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The Role of Thermal Networks for Low-Carbon Resilient Communities

Fernando Carou



Toronto is Changing

Toronto's population is **growing & densifying** at one of the fastest rates in North America, placing demands on services & infrastructure, energy systems & the environment.

About **50% of households** now live in multi-residential housing.

NATIONAL POST

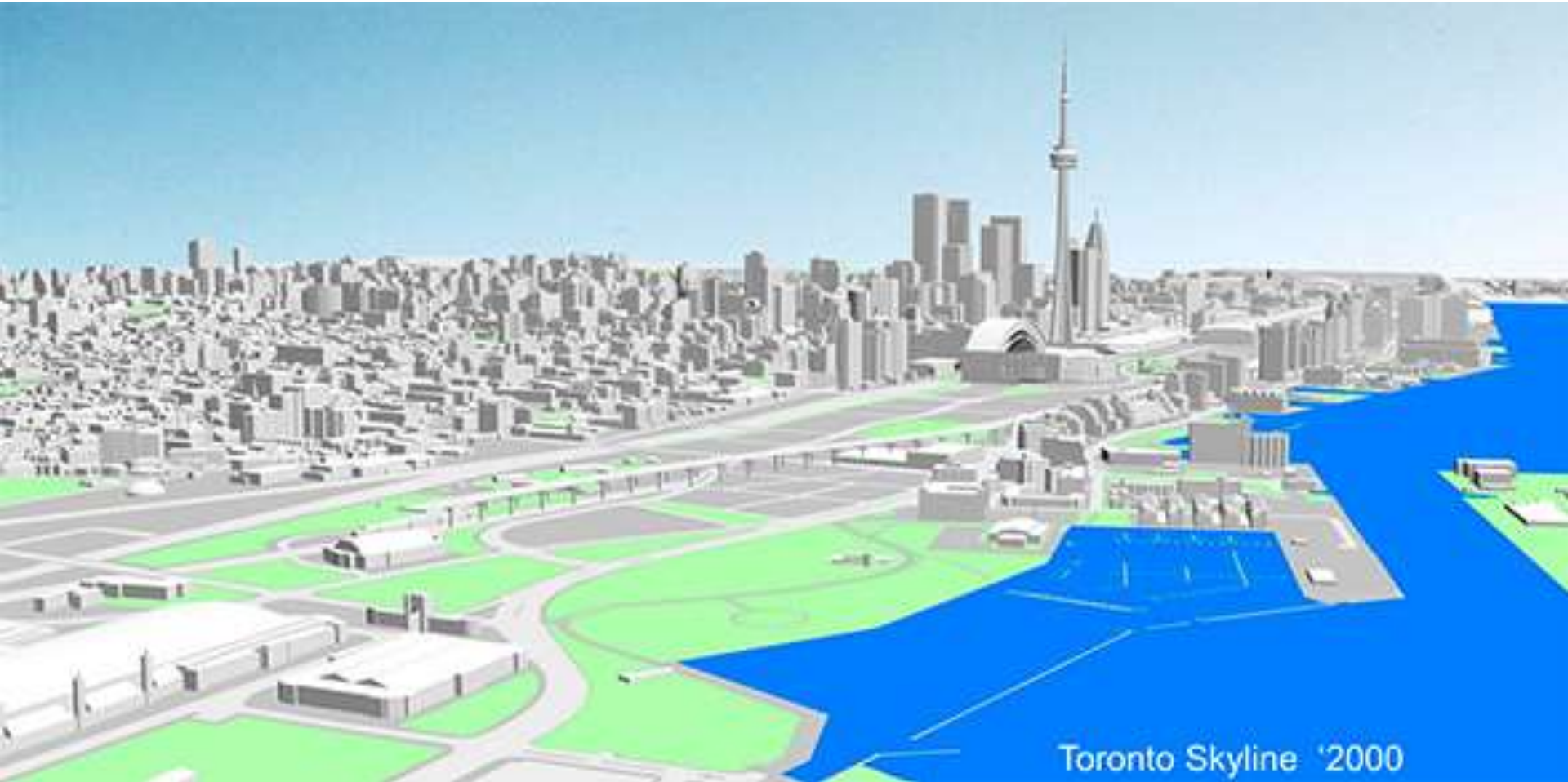
Downtown Toronto's pace of population growth triples, outpacing suburbs as Echo Boomers flock towards urban centre report

