

Page #	Topic	Contact Name	Email Address
4	Diversified Energy	Albert Sze	kjbsze@hotmail.com
5	Diversified Energy	Anita Shaw	michaelandanitashaw@gmail.com
6	Diversified Energy	Ann and Michael Donnelly	adonnelly7@comcast.net
8	Diversified Energy	Audrey Carlson	audrey_carlson@comcast.net
9	Diversified Energy	Bradd Hill	bradd1229@gmail.com
10	Diversified Energy	Caleb Cook	caleb@americasphoneguys.com
11	Diversified Energy	Chauncey Morton	crm1@comcast.net
12	Diversified Energy	Edward Hatch	hypno1922@yahoo.com
14	Diversified Energy	Elizabeth Eckels	lizsigns08@gmail.com
15	Diversified Energy	Gennadiy Tsybikov	fena.tsybikov@gmail.com
16	Diversified Energy	Hollis Brown	brownvan@nwnetcom.net
17	Diversified Energy	John Butler	jdbutler07@gmail.com
18	Diversified Energy	John Romanowski	jmr2q@yahoo.com
19	Diversified Energy	Joseph Titone	titone@usc.edu
20	Diversified Energy	Karen Watkins	klmstw@comcast.net
21	Diversified Energy	Kathleen Cantrell Price	kcp5255@gmail.com
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24	Diversified Energy	Lois Cook	lois@americasphoneguys.com
25	Diversified Energy	Mariah Kimble	mariahkimble@gmail.com
26	Diversified Energy	Michelle Breshears	mbreshears@thebumsinc.com
27	Diversified Energy	Mike Nettleingham	mnettleingham@comcast.net
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29	Diversified Energy	Pei-Wei	peiwei_wu@yahoo.com
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31	Diversified Energy	Vaughn Teuscher	teuscher@tworiversdentistry.com
32	Diversified Energy	Richard DuPlain	rduper@verizon.net
33	Diversified Energy	Wei Pan	dillon.w.pan@gmail.com
34	Diversified Energy	Kathy Romanowski	kathyleegarrett@yahoo.com
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37	Diversified Energy	Janis K. Alexander	jkalexander@ambroselaw.com
38	Diversified Energy	Barbara Weeks	barbhilly@aol.com
39	Diversified Energy	Pat Hortsch	phortsch@gmail.com

40	Diversified Energy	Marilyn Frederiksen	marilynif1@gmail.com
41	Diversified Energy	John Robinson	mr.john.s.robinson@gmail.com
42	Diversified Energy	Virginia Bittler	vbittler@gmail.com
43	Diversified Energy	Robert Connon	r.connon.262@gmail.com
44	Diversified Energy	Gerald Pearce	gpe3@sbcglobal.net
45	Diversified Energy	Henry Harbert	vireo@reagan.com
46	Diversified Energy	unknown	swim.vhair@themac.com
47	Preserving a path for ownership, zoning and code updates to allow for housing with higher walkability scores, power grid updates, cost of retrofitting electrification, evaluate the CAP through the lense of accessible housing	Noelle Lovern	noelle@biaofclarkcounty.org
50	Diversified Energy & Urban Forestry	Aaron Helmes - BIA Clark Co. Connie Bovee - CCAR Tamara Fuller - GVC Steve Kenny - ICC Cyndi Holloway - SWCA Noelle Lovern - BIA Clark Co. Jo Ann Johnston - CCAR John McDonagh - GVC Ron Arp - ICC Sherrie Jones - SWCA	sean@iccbusiness.org
54	Various Topics: Diversify Energy, Tree Canopy, Adding community partners, energy scorecards, set aside spaces for park and ride facilities	Peter Fels	plfels@gmail.com
57	Get more specific with the CAP goals and actions, CAP should include a process and timeline, Vancouver will not reduce GHG emissions in the city by participating in NWN's Smart Energy Program. That participation shouldn't be in the CAP.	Nancy Helget	felget@comcast.net
60	Urban Forestry	Jayne Haygood	Jayneehaygood@icloud.com

62	Urban Forestry	Jean Avery	jeanmavery@gmail.com
63	Water Conservation & Terraforming	Adam Aguilera	adam.aguilera@gmail.com
65	Diversified Energy & Urban Forestry	Don Steinke	crvancouverusa@gmail.com
71	No to Electric Cars dependent on EV batteries	Katherine Worsley	katheworsley@gmail.com
73	Don't support CAP	Frank Keeler	ftkeeler@yahoo.com
74	Zero Diesel Emissions System	Dave Malland	dvmlam@yahoo.com
75	City of Eugene transitions off of gas in homes and buildings	Press Release (Cathryn Chudy)	
78	Change of language in proposed plan	NW Natural - Nelson Holmberg, Community Affairs & Customer Acquisition Manager, Clark County	nelson.holmberg@nwnatural.com
81	Language changes & de-prioritizing Fracked gas	Alliance for Community Engagement - Heidi Cody, Cathryn Chudy, and Rebecca Ponzio	hcodystudio@gmail.com
83	No to endorsing NWN Smart Energy program	Cathryn Chudy	chudyca@gmail.com
85	Hydrogen is not suitable as a solution to decarbonize buildings	Cathryn Chudy	chudyca@gmail.com
90	Reccomended Diet change to reduce methane gas	Tracy Ceravolo	cyclwomn@yahoo.com
91	Support the removal of gas lines to residential houses	Tracy Ceravolo	cyclwomn@yahoo.com
92	Please take strong, swift action	Therese Livella	harvestofpeace@yahoo.com
93	Support	Heidi Cody	hcodystudio@gmail.com
94	Various topics: code innovation for carbon sequestration, composting, vegetated roofs, sunthetic fertilizers, de-paving, address deep energy retrofits	Thomas and Jenna Curtis	tc63@hotmail.com

From: [Albert Sze](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Comment for July 29, 2022 meeting
Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022 4:22:34 PM

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Gas distribution system is below grade and is a lot safer from any kind of attacks or interference from weather, fire, down trees etc. The further we should go is all electrical with gas fired backup generator. It is unsafe for old folks like me that may require equipment to operate 24/7 to keep alive.

Thank you for listening

Albert Sze

From: [MICHAEL AND ANITA SHAW](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Sunday, July 24, 2022 7:52:25 PM

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We need a diversified energy system. Natural gas should be an important part of that. Thank you. Anita Shaw

From: adonnelly7@comcast.net
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Climate Action Plan - Comments
Date: Wednesday, July 27, 2022 1:55:22 PM

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To our friends the members of the City Council:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on your Climate Action Plan. We especially want to address the proposed restrictions on the uses of fossil fuels, such as banning the addition of natural gas service to new homes and other new facilities in the city (potentially also including future annexations).

Daily events constantly remind us that limiting our energy delivery system (electricity + natural gas) during these times is unwise and could lead to near-term or future risks to reliability and cost.

Today's Columbian (July 27) tells us: "Heat wave washes over Northwest," and "fuel bills squeeze services." Brief power outages occurred in Vancouver on July 26 and now again on July 27. These are warnings. Don't take our reliable, affordable supplies of various forms of energy (heating, cooling, cooking, hot water) for granted.

The reliable systems we have now are the results of decades of planning by utilities, private energy companies, policy makers, and governments to create a robust, diversified resource portfolio. The consumer has paid for it. To consider eliminating any one major element – in this case, the proposed elimination of natural gas – is to put a system in which the consumer has invested billions over the years, at risk.

Another headline today: "Vancouver housing situation grows dire...too few affordable units." When the City of Vancouver places another regulation on the construction of new units for living or business, what will happen to costs? With a one-source system (electricity only) costs will go up and reliability down. We already hear from builders how expensive each unit is partly due to regulatory compliance.

I have talked to a number of restaurant owners who are appalled at the idea of eliminating natural gas service. Electricity and natural gas have significant differences. Each does certain things well, but neither can substitute perfectly for the other, nor can either take on the load for both without significant new investment that would then flow into consumer costs. I'm sure you would not take this step of eliminating natural gas service without consulting with the owners at Elements, Amaro's Table, DosAlas, or our many wonderful coffee houses!

Even more vulnerable are the many senior care facilities. A less reliable electricity system, and a lack of choice of technologies just adds more cost and risk to their already overwhelming challenges. The same could be said of schools, health care facilities, and law enforcement, as costs and stresses escalate. These customers truly rely on their utilities to put their daily welfare first.

A restriction on a tested energy technology – natural gas – is poorly timed. Billions and now trillions are being spent in the public and private sectors to find better solutions to add to our energy mix. These investments will take a decade or more to reach fruition or to be weeded out. As new environmentally beneficial technologies are developed over the coming decades, they need to be thoroughly tested for the purposes and scale to which they are proposed. Then, once they become affordable and reliable, but not before, they can be incorporated into the resource portfolio.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Ann and Michael Donnelly
4305 Oregon Drive
Vancouver WA 98661
Adonnelly7@comcast.net (360 921 1281)

From: [Audrey Carlson](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022 9:55:45 AM

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I would like to ask that our natural resource of natural gas, remain in place. While the intent may be good to try to make things better, cutting out natural gas is not a good idea. It is a very long term idea at best. Most of the world uses gas, and coal and trying to cut it out so quickly in our own living environment will create nothing but huge problems in the short and long term for us. These problems will come at a huge cost, and and added unneeded discomfort to our citizens. All of us are currently bearing a huge burden of cost with the inflation, and other costs that have been placed on us. It has been proven in various states in our country, that this new green deal and effort isn't cost effect, successful, productive, or needed. Yet you continue to push it. We have plenty of resources to maintain what our citizens need for a very long time, and at a very reasonable cost. Cutting out our natural gas needs to be tabled for a time in the very far future, and not be placed as a burden on the tax payers at the present time.

Thank you.

From: [Bradd Hill](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022 8:16:21 AM

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Vancouver needs multiple sources of power! Living with only electricity, until we have nuclear power as backup, will not give us the reliability that we need. We need natural gas to provide reliability and stability!!

Bradd Hill
4116 SE 178th Ct, Vancouver, WA 98683

From: [Caleb Cook](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Monday, July 25, 2022 12:41:35 PM

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Dear City of Vancouver.

If we want to convert to an all electric infrastructure, I'm OK with that IF we are using renewable resources. Wind, Solar, Hydro etc. I'm even pro Nuclear. However, since we are getting 1/3 of our power in Clark County from the Natural Gas Fired River Road Generating Plant (RRGP) where are we going to get this power from if we remove Natural Gas?

As we move to a more electric car fleet around the state, we will need more power, not less. What are we doing to prepare for this?

Currently during a power outage, we can still stay warm with our gas powered fireplace. If we remove Natural Gas what is our protection from Freezing during winter storms?

ps. I really prefer to cook with Gas vs Electric.

My \$0.02

--

Caleb Cook
Sr. Sales Engineer



Portland Office 503.577.2959
Vancouver Office 360.904.6782
FAX 360.254.1967
caleb@americasphoneguys.com

From: [chaunceymorton](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022 9:39:33 AM

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My home converted natural gas in 2002. my utilities have been reduced 45%. Eliminating Natural Gas is enormous mistake. Chinese windmills are not the answer. Please reconsider. Crm

From: [EDWARD](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Submission: City Council Contact Form
Date: Thursday, July 28, 2022 2:02:26 PM

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City Council Contact Form

Submitted date: Thursday, July 28, 2022 - 2:02pm

Contact Information

First name:
EDWARD

Last name:
HATCH

Email address:
hypno1922@yahoo.com

Street address:
9326 NE 28TH CIRCLE

ZIP code:
98662

Inquiry Information

Subject:
Comment on an upcoming Council agenda item

Recipient:
All of Council

Message:

To the entire Vancouver city council before you slash utility options, look at what happened in Texas due to the heat wave, in your drive to be politically correct. Do you not think that you should find replacement energy for the forms of energy you wish to end (AKA) trash. Do you have any idea the costs both in dollars and environmentally. Your decisions will have on the economy on peoples lives and the planet.

