



Partners in Project Green

A Program of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Partners in Project Green Executive Management Committee Meeting Agenda

April 14, 2026

9:30 A.M.

The meeting will be conducted via a video conference

Members of the public may view the livestream at the following link:

<https://video.isilive.ca/trca/live.html>

Members:

Michelle Brown, Co-Chair

Stefania Sottile, Co-Chair

Gina Antonacci

Andrea Carmona

Chris Fonseca

Kelly Henley

Mehreen Khan

Maxx Kochar

Catherine Leighton

John MacKenzie

Leah Nacua

Anthony Perruzza

Katelyn Poyntz

Carolyn Scotchmer

Christine Tu

David West

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS TERRITORY
3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING #1/26, HELD ON JANUARY 20, 2026
[Minutes Link](#)
5. DELEGATIONS
6. PRESENTATIONS
7. CORRESPONDENCE
8. ITEMS FOR PARTNERS IN PROJECT GREEN ACTION
 - 8.1 PARTNERS IN PROJECT GREEN 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW 4
Highlights from Partners in Project Green’s (PPG) 2025 Year in Review and identifying upcoming events and priorities for scaling impact in 2026 across circular economy, energy, transportation, water stewardship, and community engagement.
9. ITEMS FOR PARTNERS IN PROJECT GREEN INFORMATION
 - 9.1 EARTH DISTRICT AND TRCA PARTNERSHIP 8
High-level overview of Earth District, summarize the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) Earth District Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and outline strategic collaboration pathways.
 - 9.2 DECARBONIZING BUILDINGS EVENT SUMMARY AND KEY INSIGHTS 12
High-level summary of the Decarbonizing Buildings: What’s Holding Us Back? event and associated report developed in collaboration with Earth District, highlighting thematic insights relevant to building decarbonization across the Greater Toronto Area.

10. NEW BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING OF PARTNERS IN PROJECT GREEN #3/26 TO BE HELD ON JUNE 23, 2026 AT 9:30 A.M. VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE.

Darryl Gray, Director, Education and Training

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11. NOTICE

**11.1 PARTNERS IN PROJECT GREEN
EXECUTIVEMANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - LEADERSHIP
ACTIVITIES**

In accordance with the TRCA Board of Director's Administrative By-Law, no decisions are to be made but rather this meeting is an opportunity for the Partners in Project Green Executive Management Committee to have informal discussion regarding various matters.

**11.2 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND
THEGENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

**11.3 PARTNERS IN PROJECT GREEN LEADERSHIP
DISCUSSION**

12. ADJOURNMENT

Items for the Action of the Partners in Project Green Executive Management Committee

TO: Chair and Members of the Partners in Project Green Executive Management Committee
Tuesday, April 14, 2026 Meeting

FROM: Darryl Gray, Director, Education and Training

RE: **PARTNERS IN PROJECT GREEN 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW**

KEY ISSUE

Highlights from Partners in Project Green’s (PPG) 2025 Year in Review and identifying upcoming events and priorities for scaling impact in 2026 across circular economy, energy, transportation, water stewardship, and community engagement.

RECOMMENDATION:

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the report on Partners in Project Green 2025 Year in Review, be received;

AND FURTHER THAT PPG endorse the 2026 Focus Areas, as outlined within the report, including:

- **Members Lunch and Learn series expansion;**
- **Annual Forum expansion and growth;**
- **Development of new circular procurement pilots;**
- **Clean energy programming; and**
- **Enhanced member engagement.**

BACKGROUND

In 2025, Partners in Project Green continued to grow industry and sector membership and participation in sustainability programs, services and initiatives, delivering more than 3,000 learner hours, diverting 35 tonnes of waste from landfill, and identifying or avoiding over 4,000 tCO₂e through programs and site assessments. Program highlights included the Recycling Collection Drive, Materials Exchange, Municipal Corporate Leaders Programs, Futureproof Your Fleet workshops, Corporate Flood and Heat Risk Management assessments, and expanded public engagement.

RATIONALE

The achievements and accomplishments of the Partners in Project Green program demonstrate a continued and ongoing value to members through practical implementation support, peer learning, and measurable outcomes. Building on this momentum, in 2026 PPG will continue to convene key sectors, decision-makers and all levels of government in accelerating decarbonization, circularity, and resilience across the GTA.

