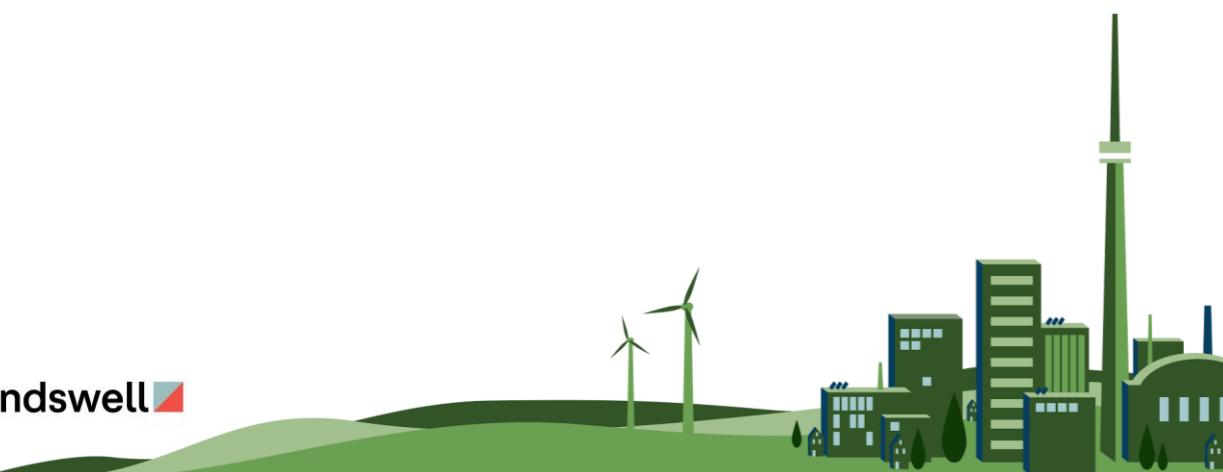


# **City of Toronto Climate Advisory Group**

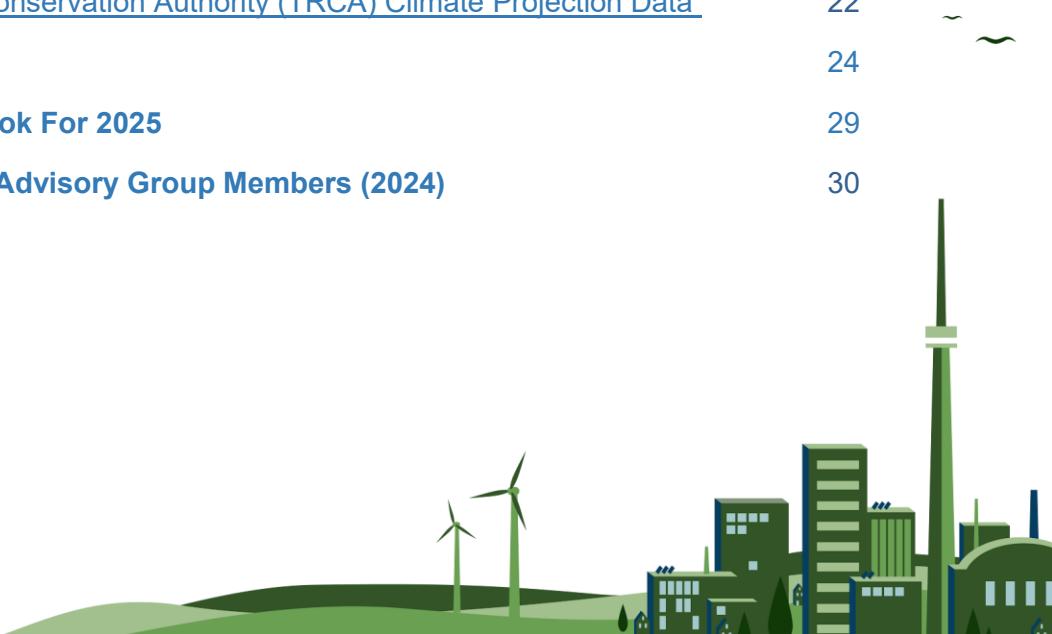
## **Annual Report**

# **2024**



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## MESSAGE FROM THE CLIMATE ADVISORY GROUP CO-CHAIRS

We are pleased to report on the 2024 activities of the City of Toronto Climate Advisory Group (CAG). We continue to work to represent communities across Toronto in the City's engagement strategy, with the diversity of background, culture, age and technical experience represented in our group. We bring this expertise together to advise on equitably and effectively implementing the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy.

We made many strides in 2024 both internally and in our engagement. Internally we initiated the set up of working groups on Climate Resilience, Energy Transition, Working with other Levels of Government, and Transportation, to increase our impact. Engagement wise, in addition to our quarterly meetings, we provided deep feedback in a number of intensive workshops on the next Short-Term Action Plan for TransformTO. This new plan will cover the years 2026-2030 and will be focused on a target of 65% reduction in emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

The work is both challenging and rewarding, and we know that our ambitious goals for climate action can only be reached with the involvement of community members from across the city. To achieve a 20% reduction in emissions between 2026 and 2030 will require an ambitious plan, as there is a very large projected gap between what existing strategies can be expected to accomplish and the interim target for emissions reduction. We look forward to continuing our work 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 are excited and committed to continuing our role as CAG members in being a bridge between the public and city staff to transform our city so everyone in every neighbourhood can thrive, today and for generations to come. Please join us in creating the safe, sustainable, supportive, fair, low-carbon future we all want to see - we're confident we can get there 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 CAG is supported by a Secretariat including E&C staff and a facilitation team from Groundswell Projects.

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 2024.

The CAG meets on a quarterly basis, and in 2024 met on the following dates:

- Meeting #2024-1: March 20
- Workshop #2024-1: May 3
- Workshop #2024-2: May 31
- Meeting #2024-2: June 6
- Meeting #2024-3: September 19
- Meeting #2024-4: December 5

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 an 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 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 2024, the CAG discussed and provided advice and feedback on the following topics:

#### **Meeting 1**

- Solid Waste Management Services Engagement Work
- City of Toronto Net Zero Annual Report & Action Plan
- World Cup Environmental Plan

#### **Meeting 2**

- CAG Input Summary on Net Zero Strategy Reporting and Communication
- CAG Members as Community Champions

#### **Meeting 3**

- Public Engagement Strategy for the 2026-2030 Short Term Action Plan
- 2025 Annual Budget Update
- Existing Buildings Team: Introductory Presentation on Toronto Hydro/City of Toronto digital tool to support carbon awareness, education and engagement with Toronto residents

#### **Meeting 4**

- Update on the Net Zero Action Plan (2026-2030)
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) Climate Projection Data

The Climate Advisory Group (CAG) outlines five interconnected strategic priorities emphasizing accessible communication, equity, integration of climate initiatives, transparency, and alignment with broader community needs to advance effective climate action:

#### **1. Prioritize Accessible & Tailored Communication**

There was a lot of focus this year on communication. Advice from the CAG is to simplify all technical content, use clear visuals, and ensure materials meet accessibility standards (e.g., AODA compliance). Communication should be developed as audience-specific to create materials that are tailored, as much as possible, to specific communities (eg; renters, homeowners, equity-seeking groups) while also speaking to the community at large. The city should employ diverse communication methods such as multilingual resources, interactive dashboards, storytelling, and in-person events. Effective communication from the city would build trust, inspire action, and ensure diverse audiences understand and engage with climate initiatives.

