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From: Michael Nemeth <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2019 7:40 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council



Submitted on Wednesday, July 31, 2019 - 19:40
Submitted by anonymous user: 204.83.42.41
Submitted values are:

Date: Monday, July 29, 2019
To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name: Michael
Last Name: Nemeth
Email: michael@brightbuildings.ca
Address: 2 - 475 Avenue L South
City: Saskatoon
Province: Saskatchewan
Postal Code: S7M 5Y6
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Bright Buildings
Subject: In support of the Low Emissions Community Plan
Meeting (if known): Aug 6 Meeting of Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services
Comments:
I wish to speak at the Aug 6 meeting

Hello, My name is Michael Nemeth, I live here in Saskatoon at Radiance Cohousing, a passive house townhouse development that I helped develop along with an amazing group of people. I'm a mechanical engineer and I now help design passive house buildings across Canada.

Our homes are designed to use 1/10th of the space heating of an average Canadian home. This huge energy savings is due to continuous, thick insulation, high performance windows, simple airtight construction and heat recovery ventilation, costing only 6% more to build and offering reduced monthly cost of ownership over conventional construction. We don't have a furnace, we're not connected to gas, the small amount of heat we do need comes from an electric air source heat pump. It works great in the winter and the summer and the benefits go beyond energy and greenhouse gas reduction, but also offer exceptional thermal comfort, healthy fresh air and resilience to extreme weather. The newly published book by Passive House Canada: Transforming How We Build details 63 of the first passive houses in Canada, including Radiance Cohousing as well as the Temperance Street Passive House. It is available as a free ebook PDF on www.passivehousecanada.com.

Today, I write in support of the Low Emissions Community Plan.

Municipalities across Canada are taking a leadership role in climate action and, with the Low Emissions Community Plan, Saskatoon joins in that leadership.

The consequences of a warming climate are already being felt locally and around the world. Now is the time to act. In fact, now may be the most financially prudent time to act, as the costs of damage due to climate change related events will exceed the costs of being proactive.

Some may ask what does little Saskatoon matter in the bigger picture, compared to bigger emitters? First, I would say we should not sell ourselves short, instead we have a capability to lead, and this is an incredibly important opportunity. Second, we have an obligation to other municipalities to not rest while they work hard to reduce their own emissions. Due to our particularly high emissions per capita in Saskatchewan we need to work extra hard. We could dwell on past mistakes or stranded assets, instead we need to move forward and develop our green, circular

economy that will, over time, surpass in potential any non-renewable systems we currently maintain. This is about building an economy for the long term and supporting everyone throughout the transition.

We have a huge capacity to spark important new innovations. We are full of examples, even the Passive House standard has roots here.

And what does it mean to live here? I'm driven by a passion to make a better place to live - in my community, my city and my planet. I see it also in all of the amazing people in this city. Does it mean we sit idly by, maintaining a status quo that leads only to greater problems. No, we get creative. We find win-wins. We change course and present a credible future to our youth. A future we can all look forward to and be proud of.

How do we pay for it? It pays for itself. Perhaps we've just had to wait long enough... but thanks to marvelous work in science, research and development, as well as trial and error over many years, we are presented with technologies that are ready for mass adoption, today. The authors of the Low Emissions Community Plan present costed actions in the Marginal Abatement Cost Curve. We are no longer at the prototype stage. The majority of the actions save money over business as planned and create greater job opportunities. All of the technologies will come down in price with greater adoption. Technologies will evolve and get even better. This is not about taking the back seat to watch other cities try things out. This is about taking the steering wheel of the Tesla and confidently driving into a new age where we get our fuel from the sun and all buildings are wrapped in thick blankets of insulation.

It's a concept for the future I find highly motivating.

I'd like to provide a few specific suggestions.