The following represents a small sample of the key highlights and achievements of PPG and PPG members:

2025 HIGHLIGHTS (SELECT):

Waste & Circularity

- 11,805 kg of textiles and 10,630 kg of e-waste diverted via Recycling Collection Drive;
- 34 Materials Exchange transactions diverting 13 tonnes, avoiding 1.08 tCO₂e, with \$407,000 cost savings for recipients; and
- Strong outcomes from the Circular Economy Leaders Consortium, including 36% of participants improving an existing project, and 18% implementing a new waste reduction or diversion initiative as a direct result of participation.

Energy Management

- Municipal Climate Leaders Programs: launched Brampton's Business Climate Action Program and continued GreenBiz Caledon Climate Partnership:
 - 17 businesses identified 119 carbon reduction projects with an estimated 3,111.5 tCO₂e potential and \$990k in incentives; and
- Energy Leaders Consortium had measurable impact, with all members gaining new knowledge and several advancing or implementing energy management projects.

Low-Carbon Transportation

- Futureproof Your Fleet delivered 7 workshops to 200+ participants and launched a public resource hub with guides and checklists; and
- Launched Clean Fuels Working Group to accelerate adoption of low and zero-emission fuel solutions across municipal and industry fleets.

Water Stewardship

- Corporate Flood and Heat program delivered bite-sized learning modules that supported in-demand learning;

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- 16 free site assessments were completed, along with two LID Conceptual Site Design reports; and
- Floatables Strategy removed 346 kg of litter and advanced upstream prevention pilots through the continuation of this multi-stakeholder partnership.

Community & Engagement

- The Camp Connections partnership with TRCA Summer Camps allowed 13 kids from priority program and communities to access nature-based summer camp;
- Thirteen (13) nonprofits received 248 refurbished devices via Recycling Collection Drive;
- PPG's public presence grew with +29% LinkedIn followers and +16% newsletter subscriptions; and
- Staff continued to engage widely at industry and community events, including Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Building on the success of 2025 and previous years, PPG is focused on continuing to leverage and enhance member impact through leadership within the business and municipal sectors. The following are key focus areas for PPG in 2026:

1. **Members Lunch & Learn** series expansion and calendarized programming across clean energy, circular economy, and resilience.
2. **Annual Forum (June 11):** The Courage to Transform — convene business leaders to showcase solutions and commitments.
3. **Circular procurement pilots** and enhanced CRD diversion initiatives with member and municipal partners.
4. **Clean fuels and energy** programming through the Energy Leaders Consortium; and Clean Fuels Working Group; continued fleet decarbonization support.
5. **Deep member engagement** and drive measurable impact through Recycling Collection Drive and community restoration events.

Relationship to TRCA's 2023-2034 Strategic Plan

This report supports the following Pillars and Outcomes set forth in TRCA's

2023-2034 Strategic Plan:

Pillar 2 Knowledge Economy:

2.2 Collaboration to advance a green transition

Pillar 3 Community Prosperity:

3.1 Connect communities to nature and greenspace

Pillar 3 Community Prosperity:

3.4 Inspired communities take environmental action

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Partners in Project Green is funded through a combination of municipal levy funding, government and non-government grants, and self-generated revenue (sponsorships; membership, event and program fees; fee-for-service agreements).

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

Partners in Project Green staff will continue to deliver programming, events and resources across our program areas, focusing on expanding circular economy initiatives, supporting emissions reduction efforts, and strengthening community engagement through practical learning and hands-on sustainability activities.

Report prepared by: Jennifer Taves, Senior Manager, Sustainable Communities

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Email: Jennifer.Taves@trca.ca

Date: February 2, 2026

Items for the Information of the Partners in Project Green Executive Management Committee

TO: Chair and Members of the Partners in Project Green Executive Management Committee
Tuesday, April 14, 2026 Meeting

FROM: Darryl Gray, Director, Education and Training

RE: EARTH DISTRICT AND TRCA PARTNERSHIP

KEY ISSUE

High-level overview of Earth District, summarize the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) Earth District Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and outline strategic collaboration pathways.

RECOMMENDATION:

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the report on the Earth District and TRCA partnership, be received.

BACKGROUND

Earth District is a consortium of five Ontario post-secondary institutions dedicated to sustainable innovation and environmental technologies. These institutions are: Centennial College, Fleming College, Ontario Tech University, Trent University, and University of Toronto Scarborough.