#### **2. Center Equity & Community Engagement in Climate Strategies**

As in 2023, the CAG emphasizes the need to embed equity principles in all policies, strategies and tactics and specifically addressing barriers faced by vulnerable communities. They advised the city to collaborate with local organizations, provide resources for grassroots initiatives, and ensure sustained engagement through workshops, partnerships, and financial/in-kind support (e.g., honoraria, childcare, refreshments). Equitable approaches will ensure climate actions are inclusive, impactful, and resonate with diverse community priorities.

### **3. Strengthen Integration Between Climate Mitigation & Resilience**

There is a need to bridge gaps between mitigation (e.g., emissions reduction) and resilience (e.g., preparedness for extreme weather) in communication and effort. To do this the city could highlight multi-benefit initiatives (e.g., green roofs, natural cooling solutions), asset mapping, and risk assessments to guide coordinated action and ensure clarity in terminology (e.g., resilience vs. adaptation). Integrated strategies will maximize benefits, reduce duplication, and create cohesive long-term plans.

### **4. Enhance Transparency, Accountability & Public Trust**

Another recurring theme from 2024 is to use accessible and tailored communication to share the City's progress, costs, and consequences of inaction, while showing how community feedback informs decisions. Develop transparent reporting tools, share real-life success stories, and create concise public-facing summaries of technical reports. This is critical as trust and accountability are foundational for sustained public buy-in and collective action.

### **5. Align Climate Action with Broader Social & Economic Priorities**

Finally, also discussed in 2023 is to integrate climate goals with key community priorities such as employment, housing, food security, and public health. Foster cross-sector collaborations (e.g., Toronto Hydro, local governments), prioritize social procurement, and highlight co-benefits (e.g., job creation, improved health outcomes). Connecting climate action to tangible benefits makes it more relatable and motivates collective efforts.

In addition to the quarterly meetings, the CAG met in working groups and continued to establish new **working groups**. This structure allows the CAG to meet and work 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
- Engagement, Communication and Community Benefits

#### **Under Development:**

- Sustainable Consumption and Waste Diversion
- Working with Other Levels of Government
- Climate Resilience & Nature-based Solutions
- Transportation
- Energy/Electrification

The CAG also participated in two other sessions during the calendar year. The first was a half-day workshop focused on:

- a deeper understanding of the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy;
- the 2023 Annual TransformTO Net Zero Progress and Accountability Report;
- and to provide feedback on future annual reporting and communications on Net Zero progress.

The second half-day workshop, led by Third Party Public, began brainstorming on what could go into the next Short-Term Action Plan to help put the City on track to meeting the 2030 and 2040 goals identified in the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy. Summaries from both workshops are included in section 3.

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## 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.

<b>The Climate Advisory Group (CAG) is:</b>	<b>The purpose of the CAG is to:</b>
<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>	<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 Action 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>

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.

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### **3. TOPICS OF DISCUSSIONS, FEEDBACK & ADVICE PROVIDED AND OUTCOMES FOR 2024**

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.

#### **Meeting 1 March 20, 2024**

##### **Topic 1: Solid Waste Management Services Engagement Work**

###### **Summary of discussion**

Solid Waste Management Services Presentation from Atif Durani, Manager of Stakeholder and Community Outreach and Project Director of Business Transformation Policy, Planning and Outreach for Solid Waste Management Services (SWMS). Atif provided an overview of the City's efforts to address food waste and enhance resource recovery, aligning with the Ontario Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement. As part of its Long Term Waste Management Strategy, the City has integrated the Ontario Food Recovery Hierarchy, prioritizing waste reduction, education, and infrastructure development to support food waste recovery.

He shared the city's waste reduction targets, promoting educational campaigns on food waste reduction, and collaborating with the multi-residential and commercial sectors to ensure effective resource recovery. Key initiatives include promoting composting, running public education programs, and organizing events to engage residents in reducing waste.

Atif cited food waste as one of Toronto's primary waste streams, contributing to methane emissions and creating challenges due to its heavy transport weight. To address this, the City has set a target of achieving 70% waste reduction and resource recovery by 2023. Single-family homes are central to these efforts, with audits conducted in 2020 revealing a 78% resource recovery rate for this sector.

Multi-unit residential buildings and industrial, commercial, and institutional (IC&I) facilities also have specific resource recovery targets. The City works to support compliance with these goals through targeted outreach and advocacy efforts, ensuring all sectors contribute to Toronto's waste reduction objectives.

###### **CAG Member Advice & Feedback**

The CAG provided feedback emphasizing the need for clearer connections between the City's waste reduction efforts and its TransformTO targets, particularly in aligning policies with the Ontario Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement. Members expressed interest in

being engaged early in policy development to provide input and direction. Concerns were raised about the lack of transparency regarding waste diversion, especially in multi-residential buildings, where private haulers often prioritize cheaper landfill options.

Members highlighted the need for stronger regulation and tracking of private-sector waste, clearer diversion targets, and more regular updates on blue bin and garbage diversion rates, including per capita data. Questions were raised about how food waste recovery efforts connect to organizations like Second Harvest, and what is being done for older buildings still using garbage chute systems. The group also stressed the need for active engagement strategies beyond education alone, as information provision does not sufficiently change behavior. Members expressed a strong desire for ongoing, transparent communication and engagement to ensure the City's strategies are informed, effective, and aligned with climate goals.

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

The CAG will receive an update on the Dufferin, Disco Road and Greenlane projects in the future. Should there be a future review of the Ontario Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement, the CAG would like to participate in the discussion. Solid Waste Management Services will assess options for assigning a staff member to work with the Waste working group, or inviting CAG members to participate in SWMS engagement processes.

### **Topic 2: City of Toronto Net Zero Annual Report & Action Plan**

#### **Summary of discussion**

City of Toronto staff presented an overview of the [Net Zero Annual Report](#), highlighting actions needed to achieve net-zero emissions by 2040 and a [Climate Change Readiness Report](#), which outlines progress on TransformTO implementation and proposes a new approach for climate resilience. Presented by Stephanie Gower, Program Manager, Environment & Climate; Lindsay McCallum, Program Manager, Environment & Climate; and Charlie Hatt, Program Manager, Environment & Climate.

The *Climate Change Readiness Report* builds on past efforts, such as hiring a Chief Resilience Officer (2017-2019) and releasing a Resilience Strategy. Current efforts focus on prioritizing adaptation and resilience through a cohesive approach that leverages previous work. A *Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment* identifies key risks and emphasizes the urgency of climate action. The report highlights the need for cross-corporate leadership, resource allocation for Indigenous perspectives, and enhanced coordination to strengthen city-wide resilience.

The *Net Zero Annual Report* emphasizes critical steps in the Net Zero Strategy, including establishing a carbon budget, reducing fossil gas emissions, improving access to low-carbon transportation, and transitioning to renewable energy. Toronto is addressing building emissions through initiatives like the *Toronto Green Standard* and upcoming *Emission Performance Standards*, while integrating electric vehicles and buses into its transportation

fleet. Achieving the 2040 Net Zero goal requires ongoing support and investment from the City, other levels of government, residents, and businesses.

