

City of Mississauga

Green Development Standard



Low-Rise Multi-Unit Residential Development Guidebook Tier 1 Mandatory Metrics

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the lands which constitute the present-day City of Mississauga as being part of the Treaty and Traditional Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, The Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and The Huron-Wendat and Wyandot Nations. We recognize these peoples and their ancestors as peoples who inhabited these lands since time immemorial. The City of Mississauga is home to many global Indigenous Peoples.

As a municipality, the City of Mississauga is actively working towards Reconciliation by confronting our past and our present, providing space for Indigenous peoples within their territory, to recognize and uphold their Treaty Rights and to support Indigenous peoples. We formally recognize the Anishinaabe origins of our name and continue to make Mississauga a safe space for all Indigenous peoples.

Prepared for:

City of Mississauga

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Prepared:

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Abbreviations

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| ADC: Alternative daily cover | LEED: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design |
| BEAM: Building Emissions Accounting for Materials | LID: Low Impact Development |
| BECxA: Building Enclosure Commissioning Agent | MCE2: Material Carbon Emissions Estimation |
| BOD: Basis of Design | MEP: Mechanical, Electricity, and Plumbing |
| BOP: Builder Option Package | MFA: Modelled Floor Area |
| CAGBC: Canadian Green Building Council | MURB: Multi-Unit Residential Building |
| CHBA: Canadian Homebuilder’s Association | NECB: National Energy Code of Canada |
| CO2e: Carbon Dioxide Equivalent | NIBS: National Institute of Building Sciences |
| CSA: Canadian Standards Association | NRCan: Natural Resources Canada |
| EA: Energy Advisor | OBC: Ontario Building Code |
| EV: Electric Vehicle | OESC: Ontario Electrical Safety Code |
| EVSE: Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment | OPR: Owner’s Project Requirements |
| EVEMS: Electric Vehicle Energy Management Systems | Pa: Pascal |
| FLAP: Fatal Light Awareness Program | PAM: Pre-Application Meeting |
| GDS: Green Development Standard | PV: Photovoltaic |
| GHG: Greenhouse Gas | TEDI: Thermal Energy Demand Intensity |
| GHGI: Greenhouse Gas Intensity | TEUI: Total Energy Use Intensity |
| ICI: Institutional, Commercial and Industrial | |

Guidebook Purpose

This Low-Rise Multi-Unit Residential Guidebook provides details on the performance measures, submission and documentation requirements, specifications and applicable site exclusions, and resources to assist applicants in completing their Green Development Standard (GDS) submission. The requirements presented in this Guidebook are applicable to low-rise residential development with 10 units or more, and to a maximum height equal to or less than 4 storeys. Applicants are required to complete the Developer Checklist using the information provided in this Guidebook.

Mississauga’s GDS has been designed as three tiers of performance across five themes: energy and building performance, resilience, climate change, ecology, and natural systems.

- Mandatory Metrics provide the mandatory minimum criteria needed to be met across all themes and measures for the project to be approved. All metrics are mandatory unless a metric exemption is discussed during the application process. The subsequent tiers include increased performance criteria, all of which need to be achieved to meet the next tier. The performance and submission requirements for each mandatory metric are provided in the Mandatory Metrics Section of this Guidebook.
- High-Performance Metrics provide additional criteria for Tier 2 and Tier 3 across all themes and measures. The performance and submission requirements for each high-performance metric are provided in the High-Performance Metrics Section of this Guidebook.

Green Development Standard Scope

The GDS applies to all new residential and non-residential development subject to the City’s Site Plan Control By-law (0293-2006), which is designed to review the location and function of buildings and structures and maintain City standards. Table 1 provides a summary of the City’s GDS scope.

Table 1. Mississauga’s Green Development Standard scope.

GDS SCOPE	
Applicability	As all lands in the city are designated as a Site Plan Control Area (per the City’s Official Plan 19-9), the GDS applies to all new development subject to the Site Plan Control By-law (0293-2006).
Exemptions	<p>The following classes of development are not required to submit a GDS application; however, applicants are encouraged to implement relevant sections of the GDS where possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detached single-unit residential buildings with less than 10 residential units. • Limited Site Plans for site alterations, ground-based units, and telecommunications towers; • Renovations and expansions to existing buildings; • Applicants that already have an approved Site Plan as of the proposed approval of the GDS’ March 1, 2025; and • City of Mississauga corporate buildings.

GDS SCOPE	
Building archetypes	<p>Building archetypes align with the City of Mississauga’s Official Plan classification and Ontario Building Type classifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-unit residential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-rise residential buildings include multi-unit residential buildings less than four storeys with 10 or more residential units. • Medium- to high-rise residential buildings include multi-unit residential buildings greater than five storeys. • Non-residential buildings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional buildings include education buildings, nursing homes, retirement homes, care facilities, health care facilities, etc. • Commercial buildings include retail, restaurant, grocery, automotive, repair services, office, hotels and lodging, entertainment, etc. • Industrial buildings include warehouses, distribution centres, research and development facilities, truck and distribution terminals, etc.
Requirements	<p>Mississauga’s GDS is a three tiered system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 - 2027: Tier 1 Mandatory Performance Requirements • 2028 - 2030: Tier 2 Performance Requirements • 2030: Tier 3 Performance Requirements
Financial incentives	<p>The City of Mississauga is exploring financial incentives for high-performance metrics.</p>

Application Process

The Green Development Standards (GDS) is integrated into the City’s existing Site Plan Approval application process managed by the City’s Planning & Building Department - Development and Design Division. The GDS submission materials and supporting documentation will be submitted using the ePlans portal and form a part of a complete application. Table 2 outlines the Site Plan approval process and GDS submission requirements during each phase of the application.

