

# Does Toronto need a Stormwater Charge?

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It tea

For over 30 years, TEA has campaigned locally to find solutions to Toronto's urban environmental problems. We advocate on behalf of all Torontonians for a green, healthy and equitable city, and we act as an environmental watchdog at City Hall. We work with concerned individuals, community groups, professionals, and workers, encouraging the participation of local people on local issues.



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# Toronto has a flooding problem.

It's simple. Like many cities, Toronto has too much pavement.

Climate change means it's raining more and raining harder. Without green spaces to soak it up, that water has nowhere to go except our homes, our streets, our highways, and our basements.

This threatens our communities with rising cost burdens and health & safety threats as climate change escalates.



# What can we do right now?

One solution TEA is fighting for is called a **stormwater charge**.

This tool is:

- a charge based on how much impact a property has on Toronto's storm sewer system
- designed to charge more to big paved properties that create a lot of runoff (e.g. parking lots), and charge less to smaller properties with less paved area
- designed to help reduce paved surfaces and reduce flooding
- designed to create a financial incentive for people to reduce paved areas
- can help generate funds for incentives to green properties and take other action to reduce flooding
- expected to reduce overall water bills for the vast majority of residential properties in TO
- already working in nearby cities like Brampton and Mississauga



# What they're not telling you...

1. **You are already paying to deal with stormwater in your water bills.**
  - TO Water funds stormwater programs out of the general water rate - but how much stormwater you create has nothing to do with how much water you use!
  - Majority of residential properties with avg water use would pay less overall under a stormwater charge system
  - Smallest properties (condos, apts) could save most - up to \$100-\$300/yr
2. **Some properties are paying nothing to flood our sewers**
  - Parking lots don't have water connections or pay water bills so pay \$0
  - We are paying to clean up their mess



# Why does TEA support a stormwater charge?

- **Fairness:** current systems let industry off the hook while residential owners pay more
- **Climate accountability:** Council pledged to act, and to consider tools to fund climate action
- **Urgency:** climate change is here and flooding will continue to escalate - people need help now!



# What do we want?

- A fair and effective stormwater charge implemented in Toronto:
  - Covers all property types including industrial, commercial, residential, and parking lots
  - Actually reduces paved surfaces and flooding
  - funds **new** investments in infrastructure and programs, and **additional** relief for people experiencing flooding



# What's the status of a stormwater charge?

- City has been discussing this since 2013 after massive summer flooding hit Toronto
- Has come to Council many times in different forms, never implemented
- In July they voted to consult again, this time for all property types

## Vote

<b>Result: Carried</b>	Majority Required - IE23.6 - Layton - motion 1
Yes: 13	Ana Bailão, Brad Bradford, Mike Colle, Joe Cressy, John Fillion, Paula Fletcher, Mike Layton, Josh Matlow, Jennifer McKelvie, Frances Nunziata (Chair), Gord Perks, Anthony Perruzza, Kristyn Wong-Tam
No: 11	Paul Ainslie, Gary Crawford, Michael Ford, Mark Grimes, Stephen Holyday, Cynthia Lai, Denzil Minnan-Wong, James Pasternak, Jaye Robinson,

# Mobilizing across Toronto

- Council will vote on this again in 18 months
- We need to mobilize people to make sure Council knows what must be included in a fair, effective stormwater charge
- Public sentiment is on our side - people know now that climate change is here, and we need to act
- We can mobilize through:
  - Official channels (i.e. planned consultation)
  - Political channels (i.e. direct contact with key Councillors, actions, petitions)
  - Getting the public onside (i.e. telling our stories through media and campaigns)

