

**Janzen, Heather**

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**Subject:** FW: Email - Communication - Jory Vermette - Climate Action Plan Update - CK 7540-1  
**Attachments:** City Climate Letter March 12 2025.pdf

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**From:** Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 10, 2025 4:27 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>  
**Subject:** Email - Communication - Jory Vermette - Climate Action Plan Update - CK 7540-1

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Monday, March 10, 2025 - 16:20

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:** Monday, March 10, 2025

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

**Pronouns:** He/him/his

**First Name:** Jory

**Last Name:** Vermette

**Phone Number :** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**I live outside of Saskatoon:** No

**Saskatoon Address and Ward:**

**Address:** [REDACTED] Churchill Dr

**Ward:** Ward 5

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

**What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known)::** GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?:** Agenda Item 11 or wherever appropriate

**Comments:**

I am submitting this letter to agenda item 11. I am basing this off of the submission that the Combined Business Group (CBG) included on Feb 12, 2025 under the GPC agenda item 11, which involved a general message to City Council to work with the CBG on municipal matters. I hope you will see that this submission is off a similar nature and, if you can please include my submission in the agenda as such it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

**Attachments:**

- [City Climate Letter March 12 2025.pdf](#)66.13 KB

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

Dear Mayor Block and Council,

I would like to outline the importance of the upcoming Climate Action Plan Update. Additionally, I would like to express a counterpoint from a submission council received from the Combined Business Group on February 12, 2025. These two matters may not at first appear related but by the end of this letter I am hoping to make their relationship clear.

First, I want to express the importance of ensuring that the City of Saskatoon commits to its upcoming targets of net-zero emissions for both community and city by 2050. Not only is this target in line with provincial and federal targets, it is in line with the vast scientific, economic and social literature that defines the target of net-zero emissions as being essential to ensuring the Earth's temperature remains at 1.5 degrees or, at maximum, 2 degrees celsius. To meet these targets the City will have to be ambitious, investing in opportunities that reduce emissions, create jobs, reinvigorate city infrastructure and provide needed housing, security and amenities for the Saskatoon of 2050.

To continue advancing this goal the City of Saskatoon has begun their [engagement process](#) to obtain feedback from, and consult with, the larger community on the Climate Action Plan Update. In this engagement plan the City notes that currently, stakeholder engagement is ongoing with public feedback to begin in April. The concern I hold is that community organizations and advocates for climate, as well as other social and environmental organizations, have been excluded from this process. Stakeholders include communities and with them, the various community organizations that work with, represent and provide support while advocating for positive and necessary change. It would be a considerable oversight and significant democratic infringement to exclude these groups from the process. Additionally, it would be transparent and accountable for Council to indicate which stakeholder groups have been consulted and engaged with so far, to ensure the various voices that support the social fabric of our city are accounted for.

Second, I would like to reference the submission from the Combined Business Group on February 12, 2025. The message within this submission was clear: Council must continue their commitment to ensuring Saskatoon is a business friendly city, with a streamlined business environment where businesses choose to set up shop in Saskatoon. To attract these businesses the City must work to reduce the costs of doing business which includes offering competitive taxes and implementing proactive policies.

With the City's upcoming budget discussions slated for this Fall, we can see the proactivity of the Combined Business Group to, logically, put their interests at the top of Council's agenda. However, given the pressing economic, social and climatic issues we are facing, whether it be tariffs from the United States, a housing and unhoused crisis, or wildfires and extreme weather events, we should be looking at the long term interests of our community at large.

Some of the principles outlined by Combined Business Group's submission are in fact necessary. The building of strategic and transformational infrastructure, as noted in their

message, is absolutely integral to meeting a net-zero target. We must begin planning, redesigning and developing the city to stop urban sprawl, eliminate food deserts, generate renewable power, and offer walkable, cycleable paths. The message included the need to build a community that thrives and that enhances our quality of life. I would also agree, investing in climate mitigation and adaptation that can help us withstand increasingly smoke riddled and sweltering summers, providing cooling and shelter for all, would be absolutely essential to quality of life of our community. Additionally, more active infrastructure and green spaces can offer health benefits to residents and enrich and support our biodiversity, while boosting Saskatoon as an eco-tourist destination. To do the opposite, invest in sunken costs and stranded assets such as large freeway megaprojects or further sprawl, or, to implement austerity at the cost of our community's health, would be a fundamental disservice to all Saskatonians and the generations thereafter. We can be certain the Combined Business Group would support and rally behind these transformative policies and projects, as they provide the foundation for a thriving business and customer base while investing in transformative solutions that ensure community safety and stability.

Finally, the Combined Business Group's statement closed with the vision of building a confident, flourishing future and legacy together. We are in fact at the most critical moment to do so. We must envision a future and legacy that will allow our children to not only survive but live a life that is safe, secure and hopeful of the future ahead. The year 2050 may seem far away, but children born today will be 25 then, many of us here in the present will also live to see that date.

I urge Council to embark on taking the necessary actions to ensure this future. To do so you must dialogue and work with the partners, stakeholders and members of our community to consider all relevant needs and perspectives. You must incorporate the net-zero vision into all elements of City planning so that all sectors of our city and community can contribute and work towards that vision. Finally, and most importantly, Council must be willing to take the ambitious and courageous steps, not by themselves but with our community as a whole, that will make this a reality.

Sincerely,

Jory Vermette