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**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

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**From:** Web NoReply <[web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca](mailto:web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 15, 2025 11:56 AM  
**To:** City Council <[City.Council@Saskatoon.ca](mailto: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](mailto:meganvb@environmentalsociety.ca) ---

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

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:** 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-](tel:306-)[REDACTED]

**Email:** [meganvb@environmentalsociety.ca](mailto: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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April 15, 2025

Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee (SEAC)

City of Saskatoon

222 3rd Ave North

Saskatoon SK S7K 0J5

## Re: The City of Saskatoon's Energy Code Update

To members of SEAC:

As you are probably aware, City of Saskatoon administration held an engagement session yesterday regarding the province's decision to revert to tier 1 of the National Building Code, and the implications of this decision on the City of Saskatoon. Four representatives of the Saskatchewan Environmental Society (SES) were present at this engagement session. We learned that the City of Saskatoon has a legal requirement to revert to tier 1 of the National Building Code, effective once the province approves the necessary regulatory amendments to the Construction Codes Act. However, **SES strongly advocates for the City of Saskatoon to adopt higher energy efficiency standards under the Building Bylaw.** That is, we would like to see the City maintain its current policy, which requires new residential homes to meet tier 2 standards now, with a transition to tier 3 in 2026. In doing so, the City can showcase its environmental leadership and maintain its positive momentum towards becoming a net-zero city. As the committee that provides advice to the Saskatoon City Council on environmental matters, we hope SEAC will join the conversation and urge Council to maintain the tier 2 standard, should you not already be doing so.

[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 ft<sup>2</sup> 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