

# Climate Action

A worldwide increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is expected to make Toronto's weather hotter, wetter and more extreme. In 2019, City Council declared a [climate emergency](#) and in 2021 accelerated its target to reduce GHG emissions in Toronto to net zero by 2040 – 10 years earlier than planned and one of the most ambitious targets in North America. The City is focusing on building resiliency, reducing carbon pollution, improving energy efficiency, and advancing the transition towards renewable energy.

## Corporate/Strategic Commitment

We are committed to fighting climate change and preparing our City government, our economy and our communities, especially the most vulnerable communities, for a changing climate.

The City Manager's End of Term achievements [report](#) highlights and recognizes the accomplishments of the Toronto Public Service over the 2018-2022 Council term and progress towards the [Corporate Strategic Plan priorities](#).

To view more achievements, visit [toronto.ca/successTO](https://toronto.ca/successTO).

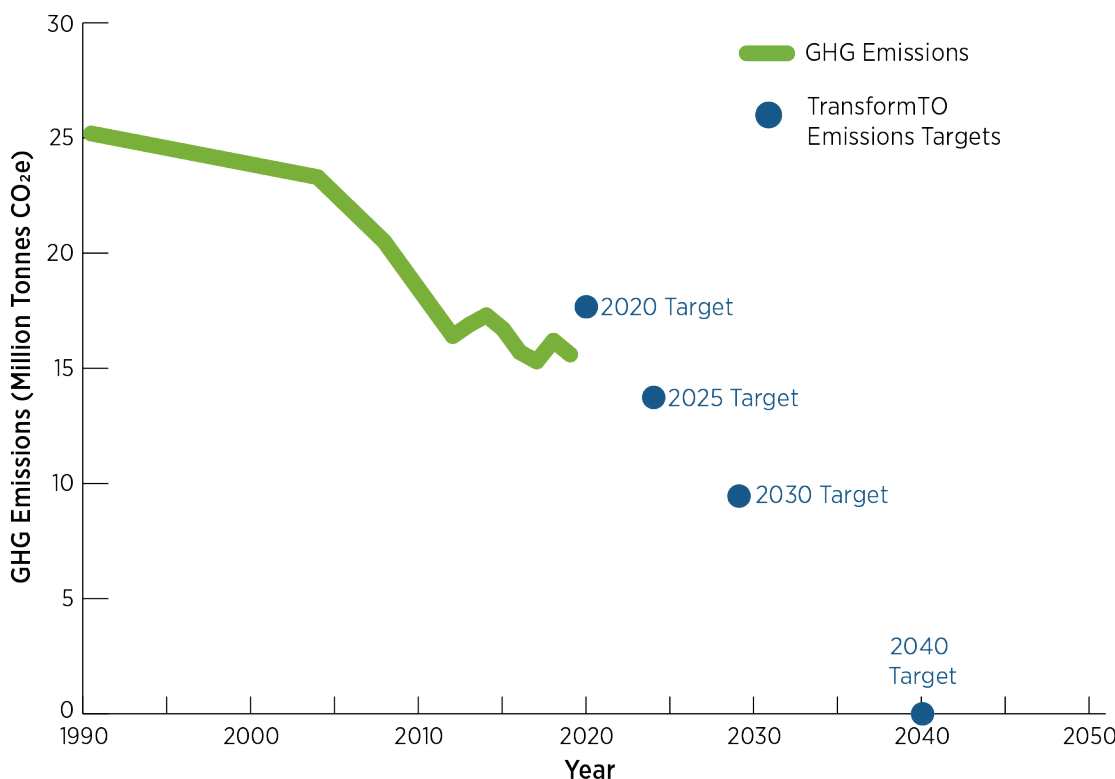
## Progress in Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction

Our [TransformTO Net Zero Strategy](#) is one of the most ambitious in North America, with a target to reduce community-wide GHGs 30 per cent by 2020, 65 per cent by 2030, and to net zero by 2040.

Toronto is on track to exceed its 2020 emissions reduction target. The latest [GHG emissions inventory](#) shows a 38 per cent emissions reduction from 1990 levels.



## Toronto's GHG Emissions and Targets



## City Climate Action Priorities

[City data](#) shows that the largest sources of GHG emissions in Toronto are buildings (57 per cent), transportation (36 per cent) and waste (7 per cent).

To address emissions from buildings, Toronto has a [Net Zero Existing Buildings Strategy](#) to decarbonize all existing buildings, a [Net Zero Emissions City Buildings Plan](#) to reduce emissions for all City-owned buildings, and is continuously improving the [Toronto Green Standard](#) to guide building design and performance.

