

From: [REDACTED]
To: <council@saanich.ca>
Date: 1/24/2020 8:56 AM
Subject: Special Council Meeting Tues Jan 28 - 100% Renewable and Sustainable Saanich
Attachments: 0 Renewable and Resilient Sannich January 28 2020.pdf

Attached please find correspondence for the Mayor and Council regarding the Tuesday Jan 28 Item C1 " Climate Plan: 100% Renewable and Sustainable Saanich"

The Victoria Electric Vehicle Association



January 24, 2020

Mayor Fred Haynes & Members of Council
District of Saanich
770 Vernon Avenue
Victoria BC V8P 2L4
council@saanich.ca

Dear Mayor Haynes and Members of Council

Re: 100% Renewable and Resilient Saanich – Council Item January 28, 2020

We wish to offer our congratulations and support for the Saanich “100% Renewable and Resilient Saanich Plan”. The Saanich plan represents an all-inclusive approach to dealing with Climate Change in a community and, in our opinion, is an example for other communities to follow.

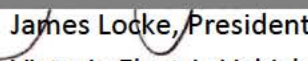
The strategy (M3) to accelerate electric and renewable mobility is particularly noteworthy. On September 30, as part of the immediate action initiative, Saanich Council passed an amendment to the zoning bylaw requiring that all new buildings have sufficient electric vehicle infrastructure to support the future installation of EV chargers.

This zoning amendment is the first-in-the world comprehensive application of a zoning bylaw to require EV charging infrastructure in all zoning categories (residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial). Although other communities have done some limited EV infrastructure requirements, the Saanich approach is now being cited to communities throughout Canada and North America as a Best Practice for implementing EV infrastructure in new construction.

We wish to acknowledge the exemplary efforts of current and former Saanich staff that were assigned to this Project and that we encountered at many public and specialist group meetings along the way. Staff actively sought input and expertly and professionally dealt with complex issues.

We would urge the District of Saanich to apply for sustainability-related awards such as the 2020 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Sustainable Communities Award (deadline March 31). These types of awards would not only acknowledge Saanich’s accomplishments but would further establish Saanich’s climate actions as “Best Practices” to be considered by municipalities across Canada and North America.

Yours very truly


James Locke, President
Victoria Electric Vehicle Association

Council - Climate Action Plan

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From: "Casey Edge" <vic.builders@vrba.ca>
To: <council@saanich.ca>, <mayor@saanich.ca>, <susan@saanich.ca>, <jud...>
Date: 1/28/2020 11:11 AM
Subject: Climate Action Plan
CC: <admin@vrba.ca>
Attachments: Letter to Saanich Council re Climate Action Plan.pdf

Dear Mayor & Council,

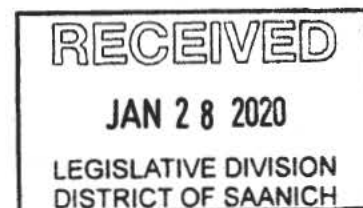
Attached are comments on Saanich's Climate Action Plan.

Regards,

Casey Edge
Executive Director
Victoria Residential Builders Association
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VICTORIA
RESIDENTIAL BUILDERS
ASSOCIATION





Community Builders...

Building Communities

January 24, 2020

Mayor Fred Haynes and Council
District of Saanich
770 Vernon Ave,
Victoria, BC V8X 2W7

Dear Mayor and Council,

Re: Climate Action Plan

The Victoria Residential Builders Association does not support fast-tracking energy efficiency as outlined in the Climate Action Plan, including leaping from BC Step Code 1 to Step 3 as of January 1, 2020. The new National Building Code's energy efficiency changes include a prescriptive option offering flexibility, and is a more responsible, cost-effective way to advance energy efficiency. Prescriptive construction is not permitted in the BC Step Code.

The prescriptive option saves homeowners more than \$2,000 on certified energy advisor modelling & testing alone and this cost is almost double when added to a mortgage. Conversely, BC Step Code requires testing each home in a subdivision developed by a single builder, using similar designs and trades. The BC Step Code is a classic case of costly over-regulation.

In the province's own words, *"The BC Energy Step Code does not specify how to construct a building, but identifies an energy-efficiency target that must be met and lets the designer/builder decide how to meet it."*

This can be a recipe for expensive problems. While a home may pass an initial energy target, building envelope failure may be expedited using some code-approved materials/applications suitable for a Step 1 home, but unsuitable for higher Steps.