The United States is not the only country in the world emitting green house gas according to the union of concerned scientists 2014, latest figures I could find. The United States emitted only 14% of CO2 emissions. Rest of the world continues pouring out 86% of CO2.

First lets replace what you want to remove so the Uni9ted States will not have brown outs, black outs

etc., As your eager actions could lead the U.S. to become the richest third world country
Edward

Upload a file:

From: [Elizabeth Eckels](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#); [Lars Larson](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Monday, July 25, 2022 1:24:31 PM

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Hello City Council,

Please consider my opinion about natural gas during your discussion about outlawing it in new or current homes.

People heating their homes and cooking only contribute 15% of the CO2 emissions.

CO2 is controversial anyway. It is basically plant food. Please read books and information about it, especially by Dr. Patrick Moore, scientist. It is not the deadly material that some think.

Some leaders in Washington would like to go to all electric energy, but much electricity is still produced by burning fossil fuel. Natural gas is very clean burning and economical.

If you mandate all wind and solar power, we will have outages.

Please DO NOT dismantle a working system before you have a more reliable and CHEAPER system IN PLACE. I would rather not live with either expensive heat and hot water, or outages.

Heck, I will just move if this state gets crazier.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Eckels
Vancouver

--

E. Eckels Signs & Art
360-909-4008

From: [Gennadiy Tsybikov](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022 3:04:51 PM

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Hello,

As a consumer of natural gas and electricity, I find it very important to have at least two energy sources. If electricity goes out I can always rely on gas to stay warm and prepare food for my family. I can also control which source of energy I can use based on current prices, so I can save money by doing that.

Vancouver resident
Gennadiy Tsybikov

From: [Hollis](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Submission: City Council Contact Form
Date: Thursday, July 28, 2022 10:28:59 AM

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City Council Contact Form

Submitted date: Thursday, July 28, 2022 - 10:28am

Contact Information

First name:

Hollis

Last name:

Brown

Email address:

brownvan@nwnetcom.net

Street address:

1262 NW 46th Street

ZIP code:

98663

Inquiry Information

Subject:

Comment on an upcoming Council agenda item

Recipient:

All of Council

Message:

Regarding the Council Meeting August 8: Reducing carbon emissions is an important goal, but it needs to be done in the context of a diversified reliable energy system, which uses all forms of energy including natural gas. I am opposed to our local government banning natural gas hookups in new homes and businesses. Electrifying everything puts reliability and affordability at risk. Please support a balanced energy plan.

Upload a file:

From: [The Butlers](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Cc: [The Butlers](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022 4:58:35 PM

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I agree that climate change action is needed; however, it must be balanced to what the people need to exist. It does no good to outlaw oil, coal, nuclear, natural gas, and hydroelectric power when no proper replacement is available. Coal, nuclear, and oil are already gone or pretty much gone and many dams are in danger.

Not everyone can switch to an electric car if the resources to power (and buy) them are gone. I believe, natural gas is a fairly clean resource when used in highly efficient equipment. In addition, many homes already have it to heat homes and water.

A balance should be in effect that resources taken away are balanced by new resources to take their place.

Thanks for this opportunity to opine on the subject.

Respectfully,

John Butler
16105 NE 13th Circle
Vancouver WA 98684

From: [John Romanowski](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Monday, July 25, 2022 5:24:12 AM

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I want to let you know of my opposition to any ban of the use of natural gas utilities in our city. I believe it is unwise to remove options for the citizens to have choices in how we conduct our affairs. I am highly interested in our local governments actions on this issue. Thank you for your attention to my concerns.

John Romanowski
15605 NE 20th. St.
Vancouver

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Joseph Titone](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: energy
Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022 7:35:14 AM

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I favor diversified energy. It's not wise to put all our eggs in one basket. I live here in Vancouver. Thank you.

From: [klmstw](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022 7:52:17 PM

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Dear Council

I'll keep this brief. I'm writing to emphasize the importance of diversified energy. Please keep natural gas as an energy option. Although Clark Public Utilities does an amazing job keeping the electricity flowing, we need both sources.

Thank you
Karen Watkins

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

From: kcp5255@gmail.com
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Vancouver's Climate Action Plan & City Council Mtg 8/8/22
Date: Sunday, July 24, 2022 10:08:07 AM
Importance: High

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Public Comment Regarding Vancouver City Council meeting on August 8, 2022
Attn. City Councilors

I have written previously, more than once, to express my viewpoint and strong opposition to any ban of natural gas for new construction in the Council's Climate Action Plan. My husband and I over our 35 year marriage have built three new homes in Vancouver and have depended on natural gas for cooking, heating our home and heating our hot water. Having sold our latest home a year ago and now in retirement, we plan to build or buy a new downsized home in the next year or so and it is imperative that natural gas service be available to new construction. I have no doubt that thousands of other Clark County residents feel the same.

Don't put all our eggs in one basket - electrifying everything and banning natural gas is not the answer. Natural gas is clean, safe, efficient and affordable, and I believe the majority of people in our community would agree that a diversified energy system is stronger and more reliable.

Please vote NO on any proposal to ban natural gas.

Kathleen Cantrell Price
620 SE 168th Ave, Apt. 24
Vancouver, WA 98684
KCP5255@gmail.com
503-857-6495

From: [ken59644](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022 8:09:40 PM

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Putting homeowners into a situation where natural gas is not a choice is asinine. We need diversified energy choices. Please consider using incentives for homeowners to install solar or wind power at their homes but leave the choices alone.

Best regards,

Ken Townsend

From: [Larry Stewart](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: My Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022 3:05:42 PM

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As a retired BPA employee I am well aware of how fortunate we are to live in this region with hydro power. but we all know it is not infinite, and more likely to decrease than increase.

In 2015 I purchased 100 shares of the Clark PUD solar project, but know it can only augment the requirements of our region. Don't impose restrictions on residential gas usage until after there is proof that the risk of no heat or cooling is one day in a decade or 100 years. Use the science that insurance companies use to assess the risks you are suggesting we will have, and then tell us what it is and what the basis is for determining the risk.

Solar and wind are nice to have when there is sufficient sun and wind to augment the demand. Eliminating the option of gas heat and cooling on demand 24x7 is an unnecessary risk to our community, Will the legacy of the council be that you imposed restrictions and because of that the public was put at risk of harm when there is not adequate wind or solar, and the BPA power system cannot meet the region's requirements for electricity?

From: [Lois Cook](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022 3:04:20 PM
Attachments: [APG LOGO Horiz for web full-color PNG Transparent-Background TINY.png](#)

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Hello Vancouver City Council Members,

I am writing today to express my deep concern for the city of Vancouver moving forward with a plan to completely eliminate the use of natural gas and electrify everything. I am in favor of doing all we can to combat climate change. My husband & I are owners of a small business here in Vancouver in the tech related field of telecommunications. I have lived here in Vancouver since 1992.

I believe we are heading down a dangerous path if we eliminate the use of natural gas and rely solely on electricity. Our state doesn't get enough sunlight and is also working towards removal of dams. We are setting ourselves up for failure in the long-term. Additionally, having had my business affected by a cyber attack on the country's telecom backbone systems last year in the 3rd quarter it worries me greatly that we would rely on a single energy source. A diversified source would provide much better security, adaptability and affordability for all.

Moving towards an all electric system is in my mind a huge mistake and will lead only to larger and more severe issues. Please do not move forward with this plan and look for better options.

Sincerely,

Lois C. Cook



www.AmericasPhoneGuys.com

360.904.6782 in WA

From: [Mariah Kimble](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022 6:50:27 AM

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Please do not ban natural gas. It is wanted and needed. There are so many reasons which I will not go into as I am sure you have heard it before.

Mariah Kimble

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Michelle Breshears](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: "Electrify Everything" - Comments
Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022 12:26:36 PM

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As a business owner that has three locations in the Vancouver area, having gas as an option is very important. Suggestions to “electrify everything” put reliability at risk without advancing emissions reductions goals any differently than innovatively using the gas system already in place. We do not want to see Vancouver electrify everything.

Michelle Breshears
Controller
The Cinnamon Bums Inc
Office 503-639-2747 ext 1#
Mobile 503-951-3821
Fax: 503-639-2744
mbreshears@thebumsinc.com

From: [Mike Nettleingham](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Sunday, July 24, 2022 8:09:30 AM

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Hello,

Please take 5 minutes and watch a replay of Sunday July 24 “GPS” by Fareed Zakaria on CNN. Natural Gas is not the low hanging fruit that will slow down climate change to an appreciable amount. At this point in time I would liken it to throwing very expensive ice cubes at the sun. Be careful of being penny wise and pound foolish and maintain Vancouver’s history of being Fiscally Conservative.

Suggestions to “electrify everything” put reliability at risk without advancing emissions reductions goals any differently than innovatively using the gas system already in place.

Best Regards and Thank You for listening,
Mike Nettleingham

From: [Pam Swegles](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022 2:56:38 PM

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I think that to try to convert all of the city to electricity is very shortsighted. First of all there should be a diversity of energy available for residents and the city as a whole. Areas that have converted to all electrical have had problems. Second a lot of the current residents could not afford to convert their home to all electrical. It is expensive and not all residents have the funds available to make a conversion. Hasn't the city ever heard the term "if it ain't broke don't fix it"? Gas works and is cost effective. The country is not ready to move away from all fossil fuels and then to suffer brown outs because the electrical system to not ready to handle the demand. The city could not even handle the electrical demand if people really started buying electrical cars. How are they going to handle everything going electrical? Do all you political folks really want to turn off your air-conditioning in the summer? I doubt it.

I think overall we may need to move from fossil fuels, but the technology is not yet ready for it. Do the city a favor and wait until it is ready for it. Additionally some households will need help with conversion and they should be considered and maybe assisted.

Thank you

Pam Swegles

From: [Pei-Wei](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022 8:42:34 AM

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Dear City Council,
As you already knew, to “electrify everything” puts reliability at risk. And it would not advance emissions reductions goals any differently than innovatively using the gas system already in place.
Thanks.
Pei-wei

From: [Steven TJ](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Sunday, July 24, 2022 8:59:45 PM

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Good evening :)

As a City of Vancouver resident, I'd like to chime in with my opinion regarding the proposed Vancouver's Climate Action Plan.

I strongly believe that the best plan is a diversified energy plan, one that includes both the use of electricity, and the use of natural gas.

That's my take; thanks for listening . . .