1. That the City prioritize implementation of a PACE financing program per Actions 10 and 11 through working with the Provincial Government to amend the Cities Act. This would allow Local Improvement Charges to apply to individual building energy retrofits and solar installations. Without any additional tax revenue required this will provide a massive source of funds for the retrofits required to existing homes and buildings. Individuals should not have to bear the large capital costs themselves, having these costs compete with paying for rent, food or utilities. Nor are appraisers adequately valuing these features yet. PACE financing allows the investments to stay with the property and be paid off over time with the savings that are generated by better insulation, windows or roof-top solar. PACE financing would kickstart a retrofit construction industry in Saskatoon and possibly attract additional real estate investment. The PACE program could be spread to other municipalities throughout Saskatchewan after a Saskatoon program.
2. That it be clarified, a cap on thermal and electrical energy in a municipal step code is only as per the energy model calculations with average assumptions and there would be no real world, physical cap on this energy use. Only a federally mandated carbon levy would disincentivize actual wasteful energy use. With passive house buildings, it becomes difficult to waste energy (very little carbon levy is paid as a result). As per Actions 6 and 8.
3. That, over time, a local full-time passive house training facility and centre of excellence be established to support learning of passive house building and design methods. This would directly support the retrofit and new build construction industry, stimulate innovation, and develop the most cost effective methods and materials. Passive House Canada is a national non-profit professional association advocating for the Passive House high-performance building standard. The Passive House Canada education program has been developing professional capacity across Canada, including in Saskatoon, where almost 10 courses of varying lengths and focuses have been held since 2012. I am now one of 13 Passive House Canada instructors located throughout Canada. In particular I specialize in teaching the 3 day energy modelling course on the Passive House Planning Package. Passive House Canada has a long standing relationship with Saskatchewan Polytechnic. We are preparing to host the 3 day Passive House Tradesperson course for the first time in the Prairie provinces. The course will be held this fall, October 22nd to 24th in Sask Polytech lab space where full size mockups of passive house construction will be presented and worked on by participants. In addition, from November 7 to 10 the 4 day Passive House Designer and Consultant course will be held in Saskatoon. This is aimed at those wanting more depth on the building science behind passive house such as architects or engineers, though many builders have also taken this course.

A week before the Tradesperson course, the annual Passive House Canada conference will take place in Toronto. I will be travelling there to speak on Radiance Cohousing. I invite you to join me there to be inspired by the many astounding projects being built in Canada and around the world.

Passive House Canada is actively creating opportunities to learn how to build to the passive house level of performance but could do much more with support. We are reaching out to private sponsors to reduce course fees and hope that the City of Saskatoon may consider partnering with Passive House Canada to make training opportunities more accessible for designers and builders in Saskatoon.

FCM has been mandated to support cities who wish to develop low carbon building centres of excellence through the FCM Green Municipal Fund. Perhaps the Climate Action Incentive Fund: Municipal stream would also be a source of funds.

4. Lastly, That certification to the international Passive House Institute's Passive House or Low Energy Building Standards be seen as exceeding compliance in the National Energy Code for Buildings. Demonstrating compliance to the National Energy Code for Buildings is time consuming for builders. If they could divert their time and energy into third party, passive house certification instead there would be an incentive for builders to attempt passive house level performance, supporting early adopters and driving innovation. Passive house design tools, such as the Passive House Planning Package could then be used for energy models, saving the need to generate a redundant code compliance energy model. As the international Passive House standard is consistent around the world, there is ample capacity to process the certifications nationally and internationally. Currently there are different instances of the National Energy Code being applied in every province. Allowing the international Passive House standard would help to standardize construction industry regulations.

Thank you for this opportunity to write in support of the Low Emissions Community Plan. Resourcing and administering this plan will offer rewards on many levels. Please take this opportunity to move forward confidently.

Thank you!

Attachments:

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/328640>

August 2, 2019

To: City Clerk
City of Saskatoon



RE: Low Emissions Community Plan; Asset Management - Saskatoon Light & Power

Please accept this letter as my request to speak on behalf of the membership of the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce at the SPC – EUCS Committee on August 6, 2019.

There are two agenda items I would like to address.

1. Asset Management Plan for Saskatoon Light and Power

I would like to congratulate the City of Saskatoon on your approach toward creating asset management plans for all your infrastructure. You have identified a funding gap to address the infrastructure for light and power services, and I encourage you to continue to invest in this infrastructure, particularly in the downtown core.

