

(Important message enclosed)

TransformTO Reference Panel, 3A Gilead Place, Toronto, ON, M5A 3C8



**Only 12,500 households in Toronto have been randomly selected to receive this invitation**

We need you to volunteer for Toronto's TransformTO Reference Panel on Climate Action

Resident of  
3A Gilead Place  
Toronto ON M5A 3C8

**Response  
required by  
July 11**



We need your help to decide how Toronto will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions over the next four years.

May 26, 2019

Dear Torontonians,

Toronto Island flooded in 2017. Ice melt from an exceptionally warm winter, coupled with heavy spring rain, raised Lake Ontario by a metre to its highest point in a century. Homes and businesses were destroyed and the Island was closed to visitors for most of the summer. Just four years before, flooding inundated the Don Valley Parkway, transit stations, and thousands of basements, costing Torontonians more than \$850 million in repairs.

These floods, along with intensifying hurricanes, wildfires, and droughts around the world, are symptoms of climate change caused by rising greenhouse gas emissions. **As residents of Canada's largest city, Torontonians have a role to play in fighting climate change.** It's essential that we do our part.

This is why, in 2017, Toronto City Council voted unanimously to pass TransformTO, the City's plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent of 1990 levels by 2050. To hit this target, we need to make transformative changes to how we travel, build, use energy, and manage waste.

**This letter is a special invitation to volunteer to be one of 32 residents who will advise the City on how to meet this goal.** As someone who cares about the future of the city, this is your opportunity to make a difference that could last for generations.

As a member of Toronto's TransformTO Reference Panel on Climate Action, you will meet for three days in July and August, learn about the City's climate plan, and advise the City on the actions we can take over the next four years to help ensure that Toronto meets its 2050 greenhouse gas reduction target. You will hear from climate experts, urban planners, and economists, as well as representatives from major industries and sectors like energy, transportation, and health. You will also have the chance to learn how other cities are responding to the climate crisis.

Your household is one of 12,500 randomly selected to receive this invitation. **We are asking you, or another member of your household, to volunteer to participate in this special exercise in local democracy.**

***If you are interested in joining the Panel, but have questions, please call us at 1-833-568-9070.***

If you are randomly selected to serve, you will meet and work with 31 other Torontonians from across the city. Together, you will:

- Learn about the current climate forecasts and sources of greenhouse gas emissions in Toronto;
- Examine the changes we could make to our homes and workplaces, as well as to city infrastructure like roadways and transit systems;
- Consider how different emission reduction actions could affect residents like you;
- Identify top priorities that could help make Toronto a low-carbon city; and
- Make recommendations on the changes we as a city should make in the next four years as we work to meet our climate action goals.

**You don't need to be an expert to participate.** You may be supportive or skeptical of the City's TransformTO climate strategy. **What matters most is your perspective and experience as a Toronto resident.**

Please turn over 

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Membership on the Panel is open to any Torontonians 16 years of age or older who currently lives in the household to which this letter is addressed. From among the pool of volunteers, 32 members will be randomly selected to ensure broad representation from across the city.

**You do not need to be a Canadian citizen and there is no cost to participate.** We are happy to cover childcare or eldercare costs and to work with you to address any reasonable barriers that might prevent you from participating. Meals and refreshments will be provided. Accessibility supports, such as hearing and visual assistance, will be provided as required.

If you are 16 years of age or older, please call 1-833-568-9070 to volunteer — no experience is necessary.

Members of Toronto’s TransformTO Reference Panel on Climate Action will meet on the following three days in July and August 2019. **Panelists must be able to attend on all three dates:**

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Saturday, July 27   | 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. |
| 2. Saturday, August 17 | 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. |
| 3. Sunday, August 18   | 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. |

Breakfast and lunch will be provided on all days, and dinner will be provided on July 27.

