

# So My Municipality has declared a Climate Emergency:

## How Solid Waste Departments are Stepping up to the Challenge

**Annette Synowiec**

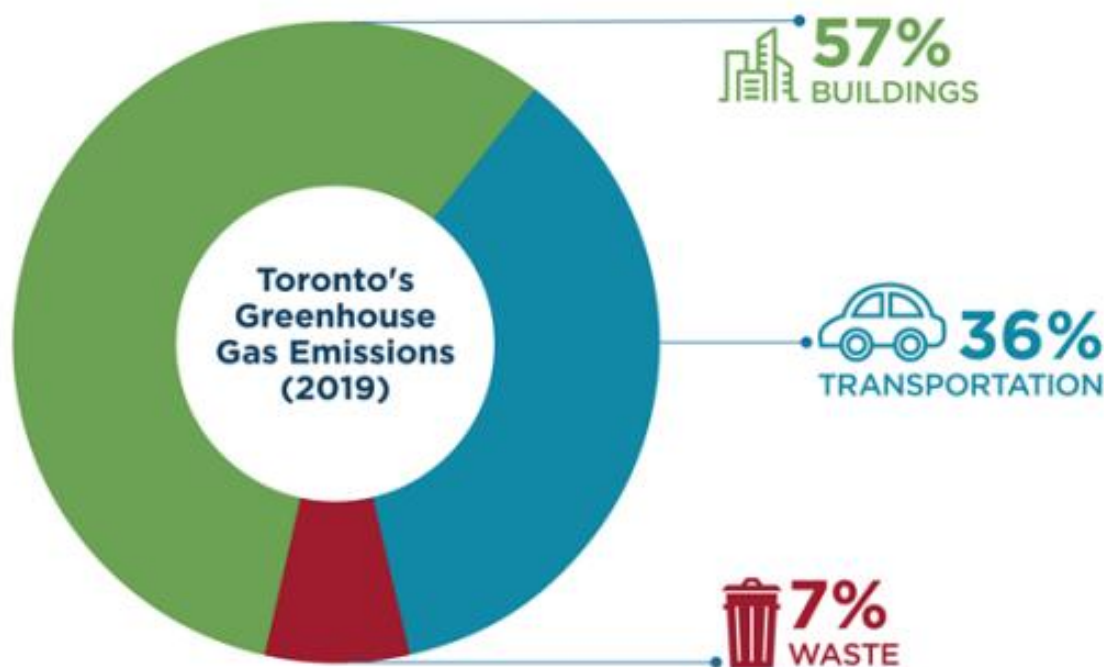
April 5, 2022

2022 SWANA Canadian Symposium



# TransformTO Climate Action Strategy

- Approved by City Council in 2017
  - Sets long-term, low-carbon goals and strategies to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions
  - Aims to improve health, grow the economy and improve social equity



# Toronto Declares Climate Emergency

- City Council declared a climate emergency in 2019
  - To accelerate efforts to mitigate adapt to climate change
  - To adopt a stronger emissions reduction target of net zero by 2050 or sooner