This was determined by a task group during National Building Code diligence - bypassed by Saanich. It's like taking the family car to a Nascar track and racing at 250 kph. Some building materials and applications are not designed for extreme conditions such as Net Zero construction. Their early failure, similar to leaky condo, undermines the very sustainability sought by Saanich.

In addition, there is no mandatory education for the BC Step Code, which is why the National Building Code's prescriptive option is more practical and offers greater consumer protection when creating new standards for 400 licensed builders in Greater Victoria.

The Climate Action Plan says, *"To limit global warming to a 1.5°C increase from pre-industrial levels (a limit set by the IPCC and outlined in the Paris Agreement), global net-carbon emissions will need to decline by 45% of 2010 levels by 2030, reaching net zero around 2050 and net negative after 2050."*

However, your plan does not mention the global sources of these carbon emissions. Four countries contribute 53% of global GHG's, including China (27.2%), U.S.A. (14.6%), India (6.8%), Russia (4.7%), while Canada is 1.6%. Saanich residents need all the information to make informed decisions when their municipality decides to tackle a global challenge at the local level. The public especially deserves this transparency and accountability when council chooses to skip steps in the BC Step Code while circumventing the National Building Code process, adding costs and undermining consumer protection.

The Climate Action document says council plans to *"Develop timelines for achieving higher steps of the BC Energy Step Code so that the highest steps are required for new construction in Saanich by 2025 or sooner."* This fast-tracks construction practices long before the province's own goal of 2030 and ignores industry cost/benefit research.

A 2018 report by the Canadian Home Builders Association for the Office of Energy Efficiency, Natural Resources Canada says, *"Getting to Net Zero Energy Ready by 2030 at present would add tens of thousands of dollars to the price of a new home that is simply not recoverable through energy savings. The government must recognize and address the significant affordability impacts involved. In order to pursue energy-efficiency in housing without hampering the affordability of homes for Canadians, significant innovation is required, which requires federal investment in research and development and commercialization."*

Fast-tracking energy efficiency construction, outside of national code diligence, without mandatory education while adding tens of thousands of dollars to the cost of a new home through the BC Step Code is not justified, especially when Canada's entire GHG contribution is 1.6%. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau recently said in an interview, *"Even if Canada stopped everything tomorrow and the other countries didn't have any solutions, it wouldn't make a big difference."*

If council's justification for fast-tracking building standards is global "leadership" as claimed in the Climate Action Plan, then be upfront and transparent about the global sources of carbon and also reinstate leadership programs like Built Green.

Ironically, council chose to abandon incentives for the Built Green program that includes energy efficiency, recycling, water conservation, while adopting BC Step Code covering only energy efficiency. Instead of spending \$322,000 on more bureaucracy, we suggest reinstating the incentive program to actually conserve water and encourage recycling.

Your climate plan's principles say *"Be Collaborative"* with *"residents, businesses, institutions and senior levels of government, as it will take coordinated action at all levels to meet our climate targets."*

Except how is a proposed *"communications campaign"* *"discouraging natural gas systems"* collaborative?

Natural gas is an option used by some contractors building more affordable, energy efficient homes. Natural gas prices have decreased while electricity continues to rise. In addition, the provider invests millions of dollars in energy efficiency programs, including renewable energy.


Launching a public relations campaign with taxpayers' money against this product and service is neither "collaborative" nor an appropriate use of public money.

For example, it is one thing to promote electric cars, but quite another to campaign against hybrids and gas cars. This initiative should be scrapped along with the BC Step Code.

Again, VRBA recommends investing these "campaign" funds in Built Green incentives, in addition to adopting the new National Building Code energy efficiency standards, including the prescriptive option. We strongly advise against skipping steps, in the interests of affordability, sustainability and consumer protection.

If you require additional information, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Casey Edge
Executive Director

Council - Climate Plan 2020: Suggestions, feedback, a way ahead

From: "Jeffrey Brooks" [REDACTED]
To: <council@saanich.ca>
Date: 1/28/2020 11:17 AM
Subject: Climate Plan 2020: Suggestions, feedback, a way ahead

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Please provide this email to Council for tonight's meeting.

I read the 2020 Climate Plan: 100% Renewable and Resilient Saanich document.