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

REAL ESTATE

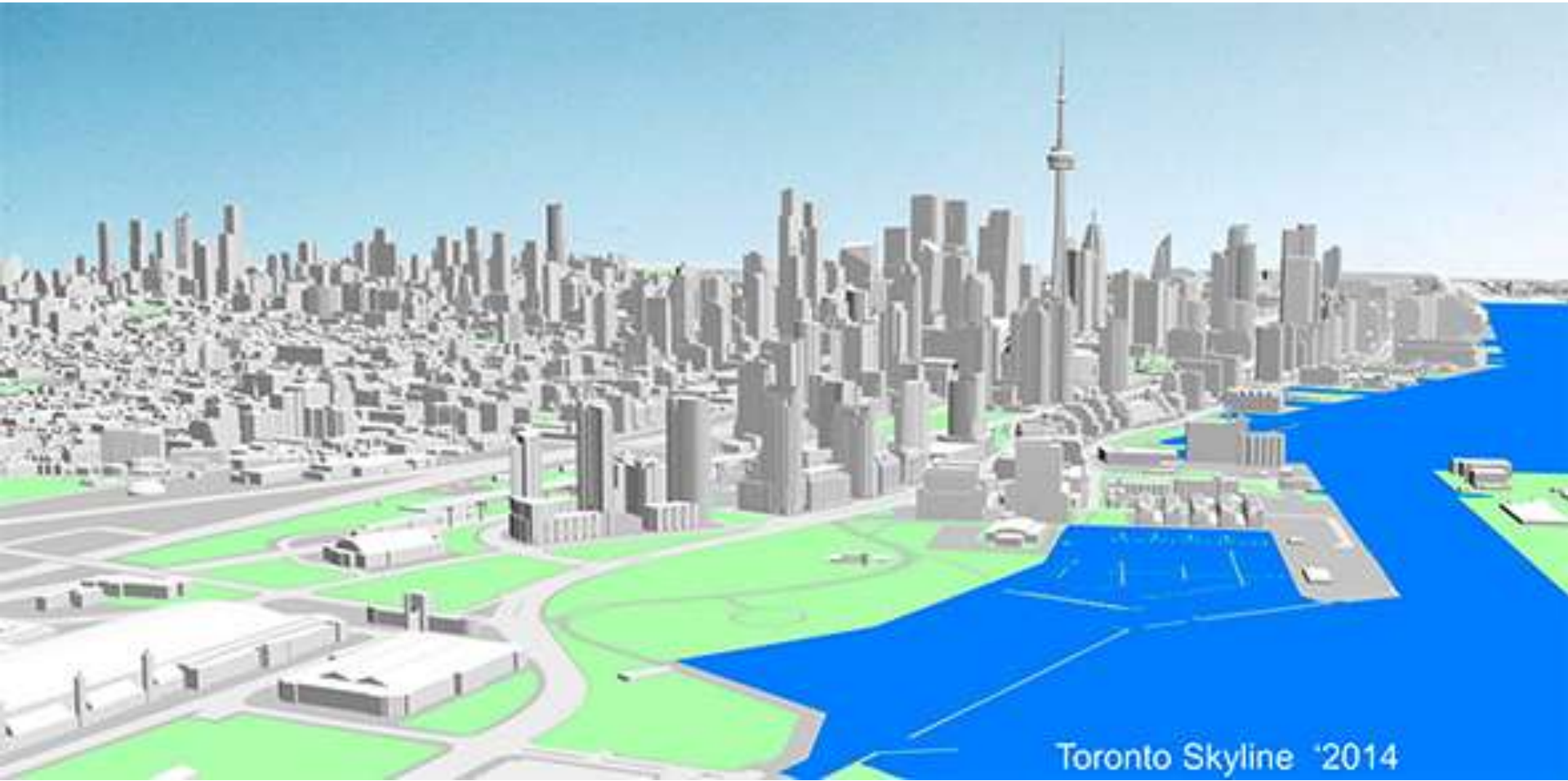
Toronto leads North American high-rise construction