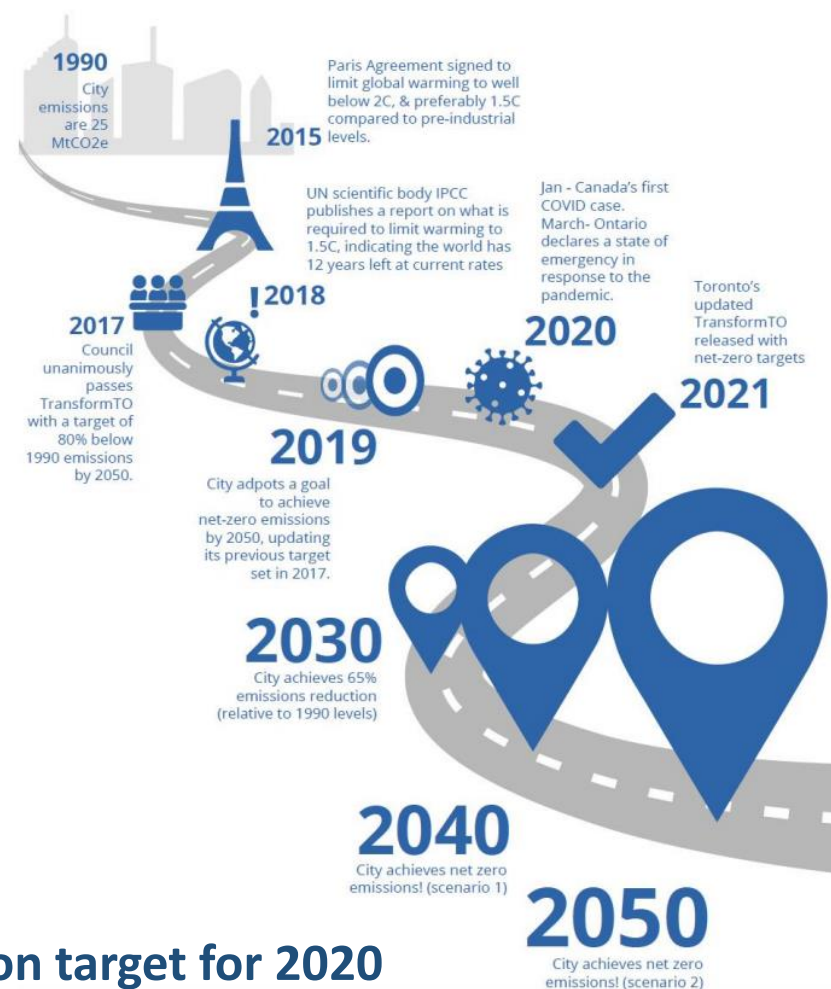
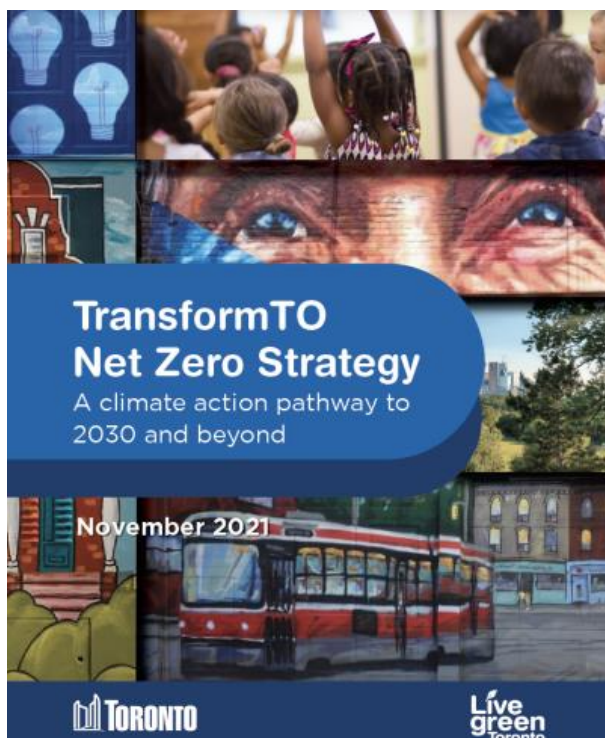
*“for the purpose of naming, framing, and deepening our commitment to protecting our economy, our ecosystems and our community from climate change”*



<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/city-of-toronto-votes-unanimously-to-declare-climate-emergency-1.4620611>