Steve

Steve Jossi
2623 E 6th St, Vancouver, WA 98661
503.314.0314

From: [Vaughn Teuscher](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022 10:53:41 AM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from teuscher@tworiversdentistry.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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City Council,

I am very concerned with the city of Vancouver climate action plan. I feel it is better to have a diversified energy plan using both electricity and natural gas rather than rely on electricity alone which will drive up costs and won't provide the needs of our community. We've already invested how many millions of dollars in the natural gas back up for electricity through Clark PUD, my brother in law just retired as Chief of Finance of Clark PUD and I remember him discussing all the concerns they had over the years with providing for our community at reasonable rates. Please listen to the voice of the people which I'm sure the majority will agree and not try to go off on an agenda which will reduce supply and as demand goes up simply won't work. The infrastructure we have for clean energy natural gas is working as our energy costs are far better than California and the rest of many parts of the nation and especially with future electrification of vehicles and other things we will need a diversified plan and backups as we certainly don't want the problems CA and Texas have had as of late with rolling blackout and shut downs of their electrical grid. These are my feeling for the City Council as they meet to discuss. Thank You, Dr. Vaughn Teuscher

From: [Rich DuPlain](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Monday, July 25, 2022 4:10:47 PM

You don't often get email from rduper@verizon.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear City of Vancouver Council Members,

I am a concerned citizen writing to you to voice my concern about trying to "electrify everything in" the city of Vancouver. Of course there is a need to reduce emissions to help protect our climate, and specifically in our area. But natural gas is a proven safe and reliable form of energy. It would seem counter productive to put our energy reliability at risk without significantly advancing emission reductions. The innovations and infrastructure with natural gas are already in place and can be developed to be even cleaner and safer. There is no need to "electrify everything" as has been proposed. This just does not seem prudent.

Thank you for your consideration.

Richard DuPlain
Vancouver Resident

From: [Dillon Pan](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Monday, July 25, 2022 4:06:14 PM

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Dear Vancouver City Council Members,

As a longtime Vancouver resident, I am writing to let you know that the “Electrify Everything” is not a viable plan both scientifically and economically. As we all know that the annual solar irradiation in the pacific northwest region is quite low as compared to the “Sun Belt” down the south. Therefore, it is not economical to replace natural gas, an important energy source, with PV electricity. Electrify Everything will raise the electricity price inevitably.

We have been suffering the high inflation lately. Don't add one more cost burden to the resident of the city. Please pay more attention to the problems that really affect our community such as low income, homelessness, rising crimes, etc.

Best

Wei Pan

From: [Dollar, Sarah](#)
To: [Dollar, Sarah](#)
Subject: FW: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Monday, July 25, 2022 10:58:05 AM

Sarah Dollar | Assistant to the City Council
CITY OF VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON
City Manager's Office
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers
www.cityofvancouver.us

From: Kathy Romanowski <kathyleegarrett@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2022 10:47 AM
To: City Council <council@cityofvancouver.us>
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop

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This is in regards to the use of natural gas in our city. I feel it is not wise to take away options for the citizens of Vancouver. We should be able to choose between generated electricity and natural gas. We have enough burdens, please don't add to them by taking away our right to choose. Natural gas, like generated electricity, is clean.

Thank you for your time regarding my concerns.

Kathy Romanowski
15605 NE 20th St.
Vancouver, WA 98684

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Ron Mann](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#)
Cc: Nelson.Holmberg@nwnatural.com
Subject: Natural gas ban on new construction.
Date: Tuesday, July 26, 2022 5:40:24 PM

You don't often get email from rmann4jc@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the natural gas ban on homes and commercial properties. I have much to say but must be brief. I am a commercial electrician with college level engineering studies and the son of a BPA electrician. Here are my concerns that I hope you will study in depth and consider:

1. Scientists disagree and can't show scientific proof of what part and how much carbon emissions play in climate change. Study both sides.
2. Researchers are finding many ways to mix hydrogen with natural gas to reduce CO2 emissions. Read about formic acid storage.
3. Capturing gas emissions from farm and human waste as well as natural emissions currently being released into the air can reduce the need to extract natural gas from the earth creating net zero emissions.
4. Single source energy is a recipe for disaster. Natural gas is an essential emergency energy source that has thermal characteristics that electricity can't safely duplicate. My home emergency generator is natural gas/propane powered.
5. There is an urgent need for affordable housing and heat pumps with electric backup for cold weather, which is much of the winter here, is going to make housing more expensive. I've had a heat pump, so I know. A heat pump with gas emergency backup is a better combination.
6. Nothing cooks like gas.
7. Once banned and infrastructure eliminated there are no alternatives if needed.
8. We need to give more time for good solutions, not emotional decisions that create self inflicted hardship.
9. The electrical grid is a much bigger issue than people realize. We are already on borrowed time thanks to LED technology which drastically reduced power consumption. Laws are being made with no concept of how power is produced, transmitted and distributed while at the same time eliminating coal, natural gas and some hydro production. Safe nuclear power isn't even being considered. While windmill and solar panels can contribute to the power grid there is no discussion of the environmental impact they will have and in some cases, the unpredictability they introduce to the system. Ask a Corp of Engineers associate about predictability.
10. Remember the signs a few years ago saying "NO BPA" in response to new power lines?

Let's take a breath and use reason and innovation to solve this problem. There is a place for renewable natural gas, especially when it involves capturing carbon emissions that would otherwise go directly into the air. Hurried decisions can lead to unintended consequences, especially when based on science that scientists can't agree on.

Science: "Multiple researchers should find the exact same results if they precisely duplicated the experimental conditions. Inaccurate results can be decisively and quickly removed from the canon of scientific truth.

From: [Janis K. Alexander](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Cc: sportaccel@gmail.com
Subject: Climate Action Plan Meeting
Date: Wednesday, July 27, 2022 11:39:00 AM
Importance: High

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jkalexander@ambroselaw.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I live in Vancouver (Hazel Dell to be specific) and my family and I are vehemently opposed to electrifying everything and/or banning natural gas. I believe the majority of the people in our community agree with us, and know that a diversified energy system is fundamentally stronger, more affordable, and more reliable.

Let me give you one quick example:

When Vancouver had its last power outage, it was very cold outside, so no one could heat their homes. Luckily we have a fireplace and plenty of firewood so we stayed good and warm. The real problem for us was the loss of power to our refrigerator and freezer. Of course, we had just stocked both full from the grocery store the day before and thought we would be losing all of it (and at the price of groceries, that was substantial).

However, I realized that our natural gas stove/oven worked just fine, along with our BBQ (which has a natural gas line directly to it). I got busy and started cooking, baking and BBQing just in case the power was out for some time so we didn't lose all of our groceries. Thankfully, the power outage lasted only a full day for us so we didn't lose our groceries. The only good thing was that I got my dinner made for the next couple of evenings!

So, please, don't change the system we currently have, where we all have CHOICES.

**Janis K. Alexander, COO
Ambrose Law Group LLC
312 NW 10th Avenue, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97209-3121
Direct Dial (503.467.7237)**

From: [Barbara Weeks](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022 7:20:48 AM

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I believe a diversified energy system is stronger, affordable & more reliable.

Barbara Weeks

From: [PAT H](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022 7:35:55 AM

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Banning natural gas is a bad idea. Vancouver needs to utilize all its energy options to insure future growth.

Pat Hortsch

--

Pat Hortsch
971-506-5278

From: [Marilyn Frederiksen](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022 7:38:06 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from marilynjf1@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Re. The Vancouver city council consideration of banning natural gas use.

Please do NOT ban natural gas. There are so many reasons to not ban natural gas and you do not want to take time to read all of them. The most important is that the technology and infrastructure to convert to all electric systems not yet available, nor will it be available in the next couple decades. When the day comes when scientists have developed sufficient electricity storage capability people will want to convert.

No one will die because you do not mandate banning natural gas at this time. However, you will lose a great deal of political influence by mandating this without explaining how you will finance our community to convert every home and business. You will be responsible.

From: [John Robinson](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022 8:32:27 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mr.john.s.robinson@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I mean really! Attacking one of our cleanest source of energy.
What is the replacement? More electric from an antiquated electrical grid?
Where does electricity come from? The air?
You want to save the environment? Clean up the toxic waste sites the homeless encampment create.
I know it's easier to attack law abiding responsible citizens.
Leave natural gas alone!!
John Robinson
17309 SE 18th St, Vancouver, WA 98683
360.771.0013

From: [Virginia Bittler](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022 9:44:26 AM

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We need our natural gas - DO NOT go all electric! Stupid idea, natural gas is in place, leave it alone. Our water supply could change in a season.....etc.

Virginia Bittler

From: [B Connon](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Sunday, July 24, 2022 7:04:12 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from r.connon.262@gmail.com.
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As we transition to a higher proportion of electricity in our energy supply, we must be very careful to use that additional supply to replace the most inefficient users of carbon fuels. Probably the least efficient use is in internal combustion engines for transportation, especially when heavy traffic causes significant idling. An engine at best is getting about 30% of the energy available in the fuel. At idle an engine provides zero useful energy but still is consuming about a 1/3 of the fuel as moving down the highway.

Burning that natural gas to produce energy to power an electric car is far more efficient because of the sophistication built into the natural gas fired generating plants.

But the most efficient use of natural gas is for direct combustion in the home for all purposes. It is indefensible to convert homes from natural gas to electricity, some of which will be produced by natural gas fired generators. And likely, all of which in a very short period of time, will take priority over transportation use of electricity.

Who are the proponents of this idea and why are they given such credibility?

Robert Connon
Vancouver 98661

From: [GERALD PEARCE](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Friday, July 29, 2022 10:23:10 AM

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I oppose the concept of prohibiting future installation of natural gas furnaces and appliances. In fact, keep the government out of the marketplace. If the population sees natural gas as a potential threat to the environment or as undesirable to them for any reason, let the individual consumer make that decision. We are capable of seeking alternative energy systems on our own.

When elected officials knuckle under to the “demands” of a minority number of activists, those officials become responsible for the consequences. It isn’t difficult to see what will happen to the populace during failures of the electricity supply if the people have no alternative source of energy or if they are prohibited from using alternative energy by regulatory statute.

Gerald F. Pearce, III
1204 NE 148th Place
Vancouver, WA

From: vireo@reagan.com
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Cc: [Nelson Holmberg](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Friday, July 29, 2022 5:31:16 PM

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Dear Vancouver Councilpeople,

I want you to amend the Climate Action Plan to include ten times more natural gas use than has been used in the past. From the standpoint of expected Vancouver population growth alone, the reduction of natural gas use would aggravate the lack of expandability (compliance) of hydroelectrical sources of power. The fragile, unreliable, and tiny generation by solar and wind can hardly be considered reliable for future. Natural gas burns clean and has enormous on demand potential in terms of manufacturing quantities, storage, and on-demand power surge capability. It can be produced cleaner and at even lower cost, along with nuclear sources, into the future. Fossil fuels have greater reliable delivery potential than any other energy source to provide for population growth.

The climate science syntheses, used to base the climate change theories of your Climate Action Plan, is flawed because it does not consider the moral risks of policy choices. Death rates over 100 years from climate disasters have fallen 98% over that time span and are never mentioned. Many variables must be considered when making policy decisions. When critical variables like that which actually impact human well being are never mentioned, as in your plan, then the experts are suspect of basing decisions on faulty methods of evaluation.(1)

Yours truly,
Henry Harbert,
206 NE 126th Ave.
Vancouver, WA 98684

1. Alex Epstein, Fossil Future: Why Global Human Flourishing Requires More Oil, Coal, and Natural Gas--Not Less. 2022

From: Swim.Chair
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Friday, July 29, 2022 2:33:15 PM




Some people who received this message don't often get email from swim.chair@themac.com. Learn why this is important <<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>>

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It is disappointing that even the idea of relying solely on one source of energy has any "life" at all. It would be fully irresponsible for any decision-making body, representing a community, to do so. A "Climate Action Plan" should be void of any such option and rather rely on a balance of at least 4 - 5 sources of long-term, proven reliable, inexpensive, and flexible sources. Natural gas being a perfect example of such a source. Notably, as well, the balance of these 4 - 5 sources should be heavily weighted towards those sources that have proven themselves as defined in this note. No current energy source should be "deleted" or substituted for by another unless and until that source meets all the same standard threshold requirements (long-term availability, reliability, inexpensive, and flexible) and can deliver the same value to all of its users. Actually considering the possibility of eliminating natural gas, or any other reliable resource at this point, legitimately begs the question of intent. I see nothing positive as a possibility (it will NOT in any significant way positively affect "climate change") and believe it is yet another action targeted at fulfilling an ideology that (theoretically) serves those at the council's table but is to the detriment of those they're supposed to be serving.



BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
OF CLARK COUNTY

103 E 29th St. 
Vancouver, WA 98663
Tel: 360-694-0933 
www.biaofclarkcounty.org 

July 28, 2022

Vancouver City Council
415 W 6th St.
Vancouver, WA 98660

Comments & Inquiries Re: Proposed Climate Action Plan

Dear Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle and City Council Members,

On behalf of the Building Industry Association of Clark County, and our more than 750 association members, we would like to thank the City of Vancouver and City Council for the opportunity to weigh in on the proposed Climate Action Plan (CAP).

The BIA supports the overarching goal of reducing the City's carbon footprint. While we believe the City Council and City staff have invested substantial resources to developing Vancouver's CAP, we are concerned that there are some critical components missing from the approach.

As a voice for the building and construction industry, our biggest challenges directly affect the livability of Vancouver. First, we are compelled to address the ever-growing need for accessible housing options in a market impacted by unprecedented population growth and an unrealistic land supply outlook.

Second, our industry employs thousands of workers whose families live, work, and play in Vancouver. The employees of the businesses within our association rely on the building, remodeling, engineering, and construction industry for stable and well-paying jobs.

These employers are operating in a highly regulated and rapidly evolving business environment. The cost of operating is increasing, and profit margins are disintegrating often due to the unintended consequences of poorly planned regulations and flawed policy choices. Currently, regulations add an average of \$134,354 to the price of a new home pushing the dream of homeownership further out of reach. The current median home price in Clark County is \$562,869 and is unaffordable to 84 percent of our residents.

The BIA shares the City Council's concern and passion for our environment and reducing our community's carbon footprint. The building and construction industry relies on a healthy and sustainable environment for critical supplies and resources.

We protect the environment by complying with government regulations and deploying industry best practices. Most importantly, we are in the business of providing shelter and critical infrastructure to support the residents in the region. We recognize that our residents need a clean and functioning environment to flourish. However, they also need accessible housing, safe infrastructure, and stable employment.

Good policy choices are well-researched, supported by data, communicated clearly to the community to gain groundswell and support, accompanied by detailed rollout plan, implemented with incremental goals, and built on expert financial analysis for prioritizing the most effective approaches. These elements are currently absent from the proposed CAP.

The BIA would like clarification on these points:

1. While middle housing options provide shelter for many middle-income wage earners, these housing options rarely provide a path to homeownership. Homeownership is one of the greatest avenues to build generational wealth and is often identified as the differentiating factor to break the poverty line. What provisions will the City Council include in the CAP to keep homeownership in reach for middle-income households?
2. The BIA agrees that zoning updates could be an important approach for battling the current housing crisis and allow for more housing with higher walkability scores. How will the City Council and staff collaborate with the building industry to ensure zoning and code updates are impactful and actionable?
3. In the pursuit of electrification, there are issues that may lead to more inequity. We have an aging and inadequate power grid. Transitioning to electrification prior to grid upgrades is putting the cart before the horse. When will an assessment of the grid be done? If upgrades are needed, what is the timeline and budget for the upgrades?

Retrofitting electrification for aging residential and commercial properties is exceedingly more expensive than integrating for new builds. Aging properties are disproportionately owned and occupied by middle- and lower-income individuals. How will the City of Vancouver address this disparity and inequity?

The BIA urges the City Council to:

- Allow more time for the community to evaluate and comment on the proposed CAP.
- Create a tiered rollout plan with defined timelines and milestones as part of the proposed CAP.
- Provide a detailed financial analysis for prioritizing initiatives that have the greatest off-set impact.
- Evaluate each initiative in the proposed CAP through the lens of accessible housing.

The BIA is always available for consultation and as a resource for better policy making and implementation. Thank you for your time in advance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Helmes', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Aaron Helmes
BIA President



July 28, 2022

Mr. Aaron Lande
City of Vancouver
PO Box 1995
Vancouver, WA 98668-1995

Dear Mr. Lande:

We the undersigned wish to provide initial perspective to the City of Vancouver's intentions to adopt an aggressive climate action policy and plan over the next few months.

As business and community leaders and residents, we support practical policies and plans that move us toward a cleaner, greener society. We appreciate the City of Vancouver's diligence to protect our climate, including outlining more than 90 strategies in pursuit of its newly established goals. We also appreciate that the City of Vancouver seeks to lead by example by setting goals for municipal operations first followed by the broader community. Your efforts are an excellent complement to those by others who are actively adapting to a more climate-wise future in response to natural market forces, as evidenced by significant greenhouse gas reductions over the past 15 years without structured plans.

Although we are supportive of the City's goal and direction, we are not yet ready to support a potentially far-reaching action plan, primarily because the current iteration resembles an early strategic framework rather than an action plan.

Operationalization requires digging deeply into prioritized action plans, budgets, timelines, implications, mitigation and interdependencies. As an example, the plan calls for solar incentives, but doesn't describe the amount of the incentive, how it works, who pays, how it will be implemented, estimated costs, probable results and estimated contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gases. That one project alone could require tens of millions in investment by the City, partners, taxpayers or property owners and managers. Operationalization is best achieved by mobilizing stakeholders in shared pursuit of effective solutions. A rollup of such action plans will facilitate prioritization and investment of available resources.

It is understandable why we are not yet to the point of action plans. City staff shared that climate-specific planning didn't begin until two years ago, and today staffing equates to less than a single full-time staff member with most high-level modeling work handled by an outside consulting firm. Nevertheless, with an audacious goal before us, the plan equates to running a marathon at world record speed when we've barely laced up our new training sneakers.

Moving from goals and strategies to action plans is no easy task. We recommend embracing this next phase as partners. There, we will gain a greater shared appreciation of the opportunities and challenges associated with the initial goals of 80 percent reductions in just three and eight years, respectively. At first blush, the goals are aggressive and arguably impractical. Capital replacement cycles for rolling stock alone are typically longer than eight years, even if climate-neutral technologies were widely available and practical today, and they are not. Additionally, it is wasteful and harmful to the environment to encourage early adoption of new technologies when existing energy- and fuel-efficient equipment has

not fully realized its useful life. Building upgrades and retrofits are capitalized and embedded in long-term agreements, some measured in decades. There are significant supply chain, installation, infrastructure and support realities to be considered. However, we may find other approaches or action steps where we can make fast progress, such as improving tree canopy across the urban area, creating permitting expressways for climate-improving development projects, and creating meaningful incentives to influence billions of consumer and business investments in our region.

In our pursuit of cleaner, greener solutions, we must exercise prudence to protect energy resiliency and reliability by supporting a variety of energy sources and technologies. Leading-edge adoption is fraught with inefficient experiences, such as relying solely upon electric-powered transportation during extreme weather or the dearth of charging infrastructure for a range of vehicles. Other impacts that merit study include the lack of storage capacity and unintended supply chain issues that could create more global environmental problems than the proposed local solutions. We need multiple energy solutions to foster community resilience and security. Creating reliable alternative energy capacity for the electrical grid through wind, solar, and perhaps nuclear sources, and other renewable or hydrogen options, is a decades-long proposition.

We also recognize the critical importance of creating job opportunities closer to where people wish to live in order to reduce vehicle miles traveled. Ideally, our leadership in climate improvement can attract thousands more who want to land here for work, to start businesses, raise and educate their families and live a healthy life here. We encourage including strategies that help stimulate jobs, economic activity and workforce development close to home while improving our climate.

Although everyone feels a sense of urgency about making climate progress quickly, we wish to acknowledge that our city and region enjoys better air quality than other aggressive goal-setters like San Jose and Denver, where air quality ranks among the worst in the country. We also have a far greener energy supply than most communities because of our green hydroelectric power system. This doesn't suggest a lack of need but instead a greater effort to build a compelling value proposition to citizens and businesses who ultimately are expected to foot the bill.

We stand ready to work as partners transforming the climate action policy and strategies into an action plan. Ideally, through this process, we can set a new tone for public and private sector collaboration in finding successful pathways that generate a healthy economy and community. Indeed, it will take everyone working together to achieve climate goals.

Sincerely,




Aaron Helmes

President, BIA Clark Co.



Connie Bovee

President, CCAR




Tamara Fuller

Chair, GVC



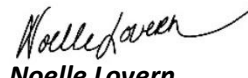
Steve Kenny

Chair, ICC



Cyndi Holloway

President, SWCA




Noelle Lovern

GA Dir., BIA Clark Co.



Jo Ann Johnston

CEO, CCAR



John McDonagh

President/CEO, GVC



Ron Arp

President, ICC



Sherrie Jones

Exec. Dir., SWCA

Cc: Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle, Vancouver City Council, Vancouver City Manager Eric Holmes

Enclosed: Business community questions re: Proposed City of Vancouver Climate Action Plan

Business Community Questions Re: Proposed City of Vancouver Climate Action Plan

The City of Vancouver's proposed climate goals and 90+ step action plan resembles an early strategic direction with items not yet specifically modeled for cost, benefit and implications. As the plan materializes, it is imperative that a more complete understanding of the action steps, individually and in aggregate, are more thoroughly evaluated and actively discussed with the community that bears both the benefits and the obligations embedded in the plan.

Here are some questions worth reflecting upon as the policies and strategies move into an action plan:

What, specifically, is included in the GHG measurement calculations?

- What is the source of the GHG data?
- Are the component assumptions available for review?
- Are there any exclusions, such as marine, rail or industry?
- How are thru-trips handled, such as trucks, commuters, air, etc.?
- How is the urban growth boundary treated in the data?
- What are the annexation assumptions and how does that change the targets?
- Are there any measures other than GHG calculations, such as air quality monitoring?
- Do the calculations factor in population growth through 2040?

A thorough analysis of how we've made progress since 2007.

- What were the driving forces toward significant reductions since 2007?
- What worked and what didn't?
- What is repeatable or capable of ramping quickly?

An analysis of the impact from the gray portion of the chart.

- What are the policies and assumptions that achieve two-thirds of the improvement?
- Are we clear on the downstream effects of these policies?
- How will such policies affect overburdened communities?

All action steps need to have direct cost, timing, impact and mitigation, and co-dependencies.

- What are the assumptions for each action step?
- How does each component roll up into achieving the proposed GHG goal?
- Example: BE.1.C – What are the solar incentives? Who receives? Who pays? What installation exists now, and what is modeled? What is the impact on GHG?

The roll-up action plan needs to be studied for energy reliance/resilience.

- How much can the electricity grid withstand?
- What are the modeled assumptions for each energy source?
- Are those assumptions understood and generally accepted by energy providers?
- Can the electricity grid get us through 2040 without brownouts or blackouts?
- Does the plan factor in waste management, such as spent batteries, rods, panels or turbines?
- What backups and redundancies are envisioned?

