



# City of Toronto Climate Advisory Group

## Annual Report

2023



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## **MESSAGE FROM THE CLIMATE ADVISORY GROUP CO-CHAIRS**

We are pleased to report on our first full year as the City of Toronto Climate Advisory Group (CAG). The CAG plays an important role in the city's engagement with the community to implement the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy.

The CAG is composed of representatives from many different sectors, including members of diverse backgrounds and ages. We bring together people with technical expertise and experience in buildings, energy, transportation, waste, resilience, and nature-based solutions. We also include representatives of community organizations who bring a range of perspectives to the development of strategic directions for the Net Zero Strategy.

Toronto will be entering the final year of the existing 2022-2025 Short-Term Implementation Plan for TransformTO, with a target of a 45% reduction in emissions from 1990 levels. The CAG is now actively working with staff to provide input on the next five-year plan that will run from 2026 - 2030, focused on the next target of a 65% reduction in emissions by 2030. This is a goal that can only be reached with the involvement of community members from across the city. We look forward to working in partnership with city staff across departments and all our communities to achieve this target, in ways that improve and strengthen our city and its many neighbourhoods.

We see the work as just beginning, full of challenges, but also full of opportunities. We recognize, as well, that everyone needs to be on board to put in the work to make that possible. As such, one of our roles as CAG members is as a bridge between the public and city staff, mapping pathways to transform our city so each neighbourhood can thrive, long-term, for all residents. Please join us this year as the City creates a new and ambitious Short-Term Implementation Plan, towards our goal of achieving a low-carbon and sustainable future, together.

Lyn Adamson and Maggie Chang  
Co-Chairs, City of Toronto Climate Advisory Group

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Toronto Climate Advisory Group (CAG) was established in the fall of 2022. It includes 25 members representing diverse communities, sectors, ages, and backgrounds and includes individuals from the buildings, energy, transportation, waste, resilience, labour, academic and community engagement sectors, along with individual members. The CAG members collectively act as advisors and champions for climate action and the policies, programs and initiatives being developed by the City of Toronto for implementation of the [TransformTO Net Zero Strategy](#). The CAG advises staff including the Executive Director, Environment and Climate Division (E&C), and reports out through an Annual Report.

The TransformTO Net Zero Strategy triggers new and accelerated implementation actions to drive down community-wide emissions, particularly in the short term, and establishes the trajectory needed to reach net zero by 2040. The targets and actions presented in the strategy were developed through extensive research and consultation across City divisions and agencies, stakeholders and the public. The Net Zero Strategy, with one of the most ambitious targets in North America, was approved by Toronto City Council in December 2021.

This document provides a summary of the CAG meetings, discussions, and accomplishments in 2023.

The CAG meets on a quarterly basis, and in 2023 met on the following dates:

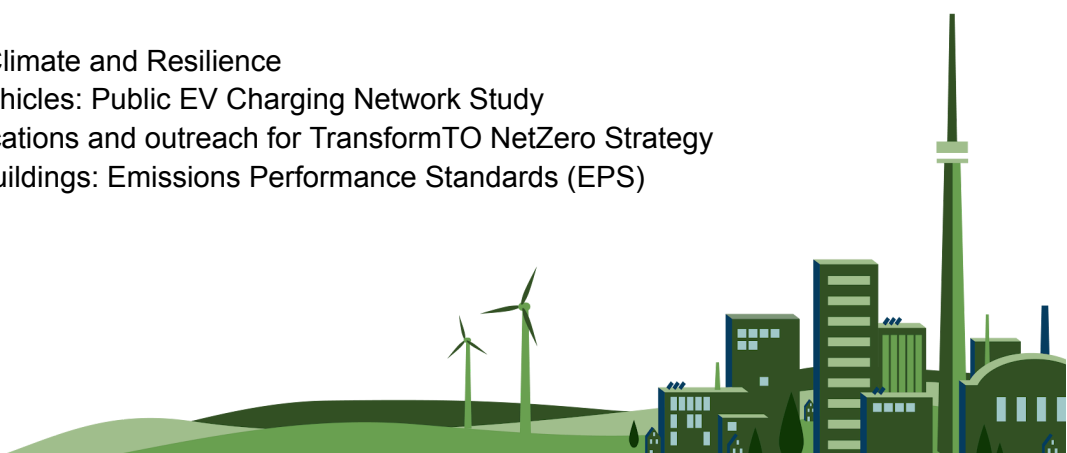
- Meeting #2023-1: March 8, 2023
- Meeting #2023-2: June 8, 2023
- Meeting #2023-3: September 14, 2023
- Meeting #2023-4: December 7, 2023

CAG meeting summaries can be found on the [TransformTO website](#).

The quarterly CAG meetings are held with the purpose of (i) informing the CAG about critical and timely work being undertaken by City staff, (ii) providing and opportunity for CAG members to ask questions and discuss with City staff, and (iii) to obtain feedback from CAG members on both ongoing and future work being undertaken. The CAG meetings involved presentations from City of Toronto staff, presentations by members of the Climate Advisory Group, and facilitated discussions on the topics listed below. CAG members prioritize equity and inclusion in their approach to both materials and discussions, using these lenses as a foundation for their feedback.

Throughout 2023, the CAG discussed and provided advice and feedback on the following topics.

- Equity in Climate and Resilience
- Electric Vehicles: Public EV Charging Network Study
- Communications and outreach for TransformTO NetZero Strategy
- Existing Buildings: Emissions Performance Standards (EPS)



- Introduction to the Environment & Climate Division Annual Budget and Update on Carbon Budget Processes
- Indigenous Engagement and Indigenous Climate Action Grants

While the CAG input was specific to each topic, common themes across all areas of advice include the following.

- **Ensure that equity principles are central in all policies, strategies and tactics.** This includes considering the needs of different groups when developing solutions to advance the NetZero strategy and ensuring equitable access to these solutions.
- **Prioritize inclusive engagement to accelerate progress towards NetZero.** This means connecting climate action to issues that people care about, providing education and helping people make connections between individual and collective action.
- **Transparency, predictability and accountability support residents and stakeholders to participate in climate action.** For example, climate policy development should provide clear information and direction to support ongoing engagement, action and decision-making.

