

To the City Clerk:

Re: Comments on 2021.BU23.1 on January 25, 2021 Budget Committee

I am writing to you on behalf of The Atmospheric Fund (TAF). TAF has worked with the City of Toronto since our inception almost 30 years ago to address urban carbon emissions and air pollution. We are providing this feedback today with the hope of helping the City of Toronto achieve its stated carbon reduction goals and efficiency targets. We know that the City of Toronto is facing a budget shortfall, however, we make the following recommendations in the spirit of reducing future costs and efforts, and with an eye on the urgency of the climate crisis. We urge the City of Toronto to show leadership within the region and prioritize funding budgets that will allow vital climate work to continue.

There is no time to waste if Toronto is going to meet its 2030 emissions target. Achieving this target requires reducing city-wide emissions 5% each year. In contrast, as the City's most recent carbon inventory shows, Toronto's emissions are increasing. 2018 emissions increased 7% over 2017 and were also higher than 2016 levels. Clearly, more action and more investment are needed to get Toronto on track for 2030.

We support the recommendations submitted by the Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA), specifically these three recommendations:

1. **Maintain the Environment and Energy Division budget.** The EED Division requires its current resourcing to have any hope of delivering already overdue Climate Emergency commitments in 2021 as laid out in the City of Toronto's Climate Emergency Declaration¹. As noted by TEA this includes a net zero emission strategy, a climate lens on City spending decisions, a low-carbon jobs strategy, and a dedicated climate action fund. Without these measures implemented on time there is little chance of the city reaching its carbon reduction commitments.
2. **Prioritize investments that enhance health, equity, and climate action.** Electrification is one of the best opportunities to reduce carbon. Supporting the implementation of Toronto's Electric Vehicle Strategy is key to drive EV adoption and to get Toronto moving again as we begin to look post-pandemic.
3. **Apply a climate lens to all budget decisions and City regulations.**
It is vitally important for all City divisions to approach the coming decades with a climate lens. Each division's regulatory powers can dramatically impact the City's overall carbon emissions,

¹ Climate Emergency Declaration - <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.MM10.3>

but only if they are instructed to act in that manner. We strongly urge a directive to be sent out instructing each division to apply a carbon reduction lens to their actions.

Sincerely yours,



Bryan Purcell
VP Policy & Programs, The Atmospheric Fund

The Atmospheric Fund (TAF) is a regional climate agency that invests in low-carbon solutions for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) and helps scale them up for broad implementation. Please note that the views expressed in this submission do not necessarily represent those of the City of Toronto or other GTHA stakeholders. We are experienced leaders and collaborate with stakeholders in the private, public and non-profit sectors who have ideas and opportunities for reducing carbon emissions. Supported by endowment funds, we advance the most promising concepts by investing, providing grants, influencing policies and running programs. We're particularly interested in ideas that offer benefits in addition to carbon reduction such as improving people's health, creating local jobs, boosting urban resiliency, and contributing to a fair society.