

From: [Web NoReply](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Email - Communication - Lyndon Stoll - Budget November 2023 - Upcoming Environmental Meetings - CK 430-72 x 1700-1
Date: Thursday, October 12, 2023 12:30:58 PM

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Submitted on Thursday, October 12, 2023 - 12:30

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.: No

I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.: No

Date: Thursday, October 12, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: Lyndon

Last Name: Stoll

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] East Heights

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: S7J [REDACTED]

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Budget Nov/2023, upcoming Environmental meetings

Comments:

I just heard that Saskatoon city council / Saskatoon Light and Power (SLP) is considering a reduction of net metering rates. This is a horrible consideration. The city of Saskatoon has committed to reduce their emissions by 2050 by a large percentage. If this change is made, residents or businesses looking to build their own solar or green power generation will not do so because the economics will no longer make sense. Our family has just recently installed our own rooftop solar in the city of Saskatoon, and had a budget to repay the capital cost largely on what the SLP net metering rate currently is. If this rate decreases we are taking a huge financial hit. This will be the same for others who have made even greater capital expenditures. Think about what will happen to Saskatchewan-based solar businesses that rely on these installations. In terms of financial health of SLP itself, should SLP instead consider raising power rates (a

disincentivizing action) for consumers who buy carbon intensive power (coal, natural gas, etc.)? Low-carbon power generation should be incentivized at every opportunity to reach our emissions targets.

Lowering net metering rates is just one example of ill-advised, short-sighted policy. Not only should the Net metering rate stay the same, it should INCREASE over time so more are encouraged to build green energy in the city.

How does the city of Saskatoon / SLP plan to meet emission reduction commitments when no-one is building solar projects anymore?

What is your plan for new builds that are not built to net-zero or passive standards, that would then need to be renovated to become net-zero / passive in the future?

I want to see a city council that makes every decision based on environmental / emissions reductions merit going forward, instead of monetary merit on a short-sighted basis - after all, trying to retroactively correct mistakes made today will be FAR more costly compared to taking action now.

We are in the middle of a climate emergency (reference approaching, irreversible tipping points: burning boreal forests that coat Saskatchewan (SK) in choking smoke and may never regrow, melting permafrost releasing methane gas, melting glaciers that feed SK rivers, species extinction, etc) but we continue to place business-as-usual budgets ahead of emissions reduction in terms of priority.

If there was any time to make climate reduction investments, it is now. If loans need to be taken out or if rates and/or taxes need to be raised or lowered to incentivize / disincentivize residents and businesses, the time is now. I have not seen the urgency on this file at all, and that needs to change. I think the most equitable thing we can do is to make our city climate resilient.

When we think of budget priorities, is construction on a new city library or sports arena the most responsible allocation of funds - or should those funds be placed into renovating existing buildings to net-zero/passive standards first ?

I would like to see all decisions filtered through an emissions reduction lens going forward. I believe what SaskPower has done with their net metering program was a huge mistake - evidenced by the drop in solar business / project uptake after their reduction in net metering rates. As an example, I have looked into building a solar array at our family farm in Saskatchewan, on the SaskPower net metering program. After running the math for our project on that program, the economics did not make sense, so we continue to burn fossil fuels. These are the decisions that thousands of others have also made around Saskatchewan. We should not make the same mistake in Saskatoon, and if it takes significant investment to upgrade the overall grid, then I think that should be done, again with an emissions and climate emergency lens in mind. The grid will eventually need to be upgraded with increasing uptake in EVs etc, and if adding more solar today means this is required sooner than later, then so be it. Let's make a plan and let's make it work proactively instead of having to react when its too late.

Net zero / passive buildings are a huge part of reducing overall power grid requirements, but I do not see any action in terms of incentives/disincentives on this from the city. New builds continue to be constructed based on inefficient building standards. Waiting for provincial or federal governments to implement action is also not a stand-alone solution, as time cannot be wasted. I would like to see our own ambitious plan that can compliment any other jurisdictional actions that may or may not come along, instead of waiting for something that may not materialize or may not be ambitious enough. We have had the technologies and knowhow for decades to build passive buildings. What can we learn from successes in other progressive cities ?

The city of Saskatoon has committed to reducing emissions by 2050. The main question that

needs to be answered is: what actions can be taken to progress us towards that goal more ambitiously, and what actions threaten to slow or stop that progress ?

Thank you for considering the above.

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting?: No

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