As you can appreciate, our businesses rely heavily on this utility to provide their products and services and any disruption in service related to failed infrastructure is extremely costly.

2. Low Emissions Community Plan

There are several areas I would like to address regarding this report and the Community Plan:

a) Results of Member Survey

We sent out a survey in order to gauge the response from our membership on the Low Emissions Community Plan, the following is a summary of the results;

- 61% of respondents were opposed to the Plan of which 41% were strongly opposed; 28% of individuals were in support of the Plan of which 21% were strongly in support; The remaining respondents were undecided.
- When asked if the plan could benefit their business several respondents quoted increased quality of life and the potential for lower energy costs associated with energy efficient upgrades. However, most responses indicated that they would find little to no benefit for their businesses from the Plan.
- When asked if the Plan could hinder their business respondents quoted the increased tax burden, increased cost associated with new retrofits for energy efficient upgrades, increased government regulation and uncertainty in the business environment.

b) Input from business to date

Your report includes a LEC Engagement Summary where you list the results of engagement efforts for Industrial, Commercial and Institutional businesses and organizations. The survey results indicate that the majority of business were more likely to be concerned with waste and recycling and less about climate change and the impacts it will have on their operations. Therefore, I caution you to rely too heavily on these results for the LEC Plan.

The Chamber was only invited to take part in one meeting during the consultation period, and I respectfully request that we be provided an opportunity to represent our membership in future discussions.

c) Proposed Budget

Based on the feedback from our membership, I do not believe there is support to proceed as proposed. There are too many initiatives, and this can create uncertainty for business and investment. Our business community relies on certainty and I urge you to proceed slowly and cautiously. Choose one or two programs and start small. We can then measure our success and manage the level of investment we are making along the way.

The report indicates there is a request for approximately \$1.4 million over two years, and the description of the projects show it is for stakeholder engagement, staff training and support, policy, strategy and bylaw development, and conducting research and preparing feasibility studies. It appears that the funding would not be for any demonstration projects with concrete results, it is for studies and engagement.

This is simply too much money to spend on an area that does not have a clear level of support, and if implemented, will have an impact on our business community.

I would be happy to meet with members of City Council and/or members of your administration to further this discussion on behalf of the membership of the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce.

Sincerely,



Darla Lindbjerg
President & CEO

From: Peter Prebble <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca> on behalf of Peter Prebble
<City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, August 06, 2019 7:38 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council



Submitted on Tuesday, August 6, 2019 - 07:38
Submitted by anonymous user: 216.197.221.140
Submitted values are:

Date: Tuesday, August 06, 2019
To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name: Peter
Last Name: Prebble
Email: info@environmentalsociety.ca
Address: Box 1372, Saskatoon, Sk
City: Saskatoon
Province: Saskatchewan
Postal Code: S7K 3N9
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Saskatchewan Environmental Society
Subject: Low Emissions Community Plan
Meeting (if known): Standing Committee on the Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services - August 6, 2019
Comments:
Saskatchewan Environmental Society
Box 1372 Saskatoon SK S7K 3N9
info@environmentalsociety.ca

August 6, 2019

Re: Low Emissions Community Plan

Dear Members of the Standing Committee on the Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services,

We have had an opportunity to review the Low Emissions Community Plan coming before you this morning. I would be grateful for the opportunity to make an oral presentation. We are pleased to offer the following comments.

1. The Saskatchewan Environmental Society strongly supports the overall list of measures laid out in the Low Emissions Community Plan and urges City Council to act decisively to budget for the early implementation of many of these measures starting with the 2020 budget year. We commend His Worship Mayor Charlie Clark and City Administration for presenting this plan to City Council and the public. The proposed measures would significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Saskatoon's transport, residential, commercial and industrial sectors, and would accomplish City Council's targets for the city as a corporate entity. The full implementation of the 40 action measures in this plan would represent a serious attempt by the City to achieve the emissions reduction goals City Council set in 2017 – particularly the goal of an 80% reduction in community-wide emissions by 2050.

