

# briefing note



**Date:** June 29, 2017

**To:** Toronto City Councillors

**From:** Dusha Sritharan, Climate Change Campaigner

**Re:** PE19.4 - TransformTO: Climate Action for a Healthy, Equitable and Prosperous Toronto - Report 2 - The Pathway to a Low Carbon Future

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## Recommendations:

Toronto City Council unanimously adopt and ensure there are sufficient funds in the 2018 proposed budget to fully implement TransformTO Report #2 – The Pathway to a Low Carbon Future when it is discussed at City Council on July 4, 2017 to leverage the many co-benefits the plan will offer.

## Background:

With the growing impacts of climate change being felt around the world, cities are stepping forward to lead the fight against climate change. Now more than ever, it is crucial for Toronto to commit to ambitious climate actions to reduce our emissions and build a more sustainable and resilient city.

The TransformTO plan clearly outlines the priority actions Toronto must take to achieve our reduction targets. This is the end of a two-year process that included priority setting exercises through community consultation, expert advisory sessions, consultants' reports and input from City of Toronto divisions and departments.

What makes this plan unique and transformative is that it will ensure low-carbon actions also generate multiple benefits for all Torontonians including making life more affordable, creating jobs, improving local economic activity and improving public health. Put simply, implementing the plan will help us achieve a number of City priorities simultaneously including more jobs, poverty reduction and improving social housing.

Adopting the plan will send a clear signal to the Ontario and Federal governments that Toronto is ready to receive and invest climate action funds in ways that will reap maximum benefits. It is time for Toronto to join leading international cities like Paris and New York in accepting the vital role municipalities must play in building low-carbon and climate resilient cities.

*For more information, contact Dusha Sritharan at 416-473-7918.*