
From: Web NoReply
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 4:41 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Comments - Jory Vermette - Energy Regulation Options for Building Standards
Attachments: SCH_BuildingCodeLetter_Template052025.docx.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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--- Replies to this email will go to saskatoonclimatehub@gmail.com ---

Submitted on Monday, May 5, 2025 - 16:39

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: He/him/his

First Name: Jory

Last Name: Vermette

Email: saskatoonclimatehub@gmail.com

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Churchill Dr

Ward: Ward 5

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Saskatoon Climate Hub

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

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 6.1.1 Energy Regulation Options for Building Standards
[PDCS2024-1201]

Comments:

I am submitting this letter as a member of the Saskatoon Climate Hub written by my colleague Ines Sanchez-Rodriguez on behalf of the Saskatoon Climate Hub. Thank you

Attachments:

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



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Saskatoon, May 5, 2025

Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development, & Community Service
222 3rd Ave North
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5

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

The Saskatoon Climate Hub (SCH) urges the City of Saskatoon to adopt the National Building Code's Tier 2 standards for energy use efficiency in 2025 and adopt 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.

Please note the following critical benefits associated with adopting Tier 2 codes for 2025 and tier 3 codes for 2026:

1. **Environmental Responsibility:** Residential homes account for around 25% of greenhouse gas emissions in Saskatoon¹. 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.
2. **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 1³. This is money that homeowners could then contribute to our local economy.

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 Ibid



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3. **Public Health and Liveability:** Buildings constructed with energy-efficient designs can provide better air quality and more resilience to extreme weather.^{4 5} 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.
4. **Proven Success and Public Support:** Cities like Vancouver and Toronto have already adopted more efficient building standards and have meaningfully reduced their carbon emissions^{6 7}. 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 efficient⁸. 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.

We appreciate the ongoing efforts of Mayor Block and City Council to explore innovative solutions to support our community's wellbeing. We are 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.

⁴ 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>

⁵ 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>

⁶ 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>

⁷ 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/>

⁸ Efficiency Canada. (n.d.). Building codes for new buildings. <https://www.efficiencycanada.org/building-codes/building-codes-for-new-buildings/>



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Thank you for considering this important matter,

Ines Sanchez-Rodriguez on behalf of the Saskatoon Climate Hub