In addition to the quarterly meetings, the CAG began establishing working groups, with the intention of meeting and working between the quarterly meetings, in order to provide more detailed and focused input in specific subject-matter areas. The following working groups have been established or are under development:

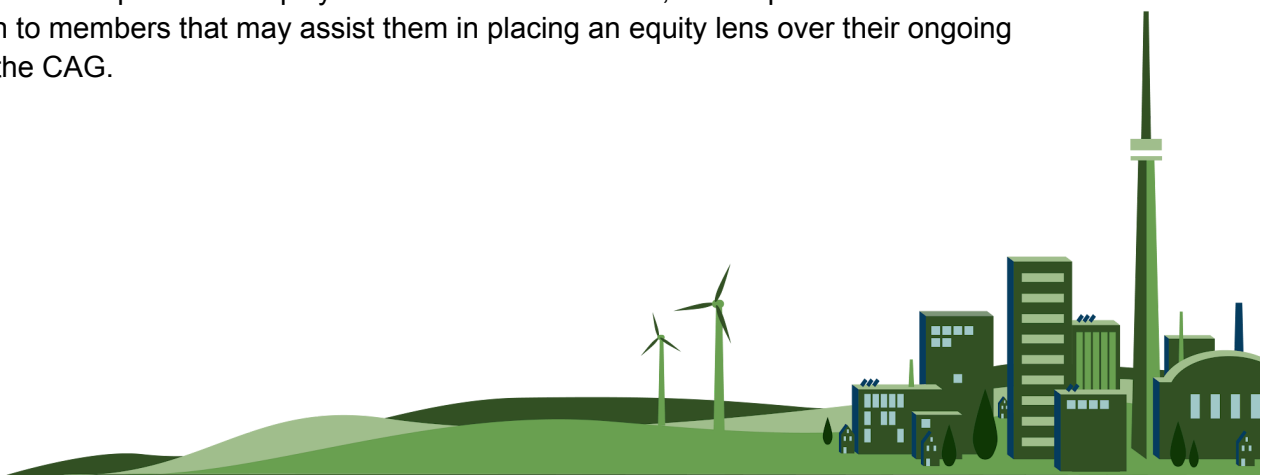
**Established:**

- Buildings and Energy Transition
- Communications and Engagement

**Under Development:**

- Sustainable Consumption and Waste Diversion
- Working with Other Levels of Government
- Climate Resilience
- Transportation

The CAG also participated in two other sessions during the calendar year. The first was an optional briefing by City staff on the 2023 Environment and Climate Division budget, City budget process and Carbon Budget process. The second session was a half day orientation workshop focused on Climate & Equity, which was intended to allow members to share their experiences and expertise on equity considerations in climate, and to provide additional information to members that may assist them in placing an equity lens over their ongoing work with the CAG.



## 2. CAG BACKGROUND & OVERVIEW

On October 2, 2019, City Council voted unanimously to declare a climate emergency and accelerate efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change, adopting a stronger emissions reduction target of net zero by 2050 or sooner. In response, the City developed the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy, adopted by Council in December 2021, which outlines a pathway to achieve net zero emissions community-wide by 2040.

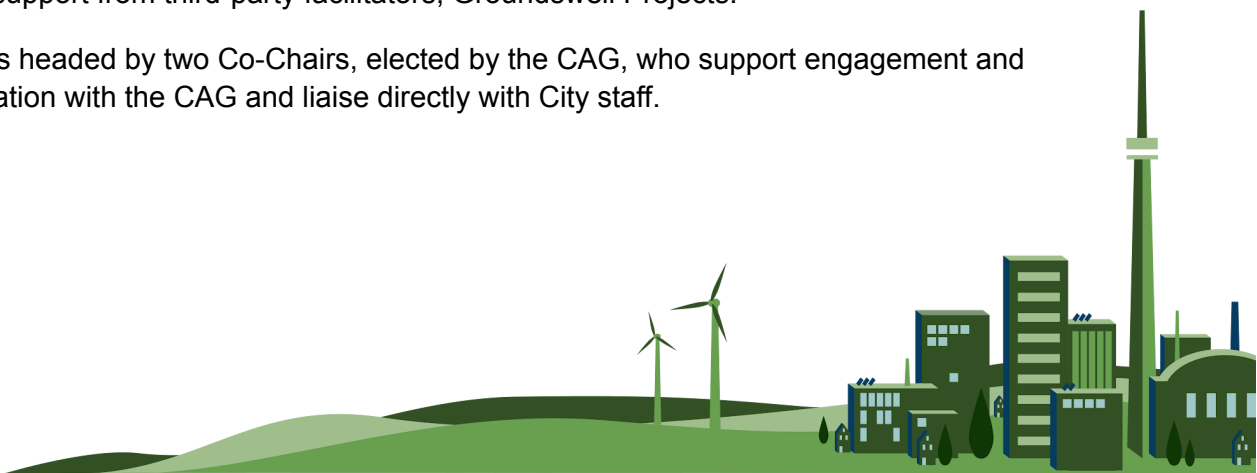
In adopting the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy, Toronto City Council also directed staff to develop an [Accountability and Management Framework](#) to center the voices of equity-deserving communities in strategy implementation. This Framework, endorsed by Council in May 2022, recognizes that achieving Toronto’s climate targets and goals will require meaningful engagement and collaborative action from all sectors of the community – public, private, non-profit and residents.

The idea of establishing an external advisory group to assist with the implementation of the Net Zero Strategy featured prominently in public and stakeholder input during consultations in 2019 and 2021. Participants in these processes expressed support for establishing accountability structures including a Climate Advisory Group.

