

race2reduce welcomes York Region ally in commercial real estate industry's province-wide climate action efforts

Toronto, June 21, 2021 – The Building Owners and Managers Association of the Greater Toronto Area (BOMA Toronto) has teamed up with Windfall Ecology Centre to welcome more York Region buildings into its race2reduce energy reduction and sustainability program.

Participants in Windfall Ecology Centre's ClimateWise Building Challenge can now opt into race2reduce, allowing them to compete for recognition both regionally via the ClimateWise Challenge and provincially via the coveted race2reduce Commercial Real Estate Trailblazers (CREST) Awards.

This collaboration brings synergy and economies of scale to the organizations' mutual efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the Commercial Real Estate (CRE) sector and recognize sustainable operators for their climate action efforts.

As race2reduce expands across the province, it seeks to collaborate with regional allies, such as Windfall Ecology Centre, which share its commitment to climate action initiatives and promote encourage energy reduction strategies within their network of buildings. ClimateWise is the first regional ally to align with race2reduce.

Race2reduce started in 2017 as a modest, GTHA-focused competition that tracked electricity savings. It has grown to close to 1,750 building participants competing across Ontario to reduce electricity, gas and water consumption, and waste generation. Participants enter by submitting their water, waste, gas and electricity usage data to the Energy Star Portfolio Manager. Many commercial building operators in Ontario already use this system for mandatory Energy and Water Reporting and Benchmarking (EWRB) reporting regulation.

BOMA Toronto will provide high-level support, resources and education for race participants. In addition, it will cross-promote regional initiatives to encourage buildings from other regions to take action, share successes and resources to learn from one another. BOMA Toronto's energy-related education sessions will help buildings improve their sustainability performance. Its collaboration with ClimateWise, as a regional Partner, creates a blueprint for growth in other regions across Ontario.

"ClimateWise Building Challenge participants can now be recognized for their efforts on climate action and showcase their leadership within their community through Windfall's York Region Sustainability Awards, and also be celebrated on the provincial stage through BOMA Toronto's CREST Awards," said Brent Kopperson, founder and executive director of Windfall Ecology Centre. We are proud to be the race2reduce's first regional partner.

"Race2reduce is BOMA Toronto's response to the call for climate action," said Bala Gnanam, BOMA Toronto's Vice-President of Energy, Environment and Advocacy. "70% of the participating buildings are less than 100,000 square-feet. By supporting these small to medium-sized buildings in their effort to improve the overall performance, we can make the greatest strides to reduce their carbon footprint."

According to The Atmospheric Fund, the building sector in the Greater Toronto, Hamilton Area and York Region is responsible for 45% of carbon emissions. There is a significant opportunity to advance impactful actions through education, collaboration and innovation.

“Our partnership with ClimateWise is a significant step toward rolling out the race2reduce province-wide,” said BOMA Toronto President and Chief Executive Officer, Susan Allen. “As we transition to a low-carbon, high-productivity economy, it is essential to recognize the successful sustainability efforts of the Commercial Real Estate Industry and to share their learnings. This kind of collaboration is how we will drive change among landlords and tenants.”

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About BOMA Toronto

BOMA Toronto is a leading Commercial Real Estate Industry association, committed to developing, promoting and advancing best management practices through proactive advocacy, exceptional education and valuable networking opportunities. The organization proudly represents over 80% of Toronto and the GTA’s leading building owners and managers and industry suppliers.

bomatoronto.org

About the race2reduce

BOMA Toronto’s race2reduce is a free and friendly corporate challenge for the Commercial Real Estate Industry to advance climate action by inspiring better building performance, innovation and collaboration between owners, landlords and tenants. Climate action leaders are recognized annually through the Commercial Real Estate Sustainability Trailblazer’s (CREST) Awards in five categories: Performance Leadership, Innovative Excellence, Collaborative Excellence, Climate Champion and the Municipal Beacon Award, honouring the climate action demonstrated by a municipality.

About race2reduce: race2reduce.bomatoronto.org

About ClimateWise Business Network

The ClimateWise Business Network is a program of the Windfall Ecology Centre. It works with local businesses and organizations by providing one-on-one support and guidance in setting environmental targets and seeing the returns of investing in sustainability. climatewise.ca

The ClimateWise Building Challenge is a region-wide, friendly awards and recognition competition created to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) in buildings through collaboration, education, and innovation. The competition is free

of cost and open to building owners, landlords, managers and tenants who want to join the fight to combat climate change while improving their bottom line by implementing responsible energy operations and behavioural practices.

About Windfall Ecology Centre

Windfall Ecology Centre is a non-profit social enterprise dedicated to building sustainable communities. It has served the York region community for 20 years. windfallcentre.ca

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