### **CAG Member Advice & Feedback on the Annual Report**

CAG members offered mixed feedback on the “battery” visual used to indicate progress, with some appreciating the metaphor while others found it confusing, associating it with energy consumption. They suggested exploring alternative visuals, ensuring accessibility (AODA standards), and providing more context on how actions impact emissions, including weighted performance measures.

Concerns were raised about the report’s resonance with the general public. Members emphasized the need to simplify technical aspects, tailor content to different audiences, highlight real-life impacts, and create opportunities for public engagement, such as Q&A sessions.

Topics identified for further discussion at the Annual Report Workshop included measuring impact, addressing action gaps, and incorporating resilience and equity considerations. Members also stressed exploring equity issues like renter-specific challenges, guidance on effective retrofits, and strategies for public engagement. Further priorities included behavioral change, sector-specific discussions (e.g., transportation and naturalization), and identifying ways for the CAG to contribute meaningfully to the 2026-2030 plan.

### **CAG Member Advice & Feedback on the Climate Change Readiness Report**

CAG members provided several suggestions to enhance the next phase of work on climate resilience. They emphasized the importance of leveraging existing community initiatives, such as food projects, gardens, and programs led by organizations like Black Creek Farm, TEA, CREW, LEAF, and Impact Zero. Members recommended revisiting the 2019 Resilience Report, incorporating overlaps with mitigation efforts, and transitioning from risk assessment to asset mapping.

Natural cooling solutions, such as ravines, and the health benefits of nature—both physical and mental—were highlighted as key considerations. Equity was a recurring theme, with calls to improve connections between resilience initiatives and equity-seeking groups. Members also stressed the need to address financial responsibility for resilience measures, exploring tools like property taxes, development charges, and local improvement charges.

To improve coordination, members suggested including a City staff member in the Climate Resilience Working Group and advocating for the CAG to provide input early in the process. Strengthening relationships with Councillors, leveraging CAG members’ community ties, and ensuring ongoing engagement were identified as critical steps to maintain community involvement and raise awareness of resilience work.

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

A half-day workshop in May was designed for the CAG to provide more in depth feedback on the Net Zero report and the Climate Change Readiness report. Outcomes of this workshop will inform the design of the next reports. See the summary of the workshop below and full report posted to the [Climate Advisory Group tab of the TransformTO website](#).

## Topic 3: World Cup Environmental Plan

### Summary of discussion

FIFA 2026 World Cup Environmental Plan presentation from Michael Brewer, Jonathan Coretti, and Marco Iacampo from Environment & Climate Division. The presentation provided an overview of the FIFA World Cup 2026 and highlighted a sustainability plan aimed at a commitment to an environmentally sustainable tournament. FIFA mandates host cities to develop a sustainability plan that aligns with broader environmental goals of host cities, the City of Toronto will incorporate initiatives such as net zero strategy, Toronto Green Standard, long-term master plans, policies around social procurement and community benefits. The design team is striving for Net-Zero emissions and adherence to the Toronto Green Standards in design and construction to maintain environmental sustainability throughout the project.

### CAG Member Advice & Feedback

Feedback emphasized the importance of integrating social sustainability alongside environmental goals, highlighting issues like security, equity, and community treatment under the diversity, equity, and inclusion legacy pillar. Social procurement will be addressed through a dedicated subgroup and community benefits reporting. Concerns were raised about reducing single-use items, with suggestions to align plans with zero-waste initiatives seen in other cities. While the draft plan includes TransformTO and sustainability priorities, it remains iterative over the next two years. Questions about climate resilience, particularly for Centennial Park, stressed the need for plans to address extreme heat, flooding, and disruptions during the event. The team is connected with 15 host cities to share best practices, and participants encouraged further outreach to non-host municipalities for additional insights.

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

CAG members will have an opportunity to review the FIFA World Cup Environmental Plan and provide feedback. CAG members interested in joining an advisory group were invited to contact staff member Jonathan Coretti for more information.

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## Workshop 1 May 3, 2024

### Annual TransformTO Net Zero Progress and Accountability Report Workshop

### Summary of discussion

Groundswell Projects facilitated a special workshop for the CAG to review the first Annual TransformTO Net Zero Progress and Accountability Report, to reflect on the status of TransformTO Net Zero Strategy and provide advice on how the City of Toronto reports on

and communicates about the Net Zero Strategy and progress. Workshop participants included 20 CAG members and 10 City of Toronto staff from the Environment & Climate Division Policy & Research, and Outreach and Engagement Units.

### **CAG Member Advice & Feedback**

The Annual TransformTO Net Zero Progress and Accountability Report provides a comprehensive overview of the City's progress on the Net Zero strategy. The CAG appreciates its transparency in acknowledging that Toronto is off track on its Net Zero goals and the urgency to accelerate action. However, the report's technical nature and length make it more suitable for City staff and academics. The CAG recommends streamlining technical reporting while prioritizing strategic public communication and engagement to mobilize collective action and make the Net Zero Strategy relevant to diverse stakeholders.

Key recommendations include: integrating community engagement and equity as critical steps, emphasizing outreach and education tailored to diverse audiences. Actions should focus on equity by offering low-cost pathways and collaborating with community groups. Adding waste as a critical step in the Net Zero Strategy was highlighted as it presents low-cost solutions, connects to community concerns like food security, and aligns with the City's sustainability goals.

The CAG stressed the importance of collaboration with other government levels, public agencies, and private stakeholders, such as Toronto Hydro, to achieve Net Zero goals. Building connections across priorities, including employment, housing, and resilience, can make climate action more relatable. Highlighting links between land use, zoning, and GHG emissions, as well as addressing energy system planning for retrofits and EV developments, ensures a holistic and systemic approach.

Reporting should connect mitigation and resilience efforts, demonstrating how climate actions like green roofs and tree planting provide multiple benefits, including equity and community well-being. Clarity in terminology (e.g., resilience vs. adaptation) is essential to avoid confusion and enhance understanding. The city should focus on building capacity to connect climate to people's lives by developing a knowledge repository about how to make climate relevant to different audiences and by developing partnerships to support engagement and communication.

Tailored communication is critical for engagement. Identifying stakeholders—such as homeowners, renters, and equity-deserving groups—and addressing their priorities helps create impactful messaging. Storytelling and case studies of successful actions locally and globally can inspire collective action. Transparency on costs, budget decisions, and the consequences of inaction helps build trust and motivate stakeholders. The CAG emphasized using diverse communication assets and formats, such as visuals, dashboards, interactive tools, and multilingual content, to make information accessible. Non-digital outreach is also necessary to reach audiences without internet access.

For the 2024 Annual Report, the CAG recommends creating a concise version for Council and a public-focused report that connects climate action to people's lives. This includes sharing inspiring stories, creating a citywide map of climate actions, and prioritizing equity-

deserving groups and those eager to act. Building capacity and partnerships to enhance engagement and communication will be vital to achieving Net Zero goals.

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

Staff will continue to review input for incorporation into future reporting on the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy. See follow up action from Meeting 2024-2 on June 6, 2024 where the CAG discussed the outcomes of the workshop with city staff.

