

CONSTITUTION OF TORONTO 350.ORG

ARTICLE 1: PURPOSE

The purpose of Toronto 350.org is to advance the goals of 350.org in the city of Toronto.

350.org MISSION

350.org is building a global grassroots movement to solve the climate crisis. Our online campaigns, grassroots organizing, and mass public actions are led from the bottom up by thousands of volunteer organizers in over 188 countries.

350 means climate safety. To preserve our planet, scientists tell us we must reduce the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere from its current level of 392 parts per million to below 350 ppm. But 350 is more than a number — it's a symbol of where we need to head as a planet.

350.org works hard to organize in a new way — everywhere at once, using online tools to facilitate strategic offline action. We want to be a laboratory for the best ways to strengthen the climate movement and catalyze transformation around the world.

We operate at a large scale to take on the world's greatest challenge. In October of 2009 we coordinated 5200 simultaneous rallies and demonstrations in 181 countries, what CNN called the 'most widespread day of political action in the planet's history.' On 10/10/10, we organized the "Global Work Party" — a day of climate solutions projects, from solar panel installations to community garden plantings — and changed communities from the bottom up with over 7000 events in 188 countries.

In 2011, we mobilized people power in every corner of the planet. In September, we organized "Moving Planet" — a massive day of action to move beyond fossil fuels. We also helped lead the fight to stop the Keystone XL tar sands oil pipeline — a relentless campaign that ended in an improbable victory.

In 2012, with the help of millions of people, we'll create a wave of hard-hitting climate activism all over the world that can lead to real, lasting, large-scale change. We think we can turn the tide on the climate crisis — but only if we work together. If an international grassroots movement holds our leaders accountable to realities of science and principles of justice, we can realize the solutions that will ensure a better future for all.

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ARTICLE 2: MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to everyone, including those who are not members of the University of Toronto (U of T). As required by the university, only U of T members may run for election, nominate executives, and vote on constitutional amendments.

No membership fee shall be charged. Motions to change the membership fee may be brought forward by any member at the annual general meeting and decided there by a simple majority vote. In the event that a membership fee is charged, it shall be paid directly to the treasurer or to another person delegated by the treasurer.

The executive may vote to expel a member from the club. To do so, a fraction of executive members greater than 2/3 must vote in favour of expulsion. Former members who have been expelled may request that the decision be re-evaluated every 3 years.

All members are responsible for providing up-to-date contact information to the club executive, including an email address. The president shall be responsible for maintaining an up-to-date list of members. If the president wishes, this task can be delegated to another member of the executive.

ARTICLE 3: EXECUTIVES

The club shall have a president and a treasurer, each to be elected annually. The treasurer shall serve as the financial officer of the club, responsible for all funds and bank accounts. Both the president and the treasurer shall have authority as signing officers.

The executive may create additional executive positions as necessary. For instance, a vice president of recruiting and a vice president of online content may be created. Upon the creation of a new position, an officer to fill the role may be appointed by the executive. Once created, such positions shall be filled by annual election. Executive positions may be abolished through the joint written approval of the president and the treasurer. If a position is created, it should be announced electronically to all club members, for instance via email or through the club website.

In the event that a member of the executive is no longer able to perform their duties, a by-election will be held at a weekly meeting. In the event of a bi-election, notice shall be provided at least 14 days before the appointed time. Notice shall be provided to the club membership electronically, for instance via email or through the club website.

Members of the club who are not members of U of T may be given specific responsibilities by the executive and may be referred to by a title related to those responsibilities. For instance, the executive could appoint a webmaster who is not a U of T member. Members of the club who are not members of U of T may attend all executive meetings, but will not be permitted to vote.

Any complaints or grievances directed at the club may be presented at an executive meeting. If possible, all members of the executive should be present for any such presentations. The executive shall determine the validity of any grievance and grant such remedy as it deems fit.

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ARTICLE 4: MEETINGS

The executive shall meet weekly for the purpose of planning events and undertaking other club business. If it wishes, the executive may adopt rules for the conduct of meetings. If such rules are created, they should be announced electronically to all club members, for instance via email or through the club website.

Notice of the time and location of the weekly executive meetings shall be provided to executive members electronically at least 3 days before the appointed time. The executive may choose to change meeting times as necessary.

Sub-committees may be created to serve specified purposes. These sub-committees may meet at their own discretion, or as directed by the executive.

Minutes shall be kept at all executive meetings, recording topics of discussion, decisions, and the results of votes. These minutes shall be made available to the club membership electronically, for instance via email or through the club website.

The executive may vote to conduct a portion of the discussion *in camera*, in which case minutes are still to be kept, but not made available to the club membership. The fact that part of the meeting was conducted *in camera* shall be recorded in the minutes. The executive may also conduct a meeting or a portion of a meeting under the Chatham House Rule, in which case nothing said at the meeting can be attributed to any specific person either in the minutes or in the subsequent discussions of those who were present. If a meeting or a portion of a meeting is conducted under the Chatham House Rule, this fact shall be recorded in the minutes.

Once each year, soon after the beginning of the fall academic session, an annual general meeting shall be held. At this meeting, elections shall be held for all existing executive positions.

Minutes shall be kept of all annual general meetings, recording topics of discussion, decisions, and the results of votes. These minutes shall be made available to the club membership electronically, for instance via email or through the club website.

Notice of the time and location of the annual general meeting shall be provided at least 14 days before the appointed time. Notice shall be provided to the club membership electronically, for instance via email or through the club website.

ARTICLE 5: ELECTIONS

The president and treasurer shall be elected at the annual general meeting through a simple majority of club members. Should other executive positions exist, they shall be elected in the same manner.

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ARTICLE 6: AMENDMENTS

For the first three years of the club's operation (2012-2015) a simplified amendment process will be in force to allow the executive to respond to changes in the club's purpose, approach, or circumstances.

During this span, the constitution may be amended through the joint written approval of the president and treasurer. All amendments must be ratified by a simple majority of club members at the first annual general meeting to take place after the executive approval of the amendment. Amendments that fail to be ratified shall be rescinded if they fail to achieve ratification at the annual general meeting.

If an amendment is made, it should be announced electronically to all club members, for instance via email or through the club website.

Beginning in 2016, amendments to the constitution may only be proposed at the annual general meeting. Amendments that are ratified through a simple majority vote will be passed on to the newly-elected president and treasurer for approval or veto at their discretion.

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ARTICLE 7: FINANCES

The club shall maintain one or more bank accounts controlled by the treasurer. Only the treasurer shall have control of these accounts and the ability to issue cheques or payments of other kinds from them.

At the annual general meeting, the treasurer shall provide club members with information on the financial health of the organization, including the net worth of the organization.

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ARTICLE 8: NAME

The club shall be known as "Toronto 350.org" or "350.org Toronto" or "Toronto 350" or "350 Toronto".

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