Toronto's Growth: 2000 vs 2014 Skyline

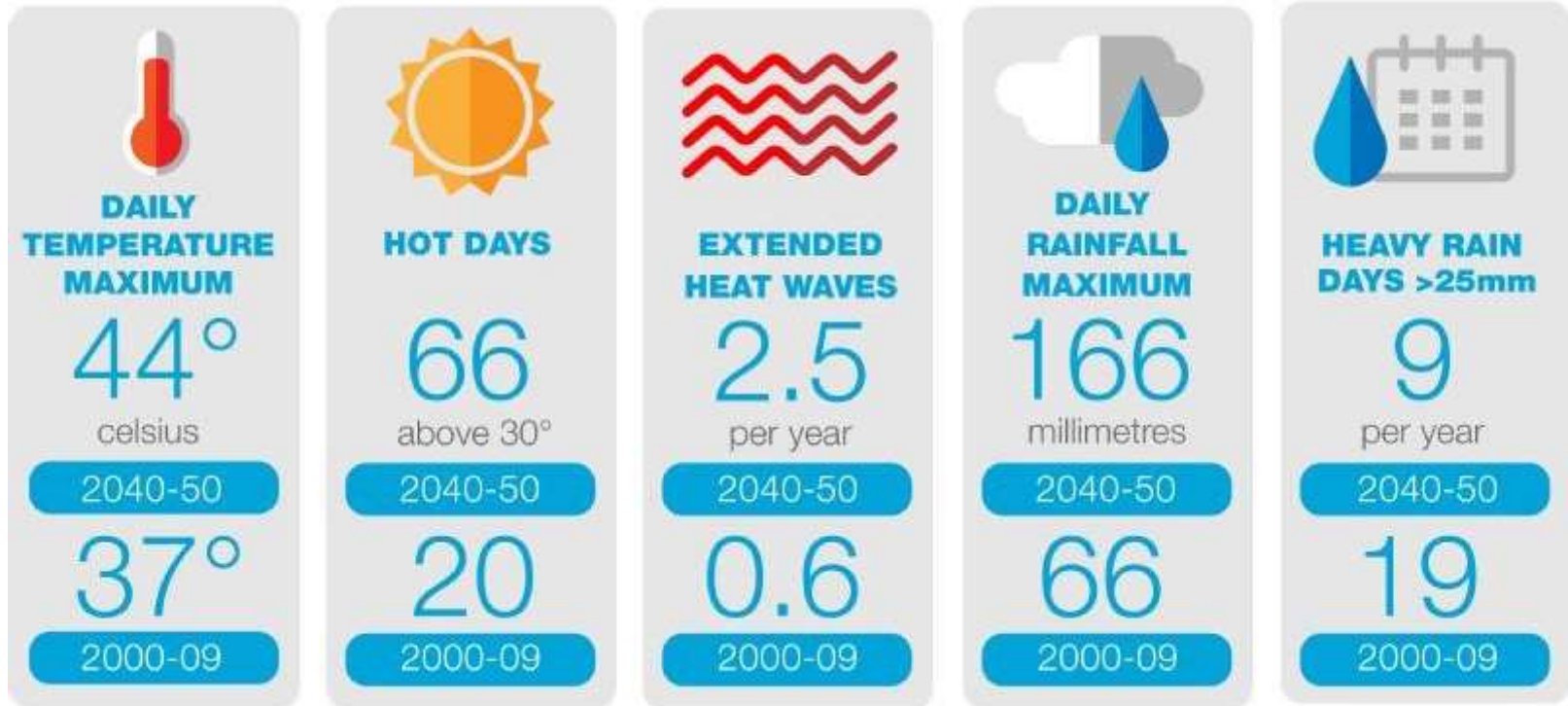


Toronto Skyline '2000

Toronto's Growth: 2000 vs 2014 Skyline



Toronto's Future Weather: Wetter, Warmer & Wilder.



*Source: Toronto's Climate Driver Study, 2011



TransformTO

www.toronto.ca/transformTO

What is Transform TO?

Toronto's new and ambitious climate action plan, identifies how we'll reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and improve our health, grow our economy, and improve social equity.

In July 2017 City Council unanimously approved a set of long-term, low-carbon goals, and strategies to reach them.

Toronto's greenhouse gas reduction targets,

based on 1990 levels: 30% by 2020, 65% by 2030, and 80% by 2050

Achieving these targets **will require transformational changes in how we live, work, commute, and build.**

What will low-carbon Toronto look like in the future?



Homes and buildings generate about half of the greenhouse gas emissions in Toronto today.

- By 2030, **new buildings** will be built to produce **near-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions**
- By 2050, all **existing buildings** will have been retrofitted to **improve energy performance an average of 40%**.

Energy:

- By 2050, **75% of the energy** we use will be **renewable or low-carbon**;
- By 2050, **30% of total floor space** across Toronto will be **connected to low-carbon heating and cooling energy**.