Table 2. Green Development Standard submission steps during the Site Plan Application Procedure.

STEP	PURPOSE	OUTCOME
Pre-Application Meeting Request	Applicants submit Site Plan application and GDS checklist via e-Plans portal.	<p>Detailed pre-screen review of application is completed.</p> <p>Pre-application meeting scheduled (PAM 1).</p>
Pre-Application Meeting (PAM) 1	<p>Identify the GDS checklist as a submission requirement.</p> <p>Applicants are advised of the GDS requirements relevant to their development application and the four building types.</p>	<p>Submission requirements for complete application identified.</p>

STEP	PURPOSE	OUTCOME
Revisions (External)	Applicant revises application based on feedback and submission requirements identified through PAM 1.	Updated application, GDS checklist, and supporting documentation are uploaded to e-Plans prior to PAM 2.
	Applicant prepares GDS Checklist and plans/drawings, commitment letters and component studies to verify compliance with GDS.	Pre-application meeting scheduled (PAM 2).
PAM 2	Applicants advise City staff on changes to application and submitted material.	Report on Terms of Reference conformity and any outstanding documents provided by the City to the applicant.
	City staff provide feedback on the submitted GDS Checklist and plans/drawings and component studies to verify conformance to GDS Terms of Reference documents.	Next steps are determined based on applicant's conformance to Terms of Reference documents and supporting documentation.
Pre-Submission Work and Application Submission	Applicant uploads complete Site Plan Application including GDS checklist and supporting documents via ePlans.	Complete Site Plan Application is circulated for internal review.
Circulation/ Technical Review (Internal)	City staff review submitted plans/drawings and component studies to verify compliance with GDS.	Report on application compliance and any outstanding documents or unmet metric targets provided by the City to the applicant.
		Application review is completed within 30 calendar days of ePlans submission.
Decision Made on Application	At the time of conditional approval, the City will include any outstanding requirements related to the GDS within the Conditions of Site Plan Approval.	Applicants are notified of conditional approval status.
Detailed Design/Site Construction	Applicants demonstrate compliance with GDS requirements in the detailed design submission and clearance of conditions.	Issue final Site Plan Approval in accordance to GDS compliance.

Mandatory Metrics

Theme 1: Energy and Building Performance



EB1: ENERGY PERFORMANCE

The Energy Performance requirements are designed to ensure that new low-rise residential buildings are constructed using energy-efficient and cost-effective best practices identified in the Government of Canada’s ENERGY STAR® for New Homes program. The performance requirements summary for low-rise multi-unit residential buildings are provided in Table 3.

Table 3. Tier 1 EB1: Energy Performance requirements for low-rise multi-unit residential development.

METRIC	TIER 1 MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS	SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS
EB1: ENERGY PERFORMANCE	Design, construct and label the building(s) to achieve at least ENERGY STAR® for New Homes, version 17.1 or R-2000 requirements.	<p>ENERGY STAR® Certification Report.</p> <p>Completed Ontario Building Code’s Energy Efficiency Design Summary: Performance and Other Acceptable Compliance Methods form.</p> <p>Builder Option Package (BOP) form for ENERGY STAR® v. 17.1 or R-2000.</p>

Submission Specifications

1. A Certified Energy Advisor (EA) licensed by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) must be used to perform testing and inspections and create a report for the ENERGY STAR® for New Homes Standard or R-2000 certification. The following documents must be submitted with certification report:
 - a. [Ontario Building Code’s Energy Efficiency Design Summary: Performance and Other Acceptable Compliance Methods](#) for Part 9 residential buildings.
 - b. [Builder Option Package for ENERGY STAR® v. 17.1 or R-2000.](#)

Resources

- [CHBA Net Zero Home Labelling Program Administrative Requirements](#)—Technical requirements for completing Net Zero Home Labelling (low-rise MURBs).
- [Canadian Association of Consulting Energy Advisors](#)—A list of Energy Advisors familiar with GDS Energy Modelling Reports.
- [National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings \(NECB\)](#)—Overview of the National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings.
- [Natural Resources Canada EnerGuide Rating System](#)—List of licensed service providers to deliver the EnerGuide Rating System, ENERGY STAR® for New Homes, and R-2000 initiatives.

Theme 2: Climate Impact



C11: EMBODIED CARBON

The Embodied Carbon requirements are designed to measure (Tier 1) and reduce (Tier 2 and Tier 3) the energy and carbon associated with the materials, manufacturing, and other processes throughout the building’s life cycles. There are three life cycle stages for measuring embodied carbon:

- **Upfront carbon (life cycle stages A1–A5):** Product stage (raw material supply, transport, manufacturing) and construction process stage (transport and construction–installation process).
- **Use-stage embodied carbon (life cycle stages B1–B5):** Use, maintenance, repair, refurbishment, and replacement stages.
- **End-of-life carbon (life cycle stages C1–C4):** Deconstruction/demolition, transport, waste processing, and disposal stages.