2. The Saskatchewan Environmental Society commends the Low Emissions Community Plan for not only laying out well-developed greenhouse gas reduction strategies, but also identifying the many co-

benefits associated with GHG emission reduction, including improved air quality, improved health outcomes, much lower utility bills, and major employment opportunities. It is encouraging that the net payback from implementing the plan exceeds \$14 billion by 2050.

3. The Low Emissions Community Plan discusses the importance of providing adequate funding for climate change action. We agree. The Saskatchewan Environmental Society supports the establishment of a dedicated capital reserve for climate change work in Saskatoon. We note that Green Revolving Funds and Environmental Reserves have been successful mechanisms in many other cities for securing the funds needed for major environmental initiatives. It is encouraging that once significant actions are underway, energy savings should be able to finance a great deal of the work.

4. The Saskatchewan Environmental Society encourages City Council to accelerate the timelines for implementation of many of the excellent proposals in the Low Emissions Community (LEC) Plan, particularly those measures designated as "phase 2". We hope City Council will budget the resources required for the earliest possible adoption of these measures.

Since City Council set its greenhouse gas reduction targets in 2017, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has urged the global community to achieve a 45% reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in order to avert catastrophic climate change impacts. The IPCC recommendation proposes an even more ambitious timeline for emission reduction than the timeline presented in the Low Emissions Community Plan (which proposes a 15% reduction in community-wide GHG emissions by 2027), underlying the urgency to act.

When it comes to mitigating climate change, time is of the essence for every city on our planet. Timelines for concerted action need to be moved up as much as possible.

5. It is especially important to accelerate the adoption of measures in the Low Emissions Community Plan that will have a significant impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. By way of example:

a) At the corporate level, the LEC Plan calls for the installation of solar PV systems on municipal buildings to begin in 2022. However, providing that Council is willing to allocate some funding for this work, there is no reason that installations on the first buildings could not begin as early as the summer of 2020. Similarly, the LEC plan recommends deep energy efficiency retrofits on municipal buildings to start in 2024, but again subject to funding, deep retrofit work on some municipal buildings could start as early as 2021.

b) At the community level, step 1 of a recommended Building Energy Efficiency Step Code is recommended for implementation between 2023 and 2025. The Saskatchewan Environmental Society recommends targeting implementation much earlier. A better energy efficiency code for new homes in Saskatoon is long overdue, and local home builders have been promoting measures like Energy Star (R80) for over a decade, so there is widespread familiarity with Energy Star practices if they were incorporated into a local energy efficiency code.

c) We strongly support the use of PACE to incentivize existing commercial, institutional and industrial building owners to install solar systems. The projected start-time for this in the LEC Plan is 2026; again we recommend the time frame for implementation be moved up. From our experience in working with commercial building owners in Saskatoon, solar systems on a great many existing commercial buildings are economically viable today. The primary obstacle is upfront capital cost, which PACE would help overcome.

6. The Saskatchewan Environmental Society recommends that City Council add to "phase 1" of the Low Emissions Community Plan: a public education initiative explaining the nature of the climate change emergency – in order to help build greater public understanding in Saskatoon of why action on greenhouse gas mitigation and climate adaptation is essential to our wellbeing.

Included in the public education initiative should be information on the costs of inaction, as outlined in Appendix C of the LEC Plan. Also included should be basic facts related to climate science, including an

explanation that in order to stabilize carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide concentrations in the atmosphere, manmade emissions of those greenhouse gases must be reduced to 1/100 of what they are today. Our challenge is no longer just to significantly reduce manmade greenhouse gas emissions; our challenge is to virtually eliminate them because of their exceptionally long lifetimes in the atmosphere and the dangerous concentrations they have already reached.

7. The Saskatchewan Environmental Society recommends adding to the "phase 2" section of the LEC Plan: a strategy for planting more trees and preserving and restoring local wetlands - in order to sequester more carbon dioxide locally, thus reducing community-wide greenhouse gas emissions.

