



January 21, 2022

Mayor Shaun Collier and Members of Council  
Town of Ajax  
65 Harwood Avenue South  
Ajax, Ontario L1S 2H9

Dear Mayor and Members of Council:

**Re: Proposed Ajax Green Development and Environmental Design Guidelines**

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**The Regional Municipality of Durham**

Office of the Regional Chair and Chief Administrative Officer

605 Rossland Rd. E.  
Level 5  
PO Box 623  
Whitby, ON L1N 6A3  
Canada

905-668-7711  
1-800-372-1102

[durham.ca](http://durham.ca)

**John Henry**  
Regional Chair and CEO

**Elaine Baxter-Trahair**  
Chief Administrative Officer

We are pleased to provide this letter in support of the Town of Ajax's proposed Green Development and Environmental Design Guidelines. Incorporating energy efficiency and environmental performance measures into the design of new buildings is a prime opportunity to address climate change while re-building our local economy.

As you know, Durham Regional Council endorsed the Durham Community Energy Plan (DCEP) in April 2019. The DCEP maps out a Low Carbon Pathway to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy, while simultaneously achieving multiple economic, environmental, and social benefits. The Low Carbon Pathway scenario is composed of 22 ambitious actions through six detailed implementation strategies, designed to achieve Durham Region's community GHG reduction target of 80% by 2050. These actions include new building energy efficiency standards, extensive building retrofit programs, installation of heat pumps, photovoltaic and wind generation, energy storage, electrification of personal, commercial and transit vehicles, land-use changes, and industrial efficiencies.

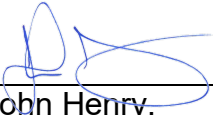
A key implementation strategy is the development of a Durham Green Standard to enhance the environmental performance of new buildings.

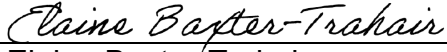
Through technology and market advancement, it is now possible and financially feasible to construct buildings that generate as much energy as they use (i.e., net zero energy). As Ajax and Durham Region are projected to experience significant housing growth by 2050, now is the time for municipalities to lead by example

Simply put, we will not achieve our collective greenhouse gas reduction targets through business-as-usual approaches to new development. Measures such as Ajax’s proposed green development and environmental design guidelines increase energy efficiency, enhance community resiliency, stimulate innovative clean technology, and support the reduction in GHG emissions.

As we turn our attention to post-COVID recovery with a “build back better” focus on rebuilding an environmentally and socially sustainable economy, we commend the Town of Ajax for their proactive leadership with the development of the Green Development and Environmental Design Guidelines and are pleased to offer our support.

Sincerely,

  
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John Henry,  
Regional Chair and CEO

  
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Elaine Baxter-Trahair  
Chief Administrative Officer