

## Bryant, Shellie (Clerks)

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**From:** City Council  
**Sent:** November 25, 2018 8:46 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council

Submitted on Sunday, November 25, 2018 - 20:46  
Submitted by anonymous user: 64.125.43.171  
Submitted values are:

Date: Sunday, November 25, 2018  
To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council  
First Name: Sara  
Last Name: Harrison  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Address: [REDACTED] Churchill Dr  
City: Saskatoon  
Province: Saskatchewan  
Postal Code: S7K [REDACTED]  
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee  
Subject: Low Emissions Community Program  
Meeting (if known): CITY COUNCIL AGENDA - PRELIMINARY BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET  
Comments:  
Your Worship and Councillors,

As you are well aware by now the members of the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee, are a passionate, dedicated group of volunteers who take our role to advise you very seriously. Unfortunately, none of us were able to be present at budget deliberations on Monday, August 26 to speak in person; however, we did not want to leave our voices unheard.

Over the past year, we have spoken to you many times in support of a number of environmentally beneficial programs underway in the City of Saskatoon. We commend you for showing leadership and foresight in making important decisions this year that will support a healthy and vibrant Saskatoon, such as implementing the comprehensive residential compost program and PAYT waste utility.

On your agenda for the coming days is the continuation of the Low Emissions Community Program. As Angie Bugg spoke to you about on November 19, this program a BIG DEAL and it is essential that funding for the program is continued through the approval of the \$150,000 (including 1 FTE) for inclusion in the 2019 Business Plan and Budget. In addition, several other programs identified within the Low Emissions Community Program are already underway, such as the Bus Rapid Transit, AAA cycling network, and retrofitting city buildings. Again, these programs should continue to be funded as required.

On November 6, 2018 SEAC submitted a letter to the Environment, Utilities, and Corporate Services Committee raising our concerns on how the environment is considered in making financial decision. In this letter we urged Council to ensure you have a clear policy and mechanism for decision-making as it relates to environmental initiatives. In absence of policy at this time, please consider Ms. Bugg's point from last week as you make decisions today:

"When I started my engineering career, safety was seen as an extra – extra work and extra cost. The people whose lives and health were at stake objected to changes in the way they worked. It's far from perfect, but safety is now embedded in our work and as you look at City finances and project, you wouldn't say 'things are a bit tight this year, let's not do safety in 2019'.

Environment, and climate change specifically, needs to follow this path. We need to embed environmental protection and greenhouse gas emission reduction into our everyday practices. It will be challenging but lives and health are at stake."

Please ensure you consider the impact to the environment, particularly greenhouse gas emissions, in your decisions today. Your leadership is crucial in order for Saskatoon to meet its approved community-wide environmental targets, including an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and build a healthy, vibrant City for all residents.

Sincerely,  
Sara Harrison

Chair, Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee

Attachments:

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/267761>