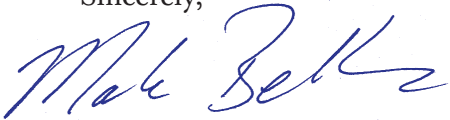
**To volunteer for Toronto’s TransformTO Reference Panel on Climate Action, please call 1-833-568-9070, mail in the enclosed card, or register online at [toronto.ca/transformto-panel](https://toronto.ca/transformto-panel) by Thursday, July 11, 2019.**

Climate change is requiring cities around the world to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. If we do our part, we can help avert further environmental damage and create a more prosperous and sustainable city.

This is your chance to be part of the solution by defining the priorities that will shape Toronto’s response to climate change.

**We hope you will join us.**

Sincerely,



Mark Bekkering  
Acting Director  
Environment and Energy Division  
City of Toronto

To learn more about the TransformTO Climate Action Strategy, visit [toronto.ca/transformto](https://toronto.ca/transformto)



**A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF TORONTO, JOHN TORY:**

“We are all passionate about our city and its future. Toronto’s TransformTO Reference Panel on Climate Action is an important process that will allow residents to shape the City’s response to climate change. Whether you are new to our city or have lived here your entire life, I encourage you to volunteer. Toronto needs your best ideas and advice.”

**How to register as a volunteer for Toronto’s TransformTO Reference Panel on Climate Action:**

There are three quick and easy ways you can register:

1. Call 1-833-568-9070 to register by phone (or ask questions about the selection process);
2. Complete the enclosed Candidate Response Card and mail it back using the enclosed envelope; or
3. Register securely online at [toronto.ca/transformto-panel](https://toronto.ca/transformto-panel).

Please ensure you register in one of the above ways by Thursday, July 11, 2019. If you are selected for the Panel, you will receive a phone call on the evening of Friday, July 12, 2019.

Before registering, please check that you are available on July 27, August 17, and August 18. Please hold these dates in your calendar until July 15 when all members of the Panel will have been notified.

*If you are unable to participate, please encourage members of your household 16 years of age or older to volunteer.*

# Frequently Asked Questions

## TransformTO Reference Panel on Climate Action

### What is a Residents' Reference Panel?

A Residents' Reference Panel is a group of randomly selected people tasked with examining an issue in-depth and making consensus recommendations to governments on behalf of their fellow residents. There have been over 35 Reference Panels held across Canada over the last 10 years. Reference Panels are a tool well-suited to complex issues because the process focuses on learning, deliberation, and consensus-building among people with different perspectives and backgrounds.

### Why is the City of Toronto inviting me to volunteer for this Reference Panel?

The City of Toronto is forming a Reference Panel so that residents who represent the diversity of Toronto have a hand in shaping the City's TransformTO 2020-2023 Climate Action Implementation Plan. This Plan will help guide how the city meets its greenhouse gas reduction targets for the next four years. The Panel will be made up of 32 residents who will learn about ways that Toronto can take action on climate change. Panelists will then make recommendations about what actions the City should take to meet its greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.

### What is the TransformTO Climate Action Strategy?

Toronto's TransformTO Climate Action Strategy was unanimously passed by City Council in 2017. It sets out long-term, low-carbon goals and strategies to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions, improve our health, grow our economy, and improve social equity. Toronto's goal is to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050, based on 1990 levels. To hit this target, we need to make transformative changes to how we travel, build, use energy, and manage waste. Learn more at [toronto.ca/transformto](https://toronto.ca/transformto).

### When and where will the Panel meetings take place?

The Panel meetings will take place over three days in the summer:

1. July 27, 2019: 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
(breakfast, lunch, and dinner provided)
2. August 17, 2019: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
(breakfast and lunch provided)
3. August 18, 2019: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
(breakfast and lunch provided)

All meetings will be held at a central location in Toronto that is accessible by public transit.