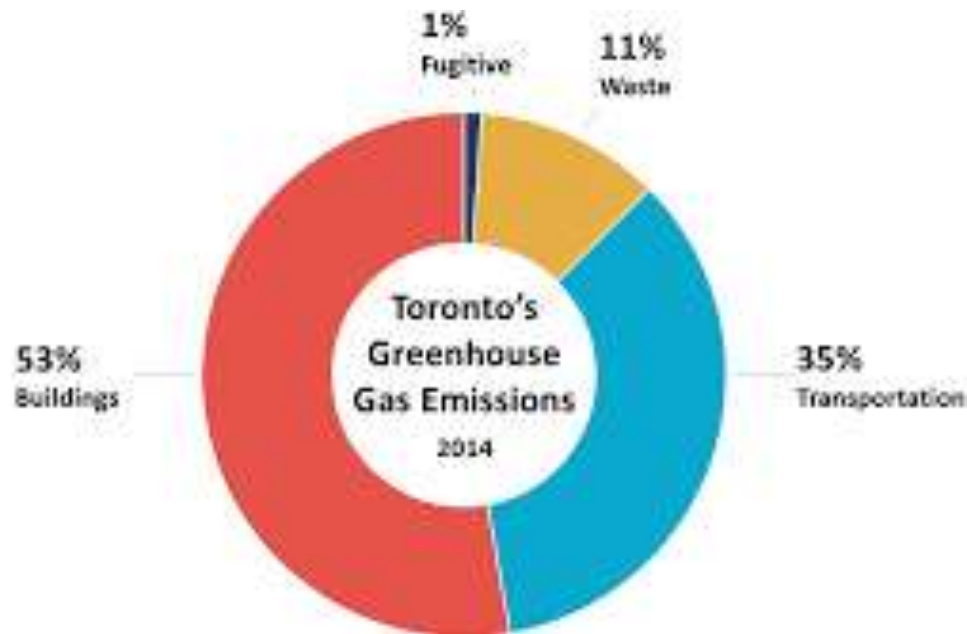
Transportation: vehicles generate about one-third of the greenhouse gas emissions in Toronto today.

- By 2050, **100% of vehicles** in Toronto will **use low-carbon energy**;
- By 2050, **75% of trips under 5 km** will be **walked or cycled**.

Waste Diversion:

- By 2050, 95% of waste will be diverted from landfills. Waste generates more than 10% of the greenhouse gas emissions in Toronto.

Toronto's GHG Emissions by Sector 2014 data



Two key strategies for large magnitude emissions reductions:

Efficient Buildings + Low-carbon Thermal Energy Networks to reduce/displace natural gas use in buildings.

Transit + Electric Vehicles to reduce/displace mobile fossil fuels.

Developing Toronto's Thermal Energy Networks

District Energy w/ Large Renewables

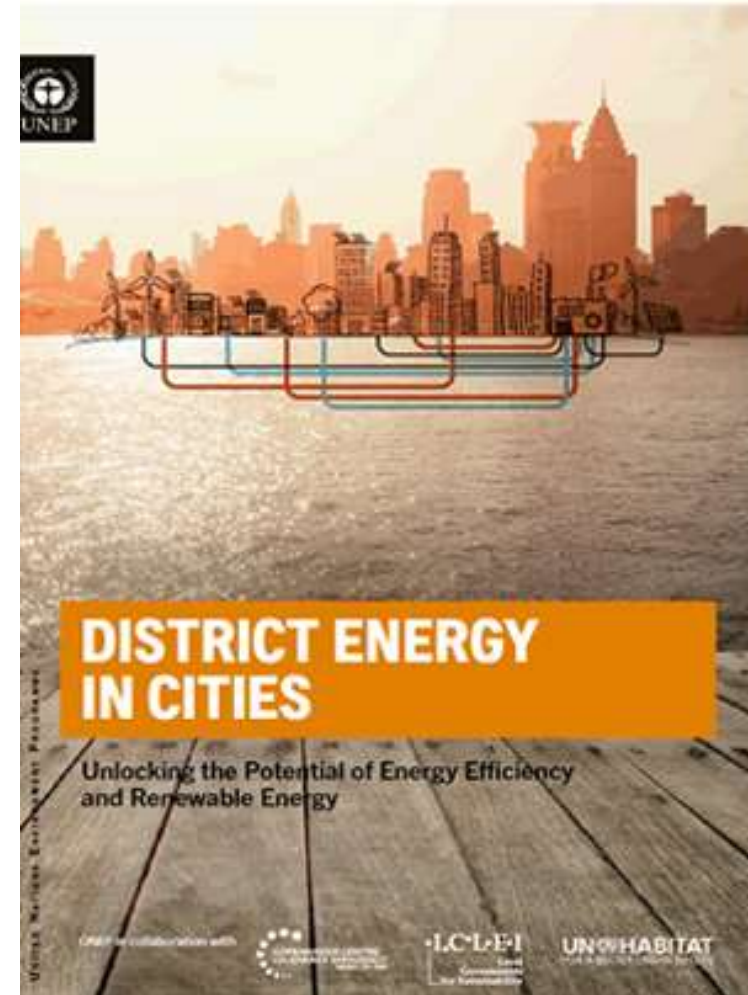
- ★ Potential New District Energy Nodes
- ★ Existing DES and Combined Heat and Power



