

April 7, 2026

To whom it may concern,

Re: Letter of Support for the Continuation and Enhancement of the Durham Greener Buildings (DGB) Program (2026–2029)

The Town of Whitby is pleased to provide this letter of support for the proposed extension of the Durham Greener Buildings (DGB) Program for a three-year period (2026–2029), subject to approval by Regional Council.

Improving the energy performance of existing buildings is a cornerstone of the Town of Whitby's Climate Emergency Response Plan: Phase 2 – Mitigation and is critical to achieving the Town's community greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets of a 40 per cent reduction by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2045. Benchmarking, data quality, and building performance insights are essential tools to support informed decision-making, prioritize retrofit investments, and advance emissions reductions across municipal, Broader Public Sector, and community housing portfolios.

Since its launch in 2024, the Durham Greener Buildings Program has played an important role in supporting energy and water benchmarking, improving data completeness, and building local capacity across Durham Region. The program has established a strong foundation for tracking building performance, supporting compliance with provincial benchmarking requirements, and enabling the transition from data collection to action.

The proposed Phase 2 extension builds on this progress by maintaining core benchmarking and technical support services while strengthening alignment with retrofit financing opportunities, utility incentive programs, and partner-led outreach initiatives. Of particular value to the Town of Whitby is the program's increased emphasis on **community housing and Broader Public Sector buildings**, where the potential for cost savings, emissions reductions, and broader community benefits is greatest and aligns closely with municipal climate priorities.

Through Phase 2, Durham Region's continued delivery of the Durham Greener Buildings Program will support shared objectives to:

- Maintain energy and water benchmarking through **ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager** as a foundational tool for performance tracking and retrofit readiness;

- Improve data quality, consistency, and reporting through enhanced technical assistance and follow-up;
- Strengthen participation within community housing and Broader Public Sector building portfolios;
- Enhance coordination with utilities and partner organizations to improve outreach, education, and connections to available incentive and financing programs; and
- Support municipal climate action efforts by enabling data-driven identification and prioritization of high-impact retrofit opportunities.

The Town of Whitby recognizes that collaboration among municipalities, utilities, housing providers, and partner organizations is critical to advancing building energy performance and achieving long-term emissions reductions. Programs such as Durham Greener Buildings provide an important platform to reduce barriers to participation, support capacity-building, and enable pathways from benchmarking to implementation.

This letter confirms the Town of Whitby's support for the continued implementation of the Durham Greener Buildings Program and for Durham Region's efforts to collaborate with municipal and external partners to enhance program delivery, subject to organizational priorities and available resources. Where appropriate, this support may include collaboration on outreach and engagement, information sharing, and alignment with existing municipal climate initiatives.

We appreciate the leadership shown by Durham Region in advancing building energy performance and look forward to continued collaboration in support of shared climate, energy, and community objectives.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact **myself** at sheildss@whitby.ca.

Sincerely,

Sarah Shields
Manager, Sustainability and Climate Change
Town of Whitby