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**From:** City Council  
**Subject:** FW: Email - Communication - Chris Schmidt-Watt - Saskatoon Public Schools - Funding for Student Action for a Sustainable Future - CK 1700-1

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**From:** Web NoReply <web-noreply@saskatoon.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 11:14 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@saskatoon.ca>  
**Subject:** Email - Communication - Chris Schmidt-Watt - Saskatoon Public Schools - Funding for Student Action for a Sustainable Future - CK 1700-1

--- Replies to this email will go to [schmidt-wattc@spsd.sk.ca](mailto:schmidt-wattc@spsd.sk.ca) ---

Submitted on Thursday, November 16, 2023 - 11:13

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

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, November 16, 2023

**To:** His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

**Pronouns:** He/him/his

**First Name:** Chris

**Last Name:** Schmidt-Watt

**Phone Number :** 306 [REDACTED]

**Email:** [schmidt-wattc@spsd.sk.ca](mailto:schmidt-wattc@spsd.sk.ca)

**Address:** [REDACTED] Rupert Dr

**Neighbourhood:** [Richmond Heights](#)

**City:** Saskatoon

**Province:** Saskatchewan

**Postal Code:** S7K [REDACTED]

**Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable):** Saskatoon Public Schools

**What do you wish to do ?:** Submit Comments

**What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known)::** November 2024 Budget Meetings

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?:** Funding for Student Action for a Sustainable Future

**Comments:**

The Student Action for a Sustainable Future program that is delivered to Saskatoon area schools is a necessity in a world that continues to grapple with the effects of climate change. The resources, collaborative network and engaging opportunities for students are unsurpassed. Since participating in the program, I have grown in my confidence and understanding to teach to sustainable initiatives. Additionally, my students have benefitted from the garbage and recycling audits that we conducted in the our school. This year, our students have been in charge of our school wide recycling program that sees us conducting regular audits to ensure that waste is placed in its appropriate stream (black bin, blue bin, green bin, divertible waste). When classrooms fail to properly sort their waste, some of our classroom designates request a 5 minute educational experience for that classroom to help ensure we get it right.

After touring Cosmo Industries and discovering that \$150 000 is spent on bringing non-recyclable items to the city landfills, money that could be better invested in the diverse needs of the program, our students decided they needed to act. We toured Loraas facilities and found even higher numbers and issues related to the improper disposal of items.

Finally, I believe it would be wildly irresponsible for the City of Saskatoon to eliminate a preventative educational opportunity such as Student Action for a Sustainable Future due to the marginal investment that can sow large scale returns. After all, the city's reactive approach to waste management seems to be a larger investment. Just look at the city's new way of tackling waste management as of October 2023; businesses that fail to properly sort their recyclable goods will now be issued fines for failing to comply. Will that ensure that people recycle properly or will they simply default to discarding everything in the trash for fear of repercussions? Think of the long term impact of that scenario...a new landfill at a tax payer ticket of \$150-\$200 million dollars.

I understand the Student Action for Sustainable Future encompasses more than just waste mitigation, however, in my appeal to City Council, I wanted to speak from a personal perspective on how it has changed perspectives at the ground level.

Thanks for your time,  
Chris Schmidt-Watt

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