Development of building standards.

- Will easy or fast-track permitting be included in building standards?
- Will standards be developed in partnership with businesses, developers and those affected?

- How does one reconcile there are no NG bans but reduction and phase-out language included?
- How will multi-family housing conversions be paid? Who is responsible?
- Is it possible to set up a Development Engineering Advisory Board to advise on code changes?
- How can the city incentivize? Express permitting? Express resolution?

Prioritization of action steps.

- How will priorities be selected and pursued?
- Who makes decisions on priorities and how?
- What is impact to city budget, taxpayers, residents, businesses?

Partner conversations.

- Are projects listing partners already scoped to understand cost, impact, and implications?
- What related party assumptions are baked into the plan?
- Is there any active conversation with other cities, the county, and the greater Portland-Vancouver area about collaboration?

Economic development.

- Is there thought given to developing economic incubators and job training to help attract companies through the climate policy?
- Is there modeling underway to understand what businesses and industries are likely to start, stop, move in or move out as a result of the climate action plan?
- Is there thought given to generating quality jobs, sufficient that fewer commute trips are required?
- Will we include job to worker targets for the city?
- Are there any emerging federal agency departments that could be sited in Vancouver as a result of bold climate action?
- What can be done with Clark, WSU Vancouver, K-12, certificate programs and others to prepare our next generation workforce?
- How can we continue to attract capital for development?

City budget.

- What is the estimated rollup cost for the entire action plan across the 17-year period?
- Will climate-related budgets be tracked separately within and across departments?
- What mechanism exists for review of action steps and impact?
- How will the city intentionally stop, start or change programs over time as impact is known?
- How will climate actions be prioritized relative to other city functions, such as public safety, emergency services, homelessness, housing and the like?
- If new funding is required for implementation, what are the probable sources and timing?

Peter Fels
5121 NW Franklin Street
Vancouver WA 98663
TELEPHONE: (360) 737-3154 • plfels@gmail.com

July 28, 2022

Vancouver City Council

RE: Climate Action Plan - Comments

Dear Mayor and Councilors,

It is gratifying that you now have a draft Climate Action to consider. The plan has many positive features, and I urge you to adopt it – but with a few minor adjustments.

1. Eliminate the references to use of RNG

In two places, the plan refers to working with Northwest Natural Gas (NWN) to reduce the carbon intensity of its product. This is an admirable goal, and in fact if it is achieved it can be one of the top 4 most effective actions to reduce GHGs. However, the specific proposed actions conflate reducing carbon intensity with the use of “renewable natural gas”. RNG is primarily methane, the same as fossil gas.¹ RNG methane is the same as fossil methane. Methane is 27-30 times as potent as carbon dioxide in harming the environment (thus the high ranking of this proposed action).²

Definitely we should be eliminating the use of any type of gas for heating and cooling in new buildings and transitioning away from gas use in existing buildings and industrial processes. But NWN’s arguments about RNG are a hoax. NWN admits that RNG is “carbon neutral” – meaning it has no less carbon equivalent than fossil gas. The way to reduce carbon intensity is to stop using gas of any kind in buildings. Please do not buy into the gas industry’s false claims about RNG.

I understand you may be hearing from many people who wish to continue to use gas for cooking and do not want to change their heating fuel because of the expense. As written, the proposed CAP does not propose to require anybody to change what they are doing. Transferring to a different system can be expensive. There is also the problem of what to do with old gas appliances. I hope in the future you will develop programs to assist people who want to transition from gas. Eliminating methane from our environment as much as possible is one of the most effective ways we can reduce our GHG emissions, but substituting RNG for fossil gas does not do that.

1 The methane content of RNG is typically 96-98%, although it has fewer other toxic chemicals.
<https://www.epa.gov/lmop/renewable-natural-gas>

2 The EPA calculates methane to have 27-30 times the global warming potential (GWP) of CO2 over 100 years, but an 81-83 GWP over 20 years. <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/understanding-global-warming-potentials>

2. Increase the City's tree canopy goal to 35%.

Cascadia Consultants identified increasing green spaces in the public and private sectors as the #5 and #11 ranking actions respectively, creating 7% and 4% GHG reductions. Combined, they would rank as #2 on the GHG impact table. Increasing our tree canopy and green space, using deep-root native plantings and generally improving the local ecosystem quality do not seem controversial.

Greening our city even more helps improve the quality of life for everyone, encourages people to get outside to recreate, walk and bike, reduces urban heat islands, improves air quality, and will draw tourists.

During heat waves, we all appreciate and seek out shaded areas when outdoors. Unfortunately, some of our neighborhoods, parks, newer developments and major arterials lack adequate tree coverage, making them unattractive and adding to heat islands.

Current urban forestry and development rules allow the removal of large trees on single private lots and large developments. Large trees are sometimes replaced with small new plantings. We need to *require that the CO₂ sequestration capacity of removed trees is immediately matched by planting sufficient trees or other plants to replace the lost capacity.* We also should be adding sequestration capacity on public lands. The City should pair its GHG reduction ambitions with a more ambitious tree canopy goal.

3. Add school districts, C-TRAN and Clark County as partners to reach CAP goals.

Vancouver and Evergreen School Districts manage large public spaces and buildings but currently do not have climate action plans. Their participation can help advance Vancouver's climate goals with regard to electrifying buildings, adding green space and trees, reducing VMTs, electrifying fleets, and so on. We need to get them on board.

C-TRAN also should be a partner to many of the items listed as actions, such as electrifying fleets, using bus batteries as back-up power sources in emergencies, reducing VMTs, serving downtown and the 164th-192nd corridors with free circular transit, and creating more park and ride locations. The City councilors on the C-TRAN board should move for C-TRAN to adopt its own climate action plan consistent with Vancouver's.

Likewise, the City should work as much as possible with Clark County to coordinate on the CAP. For example, currently there are few reasons for residential and commercial landlords to increase the energy efficiency of their rental properties. They can simply pass on the cost of heating and cooling to tenants at no expense to themselves. If the County were to provide a tax exemption or credit for energy efficiency upgrades, it would advance the goals of the CAP. (Other ways to incentivize landlords to reduce energy use in their buildings also be considered.)

There are certainly other ways Clark County can help reduce our local GHG emissions, and we should be working together to explore them.

4. Promote use of energy scorecards for the sale and lease of buildings.

Similar to energy ratings on appliances, the Building Energy Asset Score “is a national standardized tool for assessing the physical and structural energy efficiency of commercial and multifamily residential buildings”.

<https://www.energy.gov/eere/buildings/building-energy-asset-score-frequently-asked-questions>

The Home Energy Score reports residential properties’ energy use.

<https://betterbuildingssolutioncenter.energy.gov/home-energy-score>

Both scoring systems were created by the US Department of Energy, are free to use, are standardized and help consumers know what they are buying or renting ahead of time. Vancouver should initially encourage use of energy scores as a voluntary practice to help advance the goals of the CAP. This action would tie in with the listed actions [see BE2(A) and (B)] of encouraging realtors and developers to promote electrification as a condition of sale.

After a reasonable time, the City should mandate energy scores’ use. New York City has had mandatory building ratings since 2018.

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/buildings/property-or-business-owner/energy-grades.page>

5. Set aside spaces for park and ride facilities.

Increased use of transit is an essential part of the draft CAP. However, we are rapidly losing available land to locate park and rides. Vancouver residents are also complaining about lack of parking spaces, especially downtown. The City should act now to set aside a couple of the few remaining locations for park and rides and parking structures so people will be able to get out of their cars and use public transit or walk to their destinations.

At present it seems the most likely available spots for a downtown park and ride facility are next to the downtown library (a possible terminus for light rail and next to current bus lines) and in the Waterfront Gateway area behind City Hall. These spaces need to be preserved while they are still available.

The City should also be looking for park and ride or transit centers in east Vancouver near the intersections of SR 14 and 192nd Ave. and in the Section 10 or Columbia Tech Center areas.

CONCLUSION: Make the CAP a continuous project.

The draft CAP is excellent. It can be made better. I encourage the Council to consider these changes (and others suggested by the public) and adopt them into the final document.

As with the Early Action Package, the CAP should be reviewed on an ongoing basis and be kept in mind by City staff with regard to all their activities. The CAP should not simply be passed and put on a shelf. It needs continuous revision and regular progress benchmarking in order to be effective.

You have set in motion ambitious goals for Vancouver to become a leading edge community in reducing global warming. Keep up the good work!

s/ Peter Fels

From: [Nancy Helget](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Proposed Climate Action Plan Comments
Date: Wednesday, July 27, 2022 7:31:05 PM

You don't often get email from felget@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Vancouver. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mayor and City Council members,

Thank you for all of your efforts to adopt a Climate Action Plan. The proposed plan is comprehensive and its provisions include essential steps we as a community must take to address the climate crisis. I appreciate the time and energy you and city council staff have devoted to assuring the city adopts the best possible plan.

I have three comments. The first two are related.

1. In many instances, the listed actions designed to achieve the CAP goals are too vague. For example, several strategies state the city will “work with” another entity.

The CAP numbers 4, 6 and 7 ranked strategies include this language, stating the city will “work with” NWN and CPU. These three strategies are intended to have significant effects by 2040, GHG emission reductions of 9%, 7%, and 6% respectively. I understand the city has to work with CPU and NWN because those two entities supply our power. But the CAP doesn’t state what specific action the city hopes to have CPU and NWN take to achieve the desired GHG emissions.

TLU3D provides examples of both specific and vague actions. The specific and measurable action is to: “Require that construction projects and other entities (e.g., delivery trucks) that rely on medium and heavy-duty trucks replace vehicles with new Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) in accordance with the targets outlined in the Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) rule, adopted by the Department of Ecology in November 2021.” In contrast, another TLU3D action requires the city to “encourage participation” in a program. The CAP doesn’t set a participation goal it hopes to achieve or describe how the city will do the encouraging. The CAP should, as much as possible, include clearly identified specific actions related to each strategy. I understand there’s a fine line between being too specific (getting too much into the weeds) and being too general. But in many cases, I think the CAP errs on the side of being too general.

That leads to my second comment. If the listed actions aren’t specific, the city has no way to measure whether it’s on target to meet the CAP goals.

2. The CAP should include a process and timeline for the city to measure, at specific intervals, whether the city is on track to achieve the desired GHG

emissions goals. The year 2040 is eighteen years off. Without a periodic assessment process, the city won't be able to determine whether it's on track to meet its 2040 goals.

This goes hand in hand with identifying specific actions the city intends to take to achieve each strategy. Periodically measuring progress can be accomplished by assessing the success specific actions have achieved.

3. This comment relates to the CAP inclusion of strategies involving NWN, specifically CAP ranked strategies numbers 4 and 29. Both refer to working with NWN in accordance with NWN's Vision 2050 plan.

The CAP ranked strategy number 4 states the city will work with NWN to reduce the carbon intensity of natural gas, a desirable goal. The CAP ranked strategy number 6 is also commendable. That strategy aims to electrify buildings and reduce fossil gas emissions.

But the CAP should not include use of renewable natural gas, hydrogen technologies, or offsets in accordance with NWN's Vision 2050 to achieve any GHG emission goal. None of these three will achieve the GHG emissions the CAP is trying to achieve. Spending time and energy on them will waste time and energy the city can spend pursuing options that will actually reduce GHG emissions.