The performance requirements summary for low-rise multi-unit residential buildings are provided in Table 4.

Table 4. Tier 1 C11: Embodied Carbon requirements for low-rise multi-unit residential development.

METRIC	TIER 1 MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS	SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS
C11: EMBODIED CARBON	Conduct an Upfront Embodied Emissions Assessment to measure A1-A3 life cycle stage emissions for all structural, enclosure and major finishes.	Upfront Embodied Emissions Assessment report using Building Emissions Accounting for Materials (BEAM) or Material Carbon Emissions Estimation (MCE ²) model and provide the results from the model to identify all the material selections for the project and their associated emissions.

Submission Specifications

1. Acceptable methodologies and tools include BEAM or MCE².
2. Using an acceptable methodology and tool, calculate the total embodied carbon in kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent (kg CO₂e) and express the building average in kg CO₂/m² of heated floor area for life-cycle stages A1–A3 and complete a contribution analysis by building assembly or material type for each building typology in the development site.¹
3. The following materials and features must be included in the embodied carbon calculations: envelope and structural elements, including footings and foundations, complete structural wall assemblies (from cladding to interior finishes, including basement), structural floors and ceilings (not including surface finishes like paint and stain), party walls, roof assemblies, and parking structures.

¹ Note: Tier 1 requirements does not set a target, however applicants must report on the building average in kg CO₂/m² of heated floor area for life-cycle stages A1–A3

4. The following materials and features can be excluded in the embodied carbon calculations: fixtures and appliances; mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) materials; paints and surface finishes; millwork and trim; stairs; cabinetry; decks; driveways; site development; and works (i.e., excavation).
5. Existing structures reused as part of a renovation/rehabilitation and/or salvaged material incorporated into the project can count as embodied emissions of zero.
6. Calculate embodied carbon by each housing typology and provide the total amount for all combined housing typologies in the development site using a weighted average calculated by gross floor area of the entire site.

Resources

- [Builders for Climate Action and Passive Buildings Canada: House Emissions Materials Benchmark Assessment for Residential Construction \(2022\)](#)—Primer for embodied emissions in low-rise housing construction in Ontario.
- [BEAM](#) or [MCE2](#)—Required methodology to calculate embodied carbon in low-rise residential developments.
- [CAGBC Embodied Carbon: A Primer for Buildings in Canada \(2021\)](#)—Policy primer for understanding embodied carbon in Canada.
- [City of Toronto: Policy Primer for Regulating Embodied Emissions in Buildings \(2022\)](#)—Policy primer for setting embodied carbon caps in buildings.
- [ISO 14044: Environmental Management, Life Cycle Assessment Requirements, and Guidelines](#)—Compliance standards for data sets for baseline and proposed buildings.
- [National Research Council’s National Guidelines for Whole-Building Life Cycle Assessment’s Appendix A](#)—Required methodology to calculate gross floor area.

Theme 3: Resilience



R1: EMISSIONS FREE ENERGY AND STORAGE

The Emissions Free Energy and Storage requirements are complementary features that support developers in achieving the EB1: Energy Performance requirements, and reduce the development’s reliance on grid electricity during peak times. The performance requirements summary for low-rise multi-unit residential buildings are provided in Table 5.

Table 5. Tier 1 R1: Emissions Free Energy and Storage requirements for low-rise multi-unit residential development.

METRIC	TIER 1 MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS	SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS
R1: EMISSIONS FREE ENERGY AND STORAGE	Provide a minimum of 5% of building’s annual energy consumption from one or a combination of acceptable renewable energy sources.	Letter of Commitment: Quantify percentage of energy consumption from one or combination of renewable energy sources.
	OR Meet the NRCan Solar Ready Guidelines for solar domestic hot water and photovoltaic systems.	Elevation Plans and Floor Plans: Modifications to enable renewable energy systems and storage. NRCan Solar Ready Guideline’s Checklist.

Submission Specifications

If pursuing a minimum of 5% of annual energy consumption from renewable energy:

1. Annual energy consumption percentages can be achieved using one or a combination of the following acceptable renewable energy sources:
 - b. Solar photovoltaic (PV)
 - c. Solar thermal
 - d. Biogas and biofuel systems
 - e. Battery storage
 - f. Wind systems
 - g. Geo-exchange
 - h. District Energy System
2. A third-party whole-building energy modelling tool should be used to demonstrate energy savings and energy performance.
3. Annual energy consumption percentages can be achieved based on consumption of the entire site and not on a unit-by-unit basis.
4. If the site is located within an area with high thermal energy density adjacent to a district energy system that is targeting new or future connections, the project must demonstrate one of the following requirements: plan to connect to an existing district energy system, be district-energy ready, and demonstrate less GHG emissions in the proposed design than in the district-connected reference case.