# TransformTO's Net Zero Strategy

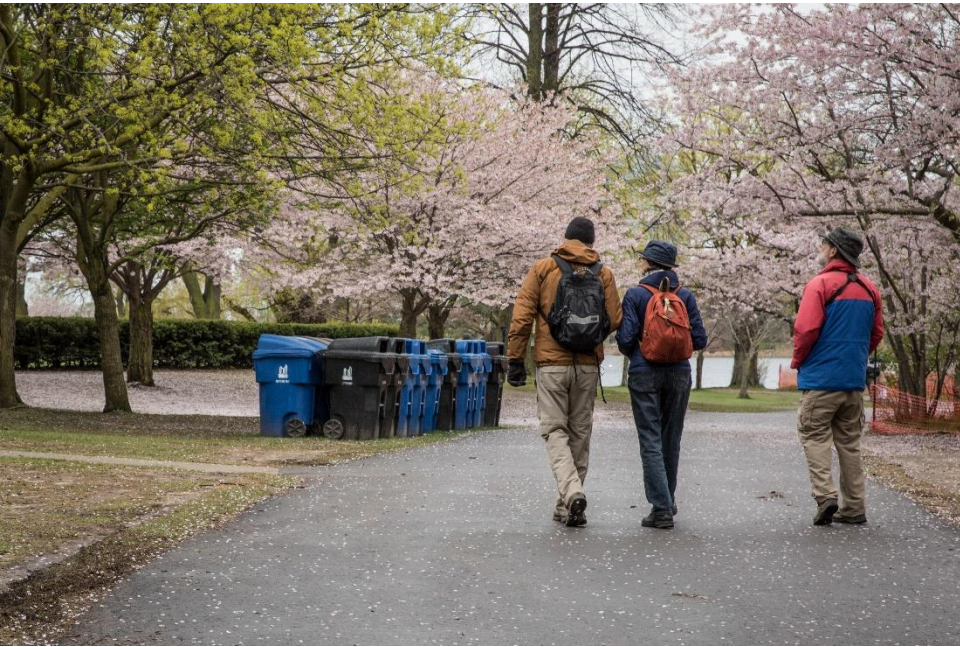
Net Zero Strategy outlines the pathway to achieve zero emissions in Toronto by 2040



Toronto is on track to meet its 30% reduction target for 2020



# Toronto's Climate Action Ambitions



## Implementation of the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy aligns with existing plans

- Long Term Waste Management Strategy
- Advancing Toronto towards a Circular Economy

# Long Term Waste Management Strategy

This comprehensive strategy will guide waste management in Toronto for the next

30-50 years.



70% | Diversion of waste by 2026

**Reduce** the amount of waste we generate

**Reuse** what we can

Recycle and recover the remaining resources to  
**reinvest back into the economy**

Embrace a **user-friendly** waste management system

Balance **community,** the **environment,** and  
**financial sustainability**

Ensure a **safe, clean, beautiful and healthy**  
city for the future

# Long Term Waste Management Strategy



# Community Reduce & Reuse Programs





# Food Waste Reduction

## Love Food Hate Waste Campaign

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

By storing our food so it stays fresh, using up our leftovers and planning our meals better, together we can make a big difference.



#### PLAN IT OUT

Make a meal plan and shop smart, so you buy just what you need.



#### USE IT UP

Use more of the food you buy.



#### KEEP IT FRESH

Store food properly so it stays fresh longer.