<p><b>The Climate Advisory Group (CAG) is:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A non-legislative committee;</li> <li>• Accountable to and acting under the authority of the Executive Director of the Environment and Climate Division;</li> <li>• An advisory body. It may not direct City staff or make binding decisions on the Toronto government. Any advice or recommendations that require formal action or implementation by City of Toronto staff must be considered and approved by City Council.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The purpose of the CAG is to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide advice and peer review from Toronto’s diverse communities to inform community-wide implementation of the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy and the Short-term Implementation Plans;</li> <li>• Ensure ongoing two-way information sharing and collaboration between the City and external parties; and</li> <li>• Help mobilize all sectors and communities to move toward our shared goal of a zero-carbon, healthy, equitable, prosperous and resilient Toronto.</li> </ul>
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The City of Toronto Environment and Climate Division (E&C) acts as a Secretariat for the CAG with support from third-party facilitators, Groundswell Projects.

The CAG is headed by two Co-Chairs, elected by the CAG, who support engagement and communication with the CAG and liaise directly with City staff.



The CAG advises City staff and liaises with the Executive Director of the Environment and Climate Division, who provides a connection to senior leadership at the City. The Advisory Group may also provide input through representation at other City climate-focused meetings or advisory groups, such as the Net Zero Climate Leadership Table and Joint TransformTO Implementation Committee.

### **3. TOPICS OF DISCUSSIONS, ADVICE PROVIDED AND OUTCOMES FOR 2023**

This section summarizes the key topics and information that City of Toronto staff presented to the CAG, including feedback and advice shared by the CAG members, and an update on how the City staff acted on this input.

#### **3.1. Equity in Climate and Resilience: CAG Orientation Session**

The topic of Equity in Climate and Resilience was the focus of the second CAG orientation session in February 2023. The objectives of this session were to discuss how climate change and climate actions impact equity, and to learn about member's experiences, and the City of Toronto's efforts around equity and climate action, including engagement with Black, Indigenous and other equity-deserving communities. Since equity is an important lens for climate and resilience action and decision-making, the session also aimed to inform CAG members and allow them to share knowledge and experiences through discussion, and to ensure they will be well-equipped as a group to apply an equity lens in CAG meetings and discussions.

As part of this session, the CAG heard the following presentations:

- Janice Alvares from the City of Toronto's People and Equity Division provided an overview of the City of Toronto's definitions, programs and policies related to equity, inclusion and diversity;
- Cecilia Fernandez from the Environment and Climate Division, shared how equity and climate are addressed in the Net Zero Strategy and implementation plans;
- Tamara Grosutti and Megan Maclean from the Environment and Climate Division provided information about the climate action outreach and engagement portfolio, which supports community climate action work in Toronto;
- Nicola Lashley, Deborah Herbert, Lisa MacTavish and Adrian Lue, from the Environment and Climate Division presented on equity-related issues that are being addressed as part of the energy & buildings, transportation, and the resilience and natural systems portfolios.

The City's approach to equity is to "understand, acknowledge and remove barriers that prevent the participation of any individual or group, making fair treatment, access, opportunity, advancement and outcomes possible for all individuals." With regard to local Indigenous communities, and the City's approach to Reconciliation, the City works to "recognize, respect, and promote the unique rights and needs of Indigenous people and strive towards intentional impacts on economic, social and cultural structures with particular



emphasis on rights to land and resources. It is premised upon truth, justice and self-determination.”<sup>1</sup>

The People and Equity Division plays a central role in integrating equity and Reconciliation principles and commitments into the City of Toronto’s operations and works to align efforts across the organization to advance equity and meet the changing needs of our City’s communities.

One of the TransformTO NetZero Strategy’s key initiatives aimed at engaging equity-deserving communities is the [Neighbourhood Climate Action Champions Program](#). This program provides support and resources to organizations already leading community-based climate action work and includes the following:

- Climate action engagement and education
- Climate action grants/climate action fund
- Community partnerships
- Neighbourhood Climate Action Champions Program
- Indigenous Climate Action Engagement and Grants Program
- Youth Engagement Strategy

### CAG Member Input

Some CAG members shared information on the work they have been undertaking around climate and equity and their thoughts on opportunities to further advance equity work as part of TransformTO. A key idea shared was that equity should be a grounding principle when considering how to engage communities in climate action. For example, this can include considering that different communities have varying time and capacity available to participate in civic engagement processes, or developing strategies to create space for a more inclusive definition of climate action that reflects a diversity of experiences. There was interest in deepening connections between equity and resilience work and more discussion on how land use planning decisions impact equity.

## 3.2. Electric Vehicles: Public EV Charging Network Study

### Summary of discussion

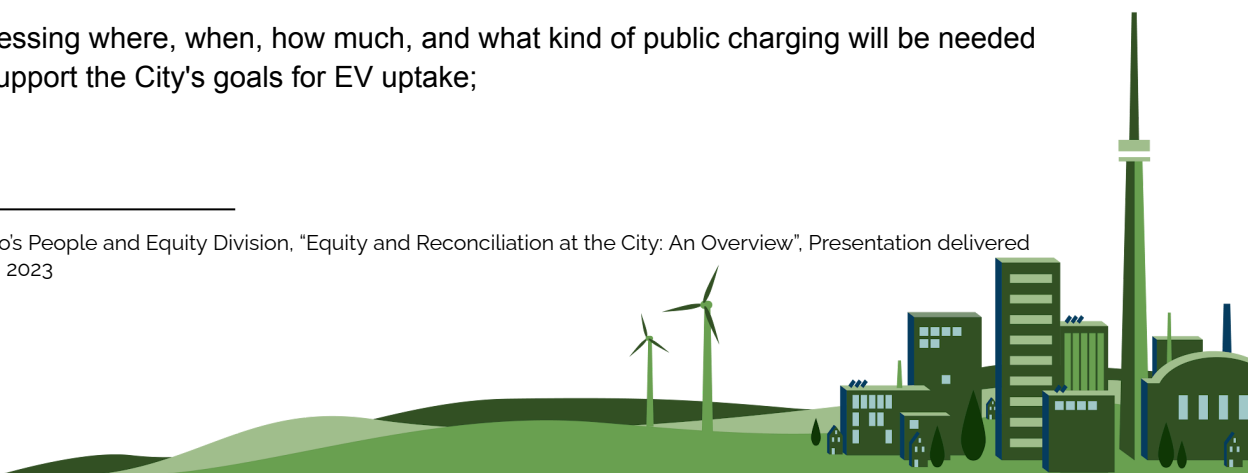
The Public Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Network Study was first discussed at the March 2023 CAG meeting. The CAG then heard an update on upcoming outreach and engagement around the plan.