If pursuing NRCan Solar Ready design:

1. The design criteria must be designed to meet the NRCan Solar-Ready Guidelines for Domestic Hot Water and Photovoltaic Systems, including, at minimum:
 - a. Solar-ready areas must be located in a space with high solar potential.
 - b. Non-solar rooftop equipment should be designed to avoid shading of solar equipment and maximize continuous roof space.
 - c. Static load roof strength must be provided by a professional engineer.

- d. Space for a solar energy system DC–AC inverter should be provided on an outside wall of a utility room.

Resources

- [NRCan Solar-Ready Guidelines for Domestic Hot Water and Photovoltaic Systems](#)—Design and technical specifications for installing solar photovoltaic systems.
- [Canadian Home Builders’ Association: Net Zero Home Labelling Program \(MURB\)](#)—Program for Net-Zero-Energy-Ready and Net-Zero-Energy MURBs integrated mechanical system technologies, design, and practices.
- [City of Mississauga: District Energy in the Downtown, Feasibility Study](#)—Study to consider the feasibility of a low-carbon District Energy System in the City of Mississauga’s Downtown.

R2: REFUGE SPACE AND BACK-UP POWER GENERATION

The Refuge Space and Back-Up Power Generation requirements are designed to enhance building resilience by ensuring the of social, economic, and environmental systems are designed to withstand the impacts of climate change and extreme weather, and respond to these events in ways that maintain their essential function. In addition, the inclusion of a Resilience Planning Checklist identifies resilient design features that protect occupants while reducing the economic burden associated with rebuilding and recovering after these events. The performance and submission requirements summary for low-rise multi-unit residential buildings are provided in Table 6.

Table 6. Tier 1 R2: Refuge Space and Back-Up Power Generation requirements for low-rise multi-unit residential development.

METRIC	TIER 1 MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS	SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS
R2: REFUGE SPACE AND BACK-UP POWER GENERATION	Submit Resilience Planning Checklist.	Completed Resilience Planning Checklist.

Submission Specifications

1. Submit a completed Resilience Planning Checklist identifying additional features used in the building design to withstand the impacts of climate change and extreme weather.

Resources

- [LEED BD+C: New Construction, Design for Enhanced Resilience \(v4\)](#)—Design recommendations for resilient buildings to withstand natural disasters and weather events.
- [City of Toronto’s Resilience Planning Checklist](#)—Resilience planning checklist for new developments.
- [City of Vancouver’s Resilient Neighbourhoods Toolkit](#)—Resilience planning checklist for neighbourhoods.
- [City of Vancouver: Resilient City \(2019\)](#)—City-wide strategy that takes a comprehensive approach to addressing shocks, such as earthquakes, and stresses, such as aging infrastructure.
- [Durham Region: Climate Resilience Standard for New Development \(2016\)](#)—Design

standards to improve the disaster resilience of new low-rise residential buildings.

Theme 4: Ecology



E1: BIRD FRIENDLY GLAZING AND DESIGN

The Bird Friendly Glazing and Design requirements are designed to reduce bird collisions with buildings by using design features that have been scientifically proven to prevent or reduce risks to birds in the built environment. Mississauga’s bird-friendly design measures align with the recommendations identified in the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) A460: 19: Bird-Friendly Building Design. The performance and submission requirements summary for low-rise multi-unit residential buildings are provided in Table 7 (next page).

Table 7. Tier 1 E1: Bird Friendly Glazing and Design requirements for low-rise multi-unit residential development.

METRIC	TIER 1 MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS	SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS
E1: BIRD FRIENDLY GLAZING AND DESIGN	Align bird-friendly designs with Canadian Standards Association A460: 19: Bird-Friendly Design standards for treatment of glazing materials, building integrated permanent structures, and overall building and site design.	Elevation Plan, Floor Plan, Landscape Plan and Roof Plan (green roofs), indicating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For bird-friendly design: treatment area and material legend showing type, density, and colour of visual markers. • For rooftop vegetation: treated area, type of treatment, surface, density, and colour of visual markers. • For ground-level ventilation grates: location of ground-level exhaust and ventilation systems with grate porosity. Site Statistics Template: Bird-friendly design section.

Submission Specifications

1. Use the CSA A460:19 Bird-Friendly Design Standards (2019 or later) to design treatment of glazing materials, building integrated permanent structures, and overall building and site design.
2. Use a combination of the following strategies to treat a minimum of 90% of all exterior glazing within the first 16 m of the building above grade or to the height of the mature tree canopy, whichever is greater:
 - a. Apply visual markers to the first surface of glass with a maximum spacing of 50 mm x 50 mm. Visual markers must have a strong contrast under a wide range of daylight conditions. Non-linear pattern options and duo tones are acceptable. Patterns that are too dense will minimize or eliminate the effectiveness of the markers.
 - b. Mute reflections on glass surfaces with permanently fixed building-integrated structures, including opaque awnings, sunshades, exterior screens, shutters, grilles, and overhangs or balconies that provide shading below a projection (assume a 1:1 ratio of treatment below a projection).