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## Workshop 2 May 31, 2024

### TransformTO Net Zero Strategy – Brainstorming for next Short Term Action Plan (2026-2030)

#### Summary of discussion

Climate Advisory Group (CAG) met with staff from various City Divisions and other public agencies to begin brainstorming on what could go into the next Short-Term Action Plan to help put the City on track to meeting the 2030 and 2040 goals identified in the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy. 50 people participated in the workshop, including Climate Advisory Group (CAG) members, staff from the City's Environment and Climate, Economic Development and Culture, Transportation, Planning, Solid Waste Management, and Corporate Real Estate Management Divisions, as well as staff from Toronto Hydro and the Toronto Transit Commission, and consultant teams supporting the City's facilitation of the CAG (Groundswell) and emissions modelling (ESMIA). This workshop was facilitated by Third Party Public.

Discussions with CAG members, City staff, agency staff, and consultants considered:

1. What has worked well to date in achieving emissions reductions in this sector? What insights do you have about why?
2. What are 2-3 big challenges in achieving GHG emission reductions in this sector?
3. What critical actions or policies do we need to think about prioritizing to help reach the 2030 and 2040 targets in this sector, and why?
4. What tools and powers (existing and/or new) could the City use to encourage and/or compel others to help achieve the GHG emissions reductions required to achieve 2030 and 2040 targets?
5. What additional information could support the CAG and City staff in developing the next Net Zero Strategy Short Term Action Plan?

#### CAG Member Advice & Feedback

##### Topic 1: Sector-Specific Brainstorming: Existing Buildings

Key successes include a widely recognized residential loan program, the City's carbon budget tool, and the Existing Buildings Net Zero Strategy, driven by TransformTO momentum. These initiatives have mobilized resources and engaged City divisions effectively. However, challenges persist: fragmented Net Zero approaches ignore holistic solutions and embodied carbon, clear retrofit standards are lacking, and public awareness remains low. Limited Net Zero specialists and affordability concerns further hinder progress. To meet 2030 and 2040 targets, Toronto must redefine Net Zero, implement Emissions Performance Standards (EPS), prioritize financing and awareness campaigns, enforce policies, and leverage international best practices to drive systemic change.

##### Topic 2: Sector-Specific Brainstorming: New Buildings

The Toronto Green Standard (TGS) has been effective in reducing emissions from new buildings due to its enforceability and achievable targets, supported by incentives for sustainable construction. However, challenges remain, including policy silos, pushback from

developers on stricter TGS tiers, and limited education on achieving sustainability targets. Embedded carbon lacks financial incentives, and gaps between TransformTO climate goals and intensification targets complicate progress. To accelerate change, sustainability must be mandated as a core priority, with improved education, streamlined tools, and financial incentives like development charge rebates. Expanding grid capacity and aligning municipal and provincial policies are also essential.

### **Topic 3: Sector-Specific Brainstorming: Transportation**

Toronto has reduced transportation emissions by removing automobile capacity on specific routes and promoting alternative modes like cycling, public transit, and micro mobility, with successes such as bike lane expansion, RapidTO transit projects, and parking minimum removals. Electric vehicle adoption, supported by rebates, and public infrastructure investments have also driven progress. However, challenges persist, including the slow rollout of infrastructure due to entrenched car culture, limited funding, and political opposition. Barriers like insufficient EV charging, unreliable public transit, and poor intermodal connections further complicate efforts. To meet 2030 and 2040 targets, the City must prioritize mode shifts, bold street redesigns, transit expansion, e-bike incentives, and new revenue tools to reduce car dependency.

### **Topic 4: Sector-Specific Brainstorming: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy**

Toronto has advanced renewable and low-carbon energy through coal elimination, district heating systems, and early adoption of technologies like solar photovoltaic windows. Partnerships with Toronto Hydro and infrastructure projects, such as the Copeland Transformer Station, have improved grid resiliency. However, challenges persist, including fragmented efforts, reliance on natural gas, limited space for energy storage, and barriers like the Renewable Energy Act's solar restrictions and aging infrastructure. To achieve 2030 and 2040 targets, Toronto must develop an integrated Renewable Energy Strategy, prioritize innovations like offshore wind and smart grid technologies, support pilot projects, enhance transparency, and establish long-term funding models to overcome systemic barriers.

### **Topic 5: Sector-Specific Brainstorming: Waste and Circular Economy**

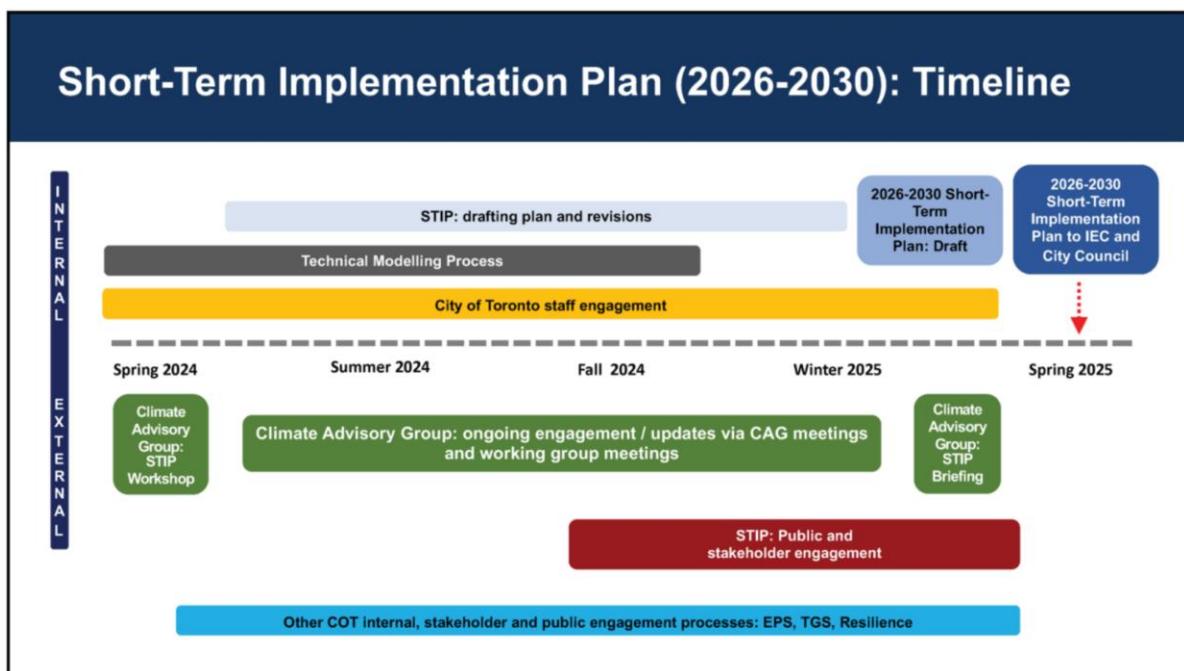
Toronto has embraced a circular economy approach, recognizing waste as a consumption and design issue, creating opportunities for sustainable waste management. However, challenges persist, including inconsistent policies across public and private systems, limited resources for implementation, and unclear directives for reducing construction waste. Gaps in tracking lifecycle emissions and inconsistent residential waste management further hinder progress. To meet 2030 and 2040 targets, Toronto must adopt a systems approach, prioritize circular economy strategies, and promote construction waste reuse. Clear residential processes, ambitious TransformTO targets, and improved coordination with adequate resources are essential. Accurate emissions tracking, accountability, and equity-focused climate action will drive long-term success.

## Topic 6: Sector-Specific Brainstorming: Communications and Engagement

Effective engagement strategies have empowered communities by framing climate action as a collective effort. Programs like the Neighbourhood Climate Action Champions successfully connect individuals to TransformTO goals. Key challenges include scaling small-group engagement, combating disinformation, and providing clear, actionable guidance. Limited funding further restricts participation, relying heavily on volunteers with time and privilege. To advance progress, the City should partner with trusted local organizations, integrate messaging into existing events, and provide funding to scale grassroots efforts. Empowering communities through visible climate maps, activity showcases, and tailored communications will inspire behavior change and support widespread engagement toward 2030 and 2040 targets.

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

The results from the workshop will be an important input into the ongoing work to develop the next Short-Term Action Plan. In early 2025, a follow-up workshop with CAG members and staff will be developed to consider a draft list of actions for the next 5 year plan.



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## Meeting 2 June 6, 2024

### Topic 1: Review CAG's Advice & Feedback on Net Zero Strategy Reporting and Communication

#### Summary of discussion

Groundswell presented key messages and recommendations from the Climate Advisory Group's workshop on Net Zero 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.

#### CAG Member Advice & Feedback

There is a need for climate action communication to connect with people's priorities and aspirations in meaningful ways. Interactive, two-way engagement was emphasized over one-way communication, with a focus on aligning the climate agenda with community needs. Key suggestions included creating a Net Zero curriculum, embedding a climate lens in public engagement, and partnering with advocacy groups and community organizations to broaden outreach. Waste management was flagged as a missed opportunity for tangible, low-cost engagement.

Cross-sector collaboration, particularly with Toronto Hydro, and creating an inter-jurisdictional portfolio were seen as critical for coordination. The CAG stressed integrating climate action with priorities like employment, housing, food security, and resilience. Tailoring communications to specific audiences—through dashboards, newsletters, videos, and multilingual materials—was recommended, alongside the \*30/3/30\* approach for varied content formats.

Transparency, accountability, and trust-building are essential. Highlighting the cost of “doing nothing” while emphasizing benefits like comfort, affordability, and security can make climate action more relatable. Engaging City Councilors and reaching non-digital audiences, such as seniors and lower-income groups, were identified as priorities. Community-led initiatives, like neighborhood engagement in Scarborough, offer effective models for aligning local needs with climate goals.

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

A public summary of CAG feedback on Net Zero Communications and Reporting will be created and shared. The Communications and Engagement Working Group committed 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 a future CAG meeting on how the City will further incorporate feedback in the next Net Zero Progress and Accountability Report.

## Topic 2: CAG Members as Community Champions

### Summary of discussion

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. 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 Member Advice & Feedback

The CAG emphasized that engagement should connect climate action to people's lives by focusing on themes like wellness, health, and youth employment. Information should be presented in relatable ways and tailored to local communities and neighbourhoods. Planning consultations should identify target groups, understand their needs, and develop effective strategies to engage them. Use creative, engaging methods such as theatre and art instead of traditional meetings. Break down information into clear, localized pieces and hold in-person events with City experts on specific themes—like buildings, transportation, and waste—can increase participation.

Consultations should take place in accessible locations like subway stations, libraries, and community centers to integrate them into people's routines. Working through existing partnerships—such as resident groups, labour networks, and health clinics—was highlighted as a key strategy. CAG members suggested leveraging their networks to support these efforts and would need access to resources to organize sessions.

Finally, the CAG reminded the City that building trust is critical. The City must clearly communicate climate progress in ways relevant to the community and report back on how feedback informs decisions. Resources like data, graphics, discussion guides, and funding are essential for effective engagement. To improve participation, offer supports such as meals, childcare, and youth facilitators.

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

In November 2024, the City held two information sessions to support CAG members, and any interested individuals or organizations, to lead climate discussions in their own communities. The City will continue to work with the Communications and Engagement Working Group to gain ongoing advice on effective techniques for engaging and communicating at the neighbourhood level, with a particular focus on equity deserving communities.

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## Meeting 3 September 19, 2024

### Topic 1: Public Consultation Strategy for the 2026-2030 Short Term Action Plan

#### Summary of discussion

Third Party Public made a presentation and led discussion to get CAG feedback on the draft Public Engagement Strategy for the 2026-2030 Action Plan. This included input received at the CAG-Staff Workshops on May 31, 2024, the overall objectives of the engagement strategy, proposed approach, activities and timing. The core elements of the proposed approach focused on a discussion of climate change impacts and what actions people can take to contribute to Toronto's goal of reaching Net Zero by 2040. Planned engagement activities include a public survey, an information video, two in-person and two virtual events, and community-led conversations. The presentation introduced a draft toolkit and resources to support community-led conversations on the 2026-2030 Short Term Action Plan.

#### CAG Member Advice & Feedback

The CAG provided detailed feedback on the proposed public engagement strategy, emphasizing a focus on diversity, balancing messaging, and creating tools that empower meaningful participation. Members appreciated the emphasis on reaching diverse audiences, offering both virtual and in-person opportunities, and using peer-to-peer approaches like community conversations. They recommended using diverse imagery, translating materials into multiple languages, and centering equity more prominently in engagement strategies.

Members supported highlighting climate impacts to make discussions relevant but advised caution in avoiding fear-based messaging. They suggested connecting impacts to socio-economic levels, emphasizing resilience and adaptation, and quantifying the collective costs of inaction. Alongside impacts, showcasing opportunities like job creation, economic growth, and tangible benefits from existing actions was seen as key to fostering hope and motivation. The discussion stressed the importance of connecting engagement to issues people care about, such as food access, equity, and jobs. Starting conversations by identifying participants' priorities and linking them to climate action could make discussions more meaningful. Members also underscored the need to engage all levels of society—households, workplaces, industries, and communities—while addressing disparities in emissions and climate impacts. For instance, toolkits could guide renters on working with landlords to improve building sustainability or help communities organize for policy changes.

Encouraging collective action was another key theme. Members highlighted the importance of fostering neighborhood-level collaboration and civic engagement, offering guidance on maintaining connections after initial meetings. Storytelling was suggested to inspire collective efforts and demonstrate successful examples of shared action. On toolkit development, members advocated for co-creating resources with target communities, tailoring versions for specific audiences like youth, and providing practical advice for

organizing conversations. Suggestions included addressing opposition, offering reciprocal benefits like apprenticeship links or recognition, and showing how participant input has shaped plans.

Recognizing the limited capacity of community groups, the CAG recommended providing financial or in-kind support to organizers, such as honoraria, access to space, and refreshments as well as extending the timeline until the end of January 2025. They also proposed aligning this engagement with other consultations, like budget discussions, to streamline efforts and maximize participation.