[The Public EV Charging Study](#) is a comprehensive study that will guide the development of a supply of public EV charging in Toronto until 2040. The scope of the study includes:

- Assessing where, when, how much, and what kind of public charging will be needed to support the City's goals for EV uptake;

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<sup>1</sup> City of Toronto's People and Equity Division, "Equity and Reconciliation at the City: An Overview", Presentation delivered on February 15, 2023





- Exploring the City's role in implementing potential options for investing in and operating public charging, including technical, financial, policy, and equity considerations.

The City of Toronto identified EVs as part of a strategic alignment with global trends influenced by economic advantages and lower fuel and maintenance costs. However, the upfront costs of purchasing an electric vehicle are a significant barrier for some car owners. In Toronto, where 65% of households reside in apartments, retrofitting these buildings for EV charging may also present a costly and sometimes complicated challenge. Other car owners do not have access to off-street parking. These challenges highlight the importance of providing accessible public charging options. The success of the Electric Vehicle Strategy hinges on the widespread adoption of EVs from residents, businesses, and city partners, and addressing these barriers will be key in increasing the rate of EV adoption.

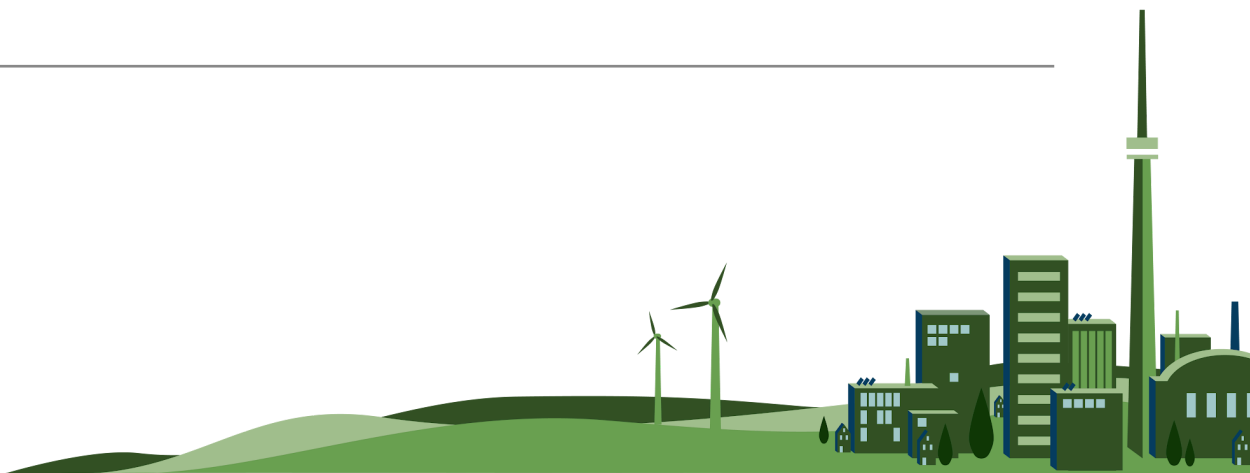
### CAG Member Advice & Feedback

CAG members offered the following considerations for the Public EV Charging Plan.

- 1. Consideration of multiple road users through the equity lens**
  - Consider the effects of creating space for vehicles on vulnerable road users such as cyclists and pedestrians.
  - Consider public education and awareness campaigns on greenhouse gas emissions reduction that focus on the benefits of electrified transportation, and on mode shifts to active transportation and transit.
- 2. Integrate EV charging with pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure**
  - Assess and create guidelines for EV charging infrastructure plans that will prevent conflicts with existing or future placement of pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure.
- 3. Equitable access to EV charging infrastructure**
  - Explore and develop opportunities to provide charging access with reduced or no fees to promote equitable access to public charging infrastructure.

### Follow-up action by the City of Toronto

The feedback and insights from CAG members highlighted the importance of planning and deploying public EV charging in ways that harmonize with and support active transportation and transit (and do not encourage the use of personal vehicles over these modes) and that increase equitable access to low carbon mobility. These key considerations were incorporated into messaging for public engagement on public EV charging (in September 2023) and will be included in a report to City Council in 2024 that will discuss the City's role in building a robust public EV charging infrastructure network in Toronto to support achievement of the City's EV uptake and sustainable transportation goals.



### 3.3. Communications and outreach for TransformTO NetZero Strategy

#### Summary of discussion

Communication and outreach efforts are integral components to TransformTO's Net Zero strategy and are essential to achieving the City of Toronto's Net Zero targets in the coming years. To achieve the 2030 interim target, the city needs to reduce emissions by 65% from the 1990 baseline. The emissions within the City's control represent approximately 5% of the total community-wide emissions, while ~95% of emissions are outside of the City's direct control, and will require participation from all sectors of society.

The Environment and Climate Division conducted a survey in 2021 to understand the perceptions about climate change among Torontonians and to understand Torontonians' willingness to alter behaviours with respect to climate change. The survey found that 91% agreed on the need to reduce emissions; however, the results indicated that individuals lacked awareness of actionable steps to address climate change. Communication strategies the team has used include updating the City's environmental brand, [Live Green Toronto](#), and using various communication channels and campaigns to reach diverse audiences.

