

Mayor Don Mitchell and Whitby Town Council  
575 Rossland Road East  
Whitby, Ontario  
L1N 2M8

September 18, 2020

Dear Mayor Mitchell and Whitby Town Councillors,

On behalf of the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA), I am writing to express our support for the Whitby Green Standard. I urge the Whitby Town Council to adopt the Standard and to employ it as the town's guide for sustainable building and site design.

According to [Efficiency Canada](#), Canada's building sector accounts for one quarter of our final energy demand and one fifth of our carbon related emissions. By implementing energy step codes, municipalities across the country are in a unique position to take on a leadership role in achieving climate stability. The new and existing environments where Canadians live, work and play should all contribute towards a zero net carbon future.

The OAA has demonstrated our own commitment to a zero net carbon future through the retrofit to our own building. When faced with aging systems inside the building, the Association had to decide between relocating, rebuilding or retrofitting. The OAA HQ Renew + Refresh project aims to achieve a low-energy building standard to meet the 2030 challenge, including a 70% energy use reduction upon reopening of the building in May 2019 and a 100% reduction by 2030.

Moreover, with respect to our industry's capacity to meet energy efficiency standards, the OAA has supported the development of an energy benchmarking tool that enables architects to check an energy model against the current Toronto Green Standard. The Association is also in the process of developing a web-based application that our members will be to use to calculate total energy use intensity of buildings (TEUI, TEDI, GHGI) of buildings based on dividing utility bill data by area. These objective, tiered performance metrics for buildings help all stakeholders understand energy use in buildings just as we have for fuel consumption metrics in cars (MPG or litres/100km).

The OAA is the self-regulating body for the profession of architecture, dedicated to promoting the knowledge, skill and proficiency of its members, and to governing the practice of architecture and administering the *Architects Act* in order that the public interest may be served and protected.

We have long been committed to working with government and other stakeholders to protect and improve environmental quality for all Ontarians and we look forward to continued collaboration with the Town of Whitby.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Kurtin, Architect  
OAA, FRAIC  
President