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

CAG feedback was synthesized and provided to Third Party Public for incorporation. The CAG Communication and Engagement Working Group met in October and provided further input into the Public Engagement Strategy for the 2026-2030 Short Term Action Plan. A variety of techniques were incorporated into the public consultation process, including webinars, a survey, a group discussion guide, and over 20 in-person 'pop-up' events across the city. Staff circulated the consultation materials directly to over 200 local individuals and organizations, and the process was also highlighted in the Live Green News and TransformTO Update newsletters (with approximately 15k subscribers). And at the request of some CAG members, the City extended the public consultation process from 6 weeks to 12 weeks (November 2024-January 2025). The public consultation report will be available in March 2025, and input from the process will be utilized to inform the next Action Plan.

## **Topic 2: 2025 Annual Budget Update**

### **Summary of discussion**

City of Toronto staff presented information about the pre-budget consultation that will take place in person and online in the fall of 2024, an update on the key dates as part of the 2025 budget process, and an update and key dates on the 2025 carbon budget process. The budget key dates include fall engagement sessions (schedule pending), budget launch on January 13, 2025, budget committee meeting January 15-17, 2025, opportunities for deputation on January 31, 2025, and a special council meeting on February 11, 2025, where the budget will be approved.

### **CAG Member Advice & Feedback**

The CAG had a generally positive response to the budget presentation, appreciating its introduction as a recurring process mandated by the municipal code. Members valued the intention to establish it as an annual practice, aligning budget discussions with broader Net Zero initiatives. They also expressed interest in how this process could integrate community-level feedback to accelerate climate action.

A key suggestion was linking the short-term action plan consultation to tangible community needs, such as improving transit access based on public feedback (e.g., adding TTC stops or increasing service). The CAG encouraged facilitating opportunities for community-driven action that aligns with and accelerates climate goals.

However, there was some concern about whether specific funding would be allocated to address these priorities. While stakeholders can influence policy decisions and funding requests through consultation, the ultimate approval lies with the mayor and council, leaving some uncertainty about how community feedback translates into actionable budgetary decisions.

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

In January 2025, the CAG will be offered another special session focused on the 2025 budget and carbon budget process. In addition, City staff will share information with the CAG once the budget approval process has launched.

### **Topic 3: Existing Buildings Team: Introductory Presentation on Toronto Hydro/City of Toronto digital tool to support carbon awareness, education and engagement with Toronto residents**

#### **Summary of discussion**

City staff from the Existing Buildings Team presented ideas for a digital tool they are developing with Toronto Hydro to support awareness, education and engagement with Toronto residents. This tool intends to help property owners learn about the carbon emissions of their homes and use this information to develop personalized carbon plans for their homes. The project timeline includes public consultation in the fall of 2024, procurement and customizing of a digital tool in winter 2024/2025, development and testing in early 2025 and launch later that year. City staff showed a demo of a similar tool used in Saskatoon.

#### **CAG Member Advice & Feedback**

The CAG asked questions about the sources of data for the tool, what will be included as part of the consultation, strategies for engaging property owners to use the tool, what the procurement process will look like, how the City will be leveraging the relationship with Toronto Hydro, opportunities to engage installers, and opportunities to connect to existing City programs and incentives.

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

The Buildings and Energy Working group met in November to provide further review and input on the development of the proposed digital tool. Some key points that emerged from that meeting are:

#### **Feedback:**

- This can be a useful tool and a great way to get good information to homeowners, without relying on experts at the outset. Consider marketing this as a “retrofit kickoff tool” that provides quality information to help residents know enough to then speak confidently with a contractor.
- A key driver is the fact that efficiency means savings. Showing operating costs over a period of time versus the capital cost to do any renovations is going to be critical.

- People may be most interested in the tool when it is attached to a broader home renovation. As such, providing staging recommendations for implementation could be helpful. In other words - where best to start?

**Advice:**

- Consider a process where someone could add the initial inputs and then answer more questions about their future plans, for a more tailored approach or pathway.
- Consider colouring the map based on “savings potential”.
- Provide some context on which measure in a drop down are “better” than others.
- Provide a way to prioritize or sort measures to solve for various situations.
- Include co-benefits in potential actions.

CAG feedback will be considered and incorporated into the development of the tool, where appropriate, and staff will update the CAG on progress at a future meeting.

## Meeting 4 December 5, 2024

### Topic 1: Update on the Net Zero Action Plan (2026-2030)

#### Summary of discussion

City staff from E&C presented an update on the Net Zero Strategy Action Plan (2026-2030). The City of Toronto's Net Zero Strategy aims to achieve net zero emissions by 2040, with an interim target of a 65% reduction by 2030 from 1990 levels, guided by eight principles and supported by a cross-sector Action Plan. The 2026-2030 Action Plan, currently in development through public consultation, technical modeling, and engagement with the CAG, will be presented to City Council in June 2025. Progress updates include findings from the 2021 emissions inventory, advancements in LENZ modeling with ESMIA, and refined annual reporting processes based on recent stakeholder feedback.

Consultants from Third Party Public presented an update on the public consultation process underway from October 2024 to January 2025. The public consultation process included an online survey, webinars, community-led discussions, and pop-up events, shaped by Climate Advisory Group feedback from September 2024. Early findings show that 70% of respondents feel climate change impacts, 70-80% want to learn and act more, but barriers such as affordability, lack of incentives, limited control, time constraints, and insufficient information hinder action.

#### CAG Member Advice & Feedback

The CAG provided feedback on Toronto's public consultation process, raising concerns about the scope and turnout of outreach efforts and noting that surveys primarily engage individuals already interested in climate issues. Members suggested shifting focus from repeated surveys to educational initiatives and proposed alternative engagement methods, such as social media polls and gathering insights from contractors and real estate agents.

CAG members emphasized the need to explore barriers preventing the 61% of respondents who don't plan to take action. The City acknowledged this as a priority for the 2026-2030 Action Plan, referencing existing research on adoption barriers, such as electric vehicle (EV) uptake. There was a call for faster action on known barriers and more clarity on how individual actions contribute to collective goals. Members suggested making climate impacts more relatable by focusing on air quality and emphasizing adaptation strategies to address extreme weather events. They also highlighted the need to broaden transportation discussions beyond EVs to include e-bikes and public transit.

Overall, the CAG underscored the importance of clear communication, diverse engagement strategies, and a balance between ongoing consultation and immediate action to meet Net Zero targets effectively.

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

- The CAG Secretariat will share recordings of the public consultation webinars with the CAG members.
- The City is planning an in-depth workshop with the CAG in April 2025 to review the potential actions for the Net Zero Strategy Action Plan (2026-2030) based on public consultation and modelling.
- CAG Secretariat will share an overview of the proposed workshop with the CAG Co-Chairs for input on its design.

### **Topic 2: Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) Climate Projection Data**

#### **Summary of discussion**

Staff from the City's Resilience Team presented a newly released report on Toronto's Current and Future Climate prepared for the City of Toronto by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority 2024. The presentation outlined Toronto's refreshed approach to climate resilience, as detailed in the 2024 Staff Report, emphasizing the need for accessible climate data to guide adaptation planning, risk assessment, and public engagement. Collaboration between the TRCA and E&C enabled analysis of recent and future climate projections, producing insights for City staff and the public.