The City of Toronto Strategic Public and Employee Communications team invited the CAG's input on the following questions:

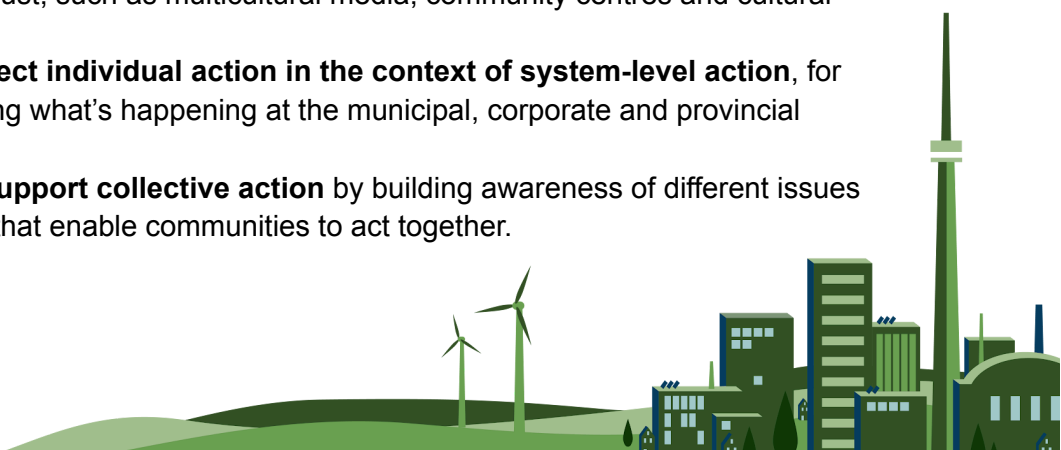
- What have you seen as effective communication on climate issues for your sector or community?
- What kinds of attitudes or perceptions have you noticed in your sector or community with regard to the climate crisis and the actions people need to take?
- What suggestions do you have for the City to better communicate the urgency of the climate challenges and the actions residents and stakeholders can take?
- What specific feedback do you have on the materials (brochure, website) that have been presented?

CAG members were asked to include a discussion on how to embed the principles of equity into the group discussion and feedback.

#### CAG Member Advice & Feedback

The CAG input and advice included the following:

- **Go beyond climate: speak to people where they're at and what they care about** by connecting intersectionality across different issues based on what matters most to different audiences.
- **Use a diversity of channels to reach diverse audiences**, for example collaborating with community leaders and champions and using media that diverse communities engage with and trust, such as multicultural media, community centres and cultural spaces.
- **Situate and connect individual action in the context of system-level action**, for example, by sharing what's happening at the municipal, corporate and provincial levels.
- **Encourage and support collective action** by building awareness of different issues and opportunities that enable communities to act together.



- **Communicate the complexity of climate issues**, which may include highlighting the negative impacts of climate change and using the harm reduction approach by pointing out what each of us can do even on the issues we cannot control.
- **Address financial benefits and affordability**: action pathways need to feel clear, easy and accessible for people, including being affordable and providing financial benefits.
- **Measuring the impact of communication on action**: there was interest in learning more about how communication supports and encourages action.

CAG members also provided more specific feedback on communication materials presented at the meeting.

### Follow-up action by the City of Toronto

The Climate Advisory Group has created a Communications and Engagement Working Group to delve more deeply into these issues. This group, which includes members of the Environment & Climate Division's Outreach and Engagement Unit, have identified key themes to pursue based on the initial discussions above, including:

- Developing a scan of climate and resilience engagement at the community level, and coordinating, aligning with and learning from other initiatives as much as possible;
- Developing a better understanding of how to “speak to people where they are at” including what this might mean for City-led communications and engagement;
- Identifying specific ways that the group can provide advice on climate and resilience engagement and communications at the City.

The Communications and Engagement Working Group began meeting in the second half of 2023, and input from the group will be used to inform the City's climate and resilience engagement and communications work in 2024.



### 3.4. Existing Buildings: Emissions Performance Standards (EPS)

#### Summary of discussion

The CAG discussed emissions performance standards (EPS) for buildings at the September 2023 meeting. Staff from the Environment & Climate Division's Existing Buildings Team presented on upcoming reports to the Executive and Infrastructure and Environment (IEC) Committees and Toronto City Council, including information on the development of proposed bylaws for building EPS and emissions performance reporting, along with upcoming stakeholder engagement meant to inform the EPS process.

Buildings represent the largest source of GHG emissions in Toronto today, accounting for 56 per cent of total community-wide emissions, mostly due to energy and water use. To realize a net zero future, significant investment in buildings, energy, transportation and waste infrastructure will be needed over the next 16 years. This includes retrofitting approximately 476,000 homes and buildings or about 27,000 retrofits each year until 2040. Retrofits can range from operational improvements to HVAC equipment replacement to building envelope retrofits.