Renewable Natural Gas:

NWN's Vision 2050 states: "RNG is considered carbon neutral because both combustion and lifecycle emissions do not contribute a net-increase in greenhouse gases into the atmosphere." I think that statement is misleading.

The EPA explains that compared to fossil natural gas, RNG contains zero to very low levels of some constituents, particularly ethane, propane, butane, pentane or other trace hydrocarbon. However, RNG has a methane content of 90 percent or greater. "Typically, RNG injected into a natural gas pipeline has a methane content between 96 and 98 percent." Methane has a global warming potential more than 25 times greater than CO₂.

<https://www.epa.gov/lmop/renewable-natural-gas>.

Basically, RNG is chemically identical to conventional natural gas. If we burn RNG in our appliances, we will be releasing exactly the same amount of harmful methane that burning fossil gas releases.

<https://www.sightline.org/2021/03/09/the-four-fatal-flaws-of-renewable-natural-gas/>.

Consequently, NWN's proposal to develop renewable natural gas for delivery through existing pipelines to Vancouver residents will result in the same release of methane into our air as burning fossil gas. This would be of no benefit and would achieve no net reduction in methane emissions from Vancouver homes. The city should not rely on any renewable natural gas proposal or possibility to meet its climate goals.

Hydrogen

It's not clear that hydrogen is a beneficial alternative to fossil gas. There is research showing hydrogen projects would increase consumer costs, exacerbate air pollution, and cause safety risks while minimally reducing greenhouse gases.

<https://energyinnovation.org/publication/assessing-the-viability-of-hydrogen-proposals-considerations-for-state-utility-regulators-and-policymakers/>. These aren't the results the city wants.

The Sightline Institute agrees with the conclusion hydrogen is not a viable GHG emission solution. <https://www.sightline.org/hydrogen-not-a-viable-replacement-for-natural-gas-due-to-safety-and-cost/>.

Offsets

NWN offers offset "certificates" as part of its Smart Energy Program. The "offsets" NWN's Vision 2050 includes don't represent any actual reduction in NWN's own emissions.

NWN's Vision 2050 explains NWN has "... purchased offsets from 14 innovative projects across the Pacific Northwest, California and Utah." Vision 2050, p. 22. While these 14 innovative projects may have reduced their GHG or CO2e emissions, NWN has not reduced its own emissions in Vancouver by purchasing and reselling the certificates. The offset certificates basically represent the fact that another entity, not NWN, has reduced its methane emissions a specified amount.

NWN's Vision 2050 is unclear on this issue. However, NWN's Vision 2050 uses the passive voice to explain: "An offset certificate represents one metric ton of carbon dioxide emissions that has been eliminated." NWN doesn't say it eliminated the emissions. NWN Vision 2050, p. 22. In fact, only the 14 innovative projects issuing the certificates have eliminated GHG emissions.

Vancouver will not reduce GHG emissions in the city by participating in NWN's Smart Energy Program. That participation shouldn't be in the CAP.

Again, thank you for all of your work and thank you for considering my comments.

Nancy Helget
Vancouver

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

The Power of Parks to Propel Vancouver's Climate Action Plan

Thank you Mayor and City Councilors,

I am grateful for this opportunity to discuss the vital role our parks and green spaces have with regards to Vancouver's Climate Action Plan. The impacts of climate change will be detrimental to all of us unless significant action is taken immediately. I applaud your desire to be carbon neutral by 2040 and appreciate the work that you are doing to protect Vancouver and its citizens.

Our parks and green spaces will be a critical component in our strategies to combat the effects of global warming. By utilizing, incorporating and rethinking "parks", we are positioned to become a leader in tackling the immense challenge that lies ahead of us. The following are some suggestions on how to prioritize our parks to maximize their environmental benefits.

First, we must better manage our unusable spaces and rethink "parks". Examples of unusable spaces are areas under power lines, along hillsides, alleys/unaccepted streets, vacant lots, rooftops and below billboards. By reclaiming this land and putting it to use as linear parks (lush green spaces with bike paths or walking paths), solar panel sites (hillsides), etc. we can increase our alternative transportation opportunities as well as provide additional and much needed green space. If we allow ourselves to rethink what a park is, we can begin to visualize parks on rooftops (think of the old FVRL headquarters) or in old vacant lots/buildings. An example of this is in Seattle where they are creating the Mini Mart City Park by "transforming a former gas station into a pocket park and arts-oriented community center..." <https://www.minimartcitypark.com/> Another example is The High Line in Manhattan, a public park built on an old rail line that was destined for demolition but has instead been transformed into a truly remarkable public space, arts venue, and community resource. <https://www.thehighline.org/> And as our city assesses those spaces deemed "brownfield" we have the opportunity to turn polluted land into park land. We will rewild the unusable and reclaim the ramshackle.

Next, we need to make our existing parks and green spaces even "greener". As someone who owns an electric vehicle, it is miserable to sit in a parking lot waiting 30 minutes for my car to charge. By providing electric car charging stations at our parks citizens and visitors could enjoy the outdoors, exercise on equipment, or take a leisurely stroll while their car charges rather than waiting and baking inside their car. Our shelters could have solar panels that power the charging stations. As we expand our thinking of parks and go greener, we could include fruit orchards in our city parks system which not only increases our tree canopy, but it can also help offset the impacts of the urban heat island and provide food resources for our community. The city can be a role model in no-grass landscaping on their city-owned properties. These no-grass lawns can provide demonstrations/examples of how to landscape naturally—without pesticides and with native plants. Each city building location could have a particular natural lawn theme (drought tolerant, native plants, alternative lawns, pollinator, edible landscaping, etc.) in which citizens could visit and it could provide educational outreach should they wish to transform their own lawns. Lead by example!

Finally, we must prioritize trees. In Vancouver, our "sense of place" is reinforced by our tree-lined skylines. Supporting Vancouver's Urban Forestry Department in this initiative is imperative as trees are one of the main tools we have available to help offset carbon emissions. It may be time to rethink what "tree canopy" means. We must recognize that every tree is different and provides a vast range in environmental benefits with regards to climate reduction. Unfortunately, many of our street trees have been topped/halved to accommodate power lines. This topping dramatically decreases the full environmental benefits of that tree. However, with regards to our tree canopy, it is considered at the same percentage as a non-topped tree. Ask

anyone in Urban Forestry and they will chant the mantra, “right tree, right place”. We must ensure that we are protecting those existing “right trees” which are in the “right place”, but also begin to replace those that aren’t. We should plan ahead and recognize that the temperatures are expected to continue rising and therefore we should be planting trees now that are drought tolerant and best suited to adapt to their changing environment. Although the city tree canopy plays a major role in limiting the affects of climate change, our city *forests* are truly one of our greatest assets, not only for their marvelous beauty, but also since their lush density amplifies their environmental and climate cooling contributions. Please make preservation of these city owned forests a priority that will ensure their benefits for generations to come. Is there a way the city can encourage the preservation of these city forests with regards to private land ownership?

By rethinking our definition of parks, “greening” our existing parks/green spaces, and prioritizing trees, we can position ourselves to be a global leader in climate action preparedness. It is a critical time in our lives to create this much needed change, and I will gladly help however I can. Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss these ideas further.

Sincerely,

Jayne Haygood
360.718.1564

From: [Jean M. Avery](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Small, Rebecca](#); [Holmes, Eric](#)
Subject: Public Comment re CAP and tree canopy
Date: Tuesday, July 26, 2022 4:22:20 PM

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To: Madam Mayor and City Council
From: Jean M. Avery
Re: Additional comment re CAP / tree canopy

I have commented before on the importance of prioritizing tree canopy in Vancouver's Climate Action Plan. I have these additional comments:

- I support the First Place neighborhood in its efforts to protect 80 mature Douglas Fir trees that line 18th Street between 136th and 162nd Streets. Through the years, this neighborhood has protected and improved the environment: planting native, drought-tolerant plants in the entrance circle; securing grant funding to improve First Place Park; working with the Watershed Alliance, Friends of Trees, Parks and Recreation, and Urban Forestry. I urge the City to protect these mature trees, which will benefit the neighborhood and our City.
- I applaud Rebecca Small for her presentation about CAP's natural systems at the Watershed Alliance's webinar on July 13. I appreciate that Ms. Small is following up with action items to address removal of mature trees in Vancouver and the importance of tree canopy. As stated in The Columbian (July 15), she recognizes that the community can contribute to reducing carbon emissions through improving natural spaces.

In closing, I appreciate that City leadership is seeking public input through *Be Heard Vancouver*, mobile City Council meetings, and public comment periods.

Jean M. Avery
Vancouver

From: [Adam Aguilera](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Climate Action Plan Feedback
Date: Friday, July 29, 2022 11:58:33 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Vancouver. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Vancouver City Council,

Thank you for your bold leadership in developing a Climate Action Plan for Vancouver City. The record temperatures we have experienced this week has been debilitating to myself and many community members and has had a negative impact on the plants and wildlife on my property and for my small business. We must all do our part to prepare for the devastating years ahead that will require the actions listed on the draft plan.

While the draft Climate Action Plan emphasizes strong action steps around energy, more emphasis should be placed on water conservation and terraforming the city. The Southwest is drying up, and many Americans are already migrating northward to access communities with affordable, clean, and accessible water. Vancouver City must begin to preserve the water we have now to prepare for the years of drought ahead.

Water Conservation:

1. City & Park infrastructure should switch to drip irrigation watering over sprinklers. It will save a lot more water over time.
2. Public education to residents on switching to drip irrigation over wasteful sprinklers.
3. Increased incentives for residents to afford removing grass lawn and growing native groundcovers and plants.
4. Increase incentives against grass lawns such as water bans for grass lawns.
5. Educate resistant residents on grass lawn alternatives that conserve water, save money, and improve the value of property with native plants.

Terraforming:

1. Removal of city grass lawns and replace with certified native habitats
2. Replant ground covers in place of grass lawns at parks that are drought tolerant.
2. Program to merge landscaping designs of certified native habitat between property lines to encourage wildlife migration and restore consistent habitats between structures.
3. Ban sale and use of pesticides that kill pollinators.
4. Create and maintain watering holes for local wildlife.
5. Require more trees to be planted per feet of city development
6. Incentivize local community groups to volunteer for invasive species removal such as English ivy and Himalayan blackberries.
7. End City of Vancouver using toxic herbicides to manage city and park habitats (city employees currently spray along my fence line)

Thank you for taking the time to read my feedback on how the City of Vancouver to strengthen their climate action plan in these critical areas in addition to energy.

In solidarity,
Adam Aguilera
Vancouver resident

From: Don Steinke
To: Diana Perez; City Council; Ace Vancouver; Small, Rebecca; Don Orange
Subject: Manchin gave some emissions reduction support
Date: Friday, July 29, 2022 8:42:04 AM

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From Don Steinke
This is a thread. It gets relevant to our CAP toward the end. - - - Don S - - - -

Forwarded Conversation
Subject: [wacaucus] Schumer Manchin "Climate Change" Bill

From: James Adcock <jimad@msn.com>
Date: Wed, Jul 27, 2022 at 8:32 PM
To: wacaucus@googlegroups.com <wacaucus@googlegroups.com>

Not surprising that Manchin should support this bill, in that it basically doesn't do anything to reduce climate change.

It does reduce methane emissions somewhat.

https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/22122281/inflation_reduction_act_of_2022.pdf

-- My Opinion based on a quick scan-through

Jim Adcock

--

This is a message from the NW Energy Coalition's Washington Caucus (wacaucus) listserv. Messages are not moderated. Any opinions expressed in this email are those of the author and not necessarily those of the NW Energy Coalition, its members, board or staff.

