

TORONTO ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE

Annual Report



2013



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Message from Dr. Franz Hartmann Executive Director



In 2013 the Toronto Environmental Alliance marked its 25th anniversary by doing what we do best: bringing Torontonians together. From all corners of the city we truly are building a greener city for all.

For me, perhaps the most memorable moment of the year was on November 22nd when TEA held Enviro Summit 2013: *Mapping a Diverse Green Future for Toronto*. TEA brought together 17 environmentalists, 17 community leaders and 8 student leaders. As I was about to open the Summit, I looked at the 40 plus participants and saw a room that represented the cultural and geographical diversity of Toronto. For an entire day we talked about the issues we were working on, found the connections between

them and began figuring out how we could better collaborate. At the end of the day, as people were packing up to leave, I realized we had both repeated history and also created history. I'll explain.

TEA began in 1988 with a meeting of mostly environmentalists living in the old city of Toronto (see NOW article here). As NOW reports, this meeting was to "hammer out TEA's constitution and plan its first projects." At Enviro Summit 2013, people once again gathered to discuss working together on environmental issues. But this time, the community activists represented all corners of the city - highlighting the city's cultural diversity. This time the focus was on finding linkages between

environmental issues and other community issues, like clean air and the right to affordable and decent transit. As we heard from many community activists, this collaboration was a breath of fresh air.

In the past year, Torontonians spent too much time discussing what divides us rather than what unites us. It would be easy to separate Torontonians into those who don't work on environmental issues and those who do. But TEA doesn't accept this approach. As this Annual report makes clear, we continue working on core environmental issues facing the city: improving air quality, dealing with climate change, deToxing Toronto, fighting for waste reduction and diversion, better

transit and growing the Greenbelt into Toronto. And we continue making ever stronger ties between our issues and other community issues while finding new allies to work with, which is why Enviro Summit 2013 was so important.

There is so much more to say about 2013: our successes at stopping City Hall from undoing past environmental gains; our fantastic volunteers who helped us do amazing outreach work, especially in Scarborough and Etobicoke; the incredible financial commitment of our donors; and, the extraordinary TEA team whose energy, commitment and passion inspire me every day.

In twenty five years, TEA has grown from 30 environmentalists

meeting in a downtown community centre to over 44,000 members in all parts of the city. We have gone from having no impact to a long list of accomplishments. Most importantly, TEA has transformed from an idea into an effective relationship among Torontonians where we collectively build a greener city for all.

Thank you TEA...and
Happy Birthday!



CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Climate Change:

In January, TEA rang the alarm bell about a city staff report that showed how climate change would affect Toronto by 2040. The news is bad: by 2040 we can expect a dramatic increase in hot days and regular devastating rain storms, like the one we had in July 2013. The good news is that we can begin preparing for this today in ways that will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change. TEA urged City Councillors to act swiftly. We spent the remainder of the year talking to Torontonians about what immediate actions they needed to take and why we need to take them. By December 2013, many City Councillors had gotten the message and asked staff to get an action plan ready by April 2014. Unfortunately though, Torontonians will have to wait for the 2015 budget for any new resources to implement the Action Plan.

Greenbelting Toronto:

January started with an announcement by the Province that municipalities, like Toronto, could now designate public lands in urban river valleys (like the Humber and Don) as part of the Greenbelt. Since then, TEA has been working with other members of the Ontario Greenbelt Alliance (OGA) to coordinate efforts to grow the Greenbelt into Toronto and other urban areas which have urban river valley systems that connect the Greenbelt to Lake Ontario. In July, TEA received a 2-year grant from the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation to engage Torontonians in supporting Greenbelt-friendly activities.

Transit:

TEA spent the majority of the year talking to Torontonians about the importance of investing in existing public transit services and expanding public transit in Toronto and the surrounding regions (the Greater Toronto and Hamilton areas). Throughout the year, our frontline campaigners had conversations with at least 30,000 people at the door about the importance of investing in public transit. We also spoke to hundreds of residents at community events. Combined, these conversations helped us get a good sense of our residents' transit priorities. TEA also continued helping TTCriders grow towards becoming an independent transit advocacy organization. TEA also worked with a variety of other organizations through a collaboration called MovetheGTHA to advocate for transit expansion across the entire region.

DeTOx Toronto:

In March 2013, TEA published the Toronto Toxic Reduction Tool Kit in collaboration with cancer prevention coalition partners. This resource is designed to help community groups exercise their newfound 'right to know' about toxic releases in their neighbourhood by using ChemTRAC. TEA also provided training sessions in 'hot spot' communities such as Jane-Finch, South Etobicoke, and Scarborough Centre to identify chemical emissions and discuss solutions that prevent pollution, protect health and green businesses. At City Hall, TEA stopped changes to Toronto's Sewers By-law that would have 'watered down' the pollution prevention incentives for businesses that keep toxic wastewater out of Lake Ontario and continued to draw attention to air quality issues. Provincially, TEA engaged in discussions on how to strengthen the Toxics Reduction Act. We also provided training and assistance to other Ontario cities who want to pass their own 'right to know' bylaw.

