

November 14, 2018

Dear City Clerk,

I'd like to have the opportunity to speak briefly at the November 19<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. As I understand it, Council will be consider recommendations related to Item 7.2.1 from the November 6<sup>th</sup> Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services Standing Policy Committee (Saskatoon's Climate Change Mitigation Plan).

While we at Arbutus Properties truly applaud the City's goal of reducing the communities' GHG production by 15% by 2023 and the work that has been done thus far by City staff and the Committee. We also sense the frustration at the speed in which the reduction of GHG's is occurring.

While it seems the City has a workable strategy under development for what it can do to mitigate its own corporate emissions, the City also has the opportunity to promote/elevate activities and projects that will assist in the overall communities' reduction of GHG's. Community GHG reduction is a more daunting challenge and while small, incremental changes are important and needed, it seems to us that to be effective at the community level, some big moves will be required. I believe your Auditors have reached a similar conclusion in order to achieve the 80% reduction level by 2050.

Arbutus believes we have one of these 'big moves' that will help in achieving our collective goals as a community. As you know, Arbutus, working with the Franko family, have made a submission to the City of Saskatoon for what will be Canada's largest Sustainable Neighborhood; Solair. One of the key aspects of our Solair Neighbourhood concept plan is that the entire community's energy needs will be meet with renewable solar energy. A community solar photovoltaic energy system for this 2,500 home community has an enormous GHG mitigation impact over a 25 year period, reducing GHG emissions by 435,000 tonnes. This development alone could account for nearly 15% of the community reduction goal prior to 2050.

The City has already invested many hours and dollars to create a strong foundation for sustainability and environmental stewardship developing programs including the Climate Change Mitigation Business Plan, the Green Infrastructure Strategy, Low Impact Development Guidelines, and a growing number of Community Environmental Programs. The City also has an opportunity to enroll the support of the private sector to assist on the overall reduction of GHG's in Saskatoon.

What Arbutus has learned in the 3 years of researching and planning a Green Neighborhood is that collaboration between major players is crucial; change can only occur if municipal

government, other levels of government and the private sector work together. The City has an opportunity to incent the developers who commit to building sustainable neighborhoods and buildings. These incentives will drive further reductions of GHG's for the City. These incentives could take a variety of forms related to development guidelines, infrastructure designs and zoning, and importantly in supporting and fast tracking of Green projects through the development approval process.

In closing, we at Arbutus Properties thank the City of Saskatoon for taking leadership on GHG reductions and are offering through Solair a major opportunity towards achieving your 80 by 50 goal.

Thank you

Paul Buitenhuis