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<https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/wacaucus/SJ0PR10MB5890E853C642B08BEA940032AE969%40SJ0PR10MB5890.namprd10.prod.outlook.com>.

From: REBECCA WOLFE <rr.wolfe@comcast.net>
Date: Wed, Jul 27, 2022 at 9:38 PM
To: <jimad@msn.com>
Cc: wacaucus@googlegroups.com <wacaucus@googlegroups.com>

But lots of positive news for protection of our Old Growth forests and attention to healthy watersheds. Healthy forests and watersheds will benefit the climate. (Based on a cursory look at the Forestry section — § 23001 of the bill.)

Rebecca Wolfe
To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/wacaucus/CCFB4548-D04B-4B99-B2D0-3DF1CFE33B86%40comcast.net>.

From: Brian Grunkemeyer <brian@flexcharging.com>
Date: Wed, Jul 27, 2022 at 9:56 PM
To: jimad@msn.com <jimad@msn.com>, wacaucus@googlegroups.com <wacaucus@googlegroups.com>

Thanks for sending this, Jim.

There are some tax credit extensions for wind production, and tax credits for nuclear & hydrogen. And carbon oxide (not dioxide) sequestration.

There is a section for states, cities, Indian tribes, & school districts to replace heavy duty vehicles with zero-emissions ones, if they are in non-attainment areas.

Same thing for ports too, only they got more money. If they can use that to buy electric drayage trucks, that would be great, and could help in ports like Long Beach as well as Seattle.

Curiously, there's a \$7B greenhouse gas reduction fund for low-income families to install solar or do other emissions-reduction activities.

And there's an up to \$8B grant program for what looks like some type of community development bank for helping low-income & disadvantaged communities. The money seems like it's supposed to be recycled by an organization continually into rolling out new energy efficiency projects.

The \$850M for methane leaks could be a big deal.

I also like the \$2.15B for using low-carbon materials in federal buildings. It's time to create demand for all the right technologies, and the government should be one of the leaders in using its spending to buy the right stuff.

While modest, don't overlook the \$143M for tribal electrification and \$23M for native Hawaiian climate resilience.

To view this discussion on the web visit

<https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/wacaucus/MWHPR12MB1216E8F4529B7DF2CE7831E5CB969%40MWHPR12MB1216.namprd12.prod.outlook.com>.

From: Jim Lazar <jlazar@jimlazar.com>

Date: Wed, Jul 27, 2022 at 10:13 PM

To: <wacaucus@googlegroups.com>

I have heard a different perspective from a different author.

This may not be anywhere close to adequate, but it is most assuredly not nothing.

<https://www.electrificationcoalition.org/ec-applauds-ev-provision-inflation-reduction-act/>

Electrification Coalition Applauds EV Provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act

- [July 27, 2022](#)
- 11:24 pm
- -



Contact: Noah Barnes, Electrification Coalition
nbarnes@electrificationcoalition.org, (202) 461-2371

WASHINGTON—On Wednesday, Senators Chuck Schumer and Joe Manchin announced a major deal that includes a number of investments related to transportation electrification.

Electrification Coalition Executive Director Ben Prochazka issued the following response:

“The United States must electrify our transportation future to end the monopoly that oil has on that sector. Today’s landmark deal will help accelerate electrification for all sectors, which will improve our economic and national security, and our climate future. We applaud Senators Schumer and Manchin for negotiating this deal that will provide great benefits to the nation.

“Several key measures include:

- *The creation of a new clean commercial tax credit for EVs*
- *The creation of a new used EV tax credit*
- *A long-term extension of the light-duty EV tax credit, with additional modifications*
- *A long-term extension of the Alternative Fuel Refueling Property Tax Credit (Section 30C) with a lift of the project cap and bidirectional charging included*
- *\$3 billion in funding to electrify the U.S. Postal Service*
- *\$60 million for the Diesel Emission Reduction Act program*
- *\$2 billion for the Domestic Manufacturing Conversion Grant program*
- *\$3 billion for the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing program*
- *A long-term extension of the Advanced Manufacturing Production Credit*
- *\$600 million for a Clean Heavy-duty Vehicle Grant Program*
- *\$2.25 billion to reduce air pollution at ports through deploying zero-emission technology*
- *A strong Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grant program*
- *A strong Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund*

“Combined, these measures will promote energy security, spur American innovation, increase private sector investments, and increase U.S. manufacturing. Because electricity is produced domestically and diversely, it will keep our energy dollars at home.

“The United States currently consumes more oil than any other country in the world, which makes us vulnerable to global oil supply lines, leading to price instability and the risk of recession. By providing for urgent needs in the shift to electric transportation, the Inflation Reduction Act will make the U.S. stronger and safer.

“EVs represent a historic opportunity to create transportation systems that are cleaner, cheaper, and can finally break oil’s stranglehold that Americans feel every day at the pump. Now it’s time for Congress to finish the job and pass this critical legislation that will accelerate the electrification of our transportation future!”

###

About the Electrification Coalition: The Electrification Coalition is a non-partisan, not-for-profit group committed to promoting policies and actions that facilitate the deployment of plug-in electric vehicles (EVs) on a mass scale in order to combat the economic, public health, and national security dangers caused by America’s dependence on oil. The EC works with a variety of stakeholders that represent the entire electrified transportation value chain, positioning the organization as a dedicated rallying point for an array of electrification allies.

For more information, visit electrificationcoalition.org.

To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/wacaucus/4471556e-209b-6c8f-097c-418aaed7b72c%40jimlazar.com>.

From: James Adcock <jimad@msn.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 28, 2022 at 12:24 AM
To: Brian Grunkemeyer <brian@flexcharging.com>, wacaucus@googlegroups.com <wacaucus@googlegroups.com>

Energy Credits Welcome

Port Equipment Welcome

0.3 [three tenths of one cent] for nukes -- I don't know if that is a good thing or a bad thing.

Doesn't really provide for replacing diesel vehicles with zero-emission vehicles, just says if a non-attainment area wants to buy a new diesel vehicle then we will pay the difference if you want to buy a new electric vehicle instead.

Clean Ports is good -- but that's mainly a traditional air pollution issue not a GHG reduction issue.

Low-income provisions support Community Solar I think, which would be good.

Tribal electrification using zero-emissions is good -- but tiny.

Hawaiian adaptation is a good thing, but it is not GHG reductions.

But: All of this stuff is just microscopic. Consider instead:

A real GHG Tax.

A real Feebate system.

A real Cap-and-Trade system.

A required national REC trading system and standards -- no more Fake RECs.

National portfolio standards.

Actual Mandates to retire Coal.

Tax Credits for Green Energy.

Phase-out of Emitting Vehicles.

Even real high-quality modeling of systems on a regional and/or larger scale by NREL.

Etc.

Color me "Massively Underwhelmed"

-- Jim Adcock

From: Brian Grunkemeyer <brian@flexcharging.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 27, 2022 9:55 PM
To: jimad@msn.com <jimad@msn.com>; wacaucus@googlegroups.com <wacaucus@googlegroups.com>
Subject: RE: Schumer Manchin "Climate Change" Bill

To view this discussion on the web visit
<https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/wacaucus/SJ0PR10MB5890C61770EE3DB091E05D8DAE969%40SJ0PR10MB5890.namprd10.prod.outlook.com>.

From: James Adcock <jimad@msn.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 28, 2022 at 12:30 AM
To: REBECCA WOLFE <rr.wolfe@comcast.net>
Cc: wacaucus@googlegroups.com <wacaucus@googlegroups.com>

I read this section§ 23001 as being "Adaptation" not "GHG Reduction" -- which I would not consider "Healthy Forests."

Only actual massive GHG reductions will actually save the Doug Fir Forests of Washington State, which are **all** going to be Toast otherwise, along with salmon, orcas, bald eagles, pikas, ...

-- Jim Adcock

From: REBECCA WOLFE <rr.wolfe@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 27, 2022 9:38 PM
To: jimad@msn.com <jimad@msn.com>
Cc: wacaucus@googlegroups.com <wacaucus@googlegroups.com>
Subject: Re: [wacaucus] Schumer Manchin "Climate Change" Bill

But lots of positive news for protection of our Old Growth forests and attention to healthy watersheds. Healthy forests and watersheds will benefit the climate. (Based on a cursory look at the Forestry section — § 23001 of the bill.)

Rebecca Wolfe

On Jul 27, 2022, at 8:32 PM, James Adcock <jimad@msn.com> wrote:

Not surprising that Manchin should support this bill, in that it basically doesn't do anything to reduce climate change.

It does reduce methane emissions somewhat.

https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/22122281/inflation_reduction_act_of_2022.pdf

-- My Opinion based on a quick scan-through

Jim Adcock

--
This is a message from the NW Energy Coalition's Washington Caucus (wacaucus) listserv. Messages are not moderated. Any opinions expressed in this email are those of the author and not necessarily those of the NW Energy Coalition, its members, board or staff.

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To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/wacaucus/SJ0PR10MB5890026BB43D322FD524541AAE969%40SJ0PR10MB5890.namprd10.prod.outlook.com>.

From: Brian Grunkemeyer <brian@flexcharging.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 28, 2022 at 12:34 AM
To: James Adcock <jimad@msn.com>, wacaucus@googlegroups.com <wacaucus@googlegroups.com>

Yes, this doesn't seem revolutionary, and isn't up to the challenge of our time. But it's the best we're going to get with the current Senate, and probably the only thing we're going to get through January.

Additionally, many utilities model scenarios assuming some Federal climate action eventually – as small as it is, it shows at least one step in the right direction. Imagine if people thought political support for climate action would never materialize into a passable bill?

Take the win, come back later to fight again, either at the state or federal level. Hopefully in January there will be 51 senators on one side, or some actual support for policies from the other half of the Senate. Eventually, I naively hope that senators will let governing take priority over not giving your opponent a political point. Unfortunately that's not how the Senate operates today.

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<https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/wacaucus/MWHPR12MB121620F8961EE1820838F8D0CB969%40MWHPR12MB1216.namprd12.prod.outlook.com>.

From: REBECCA WOLFE <rr.wolfe@comcast.net>
Date: Thu, Jul 28, 2022 at 10:08 PM
To: <jimad@msn.com>
Cc: wacaucus@googlegroups.com <wacaucus@googlegroups.com>

But lots of positive news for protection of our Old Growth forests and attention to healthy watersheds. Healthy forests and watersheds will benefit the climate. (Based on a cursory look at the Forestry section — § 23001 of the bill.)

On Jul 27, 2022, at 8:32 PM, James Adcock <jimad@msn.com> wrote:

To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/wacaucus/2B6EB3F7-216F-4602-BE0B-89E96EE2F989%40comcast.net>.

From: REBECCA WOLFE <rr.wolfe@comcast.net>
Date: Thu, Jul 28, 2022 at 10:09 PM
To: <jimad@msn.com>
Cc: wacaucus@googlegroups.com <wacaucus@googlegroups.com>

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On Jul 27, 2022, at 8:32 PM, James Adcock <jimad@msn.com> wrote:

To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/wacaucus/2B6EB3F7-216F-4602-BE0B-89E96EE2F989%40comcast.net>.

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From: <roger@lippnet.us>
Date: Fri, Jul 29, 2022 at 8:02 AM
To: <wacaucus@googlegroups.com>

Did anybody catch this part?