# Single-Use Item & Takeaway Strategy

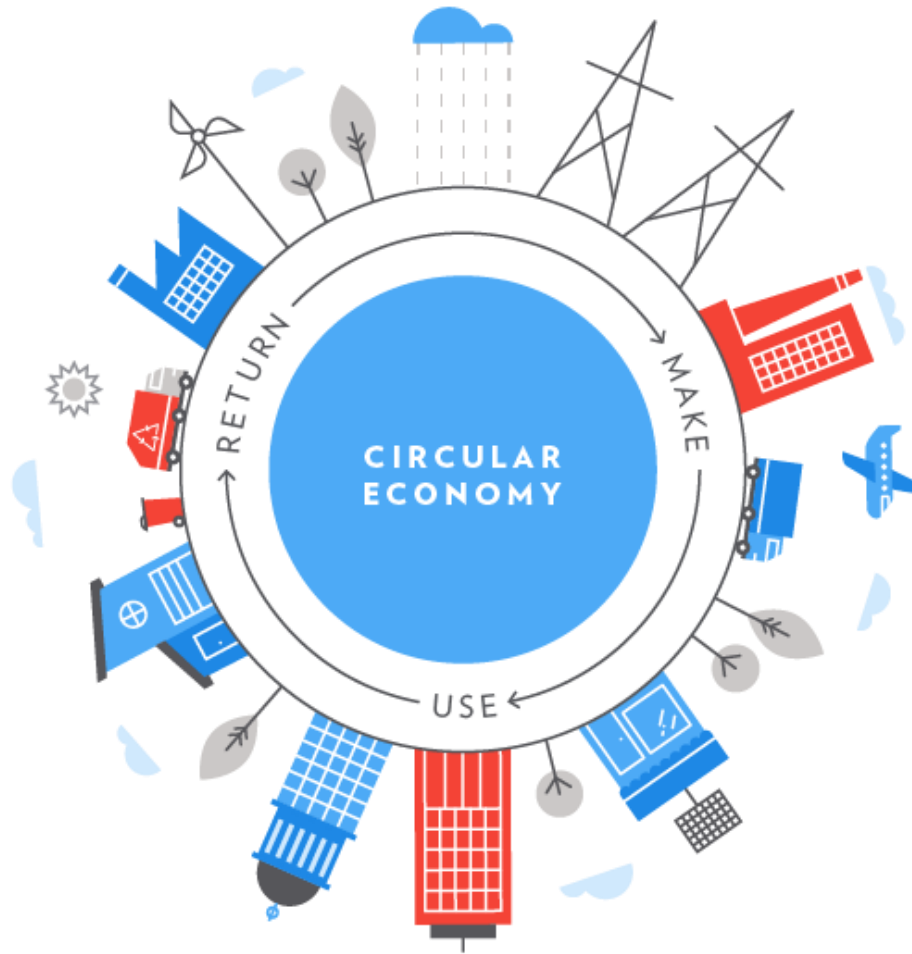
Waste reduction of single-use and takeaway items, regardless of whether disposed of in garbage, recycling or organics, not substitution with alternative materials



Supporting voluntary measures for businesses to reduce single use items.

Proposing mandatory measures through ask first/by request bylaws and fee bylaws.

# Advancing Towards a Circular Economy



# Baselining for a Circular Toronto Study

## Next: Circular Economy Road Map

# Circular Procurement Framework

# Circular Procurement Framework



## • Limit

- Deliver services and purchase materials in a way that reduces our reliance on non-renewable resources and minimizes our carbon footprint.