Earth District serves as a regional movement uniting academia, industry, government, Indigenous communities, and research funders to develop clean technologies, prototype solutions, and train the next generation of environmental leaders. The consortium engages in large-scale applied research including sustainable mobility, clean energy systems research, and cross-sector innovation projects.

On May 2, 2025, TRCA and Earth District formalized their partnership via an MOU enabling joint research, internships, curriculum collaboration, and shared site access for programming, demonstration, and applied fieldwork.

Earth District is already engaged in large-scale applied research and innovation initiatives, including:

1. Sustainable Mobility & Rail Electrification

In 2023, the Earth District consortium signed an MOU with Alstom, the global leader in electric rail systems, to support:

- Research and development for sustainable mobility;
- The first Canadian rail specialization in engineering through Alstom University;
- Joint projects in electrification of regional rail and climate-aligned mobility;
- Experiential learning (co-ops, internships, capstones) for students across all partner institutions; and
- Technical challenge initiatives supported by Alstom experts.

2. Clean Technology & Sustainable Energy Systems

Earth District institutions collaborate on applied research through the EaRTH District Collaborative Research Grant (EDCRG) program, which supports projects in:

- Sustainable energy technologies;
- Low-carbon systems;
- Cleantech commercialization;
- Industry–academic pilot demonstrations; and
- Leveraging facilities like Trent University’s Cleantech Commons innovation park for R&D–industry interface.

3. Environmental Solutions & Circularity

The consortium’s mission explicitly includes low-carbon and sustainable technologies applicable to:

- Construction;
- Transportation;

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- Housing;
- Resource management; and
- And offers sites and partners for field testing and demonstration..

RATIONALE

The TRCA–Earth District MOU strengthens and elevates TRCA’s role as a regional leader in conservation science by integrating academic research, applied innovation, and experiential learning opportunities. The partnership aligns with TRCA’s mandate to advance climate resilience, watershed management, green infrastructure, biodiversity research, and low- carbon technology adoption and potential future collaboration areas include:

- **Applied Research & Demonstration:** Utilize TRCA sites for field testing, monitoring, and demonstration of clean technologies and LID solutions.
- **Workforce Development:** Expand internships, co- ops, and student placements supporting TRCA projects in ecosystem monitoring and climate adaptation.
- **Joint Grant Development:** Pursue joint funding for climate resilience, biodiversity, and sustainable mobility initiatives.
- **Innovation Ecosystem Integration:** Connect Earth District’s research capacity with TRCA’s operational needs to advance clean technology deployment.

The first collaboration under the MOU was the May 2, 2025 “*Decarbonizing Buildings: What’s Holding Us Back?*” event co-hosted by Earth District and Partners in Project Green, which produced a public report synthesizing barriers and actions to advancing broader efforts towards decarbonization of buildings and building operations. This report can be found here: <https://partnersinprojectgreen.com/resources/decarbonizing-buildings/>.

Relationship to TRCA’s 2023-2034 Strategic Plan

This report supports the following Pillars and Outcomes set forth in TRCA’s 2023-2034 Strategic Plan:

Pillar 2 Knowledge Economy:

2.1 Research and development that drives innovation and climate-

based solutions

Pillar 2 Knowledge Economy:

2.2 Collaboration to advance a green transition

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

There are five key areas of collaboration and ongoing work being undertaken jointly between TRCA and Earth District. These include:

Advance Joint Research & Demonstration: Align TRCA priorities with Earth District research strengths to initiate applied projects using TRCA sites.

Expand Workforce Development: Grow internships, co-ops, and student placements supporting TRCA climate and ecosystem programs.

Pursue Joint Funding: Collaborate on grants that support climate resilience, biodiversity, clean energy, and sustainable mobility initiatives.

Integrate Innovation Ecosystems: Connect Earth District researchers and industry partners with TRCA operational needs to accelerate clean-tech adoption.

Mobilize Knowledge: Co-develop and share reports, events, and findings that support regional climate action and TRCA strategic objectives.

