

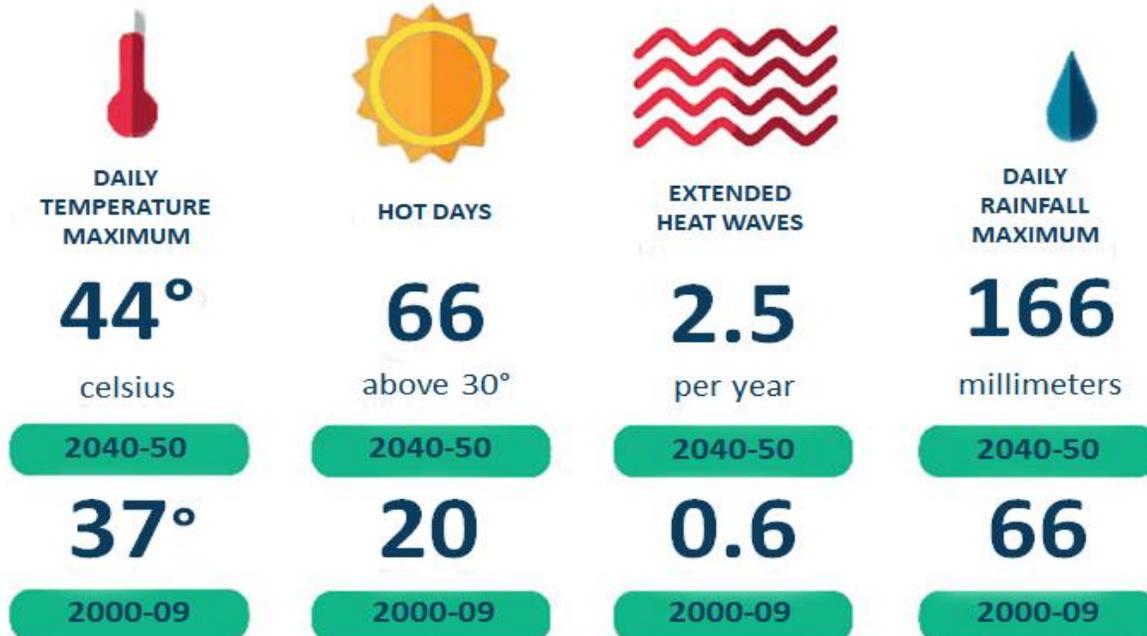
Dear Councillors,

I am speaking today on behalf of ClimateFast, a community organization working for fast action on the climate crisis since 2012. We have followed the city's development of the TransformTO climate plan since 2015. We commend City Council for the TransformTO plan, the Declaration of Climate Emergency, TORR report recommendations, and our Mayor's support, affirmed in signing the C40 Mayors' statement, for Building Back Better from the pandemic.

Council's statements sound good however we still do not see the commitment to implementation of solutions at the scale and pace required. Your actions are too often inconsistent with your vision. To lead the way to a healthier and more sustainable future we need to take BOLD ACTION.

