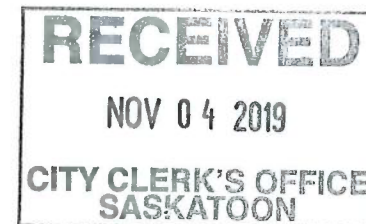


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**From:** Peter Prebble <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 03, 2019 4:50 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council



Submitted on Sunday, November 3, 2019 - 16:50

Submitted by anonymous user: 216.197.221.140

Submitted values are:

Date Sunday, November 03, 2019

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name Peter

Last Name Prebble

Email [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

City Saskatoon

Province Saskatchewan

Postal Code [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) Saskatchewan Environmental Society

Subject Agenda Item 7.3.1 Recommendation on Changes to the Net Metering Program

Meeting (if known) Standing Policy Committee on the Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services

Comments

Saskatchewan Environmental Society

P.O. Box 1372, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 3N9

November 3, 2019

Dear Mayor Clark and Members of City Council,

We are writing with respect to the recommendation from Saskatoon Light and Power regarding the future of the net metering program in the Saskatoon Light and Power district. The Saskatchewan Environmental Society would be grateful for an opportunity to make an oral presentation on this matter to the Standing Policy Committee on the Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services at tomorrow morning's meeting. (Agenda item 7.3.1)

Saskatoon Light & Power and City Administration is recommending that City Council follow the lead of SaskPower and sharply reduce the amount paid for solar-generated electricity and other forms of renewable power under the net metering program.

We want to urge the Standing Committee on the Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services and all members of City Council to reject this recommendation. To be very clear, if it is implemented it will result in a dramatic decline in the installation of new solar power projects in this city, just at the very time when we should be accelerating the adoption of solar power in Saskatoon. One of the reasons for this is that the recommended net metering policy change will greatly extend the payback period for those who invest in new solar power systems. We estimate the payback period for a homeowner could easily go to 18-20 years (perhaps even longer when annual insurance costs on each solar system, inverter replacement costs, and solar system maintenance costs are

also factored in).

The recommendation deals a double blow to any Saskatoon Light and Power customer who is contemplating a solar installation in the near future. Last month Saskatoon Light and Power customers received word that the provincial Ministry of Environment will no longer be paying a 20% net metering rebate on new solar installations. For a homeowner planning a \$20,000 solar installation, that translates into a \$4,000 loss. For a larger business or condominium association planning a \$100,000 solar installation, that translates into a \$20,000 loss. Now Saskatoon Light and Power is asking to make matters worse by telling that same homeowner, business owner or condominium association that any clean power they put onto the grid will be compensated at only half the rate it has been up to now.

This recommendation from SL&P contradicts the spirit and intent of the Low Emissions Community Plan and that is very concerning. That plan, among its important features, is supposed to be about accelerating the adoption of solar power, not squashing it. The SL&P recommendation will also deal a serious blow to our local solar installers in Saskatoon. A vibrant group of small businesses have sprung up to meet the growing demand for solar installations in our city. They have developed significant experience and expertise. This recommendation, if implemented, will mean that most of them will have to lay off staff. Some will inevitably shut down. People with important experience doing solar installations will be lost from our community.

The recommendation from Saskatoon Light and Power also signals the corporation is attaching insufficient value to the importance of clean renewable power and is paying insufficient attention to the climate crisis. We have a global climate emergency on our hands. The Parliament of Canada and many cities across Canada have formally recognized that we are in a climate emergency, by way of adopting an official resolution to that effect, although the City of Saskatoon has notably not. Anyone who reads the assessment of climate change impacts around the world from bodies like the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change or the World Health Organization recognizes that greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel burning represent an exceptionally dangerous threat to the future of the human race. The wildfires currently burning in California are just a glimpse of what lies ahead if we don't slash greenhouse gas emissions, as does the increasingly acidifying ocean waters off of all Canada's coasts, and the increasingly powerful hurricanes around the globe that are being driven by hotter ocean temperatures and a warmer atmosphere.

When Saskatoon Light and Power buys electricity from SaskPower it is buying electricity with some of the highest air pollution content and greenhouse gas pollution content in all of Canada. That's because the SaskPower grid produces 77% of its electricity by burning fossil fuels. In contrast, when Saskatoon Light and Power receives electricity from its net metering customers that deploy solar power, it is receiving electricity with 1/17 of the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions of conventional coal-fired power and 1/10 of the emissions associated with natural-gas fired electricity. In the analysis SL&P is presenting to Council today, Saskatoon Light and Power is not attaching an economic cost to the pollution from the fossil-fuel fired electricity it distributes across the Saskatoon grid. Nor is it attaching a positive economic value to the very low-emissions associated with the electricity it receives from its net metering customers, virtually all of whom have installed solar power systems.

We also want to bring to Council's attention that net metering customers still pay their monthly electricity charge to Saskatoon Light and Power to help cover administration and grid distribution and maintenance costs. They do so even in months in which they meet most of their electricity needs from their renewable energy installation.

We understand that under normal circumstances there is logic in having similar net metering policies for all Saskatoon residents. But these are not normal circumstances. A very unwise decision by SaskPower and the provincial government does not merit replication by Saskatoon City Council. We are surprised that Saskatoon

Light and Power thinks it does.

In conclusion, we urge you to turn down the recommendation from Saskatoon Light and Power and City administration on net metering policy changes. We also ask that you provide clear guidance to City administration regarding the importance of expanding solar power - asking that in the future Administration should come forward with advice that accelerates the adoption of solar power in Saskatoon, rather than advice that impedes it.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Sincerely,  
Peter Prebble, Board Member  
Ann Coxworth, Board Member  
Saskatchewan Environmental Society  
Attachments

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/347509>