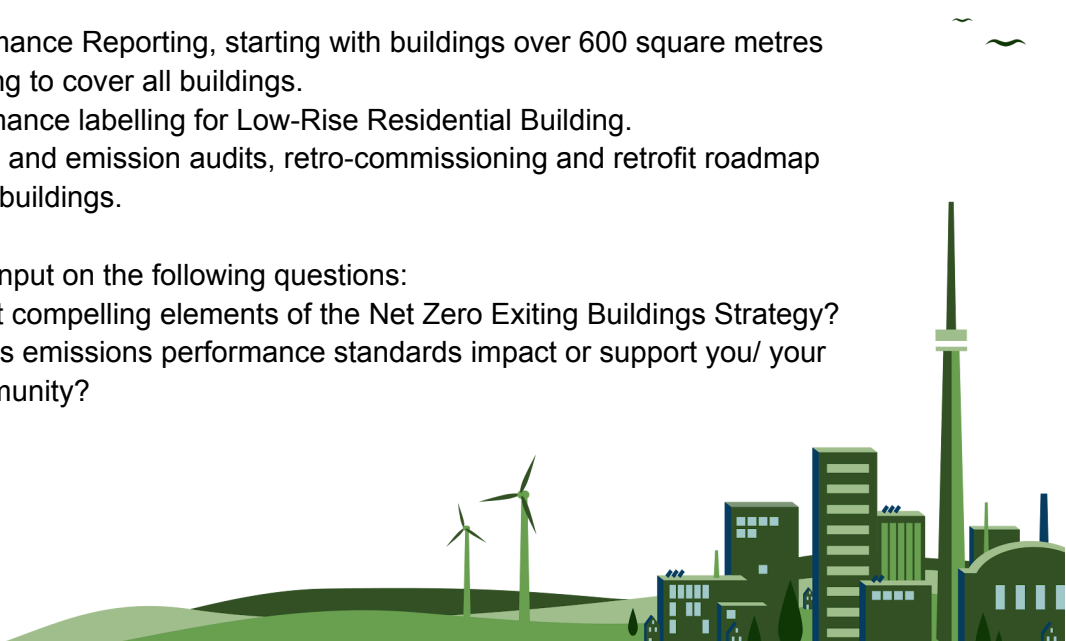
In December 2023, City Council adopted Toronto's Energy and Water Reporting By-law under Chapter 367 of Toronto's Municipal Code which requires owners of buildings 929 m<sup>2</sup> (10,000 ft<sup>2</sup>) and larger to report energy and water use to the City annually. Buildings 4,645m<sup>2</sup> (50,000 ft<sup>2</sup>) and larger will begin to report in 2024, and buildings 929m<sup>2</sup> (10,000 ft<sup>2</sup>) and larger will be required to report in 2025. Emissions Performance Standards (EPS) is one of nine policy actions identified in the Net Zero Existing Buildings Strategy (2021) and is the primary action in supporting the City's reduction targets. In light of this, City Staff are now developing an EPS By-law that would require property owners to make incremental improvements to reduce emissions from their buildings over time. Emissions Performance Standards are planned to apply to all buildings in Toronto, from the largest office towers to low-rise residential homes. The City will be conducting extensive consultations with relevant stakeholders and building owners regarding the proposed bylaws and reporting requirements.

In addition to developing Emissions Performance Standards and Energy and Water Reporting, the Environment & Climate Division is accelerating the following key by-law recommendations set out in the Strategy:

- Emissions Performance Reporting, starting with buildings over 600 square metres and later expanding to cover all buildings.
- Emissions performance labelling for Low-Rise Residential Building.
- Mandatory energy and emission audits, retro-commissioning and retrofit roadmap planning for large buildings.

CAG members provided input on the following questions:

- What are the most compelling elements of the Net Zero Existing Buildings Strategy?
- How may the City's emissions performance standards impact or support you/ your organization/community?



## CAG Member Advice & Feedback

The CAG feedback and advice included the following.

- **Net Zero Existing Buildings Strategy and Emissions Performance Standards provide clarity and direction for the industry, building owners and all stakeholders for achieving the 2040 milestones.** CAG members welcomed the breadth of the strategy and the differentiated approach for the needs of different sectors and building types.
- **Ensure the roll out of the Emissions Performance Standards includes inclusive engagement.** This includes better understanding the potential impacts of standards on low-income communities and providing information about the upcoming changes that may impact communities before they come into effect.
- **Recognize, engage and support energy advisors, contractors and installers as climate champions in advancing emissions reductions.** In particular, the CAG emphasized the importance of training and capacity building for small contractors and those from equity-deserving groups.
- **Engage youth of all ages:** increase efforts to understand youth perspectives and develop communication and engagement strategies for youth of diverse ages.
- **Engage homeowners through education, support and accessible incentives,** for example, providing a list of short-term actions homeowners can implement as part of net-zero retrofit initiatives.
- **Consider the impact of specific institutional and jurisdictional policies** on the ability of different institutions to participate in emissions reduction.

## Follow-up action by the City of Toronto

City staff incorporated this feedback into the development of the Energy and Water Reporting By-law and the public consultation strategy for EPS, which will be brought to the newly-formed Buildings and Energy Transition Working Group for discussion in early 2024. It is anticipated that the CAG (in particular the working group) will be asked to provide additional input on the stakeholder engagement process, along with the draft components of the EPS process. Staff are seeking to place an equity lens over the work, such that impacts on tenants, lower-income residents and equity-deserving communities will be identified and mitigated. In addition, buildings and energy experts on the CAG will be consulted on the proposed policy mechanisms and will have the opportunity to join further sessions that will focus on socializing EPS and collecting feedback on rollout, implementation, targets and timelines. This stakeholder engagement will be taking place in 2024.



### **3.5. Introduction to the Environment & Climate Division Annual Budget and Update on Carbon Budget Process**

#### **Summary of Discussion**

The discussion of the Environment & Climate Division Annual Budget and the Carbon Budget Processes took place at the December 2023 CAG meeting. This included presentations from the E&C Program Administration and Policy & Research units. The budget launched on January 10, 2024 marking the start of a comprehensive city-wide evaluation. This process was an opportunity to align financial resources with the evolving priorities of Council and address critical issues affecting the City.

The majority of the E&C capital budget is allocated to offering low-interest loans at the City's borrowing rate. This initiative is designed to support those undertaking energy or efficiency retrofits. Other key budget lines include programs in buildings (new and existing), electric vehicles, GHG quantification, resilience, carbon accountability, outreach and engagement, and the overall implementation of the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy.

The carbon budget establishes a process aligned with the annual financial budget cycle process to improve accountability for the City's climate objectives. This approach aims to make information more transparent for stakeholders and residents, particularly regarding emission budgets (e.g., fleet vehicles and buildings). The framework is structured into three main categories: policy, process, and tools.

The Carbon Budget Baseline Note replaces the Climate Investment Briefing Note of previous years and was released in January 2024. In 2024, the Carbon Budget Prioritization Process began to operate on an annual cycle in tandem with the preparation of the financial budget.

#### **CAG Member Advice and Feedback**

This meeting provided an orientation on the E&C budget and the carbon budget processes and collected questions from the CAG. These questions will be addressed at the special CAG sessions in mid-January and mid-February 2024.

#### **Follow-up action by the City of Toronto**

The CAG provided valuable input to staff on the City's Carbon Budget process, helping to confirm that the City's approach was rooted in the right principles (transparency, accountability, predictability, and quantification where possible) and that the approach would be useful to the work that members and their organizations undertake. As a result of these discussions, staff have included the CAG in the by-law as a body to be consulted on key plans going forward.

