

**TEA Environmental Mayoral Debate Questions  
September 23, 2010**

**1. Energy**

**Preamble: City Hall has been talking for years about reducing smog and greenhouse gas emissions. A great plan was unanimously passed by City Council in 2007 that recommends city-wide energy conservation initiatives and more green power. But implementation of this plan has been slow. We've had a number of pilot programs and more plans. Last November, Council passed a Sustainable Energy Plan which finally included some concrete targets and recommendations. This Plan also finally acknowledges that city-owned Toronto Hydro must play a key role in delivering green energy to Torontonians.**

Lead Question:

**How do you plan to direct City departments and city-owned Toronto Hydro to bring energy conservation to all corners of the City?**

**TEA Environmental Mayoral Debate Questions  
September 23, 2010**

**2. Safe Streets**

**Preamble: Between 2001 and 2006, the number of people riding a bike to work in Toronto increased by over 30%. In 2006 roughly 1.6% of Torontonians biked to work. Given how crowded Toronto's bike lanes are during the morning and evening commutes this number has already gone way up. All of this suggests many of our city streets are now being used by cars, transit and cyclists. If we want to reduce smog and greenhouse gas emissions in Toronto, the city should be creating streets that help all road users get to and from where they are going safely.**

Lead off Question:

**What is your plan to get Torontonians who use their bikes to and from work safely?**

**TEA Environmental Mayoral Debate Questions  
September 23, 2010**

**3. Waste**

**Preamble: In 2000, Mayor Lastman and City Council called for the City to reach 100% waste diversion by 2010. We obviously didn't meet this ambitious target. However, many good things have happened since then. The city has programs to help Torontonians divert an increasing number of products and packaging from landfill such as electronics, furniture and household toxics. Probably the biggest waste diversion program the city has is the green bin. Roughly 30% of everything we put on the curb is organics. Unfortunately, only about half of Torontonians have access to a green bin. People who live in apartment buildings and condos typically have to put their organics in the garbage and that means it gets shipped to a dump.**

Lead Question:

**What will you do to ensure every Torontonian, not just those who live in a single family home, has access to green bins?**

**TEA Environmental Mayoral Debate Questions  
September 23, 2010**

**4. Transit**

**Preamble: Transit is the number 1 issue on the mind of voters. As you know, City Council passed Transit City, the plan to build 8 light rail transit lines that will criss cross the city. The Transit City Plan has also been supported by the Province, the Toronto Board of Trade and many other Toronto groups. Three of you want to throw out Transit City and start from scratch. One of you want to do some major surgery to Transit City. And only one of you supports the original Transit City Plan.**

**While there has been much debate amongst you about whether subways are better than Light Rail Transit and about the costs of your plans and how quickly they could be built, there has been almost no discussion about which plan is better for the environment. According to the TTC, the Transit City Plan is estimated to eliminate up to 53 million annual car trips and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 213,000 tonnes per year when implemented around 2020.**

Lead Question:

- **What are the environmental benefits of your transit plan, how will you measure them and how do they compare to Transit City?**

**TEA Environmental Mayoral Debate Questions  
September 23, 2010**

**5. Moving Forward on the Environment**

**Preamble: In March 2009, TEA issued a report stating City Council was the greenest Council this city had ever seen because of the many positive environmental initiatives adopted between 2006 and 2009. However, TEA also noted that the city was not moving quickly enough in implementing key environmental initiatives. They noted that while Council passed great environmental plans city staff were taking too long to implement these plans.**

**In the last few months, many of you have stated you want to adopt additional environmental initiatives.**

Lead Question:

- What will you do to ensure there are enough resources to implement the environmental initiatives you propose?**