

# Caroline Murphy

Councillor Candidate in the City of Toronto, Ward 13  
City of Toronto

*The following answers were provided by the candidate in response to [a letter sent by the Toronto Society of Architects on September 20, 2022](#) outlining three questions related to issues of the built environment. Answers have been copied and pasted into this page for clarity and ease of access, but all answers are verbatim and no changes or edits have been made.*

**Q1: Housing is a fundamental human right, and yet an increasing number of residents across the Greater Toronto Area are struggling to pay rent or find an affordable place to live. What policies and actions do you believe need to be implemented to address this crisis?**

**A:** Solutions need to be put in place to solution the crisis we are facing in Toronto. This does not mean building for the sake of building, as this strategy clearly does not work.

We need a city-owned-not-for-profit housing development corporation, one that builds the homes and community infrastructure that reflect the needs of Torontonians, be they individuals, seniors or families.

WE need development surcharges on developers who skirt city-zoning bylaws and surcharges on developments that contain over 70% non affordable units.

We need to ensure that the development is working for the community in which it is built and that proper planning is in place to ensure that the areas development is taking place is fully sustainable. We also have to recognize our built heritage, and not look to simply build but embrace. We need to spread out the development across Toronto and not have it focused only in Toronto Centre.

We also need to focus on restoring, refurbishing existing structures in place so that they can be used to address this crisis.

The councillors need to support John Tory's 5 point plan, which will help get more houses built faster, including enacting a use it or lose it policy

**Q2: The design, construction and operation of our built environment accounts for nearly 40% of energy related carbon emissions, contributing to the ongoing climate crisis affecting us today. What do you believe needs to be prioritised to reduce carbon emissions within the built environment?**

**A:** Based on 2019's inventory release, 57 % of GHG emissions in Toronto come from homes and buildings, primarily

from burning natural gas to heat indoor spaces and water, with a further 36 % coming from transportation (the majority of that attributed to personal vehicles) and 7% through waste.

We must prioritize all new builds being designed and built to be near zero greenhouse gas emissions and current greenhouse gas emissions must be cut in half. The city must lead the way and all city owned facilities have to lead the way, - with zero waste, reducing by 60% and work on the goal of by 2040 reaching net zero . Setting requirements to assess building performance and reportings to track said

Provide support and resources to make retrofits easier and more affordable,

Build awareness surrounding the capacity of home and building owners to reduce and to support workforce development and training on understanding embodied carbon in construction

**Q3: In towns and cities, so much of life happens in the shared public spaces—in our parks, libraries and streets. How can we ensure these civic spaces achieve design excellence in their initial conception and construction, and that they are properly maintained so they may continue to serve future generations?**

**A:** Ensure that all city official policies set a solid foundation for advancing the city’s climate change goals and having a ‘healthy natural environment including clean air, soil, energy and water; infrastructure and socio-economic systems that are resilient to disruptions and climate change; and a connected system of natural features and ecological functions that support biodiversity and contribute to civic life’