

## **City of Toronto**

### **Climate Advisory Group (CAG)**

#### **Summary Notes**

**Meeting #1: March 27, 2025**

**9:30am - 12:30pm**

#### **Present**

**Cara-Lynne Wade, Chris Ballard, Jack Zhou, Jeff Ranson, John Robinson, Joyce McLean, Julius Lindsay, Kristen Evers, Lanrick Bennett Jr., Lindsay Walker, Lyn Adamson, Maria Constantinou, Marine Sanchez, Muzhi (Maggie) Chang, Richard Carlson, Rosemarie Powell, Sarah Buchanan, Shivani Chotalia, Zamani Ra**

#### **Regrets**

**Colin Guldemann, Joseph Ogilvie, Lidia Ferreira, David Campbell, Annemarie Baynton (City of Toronto)**

#### **City of Toronto Staff**

**Andrew Plunkett, Cecilia Fernandez, Kim Stemshorn, Alice Xu, Jessica Chow, Sarah Gingrich, Marvin Quitoras, Da Huo, Sourabh Jain**

#### **Facilitators**

**(BMG): David Buwalda, Nicholas Liznick, Nowshin Ahmed**

#### **Agenda**

1. Review of Net Zero Strategy Action Plan Consultation and TCAN Community Discussion
2. CAG Working Groups
3. CAG Terms of Reference Review and CAG Annual Report
4. Local Emissions for Net Zero LENZ presentation
5. Other Business

#### **Meeting Objectives**

- Update and discussion on the NetZero Action Plan (NZAP) process for 2026-2030
- Update and discussion LENZ technical modelling
- Discussion on Terms of Reference and next CAG term/cohort

## **1. Review of Net Zero Strategy Action Plan Consultation and TCAN Community Discussion**

**Description:** Update from City and CAG Co-Chair.

### **Discussion/Notes**

- Update on the recent public consultation process for the net zero strategy, which had over 2,800 participants. Key findings include:
  - 60% of respondents already feeling climate change impacts
  - 63% of homeowner respondents having completed or planning energy audits/ retrofits
  - 60% of vehicle owners having no plans to replace gas-powered vehicles.
- Financial barriers and lack of incentives were cited as major challenges for both home energy improvements and electric vehicle adoption.
- This is a sample of people who are interested and who engage with us in many ways. As such, residents who are interested in climate action are likely over-represented in this sample.
- The consultation materials were sent to all Councillor's offices at launch along with sample social media posts. The materials did find their way into some Councillor newsletters, but the message was competing with other newsletter items.
- The number of responses was similar to the EV survey of the previous year which was approx. 2,500 responses.

### **Outcomes/Next Steps**

- A climate survey with a more representative sample may go out this year through a polling firm after which we can compare this data.
- Question: Why aren't Councillors more apt to take up this messaging and report the survey results (for example) in newsletters? Further conversation on sharing information, engaging CAG with council members is requested.
- The survey results and TCAN results were shared with the CAG in the invitation to the Q1 meeting and are available on the resources page of the CAG website.

## **2. CAG Working Groups**

**Description:** Reports and discussion from CAG Working Groups

### **Discussion/Notes**

- 5 Working Groups have been established and had at least one meeting as of this quarterly CAG meeting, including:
  - Communications and Engagement
  - Buildings
  - Energy Transition
  - Resilience
  - Working With Other Levels of Government

- Future meetings will be coordinated by the CAG consultant. A meeting format for future meetings will be used by the consultant.
- The Transportation Working Group has submitted their application and, pending approval, will be meeting in April.
- The Waste and Circular Economy Working Group is yet to have an assigned staff representative and will not meet again until one is assigned and the group is approved.

#### **Outcomes/Next Steps**

- Continue to get clarity on the Waste working group.
- Co-chairs/lead for each group are recommended.
- Consultant to coordinate next meeting
- Future CAG meetings will have dedicated agenda item reserved for Working Group Reports.

### **3. CAG Terms of Reference Review and CAG Annual Report**

**Description:** After a brief update on CAG related business, a discussion was held on the role of the CAG as Community Champions as outlined in the CAG mandate in the Terms of Reference.

#### **Discussion/Notes**

- The CAG annual report 2024 was completed by Groundswell and reviewed and approved by staff, pending any final revisions or noted omissions from CAG members. The report will be circulated for review after the meeting.
- There are currently no plans to make changes to the CAG's structure, reporting lines, or Terms of Reference. Requests for changes can be submitted for discussion at future meetings.
- 2026 is the end of the first 3-year term of the CAG. Members have joined at different times in that term. You will be invited to a next term. Members are encouraged to consider their ongoing membership prior to the June 2025 CAG meeting. Recruitment for new members will begin in September. The City will communicate with all current members on this topic before the next meeting.

#### **Outcomes/Next Steps**

- 2024 CAG report is ready to distribute. Any notice of errors or omissions can be submitted to staff by April 30.
- Terms of Reference are included in the resources page on the CAG website.
- A brief summary of the discussion on Community Champions was added to the Resources page of the CAG website and will be distributed with summary notes.
- The discussion identified that informing and engaging councilors is very important to sharing the work of the city to residents and inspiring them. Finding ways to keep councilors updated and involved under our current mandate is important for the CAG to be community champions.

## 4. Local Emissions for Net Zero LENZ presentation

**Description:** Presentation from the LENZ team. Link to LENZ website is:

<https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/water-environment/environmentally-friendly-city-initiatives/transformto/local-emissions-for-net-zero-modelling-suite/>

### Discussion/Notes

- Understanding of Ontario as a 'clean' grid is affected by the existence of the Portlands Energy Centre. Question: Where is this reflected in the model?
- Request for BEPS to be included in modelling.
- Members want to learn more about City Fleets and retrofit standards as climate change mitigation.
- Members would like to know more about where energy saving opportunities are in the city.
- The report makes clear We are not on track. Is there a way of reporting on incremental policies that would move things forward?
- The LENZ information is detailed on the City Website.

### Outcomes/Next Steps

- Want to learn more about City Fleets
- Can modelling be provided to show more about employment potential re: Green Jobs Forecasts? This is a topic to discuss at the April 4th workshop.

Additional thoughts submitted via the chat:

- "Have we had input from tenant associations? (How many units are uninhabitable because of over heating?"
- "I really like what you've done to break down the different scenarios - would be great to see the NZ by 2040 scenario broken down into different actions/policies?"

## 5. Other Business

**Description:** Any agenda items not completed or activities to prepare for the next meeting.

### Notes

- Reminder of April 4 workshop on the next Net Zero Strategy Action plan (in-person only).

### Next Steps

- Agenda and materials will be circulated via email.

## End Summary Notes