Using two IPCC scenarios—one medium-emission and one high-emission—the report examined key variables like temperature, extreme heat, and precipitation. Findings show that annual temperatures will rise, extreme heat events will increase, and cooling demand for buildings will grow while heating demand declines. Annual and seasonal precipitation levels are expected to increase, with a rise in extreme precipitation events.

The data aims to inform policies, programs, asset management, and operations, supporting specific projects and decision-making. It also serves to educate staff, leadership, and the

public, fostering climate literacy and inspiring climate action. Additionally, it supports ongoing efforts in GHG emissions reduction and climate resilience.

The CAG discussed how the data could best communicate the importance, challenges, and opportunities of climate resilience. Members emphasized the need for clear, relatable messaging to connect individual actions with collective goals. They suggested leveraging the data to highlight tangible impacts, inform sector-specific strategies, and make insights easily accessible to professionals and the public. The group also stressed the importance of framing climate resilience as a shared responsibility, ensuring the data drives actionable steps at all levels. Overall, the presentation underscored climate data's essential role in shaping policy, enabling action, and building a resilient city.

### **CAG Member Advice & Feedback**

The CAG emphasized the importance of climate data as a tool for driving proactive action, supporting informed decision-making, and fostering community resilience. They highlighted the need for data to guide the development of future-proof infrastructure standards, influence political and economic decisions, and demonstrate the financial value of resilience through clear business cases.

Climate data can also connect key climate issues, showing how mitigation and adaptation efforts are interrelated. For example, instead of relying on air conditioners, cities can invest in heat pumps, fans, and green infrastructure to reduce carbon intensity while improving resilience. Additionally, data can help shift the narrative from fear to hope, providing tools and pathways for collective action and demonstrating how efforts today contribute to a better future.

Specific uses for climate data include:

- Investment and Financial Planning: Assessing asset vulnerabilities, financial risks, and guiding budget priorities.
- Capital and Community Resilience Planning: Informing building upgrades, power backup strategies, and alternative cooling spaces.
- Innovation in Building Design: Promoting ventilation and sustainable cooling over heat-trapping glass designs.
- Business and Workforce Adaptation: Planning safe working conditions in extreme temperatures.
- Policy Advocacy: Supporting tenant protections, equitable access to energy-efficient equipment, and thoughtful by-law enforcement.
- Tenant-led advocacy organizations: Support through providing access to data and core funding, not only project-based.
- Public Engagement: Presenting data in relatable ways to foster trust, inspire action, and facilitate dialogue.

CAG members stressed the need for new tools and solutions, such as energy storage systems, cost transparency for hydro connections, and power purchase agreements to address emerging challenges. Communication strategies should make data relatable and localized, drawing comparisons to other climates (e.g., “Toronto’s climate will resemble

Ibiza's") and illustrating impacts on daily life, energy bills, and infrastructure costs. Historical weather events, like the 2003 ice storm and 2024 DVP flood, should be referenced to demonstrate the increasing frequency of extreme events.

Education efforts should extend to landlords, homeowners, schools, and communities, emphasizing retrofitting, resilience planning, and actionable steps. Organizations like Humber College, the Toronto District School Board, and the Toronto Climate Action Network can use climate data for advocacy, curriculum development, and local engagement.

Finally, the City of Toronto was encouraged to lead by example, leveraging data to inspire action locally, nationally, and globally, and ensuring alignment with the Net Zero Strategy Action Plan across all wards.

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

The Environment, Climate and Forestry Division will be utilizing the information to update communications materials and in forthcoming engagement on climate mitigation and resilience. The datasets and report can be found at [Toronto's Current and Future Climate](#), and may be utilized by CAG members and any other interested individuals or organizations for communications and engagement and other purposes.

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## **4. CAG PROCESSES**

### **4.1. Co-Chairs**

The CAG has two Co-Chairs, Lyn Adamson (representing ClimateFast) and Maggie Chang (an individual member). They have served in this capacity for 2 years without any other CAG members nominated for the positions.

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 was reviewed and updated in 2024.

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## 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 Net Zero 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 Working Group:**

The Community Advisory Group (CAG) Building and Energy Working Group conducted a detailed review of Toronto Hydro and the City of Toronto's proposed digital tool for homeowners, which was initially presented at the September 2024 CAG meeting. The group strongly endorsed the tool as a valuable resource that empowers homeowners with direct access to energy information without requiring expert consultation, with members particularly noting the effectiveness of the color-mapped visualization.

The working group identified several key opportunities for enhancement, emphasizing the need to simplify the currently complex renovation process. They stressed the importance of demonstrating financial benefits by clearly comparing long-term operational savings against initial renovation costs. The group recommended positioning the tool as a "retrofit kickoff" resource that equips residents with the knowledge needed for informed contractor discussions.

Regarding implementation, the working group emphasized aligning the tool with natural renovation cycles, noting that energy upgrades are most likely to occur during broader home renovations. They recommended including staged implementation guidance, from immediate actions to opportunities during major renovations, helping homeowners develop comprehensive plans aligned with their capital planning timelines.

The group suggested several features to enhance user experience, including customizable inputs for future planning, color-coding based on savings potential, comparative analysis of different measures, and comprehensive co-benefits information. Several important questions were raised for future development, including the validation of underlying metrics, potential expansion to multi-unit buildings, and the possibility of incorporating actual utility usage data.

Moving forward, the working group will expand their focus to include discussions on Buildings Emissions Performance Standards for low-rise residential buildings, while also monitoring the implications of the recent legal challenge to the Toronto Green Standard (TGS) for Net Zero Strategy implementation.



### **Communications and Engagement Working Group:**

The Community Advisory Group (CAG) Communications and Engagement Working Group convened in August 2024 to review the public consultation process for the 2026-2030 Net Zero Strategy Action Plan. The working group, which will also help shape the CAG Staff 2026-2030 Net Zero Strategy Action Plan Workshop planned for 2025, is focused on supporting ongoing public engagement by connecting climate action to the existing priorities, agendas, and values of Toronto residents.

During their August meeting, the group clarified that the primary objective is to inform the next Short Term Action Plan, noting that broader community education initiatives and financial support considerations would be addressed in future planning phases. The consultation process was enhanced with several key additions, including a stronger emphasis on advocacy and citizen voices, the introduction of a Neighbourhood Climate Action Champions map for promoting collective action, and expanded content about workplace emissions reduction and current City initiatives.

To make the process more accessible, the group simplified the language throughout and restructured the online survey to better reflect participants' specific circumstances, such as creating separate pathways for building owners and gas-powered vehicle owners. The group also expanded their outreach strategy through partnerships with the Live Green team, Toronto Public Library, and community and recreation centres. In response to community needs, the public consultation timeline was extended to accommodate more group discussions, including the addition of a third group discussion orientation session at the CAG's request.

### **Energy Working Group:**

The Energy Working Group is a newly proposed entity focused on discussing electricity demand and production. The proposal for this working group was circulated to identify interested CAG members. The group's future agenda includes exploring the decarbonization of electricity supply and reviewing related city initiatives. Upcoming discussions will revolve around energy transition strategies, ensuring the integration of sustainable practices into Toronto's energy consumption.