- c. Use non-reflective glass including acid etch, full cover ceramic frit, or texture.
4. Implement visual markers in the following areas:
 - a. Balcony railings and fly-through conditions and
 - b. Elevations facing natural areas, parks, and other open space areas.
5. For rooftop vegetation features, treat the first 4 m of glazing above the feature and a buffer width of at least 2.5 m on either side of the feature using strategies from Bird-Friendly Glazing.
6. Ensure ground-level ventilation grates have a porosity of less than 20 mm X 20 mm.
7. Calculate the total area of glazing of all elevations within 16 m above grade and determine the percentage of treated area by treatment type.

Resources

- [Canadian Standards Association CSA A460:19 Bird-Friendly Design Standards \(2019\)](#)—Required standards for treatment of glazing materials, building integrated permanent structures, and overall building and site design.
- [City of Toronto Bird-Friendly Design Guidelines \(2016\)](#)—Design guidelines from the City of Toronto.
- [LEED BD + C: New Construction, Bird Collision Deterrence Credit](#)—Design guidelines from LEED.
- [Bird-Safe Canada and Fatal Light Awareness Program: Bird-Safe Design and Standards \(2021\)](#)—Design guidelines from FLAP.
- [City of Ottawa: Bird-Safe Design Guidelines \(2021\)](#)—Design guidelines from the City of Ottawa.
- [American Bird Conservancy: Guidelines to Reduce Bird Collisions with Buildings](#)—Downloadable resources for architects and designers to minimize bird collisions in building design.

E2: EXTERIOR LIGHTING

The Exterior Lighting requirements are designed to minimize glare and reduce light trespass and skyglow through the use of the International DarkSky Association’s Fixture Seal of Approval Program’s DarkSky Compliant exterior lighting certification. Additional non-mandatory practices to manage exterior lighting and protect the night environment include using motion-sensor-controlled lighting and turning off non-essential exterior lighting between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. The performance and submission requirements summary for low-rise multi-unit residential buildings are provided in Table 8.

Table 8. Tier 1 E2: Exterior Lighting requirements for low-rise multi-unit residential development.

METRIC	TIER 1 MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS	SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS
E2: EXTERIOR LIGHTING	All exterior fixtures must be Dark Sky Compliant and all rooftop and exterior facade architectural illumination must be directed downward.	Site Plan, Landscape Plan, and Elevation Plan identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location of all exterior lighting and illumination direction; • DarkSky compliance of all exterior lighting; and • Exclusions.

Submission Specifications

1. All exterior fixtures must be DarkSky Compliant, a third-party certification for lighting to minimize glare, reduce light trespass, and reduce light pollution.
2. All rooftop and exterior facade architectural illumination must be directed downward (no up-lighting).
3. When possible, the use of continuous green, blue, and white light should be avoided to reduce impacts on nocturnal migrating birds.
4. Applicants are encouraged to install motion-sensor activated lighting and to dim rooftop and exterior facade architectural illumination between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m, verified using a Letter of Commitment.
5. Developments can apply for the following exemptions:
 - a. If a DarkSky Fixture Seal of Approval is not available, fixtures must be full-cutoff (e.g. dark sky, all light is down, and comply with the glare requirement between 80° and 90°) and with a colour temperature rating of 3000 K or less.
 - b. DarkSky Compliant does not apply to exterior lighting that is required by NAV Canada and traffic control lighting.
 - c. Architectural illumination, including uplighting and event lighting, may be permitted through a heritage designation provided lighting is turned off year-round between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Resources

- [City of Toronto Best Practices for Effective Lighting \(2017\)](#)—City of Toronto guidelines for CPTED.
- [The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: Canadian Guidelines for Outdoor Lighting \(2020\)](#)—Canadian guidelines for outdoor lighting.
- [International DarkSky Association, Fixture Seal of Approval](#)—Provides DarkSky Compliant resources, retailers, and database.

Theme 5: Natural Systems



NS1: HEAT ISLAND EFFECT

The Heat Island Effect requirements are designed to reduce heat island effect through a combination of the following strategies:

- **Solar Reflectance Index (SRI):** Indicator of a surface’s ability to return solar energy to the atmosphere—materials with a higher SRI value reduce the surface temperature.
- **Permeable paving and landscaping:** Improves stormwater management and reduce surface temperature by allowing for more evapotranspiration.
- **Tree shading and shading from architectural structures:** Reduces surface and air temperatures by providing shading to reduce the peak summer temperatures.

The performance and submission requirements summary for low-rise multi-unit residential buildings are provided in Table 9 (next page).

Table 9. Tier 1 NS1: Heat Island Effect requirements for low-rise multi-unit residential development.

METRIC	TIER 1 MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS	SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS
NS1: HEAT ISLAND EFFECT	Use combination of the following strategies to treat at least 75% of the site’s (non-roof) hardscape: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-albedo paving materials. • Open grid pavement and/or permeable surfaces. • Shade from existing or new tree canopy. • Shade from energy generation structures. 	Site Statistics Template indicating the percentage of urban-heat island-treated areas to total non-roof hardscape area. Materials list includes SRI of high-albedo paving. Landscape Plan indicating location of treated hardscape and soft landscaping.