Waste:

It's been a very busy year dealing with waste. In May TEA published the first-ever Toronto Residents' Guide to Waste that explains what happens to our waste and what people can do to help build Toronto's waste-free future. At City Hall, TEA worked hard to continue making waste diversion a priority. In March we succeeded in getting City Councillors to put more city resources and staff time into getting green bins into apartment buildings and improving support and education for Torontonians wanting to divert more. Provincially, TEA coordinated an effort by Ontario and national environmental groups to push the province to move forward with new legislation that would have producers of product and packaging waste take responsibility and pay for the waste they produce.

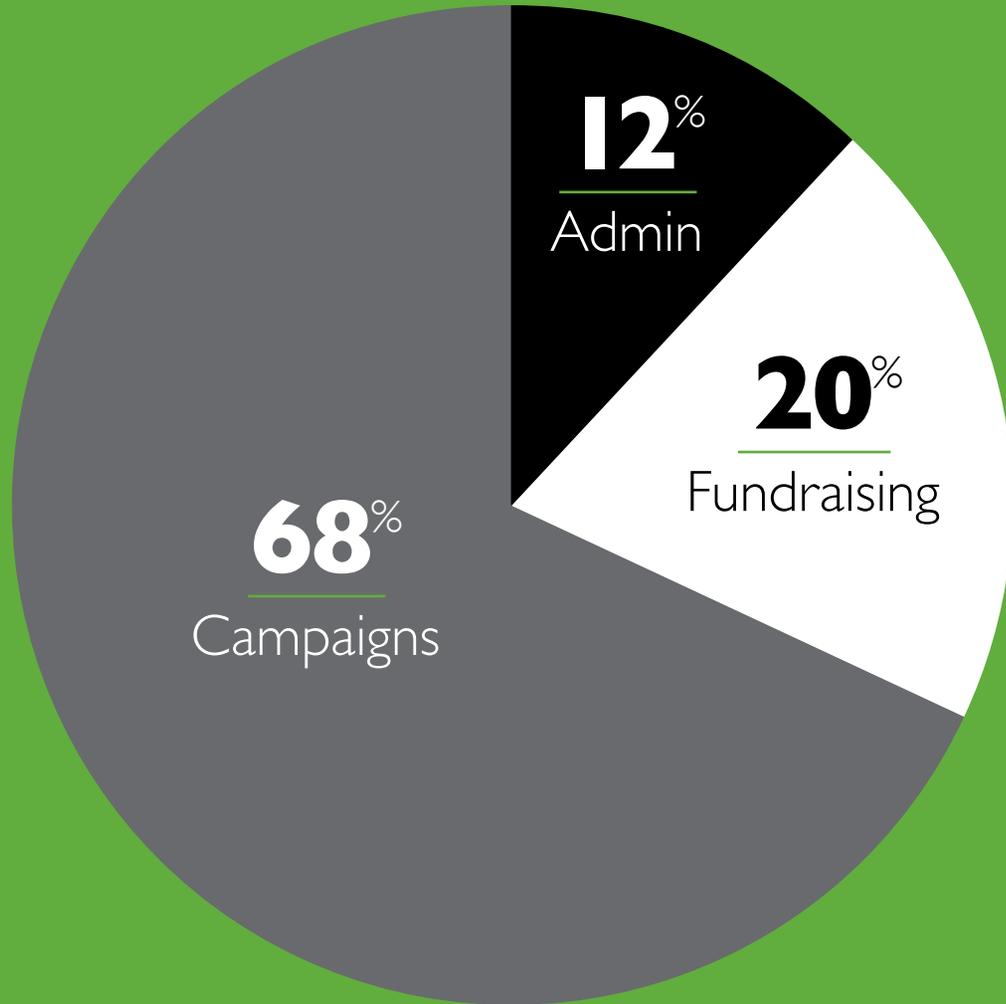
TORONTO ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE

Statement of Operations
Year ended March 31

	2013 \$	2012 \$
REVENUE		
Fundraising		
Canvass	251,305	255,201
Donations	86,540	84,165
Events	29,182	16,335
Grants and contracts	239,958	419,450
	606,985	775,151
EXPENSES		
Amortization	-	652
Fundraising	68,131	58,852
Occupancy costs	22,018	13,302
Office and general	9,979	11,775
Outreach	249,244	255,887
Salaries and benefits	44,175	58,624
Grants and contracts	239,711	406,858
	633,258	805,950
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	(26,273)	(30,799)

TORONTO ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE

Allocation of Funds
Year ended March 31



OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS

TEA had another successful year in connecting with neighbourhoods in all corners of the city, thanks in large part to our amazing staff and volunteers. Our frontline campaigners knocked on over 80,000 doors and talked with 25,000 people directly about TEA campaigns. Our campaigners also inspired over 3,000 people to sign letters addressed to City Councillors and MPPs calling for them to act in ways that support our various campaigns.

TEA outreach also included attending over 100 community events throughout the year in all corners of the city, including Scarborough, North York and Etobicoke. In addition, we tabled at community picnics, spoke to auditoriums full of students about

TEA campaigns, and presented our campaigns to membership meetings of dozens of community organizations.

We couldn't have reached thousands of people without our wonderful volunteers who took the time to learn about our issues and represent TEA. Volunteers have also played a key role at the TEA office. On a daily basis, we have at least one volunteer helping us with everything from administrative tasks to scientific research. Many of our dedicated volunteers are in our office multiple times a week for months on end. It's fair to say our volunteers are the key reason why we are so effective at connecting with Torontonians. And to that we say thank you to each and every one of them!



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