

**Committee**

Regional Municipality of Durham  
605 Rossland Road East  
Whitby, ON

April 2, 2026

**Re: Report #2026-CG-9L Durham Greener Buildings Program – Phase 2**

Dear Councillors,

The Atmospheric Fund (TAF) is pleased to see Durham Region moving forward and expanding the **Durham Greener Buildings Program** for a three-year period (2026-2029). TAF is a regional climate agency based in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) supporting a net-zero future. We recognize the building sector as a critical area for tackling emissions and view benchmarking programs as essential tools for enabling performance improvements and investment decisions.

Buildings are responsible for [approximately one-third](#) of Durham Region’s greenhouse gas emissions. Since launching in 2024, the Durham Greener Buildings Program has supported energy and water benchmarking, data quality improvement, and capacity-building across the Region’s building sector. Over the first implementation phase, participation increased steadily and data completeness improved significantly, establishing a strong foundation for performance tracking, retrofit planning, and alignment with provincial Energy and Water Reporting Benchmarking (EWRB) requirements.

Phase 2 would build on this success by maintaining core benchmarking and technical support services while strengthening alignment with retrofit financing, utility incentive programs, and partner-led outreach initiatives. We are particularly supportive of Phase 2’s increased emphasis on community housing and Broader Public Sector building portfolios, where opportunities for cost savings, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and broader community benefits are significant. We also value Durham Region’s collaborative approach to support building owners by coordinating with utilities and partner organizations to reduce barriers to participation.

**TAF recommends that Durham Regional Council approve the Phase 2 continuation and enhancement of the Durham Greener Buildings Program.** Continued investment in this program will support measurable emissions reductions, improved building performance, and long-term community benefits across Durham Region.

Sincerely,

Bryan Purcell

VP Policy & Programs, The Atmospheric Fund

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## About The Atmospheric Fund

The Atmospheric Fund (TAF) is a regional climate agency that invests in low-carbon solutions for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) and helps scale them up for broad implementation. We are experienced leaders and collaborate with stakeholders in the private, public, and non-profit sectors who have ideas and opportunities for reducing carbon emissions. Supported by endowment funds, we advance the most promising concepts by investing, providing grants, influencing policies, and running programs. We're particularly interested in ideas that offer benefits in addition to carbon reduction, such as improving people's health, creating local jobs, boosting urban resilience, and contributing to a fairer society.