Submission Specifications

1. Non-roof hardscape includes driveways, walkways, courtyards, surface parking areas, artificial turf, and other on-site hard surfaces.
2. Use one or a combination of the following strategies to treat the site’s non-roof hardscape:
 - a. High-albedo paving materials with an initial solar reflectance of at least 0.33 or an SRI of 29.
 - b. Permeable open-grid pavement with a minimum of 50% perviousness.
 - c. Tree shading from existing tree canopy or new tree canopy within 10 years of landscape installation, completed using a shade study.²

² Note: For surface parking areas, projects may plant one tree per five parking spaces distributed within or along the border of the parking area. This method can be used in lieu of completing a shade study.

- d. Shading from architectural structures that are vegetated or have high reflectivity (initial solar reflectance of at least 0.33 at installation or an SRI of 29).
 - e. Shading from structures with energy generation systems consisting of solar photovoltaics or solar thermal collectors that provide shade.
3. Using the Site Statistics Template, calculate the area in metres squared that is treated by each strategy and determine the percentage of urban-heat-island-treated areas to total non-roof hardscape area.
4. Other design considerations:
 - a. Shade cast by buildings is not considered an eligible heat island strategy.
 - b. Open-grid pavement consists of concrete or hard plastic grid systems with large pore spaces filled with a planted growing medium or light-coloured aggregate.
 - c. Wherever possible, use high-albedo, low-carbon concrete mixtures with a minimum of 25% supplementary cementitious material (SCM) and biobased materials for decorative stonework, retaining walls, walkways, or other landscape or architectural elements.

Resources

- [City of Toronto: Design Guidelines for Greening Surface Parking Lots](#)—Strategies and measures for developers, designers, and reviewers of surface parking lots.
- [LEED ND and BD+C: New Construction, Heat Island Reduction \(V4\)](#)—Requirements for non-roof and roof surfaces.
- [Green Infrastructure Ontario](#)—Resources for infrastructure planning and policy development to enhance green infrastructure.
- [Toronto and Region Conservation Authority: Sustainable Technologies Evaluation Program \(STEP\)](#)—Resources for implementing technologies that protect water resources and reduce our carbon footprint.

NS2: TREE GROWTH

The Tree Growth requirements are designed to achieve the following objectives:

- Reduce urban-heat island effect and provide protection during heatwaves;
- Incorporate drought-tolerant and climate-resilient species that can withstand the impacts of climate change;
- Provide habitat and food sources for native insects, birds, and other wildlife; and
- Promote healthy tree growth by providing adequate soil volumes that support tree growth and structure, nutrient and water absorption, and promote stable root systems.

The performance and submission requirements summary for low-rise multi-unit residential buildings are provided in Table 10.

Table 10. Tier 1 NS2: Tree Growth requirements for low-rise multi-unit residential development.

METRIC	TIER 1 MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS	SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS
NS2: TREE GROWTH	Plant ‘shade trees’ 6-8 m (20- 27 ft.) apart along the street frontages, and should be drought tolerant and non-invasive.	Landscape Plan indicating location of all new tree plantings and a species list.
	Provide adequate rooting space to support tree health and growth, through the minimum soil volume of 30m ³ for each new tree.	Soils Report signed by a qualified professional. Site Statistics Template.

Submission Specifications

1. Refer to the City of Mississauga’s [Terms of Reference Arborists Reports, Tree Inventory/ Survey & Tree Preservation Plans](#) for guidance on arborists reports, tree inventory, and tree preservation guidelines.
2. A Soil Report must be submitted and signed by a qualified professional (e.g. pedologist) indicating the soil depth used to calculate soil volume. Root ball may be factored into soil volume calculation. Provide a minimally compacted topsoil layer/upper horizon.
 - a. Ensure each separate new or retained tree planting area has access to a minimum volume of 30 m³ of soil.³
 - b. Plant large-growing shade trees with appropriate spacing that accommodates the minimum volume requirement of 30 m³ per tree and the mature trunk and root flare growth of each tree.
 - c. A minimum depth of 0.9 m and minimum width of 1.5 m shall be used to calculate the soil volume provided. Root ball may be factored into soil volume calculation.
4. Species must comply with the NS3: Climate-Resilient Landscape requirements.

Resources

- [City of Mississauga: Arborist Report, Tree Inventory/Survey, and Tree Preservation Terms of Reference](#)—Required reference materials.
- [City of Mississauga: Tree Planting Continuous Soil Trench \(02950-17\)](#)—City of Mississauga guide for tree planting.
- [City of Toronto: Continuous Soil Trench With Soil Cells Drawings and Green Infrastructure Drawings](#)—Sample guidelines for silva cells.
- [Trees Ontario](#)—Resource for tree planting and conservation techniques and native tree species and drought-tolerant species lists.

NS3: CLIMATE-RESILIENT LANDSCAPES

The Climate-Resilient Landscape requirements are designed to each the following objectives:

- Adapt to local climate conditions by incorporating native plant species and drought-tolerant plant species;

³ If minimum soil volume requirements cannot be met due to site restrictions, a Soil Report must identify the minimum soil volume that will support the species’ root growth and structure, nutrient and water absorption, and ensure structural stability. All soil volumes must be approved by the City of Mississauga staff.

- Support biodiversity by providing habitat and food for pollinators, wildlife, and birds; and
- Reduce future landscape maintenance requirements.

The performance requirements summary for low-rise multi-unit residential buildings are provided in Table 11 (next page).

