

Community Affairs & Planning Committee

Corporation of the Town of Ajax
65 Harwood Avenue South
Ajax, ON

April 1, 2022.

Dear Community Affairs and Planning Committee Members,

The Atmospheric Fund (TAF) is pleased to see Ajax moving forward with its Green Development and Environmental Design Guidelines (GDEDG). The proposed guidelines will ensure the design and implementation of sustainable building practices, supporting a greener future in Ajax.

Given that buildings account for almost [one third of carbon emissions](#) in Durham Region, it is vital to ensure future buildings are designed to meet energy efficiency targets that account for the impacts of the climate crisis and population growth. These guidelines are also identified as a key priority in Ajax's climate plan the *Ajax Climate Risk & Resiliency Plan and the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan – Stronger Together*.

We thank the staff at the Town of Ajax for conducting a thorough consultation process and responding to stakeholder feedback. TAF is very pleased to see the revised plan includes many of our recommendations including a strengthened electric vehicle (EV) charging target of 50% for mid- to high-rise projects with over 20 parking spots. We also were pleased to see the Town included a schedule for updates to the guidelines. However, we would like to note that the schedule indicates the next update might not be until 2029. We would hope to see an update to the guidelines before that – ideally every four years (2026 and 2030). Scheduled calendar year updates provide much needed predictability for the development industry. These planned updates will also allow the Town to reassess its programs and make necessary future changes to meet its 2030 climate targets.

Overall, TAF is very supportive of Ajax's proposed GDEDG proposal and **we strongly recommend Council implement these important guidelines**. Doing so will lead to significant emissions reductions in Ajax, and help the Town achieve its climate goals.

Sincerely,

Bryan Purcell



VP of Policy and Programs
The Atmospheric Fund

About 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.