

**City of Toronto**  
**Climate Advisory Group (CAG)**  
**Meeting #8: June 6, 2024**  
**9:30 am - 12:30 pm**

---



## **Agenda Item**

### **1. Review of CAG Input Summary on NetZero Strategy Reporting and Communication**

**Description:** Presentation and discussion of the Climate Advisory Group's recommendations on NetZero Strategy Reporting and Communication from the workshop on May 3, 2024.

### **Discussion/Notes**

- Groundswell presented key messages and recommendations from the Climate Advisory Group's workshop on NetZero Strategy Reporting and Communication and received feedback from the CAG, including what the City should prioritize for the 2024 Annual TransformTO Net Zero Progress and Accountability Report.

### **Outcomes/Next Steps**

- A public summary of CAG feedback on NetZero Communications and Reporting will be created and shared.
- Communications and Engagement Working Group to continue developing some of the ideas raised at the workshop in upcoming working group meetings and discussions.
- E&C staff will report back at the September or December 2024 CAG meeting on how the City will further incorporate feedback in the next NetZero Progress and Accountability Report.

---

## Agenda Item

### 2. Discussion: CAG Members as Community Champions

**Description:** CAG members discussed their role in helping to mobilize all sectors and communities to move toward our shared goal of a zero-carbon, healthy, equitable, prosperous and resilient Toronto.

#### Discussion/Notes

- One of the objectives of the Climate Advisory Group is to help mobilize all sectors and communities to move toward our shared goal of a zero-carbon, healthy, equitable, prosperous and resilient Toronto. In reflection on this role, the CAG provided advice for public consultation activities on the 2026-2030 Short Term Action Plan, brainstormed ideas for how the CAG might contribute to those activities and what support would be needed to ensure effective engagement and reduce barriers to participation.
- CAG members discussed the following questions in their breakout groups:
  - What ideas do you have for public consultation activities on the 2026-2030 Short Term Action Plan?
  - How might the CAG contribute to engaging communities as part of the public consultation on the 2026-2030 Short Term Action Plan?
  - What do you need from the City to help you mobilize your community/sector in climate action?
- CAG advice included the following:

#### ***Connect climate to people's lives and priorities***

The CAG emphasized that engagement activities should aim to create tangible connection to people's lives rather than being 100% focused on climate. Connecting to themes such as wellness, comfort and health, youth employment opportunities and local community concerns is a great way to achieve this. This includes presenting information in ways that bring it down to a human level. For example, breaking down information for each

community or ward. Planning of the consultation should include identifying the groups that the City wants to engage, understanding their needs and developing strategies for how best to engage them.

### ***Make participation simple and engaging***

The advisory group discussed using creative consultation methods such as theatre, art, and other engaging forms of gathering, rather than traditional consultation meetings. They discussed making the sessions interesting to lead to more active and meaningful participation. The CAG also suggested breaking down engagement into small, clear bite-sized and locally-relevant pieces, instead of asking for feedback or trying to engage people on everything everywhere. For people who are interested in more comprehensive discussions, the CAG suggested holding in-person events with City experts dedicated to the different NetZero Strategy themes such as buildings, transportation, waste, adaptation or resilience, etc.

### ***Bring consultation closer to people***

The CAG discussed the importance of consultations taking place outside subway stations, bike shares, libraries, community centres, and other areas where people tend to access services to make consultation opportunities easy to access because they are where people will be. Engaging groups in small, localized areas will gather feedback without overwhelming participants by requiring them to travel solely for a consultation event. By integrating consultations into people's daily routines and along their transportation routes, we reduce travel costs and increase convenience, allowing them to participate on their way to other activities.

### ***Leverage existing relationships***

Key advice from the CAG was to work through existing community partnerships to share information and to bring engagement closer to people. Ideas shared included getting on the agenda for the meetings held by neighbourhood tables or resident groups, participating in general meetings of convening organizations such as the Toronto Community Benefits Network, collaborating with community organizations, community health clinics, youth and labour groups to run engagement sessions, and connecting to industry professionals as part of planned training sessions. CAG members can support these efforts by leveraging their networks and helping to make these

connections or organize engagement sessions. CAG members should have access to financial resources and materials should they choose to bring this work to their communities. The CAG also emphasized the importance of sharing any materials created for different sessions or strategies used to engage people to ensure we build on each others' knowledge.

***Build trust through transparent information sharing***

Building trust is an important part of community engagement. CAG highlighted the need for clear and accessible communication about what the City is doing on climate action and how it is progressing. This information needs to be delivered in a way that would be relevant for the community you're engaging with. Another key part of building trust is reporting back to communities on what was learned from the engagement and how it is being used to inform next steps.

***Provide resources to create effective and meaningful public consultation***

The CAG emphasized the need for various supports, including data, effective messaging, copy, graphics, discussion guides, and a budget for effective community engagement. They also stressed the need to enable community participation: if consultations occur during dinner time, meals should be provided, and if childcare is necessary for participation, it should be offered. There was also a suggestion to hire youth to facilitate the community engagement events to provide more opportunities for others to be involved. This can be done in partnership with or through existing programs. For example, the Toronto Youth Jobs Corp provides a full-time paid employment preparation program for youth facing barriers. The City could designate funding priority for community engagement related to the City's climate strategy.

---

## Agenda Item

### 3. CAG Terms of Reference Review

**Description:** CAG Secretariat presented the findings from the Annual Survey and the proposed updates to the CAG Terms of Reference Updates based on feedback gathered during past meetings and the annual survey.

### Outcomes/ Next steps

CAG Next Steps in 2024:

- The CAG will review the proposed Terms of Reference updates for approval at the September 2024 meeting.
- CAG members are invited to submit nominations for the Co-Chair role(s) to be reviewed at the September 2024 meeting.

## **Present:**

Andria Babbington  
Chris Ballard  
Colin Guldemann  
Marine Sanchez  
Derek May  
Jack Zhou  
John Robinson  
Joyce McLean  
Julius Lindsay  
Kristen Evers  
Lanrick Bennett Jr.  
Lyn Adamson  
Maria Constantinou  
Marine Sanchez  
Maggie Chang  
Richard Carlson  
Rosemarie Powell  
Shivani Chotalia  
Zamani Ra

## **Regrets:**

Alienor Rougeot  
Dave Campbell  
Jeff Ranson  
Joseph Ogilvie  
Lidia Ferreira  
Tinashe Kanengoni

## **Guests/Delegates:**

Jennifer Murphy for Cara-Lynne Wade

## **City of Toronto Staff:**

Andrew Plunkett  
Cecilia Fernandez  
James Nowlan  
Lindsay McCallum

## **Facilitators (Groundswell Projects):**

Destiny Laldeo  
Olga Semenovych  
Ruth Silver