

# TransformTO Public Consultation Info Sheet

November 2024 - January 2025



Are you concerned about climate change and interested in what you can do?

Have you been experiencing the effects of hotter, wetter, wilder weather?



## Our climate is changing.

The City of Toronto is creating the next Action Plan for the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy, our community-wide long-term climate strategy.

Help us understand your experiences and learn more about what we can do, together. Actions we take now will help us reduce our emissions to reach our climate targets, while preparing for and adapting to the changing weather conditions for current and future generations.

### The climate crisis grows more urgent every year

Fuelled by greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, 2023 was the hottest year on record globally. Extreme heat, wildfire, flooding, and storm events in Toronto, across Canada, and worldwide show how harmful and costly these weather events can be.

At the same time, the City of Toronto is leading important work to reduce our contribution of greenhouse gas emissions that lead to climate change. Our aim is to create a future Toronto that is zero-carbon, equitable, healthy, prosperous and resilient.

Preparing for the impacts of climate change, and reducing our contribution to these changes, is going to take a community-wide effort.



### We want to hear from you!

This information sheet is part of the City's ongoing public consultation efforts on addressing climate change. Please take a moment to share your experiences and perspectives with us. It will help us achieve our community-wide climate goals, together.



Scan QR code or visit website to register for the webinar, to find the survey link, or to read our Group Discussion Guide!



Attend a webinar

Wed, Nov 13, 7 – 8 pm  
Tues, Nov 19, 4 – 5 pm

Scan QR code or visit website to register.



Complete the survey

Deadline is January 31, 2025.

Scan QR code or visit website for link.



Host a group discussion

Connect with others to discuss.

Scan QR code or visit website for tips.

[www.toronto.ca/netzeroactionplan](http://www.toronto.ca/netzeroactionplan)

# How is hotter, wetter, wilder weather impacting Toronto?



The number of days per year with temperatures above 30°C in Toronto (extreme heat days) has already increased from an average of 8 days in the 1950s to about 18 days per year now. If global emissions continue to rise, extreme heat days could increase to 29 by the 2030s and to 54 days by the 2060s.

Future weather will be warmer and wetter, with more intense rainstorms leading to more frequent and intense flooding.



Flooding can cause damage to infrastructure, injuries, habitat degradation, degraded water quality, soil erosion and disruptions to services and the economy.



Extreme weather events directly cost our city a combined \$228 million dollars between 2005-2017. Proactive adaptation could help avoid significant climate costs.



The impacts of climate change amplify existing socio-economic vulnerabilities and inequities. This unfairly affects people who may already be facing existing challenges.



Climate change is a global issue. As we reduce our emissions in Toronto, we will also need to remain focused on increasing our resilience and adapting to a changing climate.

## What are greenhouse gases?

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) like carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) are necessary to keep our planet warm to sustain life. However, in excessive quantities, they block heat from escaping the earth's atmosphere, causing the earth to heat up and creating imbalances in the atmosphere which lead to more unstable and severe weather events. Most GHG emissions in Toronto are from heating homes and buildings and driving vehicles.



## A lot is already happening!

Actions we take now will help us prepare to cope with the new climate and limit the worst impacts as we continue to reduce our community-wide greenhouse gas emissions.

Examples of actions underway:

- The Toronto Green Standard ensures new buildings generate fewer emissions.
- The TTC bus fleet is on track to becoming 50 per cent zero-emissions by 2030 and 100 per cent zero-emissions before 2040.
- Electric vehicles, charging infrastructure, bike lanes and transit service are expanding across the city.
- Standards are being developed to help transition existing buildings to low-emission technology like heat pumps and energy efficient windows and insulation.

# What are the most important things we can do to reduce emissions?

There are many ways to reduce emissions, whether its small day-to-day habits such as using less electricity at home or reducing your waste, to bigger investments like renovating your home or driving an electric vehicle.

In Toronto, there are three big things that we know will really help:



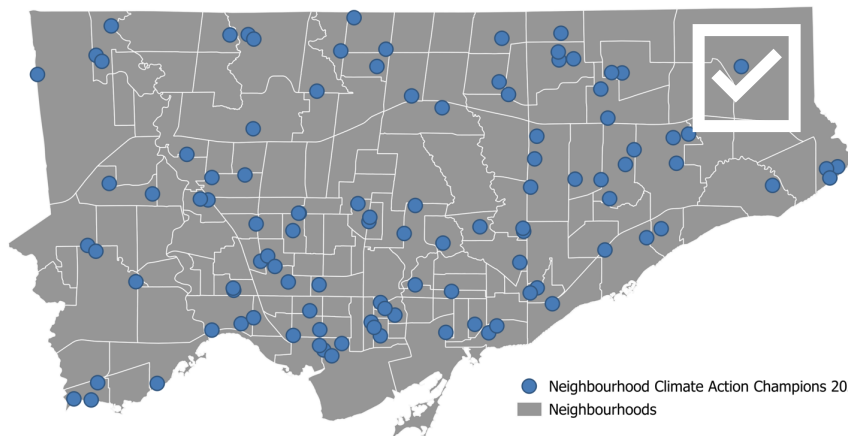
**Heating single family homes is the single largest source of emissions in Toronto.** If you're a homeowner, you can reduce your emissions through home retrofits and by fuel switching from natural gas heating to an electric heat pump.



