

April 14th, 2025

Thunder Bay Climate Transition Collaborative (TBayCTC)

DEPUTATION TO CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE ACCELERATION OF ADOPTION OF GREEN DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR THUNDER BAY

Dr. Margaret Woods, retired Thunder Bay family physician and member of Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE) and John Stephenson, Thunder Bay architect and past president of Ontario Architects Association are co-chairs of a newly formed environmental advocacy group, Thunder Bay Climate Transition Collaborative (TBCTC).

TBCTC has been working over the past 15 months with local environmental and business organizations, Confederation College, Lakehead University and Thunder Bay District Health Unit and other experts to consider how to accelerate the implementation of Green Development Standards (GDS) and to provide community support for advancing the City of Thunder Bay's Net Zero Strategy (see link).

https://www.thunderbay.ca/en/city-hall/resources/Documents/EarthCare/Thunder-Bay_Net-Zero-Strategy_WEB-VERSION_Accessible.pdf

Currently 15 municipalities across Ontario have adopted GDS as a measure to improve the environmental sustainability of new development and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while improving efficiency and utility costs for homeowners (see link).

<https://taf.ca/green-development-standards/>

The EarthCare Advisory Committee, following a presentation from TBCTC on January 15, 2025 requesting support for the TBCTC deputation to City Council, passed a memorandum supporting the acceleration of the implementation of GDS in Thunder Bay.

On March 17th, a deputation will be made to City Council asking for the city to consider how to accelerate the development and adoption of Green Development Standards in support of the City of Thunder Bay's Net Zero Strategy.

PROPOSED DRAFT RESOLUTION

Whereas: the City of Thunder Bay has previously declared a climate emergency and adopted a Net-Zero Strategy aimed at Thunder Bay becoming a net-zero city by 2050,

Whereas: the implementation of Green Development Standards is a key element of the city's Net-Zero Strategy, and the City of Thunder Bay is behind in meeting its Net-Zero targets,

Whereas: climate change threatens the health of Thunder Bay and its residents,

Whereas: the built environment is responsible for over 30% of the city's greenhouse gas emissions, and building to minimum codes is no longer good enough,

Whereas: the establishment of a Green Development Standard, while urgently needed, requires community partnerships and stakeholder engagement, and

Whereas: the early adoption of a green development standard for Thunder Bay will accelerate progress towards Thunder Bay's Net-Zero goals, promote innovation, green economic development and sustainable growth, making Thunder Bay a community of choice for new business development and for skilled young people, as a healthy and progressive city in which its residents can live, work and play;

Be it resolved: Council refers the information provided by the deputation on Green Development Standards to Administration, especially the Growth Department and the City's Climate Action Specialist, to advise Council within three months on the means, resources and timelines required to implement Green Development Standards for Thunder Bay. Administration is encouraged to include input from the Planning, Engineering & Operations, Development Services and Parks & Open Spaces Departments and to also seek advice and input from the participants in the Thunder Bay Climate Transitions Collaborative and other community partners.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

ICLEI - The Cost of Doing Nothing: [CODN-Primer.pdf](#)

The Humanitarian Costs of Climate Change: [2019-IFRC-CODN-EN.pdf](#)

The Atmospheric Fund (TAF): [Getting the facts straight on green development standards](#)

The Clean Air Partnership Briefing Note: [Municipal-Green-Development-Standards-July-2024.pdf](#)

Creating Municipal Green Development Standards: [Updated-GDS-toolkit-040221.pdf](#)

Mississauga GDS: [Green Development Standards Update Process and Standards Overview](#)

BC Step Code: [Energy Step Code](#)

Model National Codes: [Net-Zero Buildings in Canada - Efficiency Canada](#)

Toronto GDS Cost Benefit Study: [Microsoft Word - TGDSMasterFinal.doc](#)

Thunder Bay Climate Transition Collaborative
Green Development Standards Discussions

COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPANTS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Marg Woods	Canadian Associations of Physicians for the Environment
Amy Coomes	City of Thunder Bay, Asset Management
Jacob Porter	City of Thunder Bay, Climate Adaptation Strategy
	City of Thunder Bay, Project Manager - Housing
Summer Stevenson	Accelerator
Robyn Gillespie	Confederation College, Sustainability Coordinator
Robin Gould	Confederation College, Sustainability Coordinator
Keira Essex	Earthcare Advisory Committee
Erin Moir	Eco Superior
Ashley Priem	Eco Superior
Mary Veltri	Environment North
Graham Saunders	Environment North
Aynsley Klassen	ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability
Ken Shields	Just Bike Thunder Bay
Rachael Portinga	Lake Superior Living Labs
Tim Hollinger	Lake Superior Remedial Action Program
Robert Stewart	Lake Superior Remedial Action Program
Jessie McFadden	Lakehead Regional Conservation Authority
Dr. Lindsay Galway	Lakehead University
	Lakehead University, MBA and Mechanical Engineering
Allison Farrish	Student
Ledah McKellar	Lakehead University, Sustainability Coordinator
Cory Stechyshyn	Northwestern Ontario Society of Architects
Kevin Brooks	NW Climate Gathering
Heather McLeod	NW Climate Gathering
John Stephenson	Rotary Club of Thunder Bay - Port Arthur
Sarah Siska	Thunder Bay + Area Food Strategy
Charla Robinson	Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce
Harold Lindstrom	Thunder Bay Construction Association
Dr. Janet DeMille	Thunder Bay District Health Unit
Joanna Carastathis	Thunder Bay District Health Unit
Parker Jones	Tom Jones Corporation