

GW I 2024 COLLABORATION SERIES

GREEN WILL INITIATIVE

Session 3: Toronto Hydro - Building for the Climate

INTRODUCTION

This session focused on building sustainable and effective relationships between Toronto Hydro and the Green Will Initiative (GWI) members. The session included presentations from key personnel from Toronto Hydro, including discussions on climate action strategies, decarbonization, and electrification projects.

GW I MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS IN ATTENDANCE

- Starlight Investments
- Oxford Properties
- Epic Investment Services
- WoodGreen
- Toronto District School Board
- George Brown College
- Toronto Community Housing
- Toronto Zoo
- Woodbourne Capital Management
- University of Toronto
- University Health Network
- Sick Kids
- Realstar
- Exhibition Place
- Pure Industrial
- Sunnybrook
- Hazelview Properties
- Canadian Blood Services
- Unity Health Toronto

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT: RECOGNITION

The session included an announcement of the launch of a new recognition addition to the program, designed to celebrate members' leadership and dedication to emission reduction. Through this new addition, the City of Toronto will recognize your organizations committed to decarbonizing its portfolios and advancing energy efficiency in buildings.

Why get recognized?

Being recognized by the City of Toronto and GWI can enhance your organization's visibility as a leader in sustainability and emissions reduction. It builds internal support by showcasing your commitment, inspires collaboration with other members, and increases tenant engagement, reinforcing your role as a community leader.

What can you get recognized for?

Recognition is available in three categories that your organization can select from:

- Advocate - Sharing portfolio information and promoting the program.
- Collaborator - Contributing meaningfully to the GWI program and other building owners.
- Mobilizer - Building capacity within your organization.

For more information, see the Recognition [Information Sheet](#) and [FAQ Document](#).

KEY DISCUSSIONS



Toronto Hydro
Carrie Tate - Senior Manager,
Large Customer and Key Accounts



Toronto Hydro
Michael Pathak - Manager,
Climate Action Large Buildings

• Collaboration with Toronto Hydro

- Toronto Hydro's Key Accounts Team, launched in 2020, plays a central role in facilitating interactions with large customers to streamline electrification processes.
- Members emphasized the need for incentives and support in implementing large-scale energy efficiency projects and thermal storage solutions to reduce peak load.
- Toronto Hydro emphasized the importance of early communication to assist in decarbonization projects, particularly in understanding connection processes and grid requirements.

• Decarbonization and Electrification Support

- Toronto Hydro announced plans to integrate data automation with Energy Star Portfolio Manager, which will streamline utility data reporting and help organizations meet local and federal requirements.
- Members raised concerns about the cost implications of switching to electricity for previously gas-dependent infrastructures.
- Toronto Hydro previewed tools like a heating load estimator and a virtual decarbonization audit to assist members with electrification planning.

• Addressing Reliability and Grid Capacity Concerns

- Members expressed concerns about grid capacity and the timeline for full electrification, especially under stringent decarbonization goals.
- Toronto Hydro provided an update on initiatives included in their new Grid Modernization Strategy, such as accelerating solar and energy storage, automated power restoration, and more.

Conclusion

The GWI 2024 Collaboration Series Session 3 fostered an in-depth and collaborative dialogue between Toronto Hydro and Green Will Initiative members. The discussions emphasized shared goals of advancing decarbonization and enhancing grid reliability, underscoring Toronto Hydro's commitment to partnering with organizations on their electrification journey. The recognition program's launch, aimed at supporting and acknowledging sustainability efforts, was well-received by participants, who highlighted its potential for bolstering internal support and visibility.

Looking forward, members voiced their expectations for continuous improvements in data accessibility, streamlined processes, and greater support as they navigate the challenges of decarbonization. The upcoming November 21 event with Deputy Mayor Jennifer McKelvie and Toronto Hydro's new President & CEO Jana Mosley is anticipated to further reinforce these partnerships and recognize the collective efforts toward a sustainable future.