

---

**From:** Web NoReply  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 6:26 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Comments - Caylin Lee - Saskatoon Transit Full-Fleet Zero Emission Bus Implementation Plan

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Submitted on Sunday, May 4, 2025 - 18:25

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:** He/him/his

**First Name:** Caylin

**Last Name:** Lee

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**I live outside of Saskatoon:** No

**Saskatoon Address and Ward:**

**Address:** [REDACTED] Bell Cres

**Ward:** Ward 9

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

**What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):** SPC Transportation, May 6th

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?:** 6.2.1 Saskatoon Transit Full-Fleet Zero Emission Bus Implementation Plan

**Comments:**

I am writing to raise some questions about the Cutric report methodology that may have led them to underestimate the benefits of battery electric buses, and to challenge Saskatoon to be bolder in the face of the climate crisis.

We are in a crisis. In 2016, we watched as fires burned through Fort McMurray forcing 90,000 people to be evacuated, burning down 2,400 buildings, and causing over \$3.5 billion in damage. Last summer we watched, often through Saskatoon's own blanket of wildfire smoke, as 25,000 people were evacuated from Jasper ahead of a fire that would go on to destroy 358 structures and kill one firefighter. We know about the destructive capacity created by the extreme weather we are experiencing, we know that climate change is continuing to make this worse, we know the primary cause of climate change is burning fossil fuels, and we know that inaction will cost us immensely -- both in terms of cold, economic, financial expenditures and in brutal human tragedy. We should not assume inaction is free and we should expect that addressing a crisis of this scale will sometimes require hardship and dedication. We will not accidentally stumble our way out of this crisis by shortsightedly chasing the next dollar at every moment.

The main question that I would like to raise about the Cutric report is: what did they assume Saskatoon/Saskatchewan's energy grid composition would look like over the 15 years of their model? Because I see mention in the report that battery electric buses (BEBs) are less effective at preventing GHG emissions here because of our current reliance on coal and gas. But I do not see any explanation of how they assumed our power generation would change over time. This is important because it is core to their conclusion that BEBs don't lead to substantial emission reductions and, I believe, there is reason to assume our grid will change. Saskatchewan residents are currently fighting a lawsuit against the provincial government and SaskPower in response to the expansion of natural gas power plants, there are federal regulations forcing an end to the use of unabated coal by the end of the decade, there is a new federal government coming to power on promises of creating an interprovincial energy grid (which would allow Saskatchewan to access hydro and renewable energy from other regions) and to build out significant amounts of renewable energy capacity. Saskatchewan's energy grid is very dirty currently, but there is also significant pressure to improve it. Given all of that, assuming no change over the next 15 years seems, at best, incredibly pessimistic.

But this isn't only a failing in this report, it is often a failing in our own thinking about climate action as individuals and communities. We assume that no one else will do their part and use that as an excuse to not do our part. This problem is obviously bigger than Saskatoon and upgrading our transit fleet won't solve it alone. But we need to be doing our part, challenging others to do theirs, encouraging the creation of stronger, enforceable agreements between parties to build trust that we are working together on this, and supporting those who are most impacted. Instead, with this report and the administration's recommendations, Saskatoon is excusing its own inaction, excusing the province's inaction, and asking the federal government to lower their standards to the level we want to meet instead of raising them to the level we need to meet.

Caylin Lee  
Nutana Park resident

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