### What would I do as a Panelist?

Members of the Panel will meet during two weekend sessions in July and August 2019. As a member of the Panel, you will:

- Learn first-hand from independent experts, community and industry representatives, and City of Toronto staff;
- Meet other Torontonians from across our city and contribute your perspective in small group discussions;
- Explore the different ways Toronto produces greenhouse gases and learn about changes we could make to our buildings, to the ways we get around, and to the ways we create and handle waste; and
- Make recommendations on the changes the City should make in the next four years as we work to meet our climate action goals.

### Why did I receive this invitation?

Your household is one of 12,500 randomly selected homes throughout Toronto that received this invitation.

### Who is eligible to apply?

Panelists must reside in the City of Toronto and be 16 years of age and over. Whether or not you think the City should take action on climate change, your participation is welcome. We will make sure the Panel is as diverse as Toronto itself, with people of different ages, genders, and backgrounds from all across the city. The Panel will include at least two Indigenous members. Employees of the City of Toronto, members of other official City of Toronto Advisory Bodies, as well as currently elected municipal, provincial, and federal representatives are ineligible to participate. If you are unsure if your employment disqualifies you, please give us a call at 1-833-568-9070.

### Why does the response card ask for my views on climate action and other information?

It is important to ensure that the Panel is balanced to match the demographic profile of Toronto. It is also important to ensure a range of perspectives are heard on how to address climate change. The information you provide when volunteering will be used only for the purposes of selecting the members of Panel, and will be destroyed following the completion of the Panel's work. We will never share this information with any third party.

### I'm not an expert — can I still be involved?

Absolutely. We do not expect you to be an expert. You will learn everything you need to know to make an

Please turn over 

Response  
required by  
July 11

informed contribution in the three sessions of the Panel. Staff will always be on hand to answer your questions. Your perspective and experience as a resident, as well as your willingness to consider new information and different perspectives, are what matter.

**Can another member of my household volunteer for the Reference Panel?**

This invitation is transferable to anyone 16 years of age or older who would like to participate as a Panel member and who lives at the address on this letter. The City of Toronto encourages anyone who wants to take part in this exercise to volunteer, regardless of age, gender, immigration status, or ability.

**I am unsure whether I can attend all three sessions. Can I still apply?**

Unfortunately, no — you must be available for all three meetings to qualify for participation. We can provide transportation assistance to help you reach the venue, as well as reimbursements for childcare and eldercare (see “Accessibility” for more information). We are also happy to discuss bursaries for participants with demonstrated financial need on a case-by-case basis. Please consider and confirm your ability to participate before applying.

**How do I become a member of the Reference Panel?**

First you must respond to this invitation by the deadline of July 11, 2019, by either:

- Calling 1-833-568-9070;
- Registering securely online at [toronto.ca/transformto-panel](https://toronto.ca/transformto-panel); or
- Mailing the enclosed candidate response card in the postage-paid envelope.

On July 11 a draw will be conducted to randomly select the members of the Reference Panel from among the respondents to this letter. You will receive a call on July 12 to inform you if you are selected.

**Will I get paid to serve on the Reference Panel?**

No — we are asking you to donate your time and volunteer as a member of the Panel. There will be no cost to participate, and we are happy to discuss bursaries for participants with demonstrated financial

need. Meals will be provided throughout the day. We will cover basic travel costs, including mileage and parking expenses. Childcare or eldercare support will also be provided on an as-needed basis. Assistance will be offered to people with hearing, visual, physical, or other disabilities. The meeting space is fully accessible. If there are other barriers that you feel may prevent you from volunteering for the Panel, please call us at 1-833-568-9070 and we will try to work them out.

**What languages will be used during the Reference Panel?**

The Reference Panel’s presentations and activities will be conducted in English. If language is a barrier to your participation, please call us.