I find it very professional, quite easy to follow, a beautiful document. It contains a lot of action items with very aggressive targets. We should be proud. We should also be confident these targets are realistic and achievable. Are they?

I read it and I felt I should offer my personal feedback in the spirit of cooperation. I also read all of the other documents listed on the Saanich.ca page I landed on, namely:

Report: Sharon Hvozdzanski, January 9 2020, Climate Plan: 100% Renewable and Resilient Saanich File: 2560-50

Report: Sharon Hvozdzanski, September 16, 2019, Response to Saanich's Climate Emergency Declaration – New 2030 Target. Saanich File: 2560-50

Report: Sharon Hvozdzanski, August 8, 2019, Response to Saanich's Climate Emergency Declaration – New 2030 Target. Saanich File: 2560-50

Media release: Saanich enacts accelerated actions in response to the climate emergency, October 9, 2019
2020 Climate Action Plan 100% Renewable & Resilient Saanich (Undated)

100% Renewable & Resilient Saanich-Climate Plan Background (Undated)

(2010) Climate Action Plan (Undated, webaddress is 2010)

Climate Plan Update: Resilient Saanich Risk Assessment Report (Undated. Estimated date is 2018 based on content)

District of Saanich 2018 Annual Report (to DEC 31 2018)

District of Saanich 2017 GPC BASIC+ Community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory Report Stantec July 27, 2018

ecoCity Footprint Tool Pilot ecological and carbon footprint analysis for achieving one planet living, Rev June 2018

First impressions on 2020 Climate Plan:

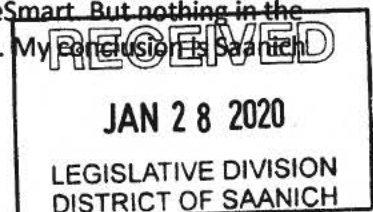
I see "resilience" is included but, I feel, there is little substance around resilience. I suspect it was added following the OCT 29 2019 Council meeting where "Natural Saanich" was replaced with "Resilient Saanich".

When I think of resilience, I'm thinking biodiversity, flora, fauna in general and maybe Australia with their devastating wildfires was not resilient.

Those who know me, know I have grave concerns about wildfire risk in the urban forest where I live but also Saanich in general. We are all so proud of our canopy. We also know that summers are drier and drier. Every summer is the driest on record. And we are told it will only get worse.

So I searched 2020 Climate Plan and did find references to fire, wildfire and even FireSmart. But nothing in the plan sets my mind at ease. Nothing of substance is planned. No targets for FireSmart. My conclusion is Saanich doesn't 'get it' when it comes to wildfire risks and wildfire risk mitigation.

Back to 2020 Climate Plan:



First of all: It's 2020, First Nations should be involved in the Saanich 2020 CP. I don't see where they are involved. They are not invited to become involved. Perhaps we need to go further than acknowledging their existence or that saying we will "Seek opportunities to work with neighbouring First Nations". Perhaps they should participate every step of the way.

Before writing comments about 2020 Climate Plan, I thought I familiarize myself with Climate Action Plan 2010. I saw First Nations were acknowledged as above but not involved. I found the word "fire" mentioned once but that was in reference to recycling water at a fire station. Wildfire is not mentioned. Honestly, they were not a concern in 2010. They just weren't. It's 2020, I think they should be a big concern. We know that.

What about promises made and promises kept from the 2010 Climate Action Plan? I would expect when producing 2020 Climate Plan, one would have revisited the 2010 Plan to study what worked, what didn't and where major challenges lie. Lessons learned that should impact future plans including 2020 Climate Plan.

Was this essential step done? If so, where is the reference document or report? In my humble opinion, Council and the public need to know how we are doing. We need this information before we can approve 2020 Climate Plan and the \$336 000 asked for new headcounts.

I don't think it was done. With all due respect, the 2010 Climate Action Plan has a picture of Council of the time. I can't help but think, councils come and go, but staff remains. Staff is the continuity here. Staff comes up with these plans and reports. Staff should be expected to deliver on what they promise. It would be completely different if the elected council came up with aggressive perhaps completely unachievable targets and then in effect, ordered staff to execute the plan and meet targets. But this is not the case here. I believe staff comes up with these plans and targets and staff should be accountable. I don't see where they are.

From the 2010 Climate Action Plan:

"Our 2020 GHG Reduction Targets:

- 33% in the community.
- 50% for municipal operations."