Report prepared by: Jennifer Taves, Senior Manager, Sustainable Communities

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Date: January 29, 2026

Items for the Information of the Partners in Project Green Executive Management Committee

TO: Chair and Members of the Partners in Project Green Executive Management Committee
Tuesday, April 14, 2026 Meeting

FROM: Darryl Gray, Director, Education and Training

RE: DECARBONIZING BUILDINGS EVENT SUMMARY AND KEY INSIGHTS

KEY ISSUE

High-level summary of the Decarbonizing Buildings: What’s Holding Us Back? event and associated report developed in collaboration with Earth District, highlighting thematic insights relevant to building decarbonization across the Greater Toronto Area.

RECOMMENDATION:

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the report on Decarbonizing Buildings Event and Summary and Key Insights, be received.

BACKGROUND

On May 2, 2025, Earth District and TRCA’s Partners in Project Green co-hosted Decarbonizing Buildings: What’s Holding Us Back?, marking the first formal collaboration under the TRCA–Earth District Memorandum of Understanding. The event convened leaders from academia, industry, and government to examine the persistent barriers to decarbonizing buildings across the full lifecycle: design, construction, and operations.

A comprehensive report was developed following the event, synthesizing contributions from expert facilitators, rotating discussion sessions, and participant feedback. Although structured initially around lifecycle stages, the findings revealed multiple cross-cutting systemic issues and were reorganized into seven thematic categories within the final publication. The full report can be viewed and downloaded using the following link:

<https://partnersinprojectgreen.com/resources/decarbonizing-buildings/>

SUMMARY OF KEY INSIGHTS

The Decarbonizing Buildings Summary Report identifies a series of interconnected challenges that collectively limit the pace of building decarbonization while also providing a framework and roadmap for improved collaboration and action:

1. Financial Structures

Participants identified ongoing misalignment between long-term performance benefits and short-term cost pressures, as well as limited and inconsistent incentives. Financing models and lender requirements were identified as barriers to accelerating uptake of low-carbon solutions.

2. Regulations and Standards

Fragmented or evolving requirements and approval processes create uncertainty for developers and owners. Differences across municipal and provincial frameworks add to the complexity of achieving consistent compliance pathways.

3. Technology, Supply, and Infrastructure

Supply-chain constraints, grid capacity considerations, and integration challenges affect the feasibility and timing of adopting electrification and low-carbon technologies across building portfolios.

4. Post-Occupancy Practices and Data

Participants emphasized gaps in commissioning, performance monitoring, and ongoing operational optimization. These gaps reduce expected performance gains and limit the ability to validate decarbonization outcomes.

5. Culture and Perception

Risk aversion, perceived cost premiums, and limited awareness of proven solutions continue to act as barriers, particularly for organizations without internal sustainability capacity.

6. Collaboration and Integration

Siloed roles across the development, construction, and operations lifecycle limit the potential for coordinated interventions. Improved communication and integration were identified as essential for meaningful progress.

7. Cross-Cutting Systemic Barriers

Participants identified interdependencies across financial, regulatory, cultural, and technical issues. The report emphasizes that overcoming these challenges requires multi-sector engagement, shared learning, and coordinated approaches.

Areas for Future Focus

The Decarbonizing Buildings Summary Report provides a high-level roadmap outlining areas of future focus for how stakeholders could move from identifying barriers to enabling coordinated decarbonization action across the building lifecycle.

Rather than prescribing specific projects, the roadmap organizes opportunities into short-, medium-, and longer-term actions, aligned with the seven thematic insights. These include strengthening financial and policy foundations, improving data and post-occupancy practices, addressing supply-chain and infrastructure limitations, and fostering greater collaboration among designers, builders, operators, regulators, and educators.

The roadmap is intended as a guiding framework to support ongoing dialogue, future programming, research, and experiential learning initiatives within the broader Earth District–TRCA partnership.

Relationship to TRCA’s 2023-2034 Strategic Plan

This report supports the following Pillar and Outcome set forth in TRCA’s 2023-2034 Strategic Plan:

Pillar 2 Knowledge Economy:

2.2 Collaboration to advance a green transition

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Costs for the event and development of the report were shared between Earth District and TRCA through the Partners in Project Green Program Budget.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

The event and report provide a useful high-level synthesis of the systemic and interconnected barriers shaping the building decarbonization

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landscape in the GTA. These insights will support TRCA and PPG in continuing to track industry sentiment, regulatory considerations, and potential areas of alignment with academic, municipal, and industry partners.

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Date: January 29, 2026