### **Waste Diversion Working Group:**

The Waste Diversion Working Group has encountered some initial challenges in defining its role with City of Toronto staff. However, it has been actively involved in addressing food waste and resource recovery, in alignment with the Ontario Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement. The group is set to receive updates on landfill projects and aims to participate in future policy discussions. The City has committed to assigning a staff member to work closely with this group to streamline its objectives and support the waste diversion initiatives.

### **Intergovernmental Government Working Group:**

This working group has begun laying the groundwork for effective collaboration with the city to advocate to various government levels to support Toronto's climate goals. The leads have met with assigned City staff and are now focusing on developing actionable proposals. Their primary goal is to discuss potential advocacy strategies and the role the City can play in provincial and federal climate-related policy development. The group will continue to refine

its proposal and engage with different government bodies to bolster intergovernmental policy and advocacy efforts.

#### **Climate Resilience Working Group:**

This group will concentrate on enhancing the city's climate adaptation and resilience strategies. It aims to leverage past work, such as the Resilience Strategy and Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, to prioritize actions addressing key climate risks. The proposal includes collaboration with the Environment & Climate Division's Policy and Research team to bolster city-wide resilience efforts and develop cohesive frameworks for future climate resilience endeavors.

#### **Transportation Working Group:**

The Transportation Working Group is actively seeking members to develop its proposal. This group will address transportation-related emissions and explore strategies to promote low-carbon transportation modes. It aims to build on successful initiatives like bike lane expansion and EV integration, addressing barriers to further progress. Future discussions will focus on strategies to reduce automobile dependency, improve public transit, and implement electric and alternative transportation methods to meet Toronto's ambitious net-zero goals.

These updates consolidate the ongoing and planned activities of each working group, highlighting their roles in achieving the City of Toronto's climate objectives. The collaborative efforts across these groups will contribute significantly to the city's comprehensive climate action strategy.

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#### **4.3. Membership updates**

Some CAG members departed the group in 2024, 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:

- Barnabe Geis, Foresight Canada
- Tinashe Kanengoni, Individual member
- Alienor Rougot, Fridays for Future

Incoming members:

- Shivani Chotalia, Individual member, Clean AI Initiative
- Lindsay Walker, Humber College

#### 4.4. Annual survey

Between November and December 2024, 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.

23 people completed the survey (92%). The majority would like to reconsider how meetings are run; there is currently not enough time, most of the meeting time is taken up by presentations rather than time for the CAG to respond, and the CAG would like more clarity about how their feedback is used by the City. The structure of CAG meetings will be reconsidered, with CAG input on meeting agendas, time for members to review the material in advance and reserving time in the meetings for discussion with the purpose of providing the city with feedback and advice. CAG members expressed interest in improving communication and knowledge sharing among working groups.

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#### 4.5 Terms of Reference Review

The Terms of Reference was developed in 2023 as a draft and expected to be a living document as the CAG. This year, the CAG spent time reviewing the governance model. In Meeting 2 on June 8 2024 the CAG were invited to review proposed changes to the CAG Terms of Reference Updates, based on feedback gathered secretariat meetings with the co-chairs, during past CAG meetings and the annual CAG survey. Recommendations to update the terms include noting:

- CAG Members may also request other supports for consideration, as needed.
- Members who receive honoraria or supports in excess of \$499 will be issued a T4 for income taxation purposes, as per Canadian Revenue Agency regulations.
- Co-Chairs will serve for a minimum of 1 year and maximum of 3 years. Nomination for Co-Chair roles will be accepted annually at the last meeting of each year.
- During the transition between Co-Chairs, the outgoing Co-Chairs will train and support the incoming Co-Chairs for 1-2 CAG meetings.
- Members who miss 2 meetings (or send a delegate) within a calendar year will be contacted by the Chair or CAG Secretariat to confirm their continued commitment. CAG Secretariat may recommend for the delegate to replace the member on the CAG.

Other items the CAG discussed:

- The CAG requested the option to make a public statement, however, that would have to happen outside of the Terms of Reference.
- Requests to increase the number of meetings in a calendar year.

- Requests that the CAG participate in shaping meeting agendas.
- Updating the meeting format to receive the agenda and any supporting material in advance with time to prepare. The meetings could then focus on discussion and providing advice.

Activities planned for 2025:

- The CAG re-appointed Maggie Chang and Lyn Adamson as Co-Chairs.
- The CAG reviewed the 2025 meeting schedule and optional workshops being planned.
- The CAG is recruiting for two positions for 2025 to replace members who left the CAG in 2024.
- In 2025, the City of Toronto will be implementing a process to recruit members for the next term of the CAG. This will be shared at the upcoming meetings.

The CAG were also invited to submit nominations for the Co-Chair role(s) to be reviewed and approved at the September 2024 meeting. The meeting agenda was so full it did not allow for this, so feedback was collected via email. There were no objections to the updating the Terms of Reference and no Co-Chair nominations were received.

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## 5. CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK FOR 2025

As the review of this year's activities draws to a close, the City of Toronto Climate Advisory Group (CAG) remains dedicated to advancing the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy. The group's focus has been on providing insightful feedback and advice to shape the City's initiatives aimed at achieving net-zero emissions by 2040. The CAG has sought to provide comprehensive and inclusive input that is reflective of the varied needs and perspectives of the Toronto community.

In the upcoming year, the CAG will continue contributing input for the development of the 2026-2030 Net Zero Action Plan ensuring alignment with the City's ambitious climate goals. The CAG will help to identify and assess the feasibility of the actions to be included in the Net Zero Action Plan to help the City, industry, and the community work together to advance towards our net zero target over the next five years. This will include focused working group discussions, a co-creation workshop with the CAG and City of Toronto, and a meeting on the final Action Plan after it is placed on the agenda of a Committee of City Council and before the Committee or City Council votes on the Action Plan.

The CAG will also continue evaluating the Net Zero Annual Report to track progress, identify gaps, and recommend actions for improvement. The assessment will be geared towards enhancing transparency, accountability, and public trust in the City's climate initiatives.

The CAG proposes several future discussion topics to further refine strategies and approaches. These topics include land use and planning, home/building energy labeling and emissions performance standards, and strategies for promoting low-carbon transportation.

Discussion will also cover intergovernmental policy and advocacy to ensure comprehensive support from all levels of government. Going forward the CAG is looking forward to time at each meeting for members to raise issues for discussion, ensuring that meetings remain dynamic and responsive to emerging challenges and opportunities in climate action.

The CAG is dedicated to prioritizing equity and community engagement. By continuing to provide robust feedback and champion innovative solutions, the CAG aims to support Toronto's vision of a zero-carbon, healthy, equitable, prosperous, and resilient city. The group looks forward to another productive year of advising and contributing to the City's climate action goals.

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## CITY OF TORONTO CLIMATE ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS (2024)

Member	Role/Title	Organization ( <i>if applicable</i> )
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
Shivani Chotalia	Individual Member	
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)
Colin Guldmann	Individual member	
Julius Lindsay	Director, Sustainability	David Suzuki Foundation
Joyce McLean	Individual member	
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	
Marine Sanchez	Passive House Buildings Lead	RDH Building Science
Cara-Lynne Wade	Director, Energy Transition Planning & Energy Conservation	Enbridge Gas
Lindsay Walker	Director, Sustainability	Humber Polytechnic
Jack Zhou	Partner	A&J Energy Consultants