Table 11. Tier 1 NS3: Climate-Resilient Landscapes requirements for low-rise multi-unit residential development.

METRIC	TIER 1 MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS	SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS
NS3: CLIMATE-RESILIENT LANDSCAPES	<p>In all landscaped areas, including green roofs, plant a minimum of 50% native plants and comply with Ontario Invasive Plant Council Guidelines, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 2 native flowering species to provide continuous bloom throughout the growing season to support pollinators. • Preference for drought tolerant native species. 	<p>Landscape Plan indicating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location and percentage of native plantings. • Plant list including information about common name, scientific name, size, quantity, stock type, native or non-native, drought-tolerance, and pollinator-friendly species. • Irrigation requirements. • Compliance with Ontario Invasive Plant Council Guidelines.
	<p>For vegetated buffer areas, adjacent Significant Natural Features, plant 100% native plants.</p>	<p>Natural Heritage Restoration Plan and/or Enhancement Plan identifying natural heritage restoration, design specifications, and ecological restoration.</p>
	<p>Provide a natural heritage restoration and/or enhancement plan with the proposed locations of natural heritage restoration, design specifications, and ecological function.</p>	

Submission Specifications

1. Landscape plans must include the location and percentage of all native plantings, and a plant list including information about the comment name, scientific name, size, quantity, stock type, native or non-native, and pollinator-friendly species.
2. Native plant species are plants that are indigenous to Southern Ontario, are adapted to the local conditions, and occur naturally within the region. Native planting requirements apply to trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. Refer to the City of Mississauga: Native Plant Guide and [Ontario Native Plants](#) for guidelines on planting native species.
3. Preference for drought-tolerant native species. If potable water is used for irrigation, all native and non-native plants must be drought tolerant.
4. Comply with the [Ontario Invasive Plant Council](#) Guidelines by avoiding the use of all invasive species in the landscape design. Invasive species are species that reproduce aggressively and become established in a natural area by displacing native species.
5. Pollinator plants should provide continuous bloom throughout the growing season to support pollinators. These can be maintained by an irrigation system to provide

supplemental watering and should include a maintenance plan for year-round support of native pollinators.

6. Non-potable irrigation is preferred to support plantings and may include potable water supplies to make up irrigation sources for non-potable systems during drought conditions. The irrigation requirements must be completed by a Water Smart Irrigation Professional.
7. For specific sites, provide a Natural Heritage Restoration and/or Enhancement Plan with the proposed location(s) of the natural heritage restoration as well as the design specifications and the ecological function.

Resources

- [City of Mississauga: Natural Heritage and Urban Forestry Strategy](#)—Native planting guidelines.
- [City of Toronto: Pollinate TO Grants](#)—Community-led projects to advance the principles and priorities of Toronto’s Pollinator Protection Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy.
- [City of Toronto: Pollinators Resources](#)—Resources for pollinator-friendly gardens, native flowers, trees, and shrubs.
- [Credit Valley Conservation: Native Plants for Pollinators Guide \(2017\)](#)—Planting guidelines to support pollinators.
- [Credit Valley Conservation: Plant Selection Guideline - Species List for Planing within the Credit River Watershed](#)—Planting guidelines for the Credit River Watershed.
- [Conservation Halton: Native Species List](#)—Native planting guidelines.
- [Landscape Ontario: Drought-Tolerant Plants](#)—Planting guidelines for drought-tolerant species.
- [Ontario Invasive Plant Council](#)—Resource and guidelines for planting native species and managing invasive species.
- [Ontario Native Plants](#)—Resources for native plants, design guidelines, and native flora.
- [Pollinator Partnership Canada](#)—Resources for pollinator-friendly habitats.
- [Toronto and Region Conservation Authority: Flora Species Native to the TRCA Jurisdiction \(2022\)](#)—Resources native species.

NS4: SUSTAINABLE ROOFS

The Sustainable Roof requirements are designed to improve climate resilience, stormwater management, biodiversity, and occupant comfort. These objectives can be achieved using the following sustainable roof features: intensive green roofs, and biodiverse green roofs.

- **Green Roof:** Designed with a root repellent system, a drainage system, a filtering layer, a growing medium, and plants. Green roofs are typically installed on flat roofs; however, sloped roofs can accommodate them with additional considerations. There are two types of green roofs:
- **Cool Roofs:** Designed to lower surface temperatures and minimize radiant heat transfer to the building and outdoor spaces.
- **Blue Roofs:** Designed to temporarily retain rainwater on the rooftop and release it slowly

into the stormwater system to reduce flood risk and contribute to water conservation by allowing capture of rainwater for non-potable applications. There are four types of blue roofs: integrated design, modular tray design, roof dams and roof checks, and actively controlled systems.

The performance and submission requirements summary for low-rise multi-unit residential buildings are provided in Table 12.

Table 12. Tier 1 NS4: Sustainable Roofs requirements for low-rise multi-unit residential development.

