

November 20, 2023

2024/2025 Preliminary Business Plan and Budget Meeting

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Re: Saskatchewan Environmental Society's Student Action for a Sustainable Future Program Funding**Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee (SEAC)**

On October 20, 2023, SEAC was provided the 2022/2023 year end report for the Saskatchewan Environmental Society's Student Action for a Sustainable Future (SASF) program and resolved, in part, to provide a letter of support to the 2024/2025 Business Plan and Budget meeting regarding the program funding for SASF.

SEAC recommends that City Council continue providing funding for the Student Action for a Sustainable Future program.

The City of Saskatoon is investing in a sustainable future through environmental strategies such as the Low Emissions Community Plan, the Corporate Climate Adaptation Strategy, the Green Infrastructure Strategy, and others. The long-term success of these programs can be improved if the City also invests in programs that develop young environmental leaders and professionals.

The SASF program over the last 10 years has reached approximately 3400 students at 72 schools. Students are provided an opportunity to not only learn about environmental issues, but also receive funding to take action in their local communities. Teachers are provided professional development events and instructional resources. Given the efficacy of this program, SEAC has consistently provided funding for several years. Likewise, the City supported 12 classes at the 2023 service level.

To continue supporting the development of environmental leaders and professionals in Saskatoon, we recommend that City Council not choose Option 11 to reduce the funding gap identified in the 2024 and 2025 Prioritized Budget Options, Appendix 1: Environmental Health Business Line [GPC2023-0909].

Sincerely,

**John Paul Wasan**
Chair, Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee