

April 24, 2023

City Council

Dear Mayor and Councillors:

**Re: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets and Low Emissions Community Plan
2024-2025 Refresh [EUCS2023-0404]****Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee (SEAC)**

On April 21, 2023, SEAC received the report “Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets and Low Emissions Community Plan 2024-2025 Refresh” from the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services and resolved, in part, to provide feedback to City Council.

SEAC supports the recommendations of SPC-EUCS:

1. The City update its long-term greenhouse gas reduction target to net-zero by 2050;
2. The City use a science-based approach to set interim targets through the 2024-2025 Low Emissions Community Plan Refresh; and
3. \$250,000 from the Environmental Sustainability Reserve be used to fund the 2024-2025 Low Emissions Community Plan Refresh in 2024, and that this be considered at the 2024-2025 Multi-Year Business Plan and Budget deliberations.

SEAC believes that reaching net-zero by 2050 is a necessary step to encourage action and remain on par with other municipalities. However, in order to achieve this, the LEC Plan Refresh must consider the feasibility and ensure sufficient offsetting or sequestration projects. These offset projects could also be considered in the climate budget.

The timeline of five-year incremental target updates with reporting every two years is sufficient to keep on track to net-zero by 2050. To avoid falling behind, Council should ensure sufficient funding and staff capacity to implement the Plan.

The City through its many plans, strategies and commitments has already signalled that is it committed to climate action. SEAC would support declaring a climate emergency to support the reduction target goals, but if this does not make the City eligible for new funding opportunities or partnerships, it may only serve to fuel climate scepticism or alarmism and not add value at this time.

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Setting a target of net-zero by 2050, even if not fully achieved, will put the City in a better position to address climate change. As they develop, SEAC would be interested in advising on the interim targets and LEC Plan Refresh to support Council's efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Paul Wasan".

John Paul Wasan
Chair, Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee