

TransformTO Recommendations

ENERGY:

- Where the City of Toronto has investments in fossil fuels, and if so, suggest they begin the process of divestment, by setting divestment targets; ask for a timeline to be given on divestment. Financial decisions should be viewed through a climate lens, and recommend this be formally written into the Official Plan as a commitment.
- Pursue status of motion previously put before Council to divest from fossil fuels.
- Recommend City of Toronto state that they want to get off natural gas, as a fossil fuel.

BUILDINGS:

- Recognizing that 53% of municipal emissions are from housing we suggest that **all** City-owned buildings be retrofitted by 2025; and incentivize and/or subsidize retrofitting, as close as possible to 100% of remaining existing housing stock by 2050. (80% of existing stock that will exist in 2050 has already been built).
- Work with Province to amend building codes so that **all new** construction will be carbon neutral, and marketed as such (like the net neutral housing near Blue Mountain) to produce NEAR-Zero GHG by 2025.
- Big emissions from houses are from natural gas heating – put that info on gas bills. Promote Energuide audits, and incentives.

- Provide information on hydro bills for on reduced energy usage, and savings (displayed on hydro bills) rebates offered on LED bulbs, information on solar panels and other green options.
- Ramp up solar installation on larger buildings (i.e. Commercial, industrial, academic, institutional); and increase geothermal heating & cooling of office space, especially downtown (from Lake Ontario water); raise awareness about ground source heating;
- Promote greening of rooftops and public spaces, encourage more gardens, green walls, increase edible green space already being funded by City & some BIA).
- Funding could potentially come from a tax on plastics. Need to clarify if it is a tax or fee, and who collects this. If a tax revenue it could be used to offset costs of new initiatives.
- Just as developers currently devote 1% to art; we could make it a requirement for developers to dedicate a portion of the land for greenspace. Areas of high density and low income will benefit.
- OMB is under Provincial jurisdiction, but City needs to work with the Province to ensure OMB is more responsive to city planners.

TRANSPORTATION:

- 33% of emissions come from transportation. To reduce these, increase bike lanes and improve public transportation. We need a regional strategy with Metrolinx to support better coordination and better service.

- Suggest an inner city toll for commuters outside the GTA coming into town daily to encourage more use of public transportation, rail and buses (exemptions for emergency vehicles) Use revenue to improve public transport or to repairs/upgrading of roads.
- When use of cars is necessary, provide discounts, incentives, or designated lanes for car pooling.
- Develop areas in central core that are pedestrian and bike friendly, which will eventually be car-free (public transportation and emergency/service vehicles excepted). Investment in walking and cycling infrastructure through education and incentives.
- Greater attention to speed control, campaign to reduce/eliminate pedestrian accidents with road and safety improvements at intersections, crosswalks, etc.
- Raise price of parking downtown phenomenally and use revenue to subsidize the TTC.
- Enforce City's 2 minute idling law for cars. Use local news i.e. CP24 to educate, or have Mayor make announcements on public media (as with parking violations and tows). Same idling law applies to buses but is not enforced. Ensure TTC management educates drivers and monitors compliance.
- Planning to optimize traffic flow, to reduce congestion (i.e. better timed lights, better coordinated road closures, which now are highly inefficient).
- Consider tax breaks for people buying electric cars (currently there is a Federal rebate, but perhaps something can be done Municipally or Provincially).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

- City of Toronto motion recommends engaging academic institutions in its plans. Take advantage of current momentum to set up consultations at schools with parents, teachers and students on the climate crisis (use available resources i.e. “2040” film, and “Our Planet” and the Environmental Dashboard on energy use).
- Mobilize people through more education, citizen assemblies, town halls, public meetings, consultations, etc. Riding waves of momentum - channel into productive action; Recent Toronto star article stated a huge majority of Torontonians are very concerned about the issue.
- Hold summits for teen girls – use of social media.
- Advertising definitely a powerful tool; Do climate advertising on subways as they do for other public issues. Tie in information about TransformTO plan. Not enough people know about TransformTO, it’s goals and objectives, and how to participate.
- Ontario is a leader of Canadian thought. Canada should take global leadership on this issue, take advantage of vacuum created by the U.S.

TARGETS:

- Revise city’s targets from net-zero by 2050 or sooner. MobilizeTO’s preferred target is net-zero by 2025.
- City undertakes to report progress to Council in 4Q, 2020.

- Get support of Councillors or Mayor on increased targets.

EDUCATION

- Not enough people know about TransformTO, it's goals and objectives, and how to participate. We need to educate and inform the public about TransformTO. It will be difficult for it to succeed otherwise.
- Create a climate hub in all public libraries which would include information about all of TransformTO's plans, incentives, rebates for housing, transport recommendations, etc. with trained Librarian staff. Add a section on climate information generally in libraries.
- TransformTO to connect with the TDSB, although under Provincial jurisdiction, perhaps liaise with the local School boards. TransformTO volunteers to give talks in all schools to provide information to parents, students, and teachers.
- High school students can volunteer for Transform TO through the Live Green arm.

OTHER:

- Work with province on climate change initiatives that are within their jurisdiction, i.e. changes to building code, improved Metrolinx strategies; Education, OMB, etc.
- Establish a Climate Emergency Mobilization Department. TransformTO presently work under the Environment & Energy Division. Call next TransformTO Plan "A Climate Mobilization

Action Plan"

- Ban single-use plastic bags completely. Single use plastic bottles and containers should be heavily taxed with money going to green initiatives.