### 3.6. Indigenous Engagement and Indigenous Climate Action Grants

#### Summary of discussion

The CAG learned about E&C's work to engage Indigenous community members in climate action at the December 2023 meeting, which included a presentation from the Outreach & Engagement Unit.

The Indigenous Climate Action Grants Program is an important part of advancing the implementation of the City's [TransformTO Net Zero Strategy](#). The initiative marks an important shift towards collaborative efforts with Indigenous community members and actively supporting Indigenous-led climate and environment initiatives. The program's scope includes providing financial support for various projects such as Indigenous placemaking, education, cultural and ceremonial activities.

Collaboration with the Indigenous Affairs Office supports the Indigenous Climate Action team's work and assists them in developing a strategic approach to foster stronger relationships and to improve community engagement with Indigenous community members. The Indigenous Climate Action Grants Program also contributes to the City of Toronto's [Reconciliation Action Plan](#).

#### CAG Member Advice and Feedback

The Q&A and discussion identified several learnings on engaging Indigenous communities in climate action, including:

- The importance of **building trusting relationships with Indigenous-led organizations grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing** to strengthen climate action efforts.
- How the **adoption of Indigenous perspectives in climate action work can help to redefine the understanding of terms to align with Indigenous ways of knowing and understanding**. This shift contributes to a more inclusive and effective approach to climate initiatives, including how Indigenous knowledge can support, and be aligned with, GHG reduction and resilience.
- The importance of **engaging Indigenous people in staff roles to be able to support Indigenous communities** in the ways that are expected.

CAG members expressed interest in attending events hosted by the Indigenous Affairs Office and expressed interest in volunteering to support projects undertaken by the Indigenous Climate Action Grants recipients.

CAG members were encouraged to think about intersections and opportunities for connecting their work in working groups with the Indigenous Climate Action Grants Program and other Indigenous engagement work led by the E&C Division.



## Follow-up action by the City of Toronto

The City had initially planned to recruit one or more members of local Indigenous communities or organizations to sit on the Climate Advisory Group. However, during the recruitment process, input was provided to staff indicating that another approach should be considered that is more aligned with advice from the Indigenous Affairs Office and the Reconciliation Action Plan of the City. Staff in E&C are taking this advice and will work in 2024 to continue internal engagement to ensure meaningful interactions are included as part of ongoing input into the next TransformTO Implementation Plan. Additional details on this approach will be discussed with the CAG in 2024.

## 4. CAG PROCESSES

### 4.1. Co-Chairs

The CAG has two Co-Chairs, Lyn Adamson (representing ClimateFast) and Maggie Chang (an individual member).

Co-Chairs are elected by the members at the first meeting of each year or after a Co-chair seat is vacated. Their role is to support the liaison, engagement and communication with the CAG members by acting as the primary contact, checking-in with members, and coordinating gathering of feedback.

The Co-Chairs may also represent the CAG externally, for example, at other City climate-focused meetings or advisory groups, such as the Net Zero Climate Leadership Table and Joint TransformTO Implementation Committee, and in media releases and other communications.

The Co-Chair role was co-developed by the CAG members and is included in the CAG Terms of Reference, which will be reviewed and updated annually, or as needed.

### 4.2. Working Groups

Working Groups enable CAG members to work together in a focused way in between the quarterly CAG meetings on specific issues related to the implementation of TransformTO NetZero Strategy. Working Groups are established by CAG members, on a voluntary basis, by submitting a proposal that outlines proposed mandate, objectives and membership of the group and the resources required. The establishment of Working Groups includes engaging City of Toronto staff from the relevant Division to ensure feedback is incorporated into the City's work, and that the outcomes are actionable. All working groups are reviewed and approved at the discretion of the Executive Director of the Environment & Climate Division.



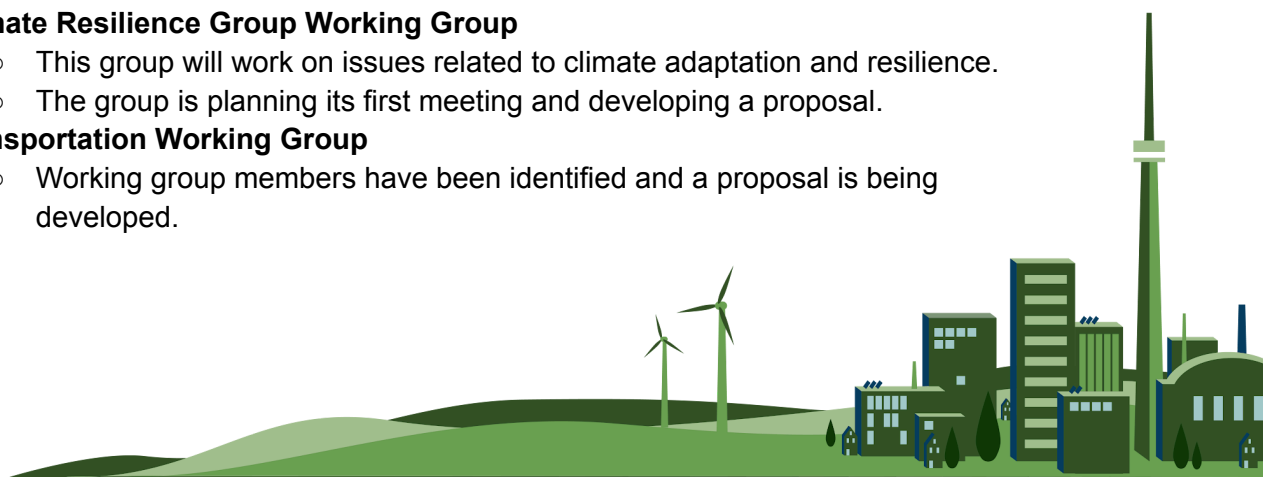


The following is a summary of the Working Groups that have been established and what they are working on.

