
Subject: Comments - Megan Van Buskirk - Energy Regulation Options for Building Standards
Attachments: SES Letter to Saskatoon City Council re Building Standards.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 11:58 AM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Comments - Megan Van Buskirk - Energy Regulation Options for Building Standards

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

Submitted on Friday, May 16, 2025 - 11:56

Submitted by user: Anonymous

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: Friday, May 16, 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 [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED]

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):: City Council Meeting - May 21

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 8.3.1, Energy Regulation Options for Building Standards

Comments:

Please see attached letter, which comprises a summary of our previous comments. Thank you.

Attachments:

- [SES Letter to Saskatoon City Council re Building Standards.pdf](#) 565.27 KB

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



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May 16, 2025

Re: Agenda item 8.3.1, Energy Regulation Options for Building Standards

To Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council:

The Saskatchewan Environmental Society (SES) is very pleased with the unanimous recommendation put forth by the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development & Community Services:

1. *That Option 1 – Maintain alignment with LEC Plan – Regulate to Tier 2, be approved; and*
2. *That the City Solicitors be requested to prepare the necessary amendments to Bylaw No. 9958, The Building Bylaw, 2024.*

The City of Saskatoon is facing this decision due to the Government of Saskatchewan's recent decision to backtrack on their commitment to make buildings more energy efficient under the National Building Code of Canada, reverting to Tier 1. Below, we have summarized the main reasons we support Saskatoon regulating to Tier 2 (as our longer letter to the Standing Policy Committee is also attached to the agenda):

- In choosing to maintain alignment with the Low Emissions Community (LEC) Plan and regulate to Tier 2, the City of Saskatoon will showcase its environmental leadership and maintain its positive momentum towards becoming a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions city by 2050.
- Homebuilders in Saskatoon are capable and ready to build above Tier 1. Homebuilders in Saskatchewan have already been meeting Tier 2 standards for over a year. Saskatchewan recently boasted it ranked first among Canadian provinces for record-setting housing starts in 2024,ⁱ which was the year that Tier 2 became the provincial standard. As well, the energy efficient building sector is creating jobs in design, construction, and installation, contributing to economic growth.
- Building to Tier 2 also offers better climate preparedness, as well as the major benefits of reducing greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency measures. Improved energy efficiency in buildings decreases the energy needed to heat and cool, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, improves indoor air quality, and makes our homes more comfortable year-round.
- BILD Albertaⁱⁱ estimates that the financial implications of building a home to Tier 2 would only increase construction costs an estimated 0.35% to 1.05% (or \$1,100 to \$3,300) for a 2,000 ft² home. This will be offset ever year by lower utilities bills for homeowners.ⁱⁱⁱ Improved energy efficiency can also lead to increased home value, commanding a higher price when a house is sold.

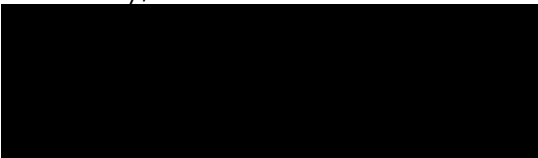


- Building to Tier 2 reduces the likelihood for homeowners to be burdened by expensive retrofits in the future. Investing in energy efficient homes is a long-term investment that will save money over the lifetime of the property while at the same time contributing to a more sustainable future.

By embracing energy efficient building practices (e.g., regulating to Tier 2 of the National Building Code), the City of Saskatoon can meaningfully contribute to the creation of a more sustainable, affordable, and resilient future for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit additional comments.

Sincerely,



SES Director of Policy & Communication

ⁱ Government of Saskatchewan. (2025, March 18). *Saskatchewan's building construction and housing starts leads the Nation* [Press release]. <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2025/march/18/saskatchewan-building-construction-andhousing-starts-lead-the-nation>

ⁱⁱ BILD Alberta. (2022). *Tiered energy code roadmap*. <https://bildalberta.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/BILD-Alberta-Tiered-Code-Roadmap-August-2022.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ Efficiency Canada. (2025, February 19). *Saskatchewan's building code backtrack will burden homeowners with higher costs* [Press release]. <https://www.efficiencycanada.org/saskatchewan-building-code>