
From: Web NoReply
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 11:32 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Comments - Kathryn Green - Energy Regulation Options for Building Standards

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Submitted on Monday, May 5, 2025 - 11:05

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: Monday, May 05, 2025

To: Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: She/her/hers

First Name: Kathryn

Last Name: Green

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: 639 [REDACTED]

Phone Number : 63 [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Main St

Ward: Ward 6

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:

I am writing to you as a concerned resident of Ward 6 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 livability. 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.

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.

My husband and I own one of the units in the Radiance Cohousing Project on Avenue L S and we learned through the experience of building this project just how much more energy-efficient buildings can be, in many cases, for not that much greater cost. Especially in a cold climate like ours, there is tremendous opportunity to reduce energy use through better design, which in the long run is more cost-efficient.

Public Health and Livability: 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.

The poor air quality and increased summer heat is becoming more and more of an issue in Saskatoon, and it's especially problematic for people who live in older homes. New buildings should be designed with this in mind.

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 livability.

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