Subject: PDCS2024-1201 6.1.1 Email - Communication - Megan Van Buskirk - Saskatchewan

Environmental Society - The City of Saskatoons Energy Code Update - CK 150-1

Attachments: SES Letter to SEAC Re Building Bylaw April 2025.pdf

From: Web NoReply < web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 11:56 AM **To:** City Council < City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>

Subject: Email - Communication - Megan Van Buskirk - Saskatchewan Environmental Society - The City of Saskatoons

Energy Code Update - CK 150-1

--- Replies to this email will go to meganvb@environmentalsociety.ca ---

Submitted on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 - 11:53

Submitted by user:

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: Tuesday, April 15, 2025

To: Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: She/her/hers

First Name: Megan

Last Name: Van Buskirk

Phone Number : 306-

Email: meganvb@environmentalsociety.ca

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: PO Box 1372

Ward: Ward 2

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Saskatchewan Environmental Society

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments? (if known):: SEAC committee meeting - April 25, 2025

Comments:

Please see the attached letter, addressed to the members of SEAC. Thank you very much for your time.

Attachments:

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

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TELEPHONE

1.306.665.1915

EMAIL

info@environmentalsociety.ca

WEBSITE

www.environmentalsociety.ca

MAIL

PO Box 1372 Saskatoon SK S7K 3N9

OFFICE

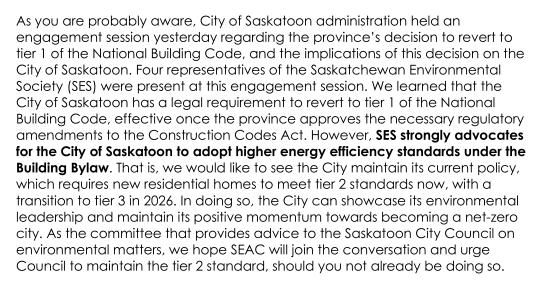
220 20th Street West Saskatoon

April 15, 2025

Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee (SEAC) City of Saskatoon 222 3rd Ave North Saskatoon SK S7K 0J5



To members of SEAC:



Saskatchewan recently boasted it ranked first among Canadian provinces for record-setting housing starts in 2024, which was the year that tier 2 was the provincial standard. This indicates that the industry is capable and ready to build to higher tier levels. This is also what we heard in yesterday's engagement session—with many local builders already reaching tier 3. As well, sudden changes, such as repealing building code regulations, creates unnecessary administrative burdens and industry volatility.

Regarding affordability, in 2022, BILD AB estimated that the financial implications of building a home to tier 2 (rather than tier 1) would only increase construction costs an estimated 0.35% to 1.05% (or \$1,100 to \$3,300) for a 2,000 ft² home. Furthermore, building to tier 3 would increase construction costs between 1.05% to 1.4% (equivalent to \$3,300 to \$4,000) for a home of the same size. Sometimes builders and developers claim that the costs related to adding more insulation and sealing up a home more carefully are passed onto homeowners or renters. However, housing prices are set based on the sale prices of similar homes in the same area. In accounting for changes in supply chain costs and inflation since 2022, the estimated construction cost added to building to tier 3 is less than 1% of a home's sale price in Saskatoon. Additionally, Efficiency Canada calculates that building a home to tier 2 in our province can save homeowners an estimated \$620 in utility bills annually. Building to a higher tier also reduces the likelihood for homeowners to be burdened by expensive retrofits in the future. This paints a very different picture about affordability than what is being touted by the province and supporters of this policy regression.





And given the realities of the climate crisis, it is prudent for the City of Saskatoon to consider pathways for significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as well as opportunities to prepare for a changing climate. We know that the City of Saskatoon is working to address mitigation and adaptation through its Climate Action Plan. Building more sustainable, resilient, and affordable homes can help do just that. Tier 3 homes, for example, are 20% more energy efficient than a home built to tier 1. Additionally, tier 1 homes are less resilient to extreme heat and cold, and more susceptible to poor air quality from forest fire smoke or pollution. Improved energy efficiency in buildings decreases the energy needed to heat and cool, reduces emissions, and makes our homes more comfortable year-round. That's a win-win-win.

In sum, SES strongly urges SEAC to advocate for the City of Saskatoon to amend the Building Bylaw, thereby ensuring the retention of its current policy regarding energy efficiency standards for new residential homes, should you not already be doing so. We would also welcome the opportunity to discuss potential opportunities for working together on this matter.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Megan Van Buskirk

SES Director of Policy & Communication