Opportunity for 30+ new District Energy systems in Toronto



Environment and Energy Division



2015 UNEP Report

Leading by Example: Ex Place (2016)

New District Energy System completed in 2016.

Hotel X signed a **20 yr energy supply agreement** with Ex Place as the anchor client – hotel opens in 2017.

Converted **existing underutilized assets into revenue generation** for Ex Place of **\$500K per year**.

Greater than 10% IRR on \$4.5 Million investment.

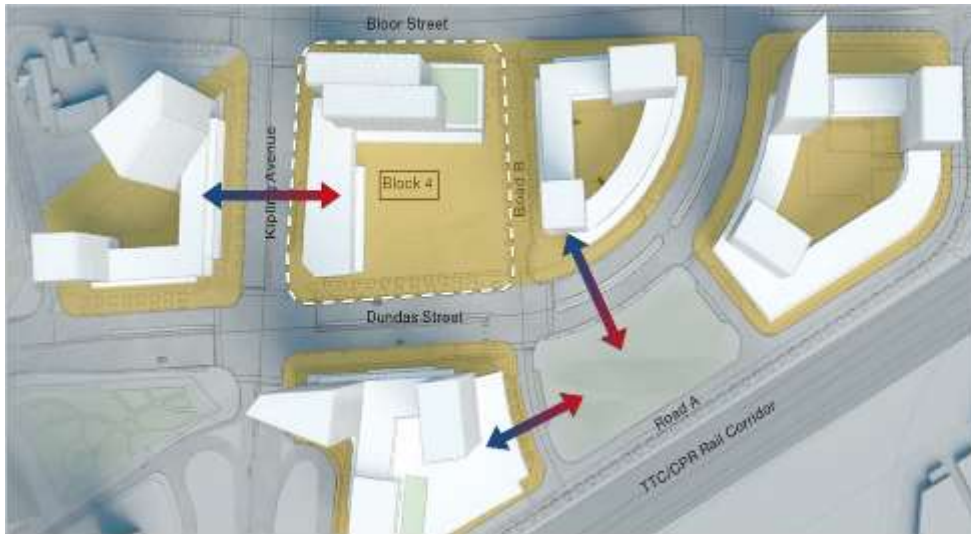


Figure shows new low-carbon thermal energy network (district energy) interconnecting 3 existing energy plants and supplying energy to new Hotel.

Leading by Example: Etobicoke (under development)

New Etobicoke Civic Centre Precinct (six points intersection)

City owned brownfield. Three million sqft of mixed-use development. New Civic Centre. Unique opportunity for net-zero community: **low-carbon thermal energy network + efficient buildings**



Low-Carbon Thermal Energy Network

Installation of the energy distribution pipes underway as part of new road network construction.

Leverage large-scale renewable energy sources (e.g. geo-exchange systems) can cost-effectively provide the majority of low-carbon energy use.

Super Efficient Buildings

Passive design + high performance systems for significant reduction in energy use, to be supplied by a low-carbon/renewable thermal energy network.

Leading by Example: Port Lands Net-zero Energy Plan

Port Lands Energy Plan

Guidelines for a Net Zero District



For comments or questions, please contact:

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September 2017

 **Toronto** Environment and Energy Division

Potential for new development in the order of 20 Million sqft (gross floor area) of residential and commercial buildings (mixed-use).

18,000 to 25,000 residents

25,000 to 30,000 employees.

Adopted by City Council in 2017

Guidelines for a Net Zero District, include:

- Super efficient buildings
- Low-carbon/renewable thermal energy networks

Roles for the City

- Facilitator / Enabler
- Policy / Master planner
- Supplier of renewable energy from municipal operations/assets (i.e. sewer heat, bio gas, heat recovery, urban wood, underutilized land for geothermal)

Note: role(s) may change with specific opportunity/project.

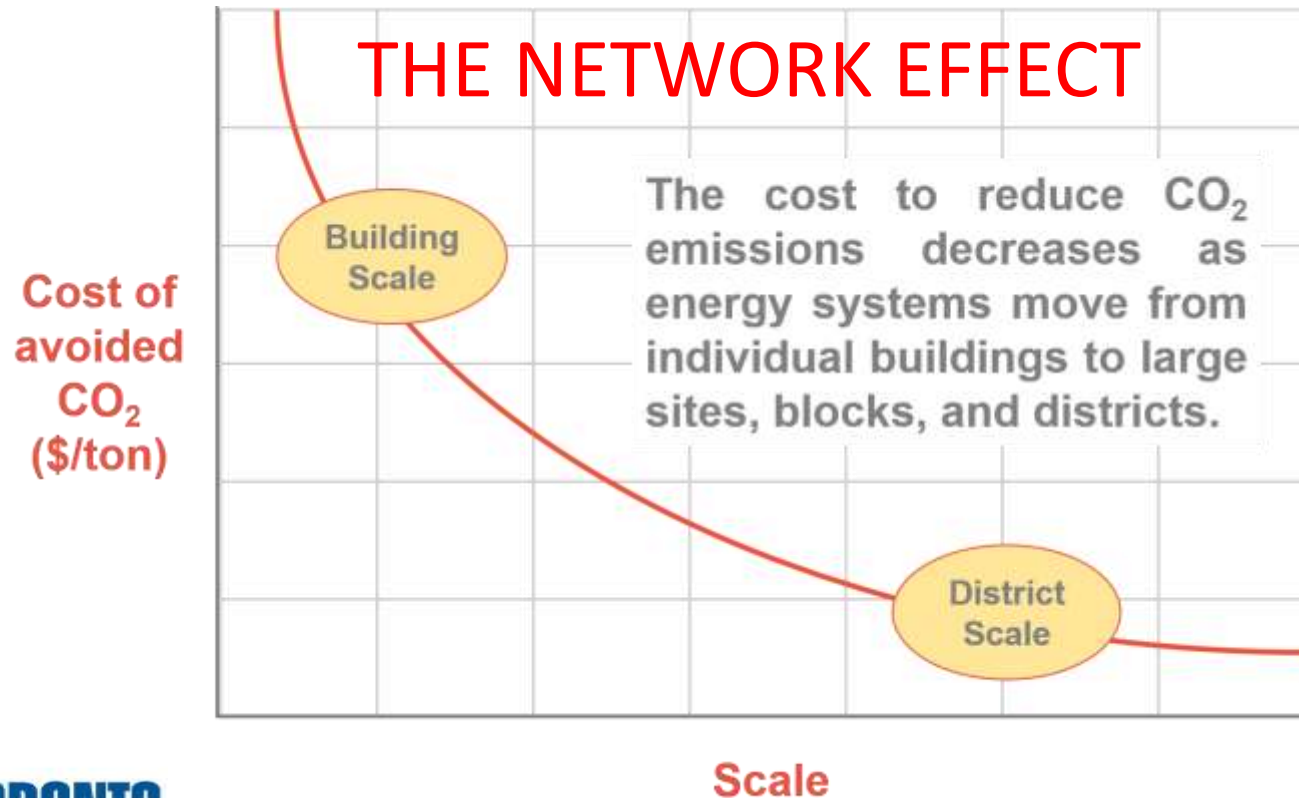
Policy: Integration with land-use


Toronto has now **integrated energy, emissions, and resilience considerations into the land-use process**, at every stage.

Land-use	Energy, Emissions & Resilience
Official Plan (city-wide) OPA 262	Energy, emissions, and resilience policies
Area Plans	Community Energy Plans
Rezoning development applications	Energy strategy requirement
Site plan development applications	Toronto Green development Standard (TGS). TGS Version 3 has carbon targets effective May 1, 2018

The Network Effect : \$/CO₂t reduced

Developing Toronto's Thermal Energy Networks District Energy w/ Large Renewables



An aerial photograph of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, showing the city's urban layout, green spaces, and the surrounding water bodies. A semi-transparent blue rectangular box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing white text.

**Climate change
will be fought in
cities. Toronto is
ready to do its part, but
we can't do it alone –**

**John Tory #ParisAgreement
#COP21**





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CLIMATE CHANGE	GROWTH	RESILIENCE	ECONOMY
Community Energy Planning			

**Low Carbon Thermal Energy Networks
(District Energy)**