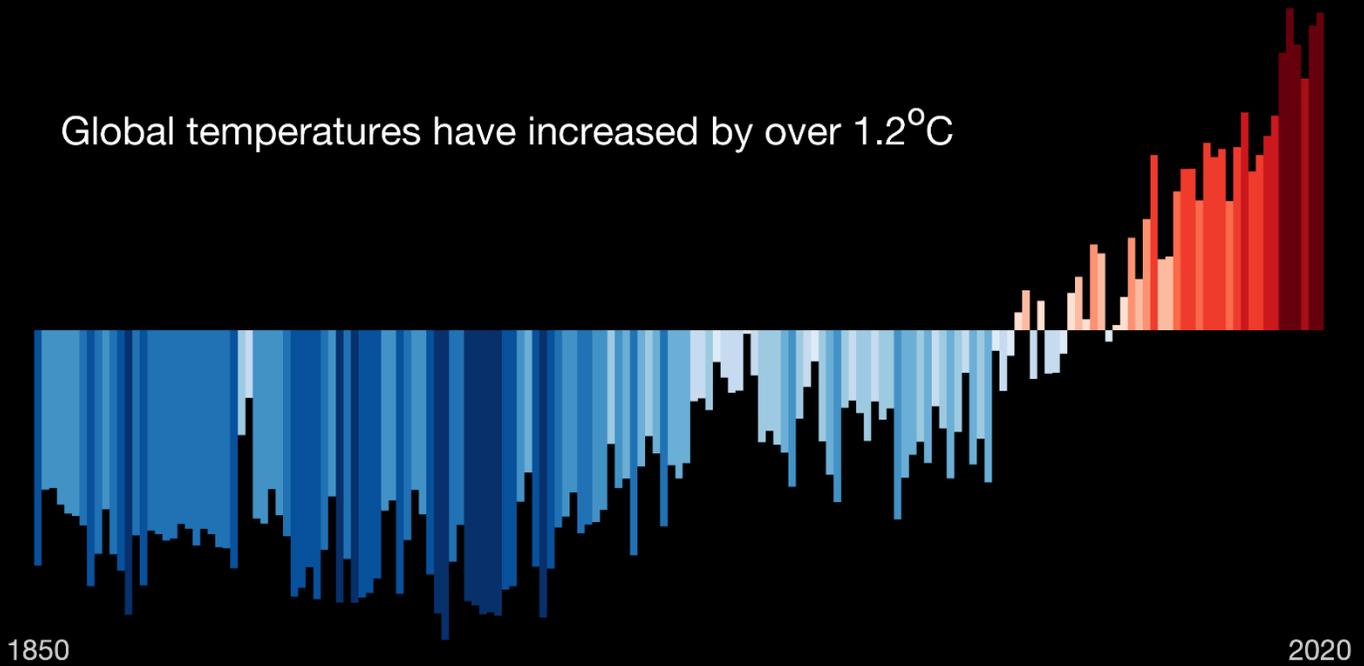
We have seen the wildfires in Alberta, California and Brazil; more frequent and intense hurricanes impacting the Caribbean, Central America, and the USA; the heat waves killing people in Quebec and Europe; and the floods in Ontario, Quebec, the Maritimes, and other parts of the world. All this, with a 1.2 degree increase in temperature. With Business As Usual, the world is currently on track for a 3 to 4 degree temperature increase. Just **imagine the pain and suffering that this will cause** and is already causing all over the world.

**What will life be like in the future Toronto, 10 or 20 years from now?** In just 20 years we will experience higher daily maximums, triple the number of heat waves, triple extended heat waves, and three times the daily rainfall maximum that we experience now. Illustrated in the chart below from TransformTO.



**Here's a global temperature report** – we are already at an increase of over 1.2 C and are well on our way to a 3 C or higher rise.