METRIC	TIER 1 MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS	SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS
NS4: SUSTAINABLE ROOFS	<p>Buildings with an available roof area larger than 500m² must include one or a combination of green roof, cool roof, blue roof and/or solar PV:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green roof and/or blue roof for at least 50% of Available Roof Space. • Cool roof installed for 100% of Available Roof Space. • Use a combination of a green, blue, cool roof or solar PV for at least 75% of Available Roof Space. 	<p>On Floor and Roof Plans indicate green roof, cool roof, and/or blue roof locations identified on elevations and roof plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notations include green roof, blue roof, and/or solar PV locations identified on elevations and roof plans. • Notations include SRI of cool roof on roof plan and location of solar panels. <p>For Green Roofs: On a landscape plan, indicate the potable irrigation systems servicing the green roof and submit maintenance plan.</p> <p>For Blue Roofs: On stormwater management report and stormwater management plan quantify blue roof storage and run-off.</p> <p>Sustainable Roofs Statistics Template copied directly onto the Roof Plan.</p>

Submission Specifications

1. Available roof spaces are calculated according to the following guidelines:
 - For green roof and blue roof areas, the available roof space is the total roof area of the building, excluding areas designated for renewable energy devices and mechanical equipment, rooftop outdoor amenity areas, and private terraces abutting residential units at the roof level.
 - For cool roofs, the available roof space consists of the total roof area of the building, excluding private terraces no greater than the floor of the abutting residential unit at the roof level.

2. Green roof assemblies must consist of a root repellent system, a drainage system, a filtering layer, a growing medium, and plants. Green roofs are typically installed on flat roofs; however, sloped roofs can accommodate them with additional considerations. Green roof assemblies are categorized into two types:

- Intensive Green Roofs require deeper substrates capable of supporting a wide range of plant species. If pursuing, the minimum requirements are a growing medium with a minimum depth of 150 mm and a diverse mix of native plants suitable for the depth of growing medium and roof height (e.g., sedums, grasses, drought-tolerant perennials, and, where appropriate, larger trees and plants)
 - Biodiverse Green Roofs aim to support pollinator species and are installed at or below the 8th storey of the building.
3. Green roofs should follow the Credit Valley Conservation Native Plants for Pollinators Guide.
 4. Blue roofs are categorized into four primary types:
 - Roof-integrated designs intentionally store standing water for extended periods of time using a roofing membrane or a waterproofing system.
 - Modular tray designs are plastic trays that are physically attached to the roof or held in place with a ballast to temporarily detain water during rainfall.
 - Roof dams and roof checks are similar to roof-integrated design in that they are impermeable or semi-permeable dams/checks that break surface flow and pool water behind as a temporary detention. Dams are designed with an overflow or outlet that slowly releases stored water.
 - Actively controlled systems use a valve and controller to regulate discharge of flows from rooftops.
 5. If installing blue roofs, the system can be designed to meet the NS5: Stormwater Management requirements.
 6. Green roofs and blue roofs require a maintenance plan to ensure optimal performance. Applicants must submit a five-year maintenance plan outlining the installation of the permanent irrigation system to supply supplementary water (green roofs), the access locations for roof maintenance, and a green roof and/or blue roof maintenance contract with qualified professionals.
 7. Cool roofing material and coating systems must meet the following requirements:
 - Low slope (flat) roofs with a surface slope less than 16.7% or 9.5 degrees should have an SRI rating of 78 or higher and an emissivity equal to or greater than 0.9.
 - Steep slope (pitched) roofs with a surface slope greater than 16.7% or 9.5 degrees should have an SRI rating of 25 or higher and an emissivity equal to or greater than 0.9.
 8. Applicants may seek an exemption under the following circumstances:
 - There is architectural detailing on the roof, making such installations impossible.
 - There is architectural detailing on the roof that features building materials that cannot support such installations.

Resources

- [Green Roofs for Healthy Cities](#)—Resources and guidelines for green roof design, installation, and maintenance.

- [Toronto and Region Conservation Authority](#)—Resources for sustainable stormwater management, including blue roofs.
- [City of Toronto: Biodiverse Green Roofs](#)—Design guidelines for biodiverse green roofs.
- [City of Toronto: Green Roof Bylaw](#)—Green roof construction requirements for new development and available roof space calculations.
- [BDC: Blue Roof Guide](#)—Primer for blue roof benefits, installation, and types.
- [CIRIA: Guidance on the Delivery of Blue Roofs \(2019\)](#)—Design guidance for blue roofs installation and stormwater retention.
- [Cool Roof Rating Council: LEED Resources](#)—Primer for cool roof construction requirements.
- [City of Ottawa: High-Performance Development Standards \(HPDS\), Cool Roof Metric](#)—Cool roof requirements and calculations based on the City of Ottawa’s HPDS.

High-Performance Voluntary Metrics

Theme 1: Energy and Building Performance



EB1: ENERGY PERFORMANCE

The Tier 2 and Tier 3 Energy Performance requirements are designed to ensure that new low-rise residential buildings are constructed using energy-efficient and cost-effective best practices identified the Canadian Home Builders’ Association (CHBA) Net Zero Ready and Net Zero Home Labelling Program, and Passive House Canada. The performance and submission requirements summary for low-rise multi-unit residential buildings are provided in Table 13.

Table 13. Tier 2 and Tier 3 EB1: Energy Performance requirements for low-rise multi-unit residential development.