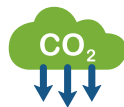
The [Electric Vehicle Strategy](#) encourages the transition to clean, fuel-efficient electric vehicles. The City is demonstrating leadership by electrifying its fleet and transit vehicles and improving operations through its [Pathway to Sustainable Fleets](#). Currently, green vehicles account for 42 per cent of City vehicles and equipment, and 3 per cent of vehicles are zero-emission. To date, we have eliminated approximately 180 kilotonnes of GHG emissions, a 40 per cent reduction from 1990 levels.

Our [Long Term Waste Management Strategy](#) includes a goal of zero waste and includes a [Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy](#) and first-in-Canada partnerships and activities to advance a [circular economy](#).

“The City of Toronto’s leadership in developing, adopting and most importantly implementing the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy and other climate initiatives provides an approach that other cities should follow. Toronto’s particular focus on including equity, health, job creation and economic development co-benefits and lenses into its climate action planning is something being adopted by many other Canadian municipalities that are part of the Clean Air Council network as a leading practice.”

**Gabriella Kalapos, Executive Director,  
Clean Air Partnership**

## City Actions



The City has committed \$1.5 billion in 2022 and [\\$15.5 billion from 2022-2031 in capital investments](#) with actions dedicated to increasing climate resilience efforts and/or reducing GHG emissions.



Toronto will build the new North East Scarborough Community Recreation and Child Care Centre as its first [net zero community centre](#).



In 2021, the City started to produce [Renewable Natural Gas \(RNG\)](#) from green bin organic waste. The RNG, blended with natural gas bought by the City to create a low-carbon fuel, will power City vehicles and heat City-owned facilities.



Toronto’s [Home Energy Loan Program](#) will provide up to \$9,712,000 in financing and \$4,856,000 in grants for energy-efficient retrofits to support the City’s net zero goals.

## City Actions continued



We are pursuing a plan to replace current, aging ferries with [fully-electric vessels](#).



The City offers many [grants and incentives](#) to homes, businesses and the community to support emissions reduction.



The new [Deep Retrofit Challenge](#) supports extensive retrofits in 10 to 16 privately-owned buildings in Toronto, funded through a \$5 million investment from Natural Resources Canada's [Green Infrastructure – Energy Efficient Buildings Program](#).



The [Pollinator Protection Strategy](#) and its [PollinateTO](#) grants help protect Toronto's unique biodiversity. Since 2019, approximately \$430,000 in grants to over 100 community projects have created over 21,500 square metres of pollinator habitat.



The [Eco-Roof Incentive Program](#) promotes green and cool roofs on Toronto homes and buildings. Between 2018-2022, 265 projects were completed to create more than 415,000 square metres of new eco-roof space.



We are completing the design of a [new multifunction paramedic station](#) in Scarborough that aims to be Net Zero Energy and Net Zero Carbon. In 2019, we completed our first [solar photovoltaic energy storage project at Toronto Paramedic Services' Station 46](#).

## Spotlight on Equity and Reconciliation

The [Reconciliation Action Plan](#) includes commitments to engage with Indigenous Peoples on climate change and prioritize Indigenous worldviews and relational views of land protection and community leadership to enhance climate resiliency.

Toronto is one of three Canadian cities among 19 global cities participating in the [C40 Women4Climate](#) program to empower female climate leaders in Toronto.





## Spotlight on the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild final report included recommendations related to [climate change and resilience](#).

During this term, the [City's Climate Action Fund](#) provided over \$750,000 in grants to more than 60 community projects to reduce GHG emissions, including 44 projects in 2020-2021 that also supported local COVID-19 response and recovery for vulnerable residents.



## Spotlight on Partnerships

TransformTO's [Management and Accountability Framework](#) establishes new community and inter-divisional advisory bodies to guide accountable and inclusive implementation of the Net Zero Strategy.

[BetterHomesTO](#) is a multi-partner program to help homeowners make their homes more energy efficient, with resources to support energy retrofits and access to programs, rebates and incentives offered by the City and partners.

Our [Green Will Initiative](#) partners with major building portfolio owners (28 to date) to demonstrate leadership in implementing bold action to reduce building emissions.

To help manage and protect Toronto's ravines, the City has partnered with organizations like Evergreen and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) to implement the [Ravine Strategy](#). We will invest over \$100 million in 2022 and have secured \$47.9 million in funding commitments and submitted applications from the federal and provincial governments.

Toronto Hydro's new [Climate Action Plan](#) will advance TransformTO goals with a focus on supporting customers and advancing clean technology.

In 2021, Toronto and the [Big City Mayors' Caucus](#) joined the [Cities Race to Zero](#) pledge at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference.

The City continues to leverage City water and [wastewater infrastructure](#) as large renewable thermal energy sources to displace fossil fuels use in buildings such as the Toronto Western Hospital.

The City has partnered with Enwave on the expansion of an existing [Deep Lake Water Cooling](#) system to meet the demand for cooling Toronto's downtown core.

