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February 20, 2026

Re:New Residential Zoning Bylaw (DGM-05-26)

Mayor Meed Ward and Burlington Council Members

BurlingtonGreen concurs with **all** of the [recommendations submitted by The Atmospheric Fund](#) on February 10th, 2026 regarding the New Residential Zoning Bylaw..

Additionally, consistent with the objectives of Burlington's [Electric Mobility Strategy](#) ( co-authored by BurlingtonGreen), to provide a pathway for the community of Burlington to transition to electric mobility to achieve the target to become a net carbon neutral community by 2050, we concur with The Atmospheric Fund's recommendation as follows:

“An earlier draft of the proposed Residential Zoning Bylaw included more robust, scalable EV parking requirements. These were removed in response to development industry feedback citing feasibility concerns and a preference for allowing the market demand to determine the amount and type of parking provided. While we agree with the underlying rationale to allow market demand to dictate parking available in new developments, we recommend removing parking minimums entirely, municipality wide. Where parking infrastructure is provided in MURBs, we recommend mandating that 100% of parking spaces be EV-ready to avoid significant future retrofit costs and to support long-term electrification. This approach aligns with The EV-ready parking requirements Burlington is currently assessing under the New Residential Zoning Bylaw Community Planning Permit By-Law for new development in Major Transit Station Areas, which proposes that where buildings contain four or more dwelling units, 20% of parking spaces be equipped as EV parking spaces and the remaining 80% be provided as designed EV-ready spaces. This approach is prudent as retrofitting existing parking spots to be EV-ready can be three to four times more expensive than ensuring spaces are EV-ready at the time of construction. “ - THE ATMOSPHERIC FUND

Furthermore, we trust BurlingtonGreen's prior input regarding the New Residential Zoning Bylaw has been considered:

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**Sent:** Thursday, October 9, 2025 4:28 PM

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**Subject:** Follow up Re: Draft New Zoning Bylaw

Good afternoon

As I am not available to delegate at the next Council meeting on behalf of BurlingtonGreen regarding the draft new Zoning By-law, I'd like to take this opportunity to **reshare and add** to the earlier input provided on the attachment submitted July 4th:

**July 4, 2025: Burlington Housing Strategy and New Draft Zoning Bylaw for Residential Zones:** Upon scanning the draft Zoning By-law for Residential Zones as well as the Burlington Housing Strategy, unfortunately we were unable to identify references to climate change mitigation or resiliency, sustainability, or green infrastructure, and we discovered just one reference to complete communities. This raises the question of whether the City's Climate Action Plan, Climate Resilient Plan, Urban Forest Management Plan or Integrated Transportation Plan informed the Housing Strategy or draft Zoning By-law?

How does the Housing Strategy and Zoning By-law specifically align with, and advance the objectives of focus areas 1 and 3 of the City's Vision to Focus work plan? Buildings currently constitute roughly 43% of emissions in Burlington. As the City prepares to support further population growth, the time is now to ensure the required homes and their properties are designed and constructed to combat climate change while being affordable to maintain and operate. Building green from the start offers significant co-benefits. By building energy efficient and low carbon buildings with low impact surrounding features from the outset, we can reduce monthly energy bills, improve air quality, and protect homes from the costly impacts of extreme weather. Importantly, this proactive approach is more cost-effective than retrofitting existing buildings in the near future. Climate change, the protection of nature, and the housing crisis must be tackled simultaneously.

**Oct 9, 2025:** Upon review of the Consultant's presentation at the October 7th Statutory meeting providing a progress update of the new Zoning By-law project, we noted that missing from the 4 key objectives of the draft new Zoning By-law was alignment with/accountability to the City's established strategic priorities and thus, associated Plans such as the Climate Action & Resiliency Plans, and the Urban Forest Management Plan, Integrated Mobility Plan, etc. It was helpful to hear City staff comment that one of the key takeaways they heard during public /stakeholder consultation was the importance of the new Zoning By-law integrating impacts to the environment including regulations for permeable landscapes and trees. We look forward to seeing this reflected in the updated Zoning By-law to be presented in December.

It is essential the new Zoning By-law support maximum tree canopy expansion if the City is to reach its tree canopy coverage target. Key to expanding canopy cover is increasing the available planting space, as are considerations of landscape buffers, minimum soil volumes, implications of below-grade parking and structures, etc. " Pervious spaces, such as tree, grass, shrub and bare earth land covers are potential planting space for new trees as they absorb water that supports tree growth, termed as soft landscaping. Further, the quality of pervious space for maximizing tree canopy through tree planting is dependent on whether the space is adequate for tree growth. Pervious spaces for tree planting require both, enough space on the surface for the tree trunk to grow unimpeded, and enough space below the surface for root growth. In contrast, impervious spaces such as buildings, roads, parking lots and sidewalks increase surface water runoff and do not support tree growth. Trends show that since 1999, impervious cover is increasing while pervious cover is decreasing, a change which is often permanent, presenting negative implications towards space for tree planting and reaching the canopy cover goal.

Minimum requirements for soft landscaping pertaining to the space between garden and laneway suites and the main residential building, as well as the front yards of residential buildings provide the necessary pervious space for tree planting and are integral to help us meet our goals. It is especially important to actively recognize opportunities to bolster the resilience of the urban forest to ensure sustainable and increasing benefits offered to Torontonians. However, since approvals, there is evidence that the policies to promote this are not being fully implemented. City Council must work to ensure that zoning by-laws allow for maximum tree canopy expansion to reach the target of expanding tree canopy to 40%." ~ [Councillor Mike Layton, City of Toronto, 2022.](#)

We also look forward to members of Council confirming with Project staff where and **how specifically** the new Zoning Bylaw integrates the existing Sustainable Building and Development Guidelines with its '[...measures as identified in the Official Plan, Zoning By-law and other city by-laws](#)'.

The new Zoning By-law is being prepared at a critical time when the implications of climate change and biodiversity loss are on the rise locally and globally. It is **essential** the new By-law effectively prioritizes and reflects this reality.

Thank you for considering this input.

Respectfully,

**Amy Schnurr** (She/Her)  
Co-Founder / Executive Director

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Amy Schnurr



Executive Director  
BurlingtonGreen Environmental Association