- **Buildings and Energy Transitions Group Working Group**
  - Assisting the City of Toronto to accelerate the acceptance and use of methodologies required to achieve the City's emissions targets by identifying important obstacles faced by governments, the building sector and stakeholder groups, and recommending effective and efficient ways to overcome them.
  - The group held one meeting in late 2023.
  - Future meetings will focus on generating input on the development of EPS for existing buildings and the update to the Toronto Green Standard for new developments.
- **Communications and Engagement Working Group**
  - The group held two meetings in 2023. Discussion topics included:
    - Working with existing community organizations to identify how to better engage residents in culturally relevant conversations and action on emissions reductions. For example, members have suggested that community discussions don't necessarily lead with climate, but instead are connected to issues that are of importance to community members.
  - In 2024, the group will work with staff to identify opportunities to provide input on the City's ongoing climate and resilience communications, and to investigate innovative approaches to engagement at the community level, including with equity-deserving communities. The group also plans to conduct a scan of climate engagement happening across the City, to identify areas for potential collaboration.

The following Working Groups are under development.

- **Waste Diversion Working Group**
  - This group will work on advancing ideas around sustainable consumption and will build a framework or recommendations for community waste diversion.
  - The group held two initial meetings in 2023 to discuss a working group proposal, with an aim to submit the proposal for approval in 2024.
- **Working with Other Levels of Government Working Group**
  - This group will work on discussing ways that other levels of government can support the City's climate goals, and the potential advocacy role the City can play in provincial and federal climate- and resilience-related policy development.
  - Working group leads met with City staff assigned to this group and are working on a proposal.
- **Climate Resilience Group Working Group**
  - This group will work on issues related to climate adaptation and resilience.
  - The group is planning its first meeting and developing a proposal.
- **Transportation Working Group**
  - Working group members have been identified and a proposal is being developed.



A number of synergies between the working groups have already been identified – for example, the role of communications and engagement in buildings emissions reduction. The CAG Secretariat will aim to assist with coordination between the groups, which may include the option of joint meetings on specific topics in the future.

### **4.3. Membership updates**

Some CAG members departed the group in 2023, either due to internal changes within their organization or because they took up new work positions and no longer met the eligibility requirements for CAG members.

Outgoing members:

- Darnel Harris, Our Greenway
- Derek May, Pollution Probe
- Craig Ruttan, Toronto Region Board of Trade
- Neil MacNeil, Enbridge Gas Inc.
- Christian Cianfrone, Ellis Don

Incoming members:

- Lanrick Bennett, Jr., Our Greenway
- Richard Carlson, Pollution Probe
- David Campbell, Toronto Region Board of Trade
- Cara-Lynne Wade, Enbridge Gas Inc.

### **4.4. Annual survey**

Between November and December 2023, the CAG Secretariat conducted an annual survey of CAG members. The purpose of the survey was to:

- gain an updated understanding of the diversity representation among the CAG members;
- receive feedback on members' experience as part of the CAG in the first year and learn about what members want to see more of in year two;
- gain an updated understanding of CAG members' support need, including around communication between quarterly CAG meetings.

The results of the survey will be presented to the CAG in early 2024.



## 5. CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK FOR 2024

In addition to the scheduled quarterly meetings in 2024, the CAG will begin working on reviewing the City's TransformTO Net Zero Strategy Annual Report and contributing to the next TransformTO Net Zero Strategy Short-term Implementation Plan for 2026-2030. In preparation for this, CAG members will be invited to participate in two optional sessions and two deep dive workshops. The first optional session will focus on reviewing the Climate Budget Baseline Briefing Note, while the second will review the City of Toronto and the Toronto Atmospheric Fund Greenhouse Gas inventories. The first deep dive workshop will focus on a review of the [Annual TransformTO Net Zero Strategy Progress and Accountability Report](#) for 2023, which was released in March 2024, including the status of the existing Short Term Implementation Plan for 2022-2025. City staff will collect feedback from CAG members and incorporate it into the annual reporting process going forward. These additional sessions will equip the CAG with a robust understanding of the current state and progress in advancing TransformTO Net Zero goals to engage in the second deep dive workshop on the update of the TransformTO Net Zero modelling and development of the next (2026-2030) implementation plan.

Additional discussions and opportunities for input will be facilitated through the regular quarterly CAG meetings and working group meetings. Meeting agendas and summaries are posted publicly on the TransformTO website.

## CITY OF TORONTO CLIMATE ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS (2023)

Member	Role/Title	Organization (if applicable)
Lyn Adamson (Co-Chair)	Co-Founder	Climate Fast
Maggie Chang (Co-Chair)	Individual member	
Andria Babbington	President	Toronto and York Region Labour Council
Chris Ballard	CEO	Passive House Canada
Lanrick Bennett, Jr.		Our Greenway
Sarah Buchanan	Campaigns Director	Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA)
David Campbell	Associate VP, Policy & Research	Toronto Region Board of Trade
Richard Carlson	Director, Energy & Exchange	Pollution Probe
Maria Constantinou	Individual member	
Kristen Evers	Green Projects Team Leader	Toronto District School Board
Lidia Ferreira	Community Engagement Specialist	Community Resilience to Extreme Weather (CREW)
Barnabe Geis	Executive Director	Foresight Canada
Colin Guldemann	Individual member	
Tinashe Kanengoni	Individual member	
Julius Lindsay	Director, Sustainability	David Suzuki Foundation
Joyce McLean	Individual member	
Neil McNeil	Director, Toronto Region Operations	Enbridge Gas Inc.
Joseph Ogilvie	Individual member	
Rosemarie Powell	Executive Director	Toronto Community Benefits Network
Zamani Ra	Individual member	
Jeff Ranson	Director, Responsible Development	Northcrest Developments
John Robinson	Individual member	
Alienor Rougeot	Co-Founder	Fridays for Future
Marine Sanchez	Passive House Buildings Lead	RDH Building Science
Zack Zhou	Partner	A&J Energy Consultants

