag of garbage a month.

b) Select and describe one of your ideas for Toronto's future to your group. Discuss your group's ideas and choose three that you think would be important to Toronto's diverse residents. Write down your group's shared vision of Toronto in 2050.



2. How can we achieve the vision you described above?

a) Over 200 Torontonians have contributed their ideas in previous consultations. We've grouped the most frequently mentioned ideas into categories below.

With your group, discuss what you think the City's top priorities should be and why. Add any new ideas!

Transportation	Behaviour Change	Green Space	Energy	Buildings
Improve public transit (accessibility, affordability, reliability)	Provide resources and incentives for community networks	Plant more trees	Provide financial support for energy efficiency projects	Strengthen / enhance green building standards for new construction
Implement road tolls	Support stronger local & sharing economies	Support urban agriculture/ food production (allocate space, educate)	Install more renewable energy (geothermal, solar, deep lake water cooling)	Require energy retrofits to existing buildings
Invest more in cycling and pedestrian infrastructure	Support carbon pricing (e.g. carbon tax/ polluter pays)	Naturalize unused areas (hydro corridors, brownfields, lawns)	Install more district energy systems	Provide information/ incentives for less energy use in our homes and offices
Build complete, compact, walkable communities	Increase environmental education, awareness & research	Create more green spaces & parks	Switch from natural gas and car gasoline to electricity	Install more green roofs on existing buildings

3. How would you tell your neighbour that climate change is an important issue?

To reach our 2050 goals and vision, we know we will need the help of all Torontonians. People are busy and have lots of priorities. Tell us what makes climate change important to you so we can engage more of Toronto's residents in the critical work of reducing GHG emissions.

What issues or messages would you stress?

- How climate change connects to your health, or the health of vulnerable citizens like children or the elderly?
- Issues of employment and economic growth and the green economy?
- Equitable access to green space and pollution-free environments?
- Cost to future generations?
- Other?

As a group, write a short message that the City could use to encourage others to participate in our vision and actions for emission reduction.