Media release: Saanich enacts accelerated actions in response to the climate emergency, October 9, 2019: "In August, Saanich Council adopted new targets for our community greenhouse gas emissions: to reduce emissions to 50% of 2007 levels by 2030 and to reach net zero emissions by 2050." Question: How can these targets be "new" when they were in the 2010 CAP? So in 2010 Saanich planned to reduce GHGs by 50% from 2007 levels by 2020.

These are the same targets in 2020 Climate Plan: the promise is to reduce by the same 50% by 2030.

So these targets and I'd say the 2020 Climate Plan make for good headlines but I can't help but wonder if it is a case of "over-promise; under-deliver". If it wasn't then I would expect we would see press releases every so often pointing to "Saanich meets and exceeds targets in aggressive Climate Action Plan 2010" But there aren't any.

I could go on and on. I will stick to my overarching concern about wildfires and how 2020 Climate Plan does not view wildfires as a concern at all. A Wildfire Protection Plan is mentioned in 2020 Climate Plan although I cannot find it on Saanich.ca. Does it exist? What does it look like? In any case, there is an action item to update it every 10 years. Bear in mind in the 2010 Climate Action Plan wildfire is not mentioned. In our time of climate emergency, a lot happens in 10 years.

"C1.4 Update Wildfire Protection Plan and Interface Fire Hazard Development Permit Area Update the Wildfire Protection Plan every ten years (or as warranted by significant changes to drought conditions or ecosystem profiles), and update the Interface Fire Hazard Development Permit area as needed." The timetable for the update is shown in "C1.4 Update Wildfire Protection Plan and Interface Fire Hazard Development Permit Area Fire 2022- 2024" and "C1.5 Develop Saanich-specific wildfire prevention materials Fire 2022- 2024"

In A Climate Emergency, a High Risk item is "Health & Safety: Extreme heat and poor air quality; lifestyle impacts."

I believe Saanich air quality is always extremely good unless there is smoke from forest fires. Yet Wildfires are not shown anywhere as a risk locally. So one must assume there is no risk of wildfires in Saanich but residents should plan on experiencing poor quality air with smoke from elsewhere: WA, Lower Mainland.

Under Medium Risk is "Health & Safety: Wildland-urban interface fire risk." There is mention of "New and unexpected impacts have emerged, such as wildfire-related smoke events, which were not identified in the 2011 Adaptation Plan and have implications for community health and safety."

On the same topic: In **Improving Resilience**, wildfires are mentioned: "IDENTIFIED HIGHEST RISKS Medium-high risk: Increased average temperatures and extreme weather impacting lifestyle. Hotter, drier summers and increased wildfires causing poor air quality and impacting health (e.g., asthma-related illnesses from smoke or humidity)" So this section talks about increased wildfires but no plan to mitigate risk.

In the section **Resilience Goals**: "Wildfire risks are minimized through urban planning, community services and emergency response measures." How are wildfires reduced? What about wildfire risk mitigation in forested and built areas? There is no plan.

This is not a priority in 2020 Climate Plan.

Takeaway: I respectfully request Council not endorse 2020 Climate Plan as recommended by staff at the meeting of JAN 28 2020. Staff should be requested to report back on progress made towards meeting targets promised in the 2010 Climate Action Plan and from there prepare reasonable targets for a revised version of the 2020 Climate Plan.

Finally, I must ask about the unbudgeted \$115 000 requested in the **Report** JAN 9, 2020: There is no information provided so interested citizens like me can figure out why \$115 000 is required for carbon. It seems this is in addition to a similar sum already budgeted. (unclear) Is this because fossil fuel reduction targets were not met and the additional budget is Saanich can report we are meeting targets? Total \$230 000?

And there is an "ask" for 4 new positions in Planning to proceed with the projects in 2020 Climate Plan. Two are new hires and two are from Sustainable Saanich. Is SS being eliminated or absorbed into Planning? Why does all new headcount go to Planning and not Engineering or Fire? Were any new employees hired to do the work promised in the 2010 Climate Action Plan?

In conclusion, given the lack of information to make an informed decision, I can only give 2020 Climate Plan a failing grade. When public input is asked for and welcomed for these complex files, it is so important that we are provided with the information we need to be informed and to form an opinion.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey Brooks
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 Victoria, BC [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]