Global temperatures have increased by over 1.2°C

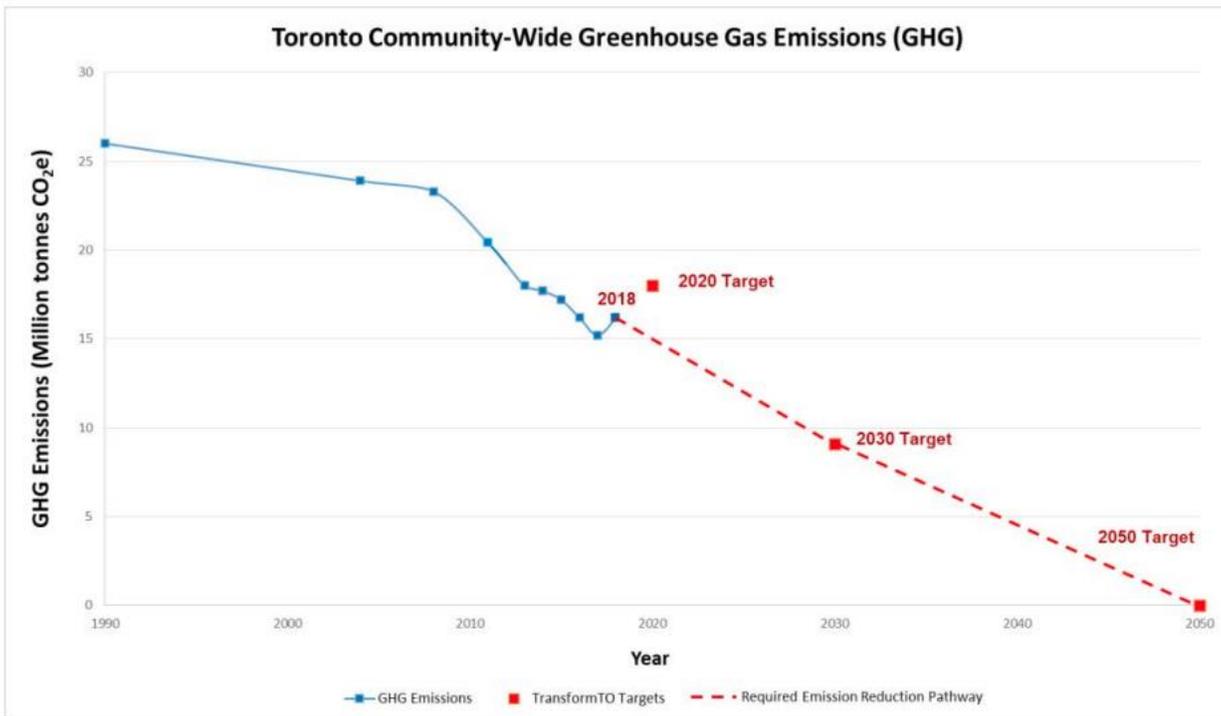


Deep cuts now will make it more effective in reducing overall carbon emissions, since it is the total that matters most. We must achieve NetZero as soon as possible. This is a question of intergenerational justice.

**Climate ambition MUST be ramped up.**

So how are we doing in the City of Toronto?

Not all that well. Although the overall trend is down we actually saw an uptick in emissions in 2018.



## WHAT CAN WE DO?

We made commitments in the Climate Emergency Declaration however the City has stalled in terms of carrying these out:

- 2021-2023 TransformTO implementation plan – this is now deferred
- Net zero emission strategy – this should be reported back in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter
- 2023 and 2027 targets – are we on track to see these targets?
- Dedicated climate funding – we need this!
- Plan to reduce consumption-based emissions – this plan is on hold due to staffing shortfalls
- Climate lens – we need this!

## OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) **Increase revenue** – e.g., increasing the property tax rate and parking levy. Currently the property tax increase is just 0.7%, \$22 per year for an average household. There is a city building levy of 1.5% for housing and transit. However, this is a very limited amount given the needs of the city. **We propose an additional 1% property tax increase** to restore \$30 million in needed funds for community services and funding for the Environment and Energy budget.
- 2) **Restore the Environment and Energy Budget** – Close the gap! Restore the \$2.5 million proposed cut from planned 2021 budget. Make planned staff hires **so that the climate emergency commitments are not delayed.**
- 3) **Shift money from the Gardiner** to active transportation to advance equity, health and resilience in our city and from law enforcement to meeting needs for a healthy community. Using funds for the Gardiner interferes with meeting our active transportation goal by encouraging driving and starving pedestrian and cycling safety initiatives.
- 4) **Establish a dedicated climate fund. This 1%**
- 5) **Expand the use of green bonds.**
- 6) **Continue to partner with the community and expand community grant programs.**
- 7) **Support nature-based solutions: carbon sinks are in the ravines, in parks, gardens & tree planting, and also improved and jobs**
- 8) **Council must apply a climate health and equity lens** to ALL major spending decisions so that we can **build back better.**

## **FUNDING IS NEEDED FOR:**

**Retrofits:** buildings are the source of 55% of Toronto's emissions.

**Transit** is urgently in need of investment to enable people to leave cars behind and to provide equity of access to transportation.

**Vision Zero** needs increased funding. One of TransformTO's goals is to achieve a shift to active transportation for 75% of trips under 5 kilometres. To do so we need a walkable city – **complete streets**. We appreciate council's decision on North Yonge and support implementing this thinking – and the associated funding – for all transportation planning decisions.

## **IMPACT OF COVID ON FINANCES**

The city of Toronto has been handed a curve ball. COVID-19 has had a huge impact in terms of increased expenses and decreased revenues. Why then is the city's property tax rate increase just 0.7%? We are in an emergency. Home values continue to rise: an average home in Toronto increased in value by \$80,000 last year. Why are we saying then that 'homeowners cannot afford a rise in the property tax rate beyond 0.7%? That is just \$22 or less than \$2 per month. With the city-building fund the total is \$69. Adding the 1% emergency fund/dedicated climate fund as we propose would bring the total to \$99. Toronto needs the money. And raising these funds will support our call to other levels of government. It must be a team effort.

## **CONCLUSION**

What the city does matters. It is not OK to say 'oh well, we had a COVID emergency so we had to push back climate spending till 2022'. Every year in this crucial turnaround decade matters. Today what matters is that we all face this challenge and that you as city councillors take this crisis seriously.

People care about their children and the quality of life they will inherit. Let us be good ancestors and invest in deep emissions cuts NOW. Those who are young now are depending on us.

The City **MUST** invest in its future. Act boldly.

For a climate-safe future,



Lyn Adamson

Co-Chair, ClimateFast

671A Vaughan Rd.

Toronto, M6E 2Y4

Photo is my youngest grandson: who will be 20 in 2040, 30 years old in 2050, and 80 in 2100.