## • Maximize

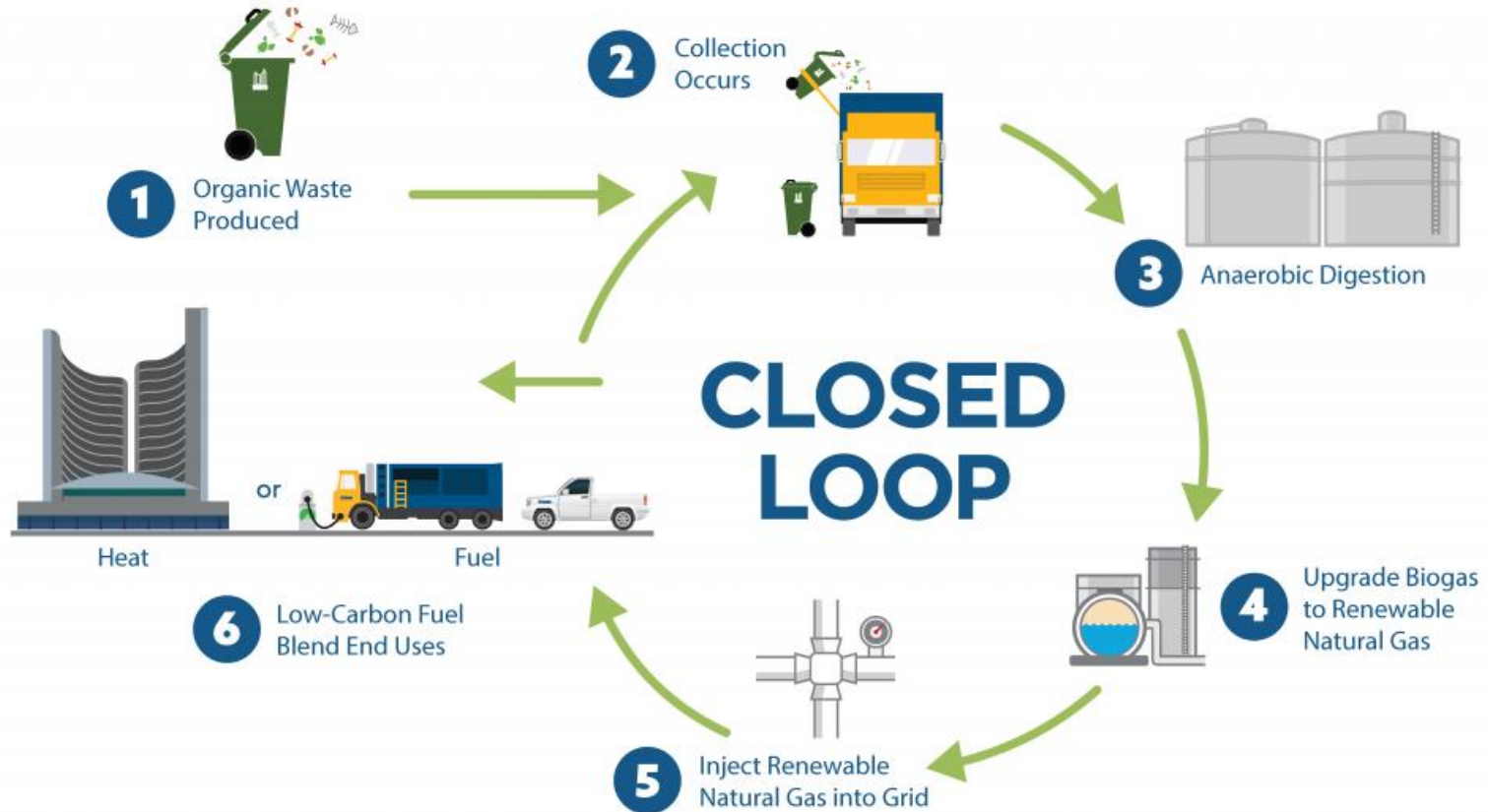
- Collaborate the marketplace and industry to extend resource lifecycles to ensure maximum useful potential of materials and assets.

## • Regenerate

- Redesign our systems and service delivery in order to reduce any waste or inefficiency and, where possible, regenerate natural systems.



# Green Bin Organics & Renewable Natural Gas



# Renewable Natural Gas Strategy

All Renewable Natural Gas produced at Toronto's Dufferin and Disco Road Organic Processing Facilities to be blended with Natural Gas purchased by the City to create a lower-carbon fuel blend

- The City purchases its own produced Renewable Natural Gas
- Used to fuel collection vehicles for a closed loop approach
- Ability to be used by City Divisions, Agencies and Corporations