**If I do not get chosen for the Reference Panel, can I still be involved?**

- Yes. You can contribute to the process by:
- Signing up at [toronto.ca/transformto-panel](https://toronto.ca/transformto-panel) to follow the Panel’s work, even if you can’t volunteer.
  - Staying connected about upcoming events and developments by subscribing to our newsletter at [toronto.ca/transformto](https://toronto.ca/transformto).

**Accessibility**

We are committed to working with you to help address any barriers to your participation. Here are some of the supports we make available to Panelists:

- Mileage, parking, and transit reimbursements, as well as assistance arranging special transportation if needed;
- Reimbursements for childcare and eldercare;
- Meals and coffee during the meeting, and accommodation for any dietary restrictions;
- Accessible meeting spaces;
- Accommodation for people with hearing, visual, physical, or other disabilities ;
- Central meeting locations close to transit and parking; and
- Bursaries for demonstrated financial need.

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Before registering, please check that you are available on July 27, August 17, and August 18. Please hold these dates in your calendar until July 15 when all members of the Panel will have been notified.

*If you are unable to participate, please encourage members of your household 16 years of age or older to volunteer.*

# *What's it like to serve on a Reference Panel?*

“We’re looking at building the city and accommodating a lot of people’s different needs and wants. After the first meeting I realized that yes, I need to be here.”

—*Sharon*

“I volunteered on this Panel to contribute to the society that took care of me. I know I can give something back.”

—*Albert*

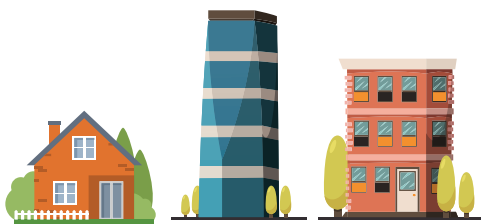
“I volunteered for this Panel because I wanted to get an insider’s view of the planning process, and to help influence and shape the future of my city.”

—*Steven*





# Do you know where Toronto's greenhouse gas emissions come from?



45 percent are from homes and buildings



35 percent are from transportation



20 percent are from waste

**To learn more about the  
TransformTO Climate  
Action Strategy, visit  
[toronto.ca/transformto](https://toronto.ca/transformto)**

*Source: Toronto's 2016 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory*

Return Address

Response required by:  
Thursday, July 11

Registering online ensures your  
response is received by the deadline

[toronto.ca/transformto-panel](https://toronto.ca/transformto-panel)



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CITY OF TORONTO  
REFERENCE PANEL  
3A GILEAD PLACE  
TORONTO ON M5A 9Z9





**Or:**

**Age:**

20 – 29

45 – 64

65+

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**Please turn over** 

*Please answer these questions accurately so that we can ensure that the Panel represents the perspectives of all Torontonians, and broadly matches the city's demographic profile:*

- 1) ☐ I own my home      ☐ I rent my home      ☐ I rent my home and my rent is subsidized
- 2) I identify as a: ☐ Indigenous, First Nations, Métis, or Inuit person    and/or    ☐ Visible Minority
- 3) Everyone needs to reduce their emissions that contribute to climate change, including myself.  
☐ Strongly agree    ☐ Somewhat agree    ☐ Somewhat disagree    ☐ Strongly disagree
- 4) I will make myself available to attend all three meetings of the Panel: ☐ Yes    ☐ No
- Meeting dates:      July 27, 2019      August 17, 2019      August 18, 2019

**NOTICE OF COLLECTION:** The personal information requested here is collected under the legal authority of the City of Toronto Act, S.O. 2006, Chapter 11, Schedule A, s.136 (b) & (c) and the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter P.13.

Your personal information will be used for the purpose of forming Toronto's TransformTO Reference Panel and will not be shared with any other parties or for any other purpose than the creation of this Panel. Questions about this collection can be directed to the Project Lead, TransformTO in the Environment and Energy Division, 416-392-0921, [sarah.gingrich@toronto.ca](mailto:sarah.gingrich@toronto.ca).

**Deadline**  
**July 11**  
**Respond Today**