**Gasoline combustion is the second largest source of emissions.** By taking transit, walking, cycling or driving an electric vehicle, you can reduce your emissions and save money. Active transportation has added health benefits.



**Use your voice!** Join a group already working on climate issues and encourage others to reduce the impacts of climate change. By having conversations with friends, family, classmates, and co-workers we can inspire and support change in our community.



# Where do Toronto's emissions come from?

Over 90% of emissions in Toronto come from burning two types of fossil fuels:

# 56%

of emissions are from burning natural (fossil) gas in homes/buildings and

# 35%

of emissions are from burning gasoline/diesel fuel for transportation.

The remaining 9% of emissions are generated by waste, primarily through landfill gas (methane).

Each blue dot on the map represents a Neighbourhood Climate Action Champion (NCAC). The Champions are a group of Toronto residents working in their communities to inspire and encourage collective climate action. The City is recruiting the next group of NCACs in November 2024! Find out more at [www.toronto.ca/services-payments/water-environment/live-green-toronto/neighbourhood-climate-action-champions/](http://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/water-environment/live-green-toronto/neighbourhood-climate-action-champions/).

# The maps below show how emissions change when people drive less.

In a fictional neighbourhood we refer to as “Anywhere-ville”, the graphics below show the difference between the greenhouse gas emissions generated depending on whether people mostly drive or whether they mostly walk or bike. Of course, multi-modal commuting is also an option!

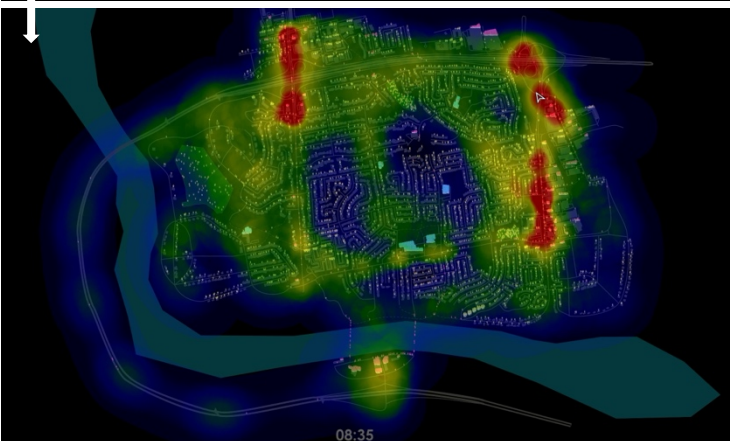
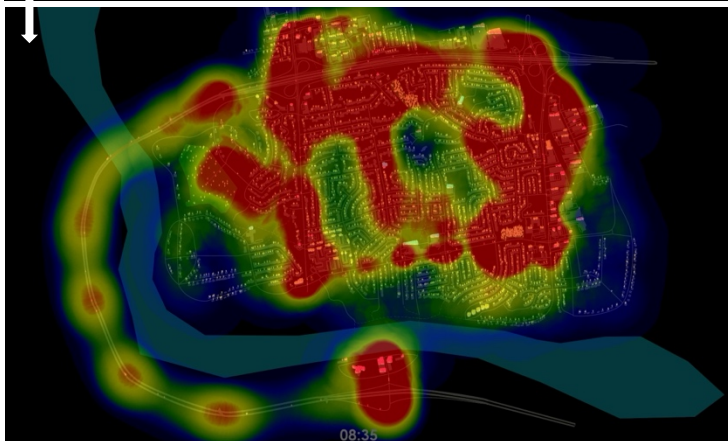
When everyone drives (cars are shown as **red dots**), the large yellow and red clouds over the neighbourhood show the greenhouse gas emissions generated from burning gasoline/diesel.

When people walk up to 30 minutes & take their bicycle one day a week instead of driving (people biking or walking are shown with **green dots**), the clouds of greenhouse gas emissions are much smaller.

Everyone drives (red dots), except for the shortest trips



People walk up to 30 min & bike one day a week (green dots) instead of driving



More emissions

Fewer emissions

## We want to hear from you!

How is the hotter, wetter, wilder weather affecting you and/or your family?  
Are you taking action to reduce your GHG emissions?

Sharing your responses to these and other questions will help the City of Toronto in developing the City's next TransformTO Net Zero Action Plan.

**Complete the survey by January 31, 2025 by scanning the QR code or visiting the website.**



### Questions or want more info?

Scan the QR code to visit our project website or enter the URL into your web browser. For email, contact the Environment & Climate Division at the City of Toronto [transform@toronto.ca](mailto:transform@toronto.ca)

[www.toronto.ca/netzeroactionplan](http://www.toronto.ca/netzeroactionplan)