8. The Low Emissions Community Plan calls for 20MW of utility scale solar PV by 2030 and 300 MW by 2050. That is an excellent recommendation that is entirely feasible. In order to implement this, it would be helpful if the SaskPower Act was changed so that it did not limit Saskatoon Light and Power to undertaking utility scale solar installations only within the 1958 boundaries of the Saskatoon Light and Power district.

We recommend that City Council formally seek permission from the Government of Saskatchewan for Saskatoon Light & Power to be able to produce solar power on a utility scale in or adjacent to Saskatoon neighbourhoods that lie outside the 1958 Saskatoon Light and Power district boundaries.

9. The Low Emissions Community Plan recommends the procurement of 1,600 MW of renewable electricity installed outside of Saskatoon. This recommendation delivers the largest single greenhouse gas reduction of the entire plan: 54,119,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions by 2050. Rather than procuring the electricity from parties outside of Saskatoon, the Saskatchewan Environmental Society would like to see Saskatoon Light and Power be able to construct its own wind power facilities in appropriate rural areas outside city limits. Achieving this would also require a change to the SaskPower Act, which we recommend that City Council request. The SaskPower Act should not be allowed to stand in the way of the City of Saskatoon developing renewable energy resources in a responsible manner to serve its own citizens, especially given the carbon intensive nature of the Saskatchewan grid.

10. The current recommendation from City Administration regarding the Low Emissions Community Plan is: "That engagement with the Community and Stakeholders is undertaken to further advance planning and to develop comprehensive implementation strategies for preliminary initiatives included in the Low Emissions Community Plan."

The Saskatchewan Environmental Society understands why further engagement is required around many of the measures contained in the LEC Plan, but on some measures sufficient engagement has occurred, and the time for concrete action that will reduce emissions has come. It is therefore our hope that City Council will add to the current recommendation an expression that Council desires to move forward as quickly as possible with greenhouse gas emission reduction at both the corporate and community level. We hope you will ask City Administration to identify numerous elements of the Low Emissions Community Plan where implementation could begin as early as 2020 and 2021.

11. Finally, in addition to the recommendation before you, the Saskatchewan Environmental Society asks City Council to formally recognize that climate change is a global emergency that puts the lives of hundreds of millions of people on our planet at risk, and poses an unprecedented threat to health, food security, water security and ecosystems worldwide. In that context, we ask that City Council direct City Administration to act with a sense of urgency in implementing the Low Emissions Community Plan - to ensure that the City of Saskatoon does its part to make deep cuts in community-wide greenhouse gas pollution while there is still time to make a difference.

it is extremely worrisome that the current rate of increase in atmospheric greenhouse gases is on a trajectory that will take us to a global average temperature increase of at least 3 degrees Celsius by 2100.

(Source: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/11/1026981> United Nations News, "World simply not on track to slow climate change this year: UN weather agency", November 29, 2018)

In its Special Report Global Warming of 1.5 degrees C published in October of 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change advised against even allowing global average temperature to rise by 2 degrees Celsius, pointing out that the global community should work to try to limit the rise to 1.5 degrees C. It's report said: "Limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius compared with 2 degrees Celsius could reduce the number of people exposed to climate-related risks and susceptible to poverty by up to several hundred million by 2050." It also warned that a rise to 2 degrees Celsius would greatly increase the proportion of the world's population exposed to climate-change induced water stress.

The following statements this month from World Meteorological Organization Secretary-General Petteri Taalas and from United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres provide further evidence that climate change has become a global emergency:

"July (2019) has re-written climate history, with dozens of new temperature records at the local, national and global level. The extraordinary heat was accompanied by dramatic ice melt in Greenland, in the Arctic and on European glaciers. Unprecedented wildfires raged in the Arctic for the second consecutive month, devastating once pristine forests which used to absorb carbon dioxide and instead turning them into fiery sources of greenhouse gases. This is not science fiction. It is the reality of climate change. It is happening now and it will worsen in the future without urgent climate action. WMO expects that 2019 will be in the five top warmest years on record, and that 2015-2019 will be the warmest of any equivalent five-year period on record. Time is running out to reign in dangerous temperature increases with multiple impacts on our planet." WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas

"This year alone, we have seen temperature records shattered from New Delhi to Anchorage, from Paris to Santiago, from Adelaide to the Arctic Circle. If we do not take action on climate change now, these extreme weather events are just the tip of the iceberg ... Preventing irreversible climate disruption is the race of our lives, and for our lives. It is a race that we can and must win." UN Secretary-General António Guterres

Source: <https://public.wmo.int/en/media/news/july-matched-and-maybe-broke-record-hottest-month-analysis-began> World Meteorological Organization, August 1, 2019

12. Once again, our congratulations to Mayor Clark and the City staff who worked on the Low Emissions Community Plan. It is a fine piece of work!

Thank you for considering our suggestions for further improvement and accelerated action.

Sincerely,

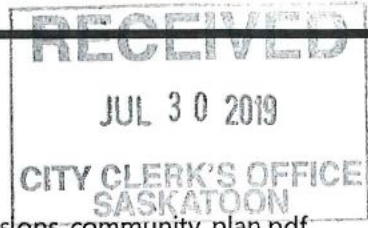
Peter Prebble, Board Member
Saskatchewan Environmental Society

Attachments:

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/329126>

Slaney, Marlee

From: Rahman Fatai <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2019 8:32 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council
Attachments: recommendation_for_key_stakeholders_on_low_emissions_community_plan.pdf



Submitted on Tuesday, July 30, 2019 - 08:32
Submitted by anonymous user: 70.64.46.187
Submitted values are:

Date: Tuesday, July 30, 2019
To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name: Rahman
Last Name: Fatai
Email: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Saskatoon
Province: Saskatchewan
Postal Code: S7V [REDACTED]
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): School of Environment and Sustainability, University of Saskatchewan
Subject: Recommendation for Key Stakeholders on Low Emissions Community Plan
Meeting (if known): Environment, Utilities, and Corporate Services meeting
Comments:
City Council

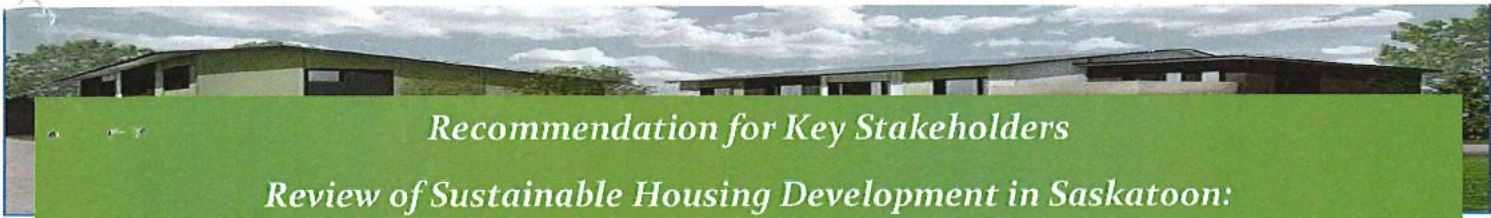
His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council,

Your Worship,

I am Rahman Fatai, a graduate student at the University of Saskatchewan's School of Environment and Sustainability.
I have recently concluded a research project investigating the challenges and opportunities associated with sustainable housing developments in Saskatoon, with a focus on co-housing designed to passive house standards. This is timely, given the release of the low emissions community plan you are looking at next month. My work highlights a number of ways in which the city can proactively contribute to a more rapid transition to sustainable housing. I am attaching a summary of the recommendations that arose from my research. I hope that you will find this information useful in your decision making process, and in helping to increase the sustainability of residential developments in the city.
Yours sincerely,
Rahman Fatai

Attachments:
recommendation_for_key_stakeholders_on_low_emissions_community_plan.pdf:
https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/webform/recommendation_for_key_stakeholders_on_low_emissions_community_plan.pdf

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/328382>



Recommendation for Key Stakeholders

Review of Sustainable Housing Development in Saskatoon:

