
From: Web NoReply
Sent: Sunday, May 4, 2025 10:32 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Comments - Seanna Winder - Energy Regulation Options for Building Standards
Attachments: Vote on Saskatoon Building Efficiency Codes May 5 2025 Deanna Winder Comments.pdf

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Submitted on Sunday, May 4, 2025 - 10:31

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: Sunday, May 04, 2025

To: Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: They/them/theirs

First Name: Deanna

Last Name: Winder

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: 3062801321

Phone Number : 306 [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:
Address: [REDACTED] Pembina Avenue
Ward: Ward 5

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development, and Community Services May 7th Meeting

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 6.1.1- Energy Regulation Options for Building Standards

Comments:

See letter attached

Attachments:

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

Dear Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development, & Community Services,

I am writing to you as a concerned resident of Ward 5 to urge the City of Saskatoon to adopt the National Building Code's Tier 2 standards for energy use efficiency in 2025 and Tier 3 in 2026. This proposal is not only a necessary response to urgent environmental threats but an opportunity to achieve multiple benefits for our community, including long-term affordability, public health, and liveability. More efficient building codes have been proven to work and have strong support in Saskatchewan. The path forward is clear.

Environmental Responsibility: Residential homes account for around 25% of greenhouse gas emissions in Saskatoon (1). Compared to Tier 1, Tier 3 would reduce the energy use of new builds by 20% (2). Adopting Tier 2 standards in 2025 and Tier 3 in 2026 would support Saskatoon's commitment to emissions reductions and climate resilience as outlined in the Low Emissions Community Plan and 2022-2025 Strategic Plan.

There is no exaggerating how bad the effects of climate change will be. If we don't take significant action now, all life on earth will suffer (even more than it is now.) I want people to thrive, and that means the environment needs to too. Policies like these can actually make a difference, so it is imperative we use these opportunities to take action.

Affordability: Some are concerned about the upfront costs of implementing Tier 2 or 3 standards. However, this will result in savings for residents over the long term. According to Efficiency Canada, a home built to Tier 3 standards would save around \$624 per year on utilities compared to a home built to Tier 1 (2). This is money that homeowners could then contribute to the local economy.

As someone who makes less than \$30 000 most years, this is of huge importance to me. Energy costs are high because we use way more energy than we need to. Saving resources means saving money.

Public Health and Liveability: Buildings constructed with energy-efficient designs can provide better air quality and more resilience to extreme weather (3, 4). As a result, more efficient building codes would better protect residents from the impacts of forest fires, other air quality concerns, and extreme weather events—a critical consideration given the increasing severity of such events.

This is in essence also an economic argument. It means fewer hospital stays, and less time spent by nurses and doctors treating lung problems that could have been prevented. It means at a time when housing is a huge problem, we can just focus on making new buildings instead of rebuilding the ones that fall apart because we didn't invest enough in them in the first place.

Proven Success and Public Support: Cities like Vancouver and Toronto have already adopted more efficient building standards and have meaningfully reduced their carbon emissions (5, 6). Saskatoon has the opportunity to learn from these successes and adapt them to our local context. A 2021 Abacus Data poll showed that 62% of residents in Saskatchewan support or strongly support changing building codes so that new buildings are more efficient (7). These figures give a clear mandate for action to the City of Saskatoon.

Tier 2 & 3 building codes are not simply an upgrade—they are an investment in Saskatoon's future. By adopting these standards, the city will be taking a bold, proactive step to mitigate the effects of climate change while prioritizing affordability, public health, and liveability for its residents. The climate crisis demands decisive action, and now is the time for Saskatoon to rise to this challenge. Later is too late.

I appreciate the ongoing efforts of Mayor Block and City Council to explore innovative solutions to support our community's wellbeing. I am confident that adopting Tier 2 building code standards in 2025 and Tier 3 in 2026 will be a milestone in Saskatoon's journey toward sustainability, affordability, and liveability.

Thank you for considering this important matter.

Sincerely,
Deanna Winder

1. Green Municipal Fund. (n.d.). Case study: Bringing energy efficiency to Saskatoon homes. <https://greenmunicipalfund.ca/case-studies/case-study-bringing-energy-efficiency-saskatoon-homes>

2. Efficiency Canada. (2025, February 19). *Saskatchewan's building code backtrack will burden homeowners with higher costs.* <https://www.efficiencycanada.org/saskatchewans-building-code/>

3. Wang, C., Wang, J., & Norbäck, D. (2022). A systematic review of associations between energy use, fuel poverty, energy efficiency improvements and health. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 19(12), 7393. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph19127393>
4. Tootkaboni, M.P, Ballarini, I., Corrado, V. (2025). Towards climate resilient and energy-efficient buildings: A sensitivity analysis on building components and cooling strategies. *Building and Environment*, 270. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.buildenv.2024.112473>
5. General Manager of Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability. (2024). *Vancouver's next climate plans*. City of Vancouver. <https://council.vancouver.ca/20240723/documents/r3.pdf>
6. City of Toronto. (2023). *City of Toronto releases two reports detailing progress on ambitious TransformTO Net Zero Climate Action Strategy*. <https://www.toronto.ca/news/city-of-toronto-releases-two-reports-detailing-progress-on-ambitious-transformto-net-zero-climate-action-strategy/>
7. Efficiency Canada. (n.d.). Building codes for new buildings. <https://www.efficiencycanada.org/building-codes/building-codes-for-new-buildings/>