# Net Zero Building Design

## Dufferin Office Building



**Encompasses  
geothermal and solar  
energy to achieve  
net zero emissions.**

# Governing Climate Change Actions

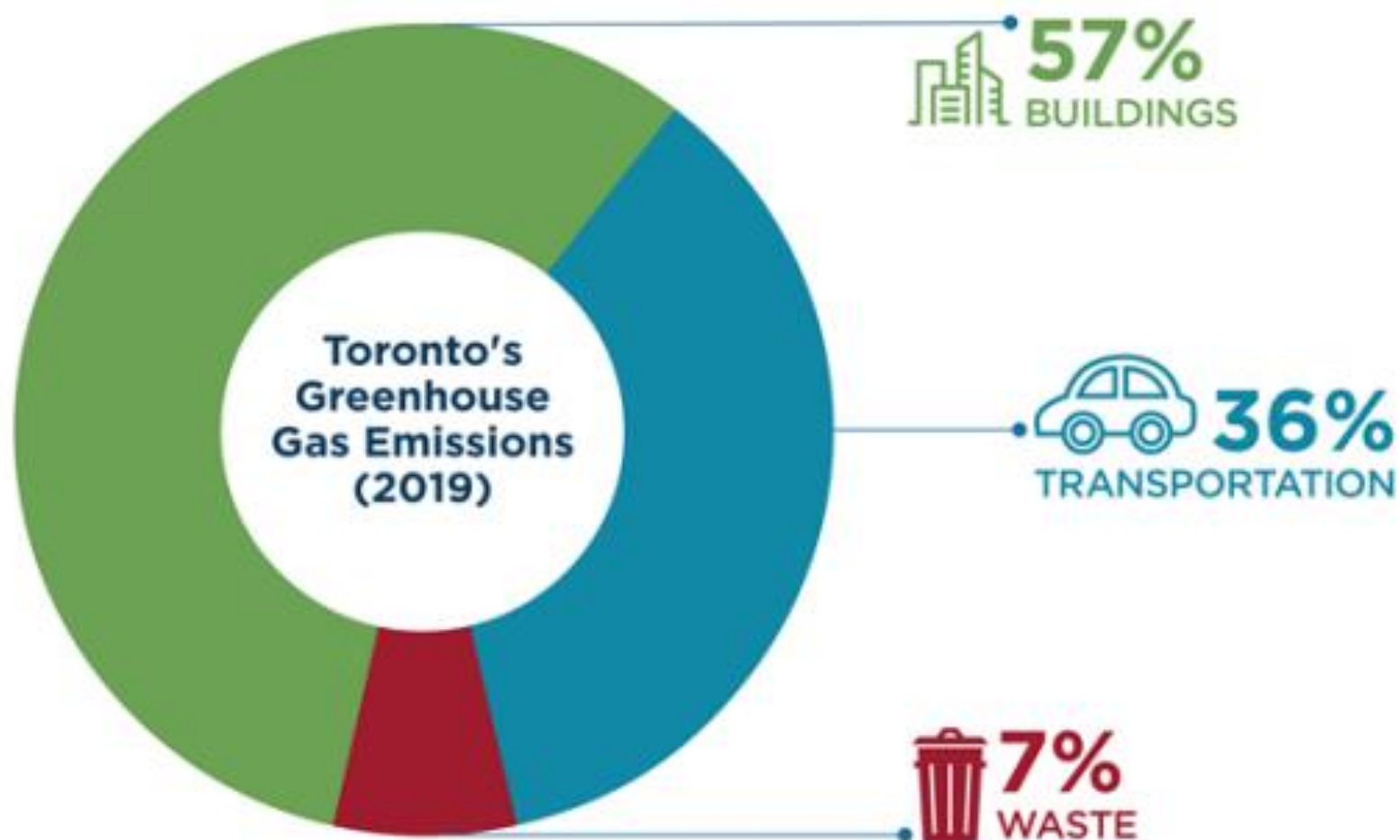
- Climate Lens Program
  - Integrate climate considerations into strategic decision-making
  - Build staff climate competency and leadership
  - Increase climate accountability
  - Increase transparency through reporting
  - Monitor climate performance
- Initial focus on new or enhanced operating programs and capital projects.



Photo by [Margot RICHARD](#) on [Unsplash](#)



# TransformTO Climate Action Strategy



# Questions?



# Thank you!

## Contact Information:

**Annette Synowiec**

Director

Policy, Planning & Outreach

Solid Waste Management Services

City of Toronto

[Annette.Synowiec@toronto.ca](mailto:Annette.Synowiec@toronto.ca)