A Call for Action

Summary

- Construction of Cohousing and Passive House will together help in achieving a low emission community
- Passive Houses are buildings which use very little energy for heating and cooling, while providing a high level of comfort
- There is a need for multi-stakeholder collaboration to grow Cohousing and Passive House projects in the City

Current Context

- Combined greenhouse gas emissions from buildings, including residential, industrial, commercial and institutional buildings amount to 58% of Saskatoon's total
- No dedicated strategy or policies to support affordable and sustainable cohousing and passive house developments in the province
- On-going efforts to build a low emission community under the Saskatoon's Mitigation Strategy do not include Cohousing and Passive House Development

Background

Cohousing and Passive House Development allows residents to be part of a well-knit community, live sustainably, and enjoy the experiences that come from living beside great neighbours.

Key Features of Cohousing and Passive House Development

- Passive House is an International green building standard
- Easy access socializing with neighbours
- Intergenerational community
- Low living costs
- Low or zero emissions from buildings
- Private + Shared space

Key Messages from Stakeholder Engagement

- Introduce a new Green Building incentive policy.
- A liaison with the City of Saskatoon for new builders and cohousing groups to help navigate the development and building permit stages
- Specialized support and mentoring to promote innovations in the building sector



Figure 1 Collaboration Platform for Implementation of Affordable and Sustainable Housing



A Call for Action

To promote adoption of sustainable housing in Saskatoon, City Council can:

1. Formulate a policy to support the construction of cohousing and passive house development as part of the City's Mitigation Strategy for a Low Emissions Community.
2. Establish a Sustainable Residential Development Unit (SRDU), under the Sustainability division of the City of Saskatoon that will work collaboratively with multi-stakeholders to oversee and support the construction of sustainable residences. The establishment of SRDU should have the following mandate:
 - a) Serve as a point of contact to provide clarity to groups and individuals on what to expect from the City through the entire process of construction of Cohousing and Passive House from beginning to end;
 - b) Work with the provincial government, the construction industry, professional associations, energy utilities, and other stakeholders to create a Saskatchewan building code that will gradually help in moving towards the construction of net-zero energy buildings;
 - c) Work with business development stakeholders and the Sustainability Division of the City to build a cohousing and passive house demonstration project to serve as a model for others interested in building sustainable homes
 - d) Assist groups and individuals willing to build cohousing and passive house to access loans from financial institutions and other incentives such as Architectural Assistance Grants; Design and Architectural Services; and Design Awards Programs;
 - e) Create awareness to the general public on Cohousing and Passive House development; and
 - f) Set up a strategic learning centre with the Saskatchewan Polytechnic and other relevant stakeholders for developing capacity in the construction and management of sustainable homes.

*Rahman Fatai, MSEM Candidate
Dr. Colin Whitfield, Project Advisor
Radiance Cohousing, Partner Organization*

*University of Saskatchewan
July, 2019*

August 5, 2019



Mayor & Council
City of Saskatoon

Dear Mayor and Council Members;

Re: Low Emissions Community Plan

Passive House Canada is pleased to support the Low Emissions Community Plan (LEC Plan). The progressive policies it contains will consolidate the progress Saskatoon has made and transform buildings, normalize new practices, disseminate innovation and improve affordability. It is an important step on the path to offering the residents of Saskatoon better buildings and an essential step towards achieving the city's sustainability goals.

Implemented in the context of Saskatoons Climate Leadership Plan and Build Smart – Canada's Buildings Strategy, the LEC Plan serves to advance Saskatoon's position in the design and construction of low energy buildings, offering residents better and more affordable options, and delivering the quality of life they deserve while fostering economic development.

With the growing national and international commitment to such buildings, the LEC Plan can make Saskatoon a centre for design, construction and manufacturing excellence in the global market for tomorrows buildings. Your city is fortunate to have local expertise in the design and construction of energy efficient buildings, something we and our members look forward to building upon by providing ongoing support throughout implementation of the LEC Plan.

For these reasons, we urge Council to support the LEC Plan. We all have much to gain from buildings that are better for people, better for business, and better for the planet.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Bernhardt".

Rob Bernhardt, CEO
250-893-2514
rob@passivehousecanada.com