



MEDIA RELEASE — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Toronto Beats Kyoto Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target**

***Emissions down 15% since 1990, another 15% needed by 2020***

**TORONTO (May 6, 2013)** — According to a new report, Toronto has substantially exceeded its greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target for 2012. City-wide GHG emissions are now estimated at 23.2 million tonnes, down 15% from 1990 levels. This is more than double the 6% reduction target established by Toronto City Council in 2007, based on Canada's target under the Kyoto Protocol, and takes Toronto halfway to achieving the City's 2020 target of 30% below 1990 levels.

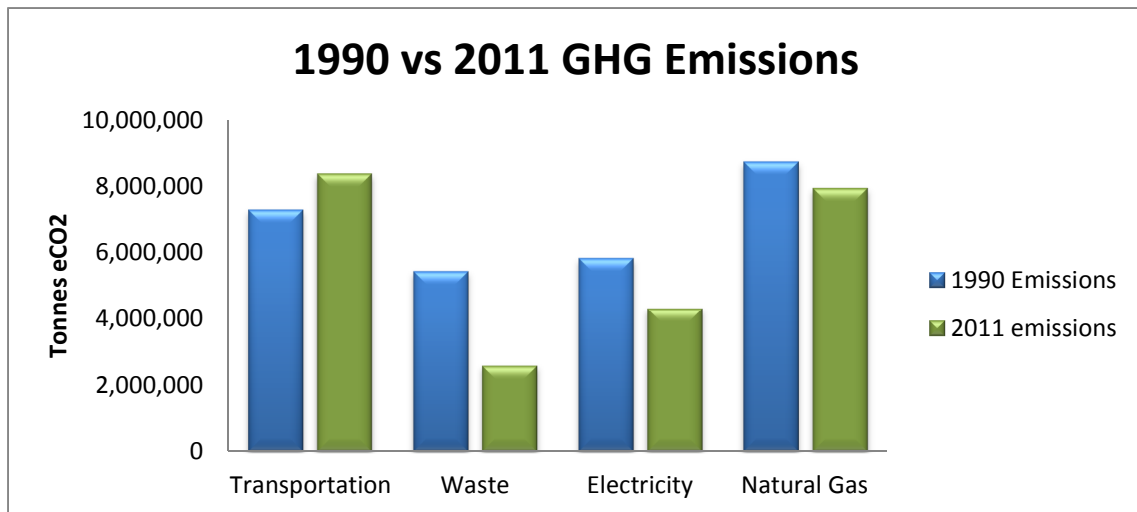
"Toronto success demonstrates it *is* possible for a growing, thriving city to reduce climate change pollution. De-coupling growth and carbon is a trajectory we need to keep moving along" says Toronto Atmospheric Fund CEO Julia Langer. Since 1990, Toronto's economy has grown by about 70%, population has grown by 15% yet GHG emissions have fallen.

Greenhouse gases build up in the atmosphere and are contributing to global climate change, with cities increasingly bearing the brunt of the impacts. Toronto's emissions come from four major sources:

- Generation of electricity used in homes, buildings, industry. These have fallen significantly as the Province phases out coal fired power plants, scheduled for completion by the end of 2013. Toronto has helped make the coal phase out possible by reducing per capita electricity use by 10% since 1990.
- Natural gas used for space and water heating. Efficiency retrofits of residential, commercial and industrial buildings, with insulation, better furnaces and efficient water heaters have helped reduce use.
- Gasoline and diesel used for cars and trucks. These emissions actually increased by 15% and are now the largest and fastest growing source of emissions.
- Garbage. Waste creates methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, when it decomposes in landfill. Use of methane gas recovery at Toronto's landfills and improved waste diversion has reduced emissions.

"Four million tonnes down, four million tonnes to go," says Langer, "We have to re-double energy efficiency improvements in our buildings and implement public and active transportation options. Luckily these are win-win-win solutions for local development, affordability, quality of life and the planet."

The City of Toronto Parks & Environment Committee will be discussing these results at its June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.



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#### **About the Toronto Atmospheric Fund**

TAF has been sparking action on climate, air pollution and energy use in Toronto for 20 years. Internationally recognized for its innovative and effective programs, TAF has helped the City save more than \$55 million on energy costs and helped citizens to live greener lives in healthier communities. Starting with a small endowment from a sale of surplus City lands, TAF has directly invested more than \$50 million in this city while keeping the original endowment intact, all at no cost to taxpayers. TAF and the City of Toronto co-developed the City's first GHG inventory in 2007, and TAF continues to sit on the advisory board which oversees inventory updates.

*Summary of Toronto's 2011 Greenhouse Gas and Air Quality Pollutant Emissions Inventory* available at:  
[www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2013/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-57187.pdf](http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2013/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-57187.pdf)

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