The measures, outlined late Wednesday in the 725-page spending bill, require the sale of drilling rights in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska. The bill would also make new renewable power projects on federal land and water contingent on future sales.

“This is a climate suicide pact,” said Brett Hartl, a director with the Center for Biological Diversity, an Arizona-based environmental group. “The amount of leasing this bill mandates is absolutely massive. I don’t think the climate offsets are enough to cover all the drilling that is going to happen.”

Under the legislation, the Interior Department would only be able to issue new wind and solar rights over the next decade if it recently held oil and gas lease sales. The requirements would constrain the administration’s ability to pare fossil fuel developments on federal land, despite pleas from climate activists to halt drilling and rapidly pivot to green energy.

The new oil easing requirements come in addition to other fossil fuel benefits that are loathed by environmentalists ...

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-07-28/manchin-deal-mandates-oil-and-gas-lease-sales-in-gulf-and-alaska>

From: wacaucus@googlegroups.com <wacaucus@googlegroups.com> **On Behalf Of** Brian Grunkemeyer
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2022 12:35 AM
To: James Adecock <jimad@msn.com>; wacaucus@googlegroups.com
Subject: [wacaucus] RE: Schumer Manchin "Climate Change" Bill

Yes, this doesn’t seem revolutionary, and isn’t up to the challenge of our time. But it’s the best we’re going to get with the current Senate, and probably the only thing we’re going to get through January.

Additionally, many utilities model scenarios assuming some Federal climate action eventually – as small as it is, it shows at least one step in the right direction. Imagine if people thought political support for climate action would never materialize into a passable bill?

Take the win, come back later to fight again, either at the state or federal level. Hopefully in January there will be 51 senators on one side, or some actual support for policies from the other half of the Senate. Eventually, I naively hope that senators will let governing take priority over not giving your opponent a political point. Unfortunately that’s not how the Senate operates today.

--

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From: [Kathe W.](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for August 8 Council Workshop
Date: Sunday, July 24, 2022 10:22:36 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from katheworsley@gmail.com.
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Vehicles that are powered by EV batteries are NOT a diversified energy system fundamentally stronger, more affordable, and more reliable. Read below:

At one time, “Saving the Environment” and “Fighting Climate Change” were synonymous. That is no longer true. The quest for Clean Energy through electric vehicles (EVs) epitomizes “the end justifies the means.”

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), an electric vehicle requires six times the mineral inputs of a comparable internal combustion engine vehicle (ICE). EV batteries are very heavy and are made with some exotic, expensive, toxic, and flammable materials.

The primary metals in EV batteries include Nickel, Lithium, Cobalt, Copper and Rare Earth metals (Neodymium and Dysprosium). The mining of these materials, their use in manufacturing and their ultimate disposal all present significant environmental challenges. Ninety percent of the ICE lead-acid batteries are recycled while only five percent of the EV lithium-ion batteries are.

Oil has been so demonized that we tend to overlook some of its positive traits as a power source relative to the battery power of EVs. The power for an internal combustion engine, oil, is a homogeneous commodity found abundantly around the world (*especially in our own backyard*). In 2019, the four top oil producing nations were the United States, Russia, Saudi

Arabia, and Canada. In contrast, the power for EVs is dependent on a mixture of diverse commodities from just a handful of third world countries.

In spite of the environmental hysteria about oil drilling, the surface area disturbed is relatively small since the oil is extracted from under the ground. In contrast, many of the materials prominent in the clean energy revolution are obtained through open-pit horizontal mining which is extremely damaging to wide areas of the environment.

This is why we need to be careful about requiring everyone's cars to be dependent on EV batteries. I would hope that the City of Vancouver and the state of Washington will be thoughtful about what decisions they make.

Katherine Worsley

17956 SE 41st Loop, Vancouver WA 98683

From: [frank keeler](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Climate change planning Comments
Date: Sunday, July 24, 2022 10:40:22 AM

You don't often get email from ftkeeler@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Thank you for taking time to understand our position on climate change planning for the city of Vancouver WA.

Climate change is an on going debate encouraged by left wing radicals to scare and intimidate people to follow their miss guided ideology. Anyone involved in computer modeling programming for climate will tell you that modeling is notoriously corruptible. Currently there is no true scientific data showing that the climate changed by man would cause the climate to change any differently than it normally would in the earths climate cycles. In fact CO2 is a normal gas in our atmosphere that is needed for plant growth. The pot farm growers pump it into there growing operations, so the state should know this is fact. There are around 7 different major weather modeling systems and dozens of smaller ones, none of these systems data is ever the same, that shows the inaccuracy of the Modeling data. It is my opinion that the state of Washington is lead by people with no scientific expertise that would warrant taxing its citizens by using the scare tactics and intimidation of climate change.

To electrify everything is the same brand of manure we were sold in the 70's "go all electric and pay less" until WPPSS "whoops"when down the drain and Electric rates sky rocked and half the population had to go out and buy a wood stove so they could heat their homes. Those that don't learn from history are bound to repeat it, so here we go again. "whoops". Ask Germany about Climate change and having to burn their furniture to keep warm.

Frank & Theresa Keeler
1608 SE 173rd Ave
Vancouver WA 98683

ftkeeler@yahoo.com

From: [David Malland](#)
To: [City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager](#)
Cc: [HUGH JONSON](#); [BONNIE JONSON](#)
Subject: ZERO DIESEL EMISSIONS 1837 hrs 23 JULY, 2022
Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022 7:54:58 PM

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VANCOUVER MAYOR: THERES AN INVENTION IN WASHINGTON STATE WITH OVER TWENTY YEARS OF R & D AND NINE U.S. PATENTS THAT CONVERTS MOST DIESEL ENGINES TO ZERO EMISSIONS AND SINCE COLD PLASMA CONSUMES ALL (100%) OF THE FUEL, IT ALSO INCREASES MILEAGE! A CURRENT EXAMPLE IS OUR STOCK FREIGHTLINER WITH 8+ MPG BEFORE.....AND 12+ MPG NOW (AFTER INSTALLATION).

THATS HUGE.....AND IS CERTIFIED BY WASHINGTON STATE, THE BOEING COMPANY, AND THE CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD (CARB). THE TOUGHEST AIR QUALITY REGULATORS IN THE WORLD, CARB STATED (AND DOCUMENTED) "IT MAY BE MADE, SOLD, AND DISTRIBUTED IN CALIFORNIA ".

>

> YOU SHOULD SPEAK WITH THE INVENTOR TO BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW IT WORKS AND HOW IT ACTUALLY PERFORMS. (YOU COULD INSTALL IT ON ONE TRUCK, DIESEL CAR, CITY PARK TRACTOR, OR GENERATOR TO PROVE IT'S EFFICACY). THE INVENTOR IS HUGH JONSON, A HIGHLY DECORATED VIETNAM PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT, AND EX-POW MILITARY BROTHER OF MINE WHO SERIOUSLY DESERVES YOUR ATTENTION.

>

> THIS IS A WASHINGTON STATE EMISSIONS AND CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD (CARB) CERTIFIED INVENTION THAT ELIMINATES EXPENSIVE FILTERS AND PRODUCES ZERO DIESEL EMISSIONS, THAT I PERSONALLY ENDORSE.

>> THREE GOOD REASONS TO CALL ARE; 1. YOUR MISSION STATEMENT PROMOTES "WORKING WITH PRIVATE SECTOR ENTITIES WITH PROVEN TECHNOLOGY" THAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR CITY; (THATS US)!

>> 2. OUR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S GOAL IS "ZERO EMISSIONS ON ALL GOVERNMENT VEHICLES BY 2030",(YOU CURRENTLY HAVE NO (NO) VIABLE SOLUTION FOR YOUR CITY); AND 3. WE ARE READY TO PRESENT OUR ZERO DIESEL EMISSIONS SYSTEM AND ANSWER ALL OF YOUR QUESTIONS IN PERSON. THANK YOU.

>> SINCERELY, DAVE MALLAND COMMAND MASTER CHIEF, U.S. COAST GUARD (39 YEARS, RET.)

>> P.S. : FOR OUR PRESENTATION OR QUESTIONS; PLEASE CONTACT MR. HUGH JONSON DIRECTLY AT:

>> (360) 661-5001 (SEATTLE TIME) OR HUGH_K7HUG@YAHOO.COM



From: [Lande, Aaron](#)
To: [Obotette, Stephanie](#)
Subject: FW: Press Release: Eugene City Council Advances Policy to Transition New Construction to All-Electric, Sets Ambitious Targets for Decarbonizing Existing Buildings | Cascadia Wildlands
Date: Thursday, July 28, 2022 8:48:59 AM

Also for inclusion in the community comments to staff. Thanks

From: Cathryn Chudy <chudyca@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2022 7:44 AM
To: Lande, Aaron <aaron.lande@cityofvancouver.us>; Small, Rebecca <Rebecca.Small@cityofvancouver.us>
Subject: Press Release: Eugene City Council Advances Policy to Transition New Construction to All-Electric, Sets Ambitious Targets for Decarbonizing Existing Buildings | Cascadia Wildlands

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"In addition to voting to advance ambitious targets for electrifying homes and buildings, the City Council also voted to direct the City Manager to return to the city with a public engagement plan regarding the transition of existing buildings to all electric, focused on social, environmental and economic equity. To effectively serve the low-income communities and communities of color that are most burdened by fossil fuel pollution, high energy bills, and climate crisis, Eugene's policy framework for transitioning existing homes to run on 100% clean energy must be developed in partnership with local community leaders."

<https://www.cascwild.org/press-release-eugene-city-council-advances-policy-to-transition-new-construction-to-all-electric-sets-ambitious-targets-for-decarbonizing-existing-buildings/>

Press Release: Eugene City Council Advances Policy to Transition New Construction to All-Electric, Sets Ambitious Targets for Decarbonizing Existing Buildings

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 27, 2022

Contacts:

Bethany Cotton, *Cascadia Wildlands*, 503-327-4923, bethany@cascwild.org

Danny Noonan, *Breach Collective*, 541-653-5795, danny@breachcollective.org

EUGENE, OREGON — In a major step toward a clean energy future, the Eugene City Council voted today to move forward with a suite of measures advancing the transition off of gas in

homes and buildings. The motions include one directing staff to draft ordinance language to mandate that all new homes be constructed 100% electric by June 1, 2023; a second advancing conversations to transition new commercial and industrial construction to require all electric; and a third directing the City Manager to formalize Eugene’s goal of electrifying all existing residential and commercial buildings by 2035.

“The first step when you are in a hole is to stop digging. As the consequences of climate change bear down on our state, it has never been more clear that we cannot afford to expand the use of fossil fuels by connecting new homes to the gas system. Eugene’s vote today brings us one step closer to the clean energy future for homes we urgently need,” **said Dylan Plummer, senior campaign representative with the Sierra Club.**

The votes come as the city of Eugene swelters in triple digit temperatures this week – the latest climate-fueled heat wave to strike the Northwest, where access to cooling in homes remains low. In addition to cutting climate pollution, electrifying homes using highly-efficient electric appliances like heat pumps, which provide affordable cooling, will also boost household resilience in the face of extreme heat.

“The urgency of acting on climate could not be more clear: our communities are experiencing the impacts of climate inaction now: sweltering heat and high wildfire risk, along with the indoor air pollution related health impacts of continued reliance on dirty, dangerous fossil fuels,” **said Bethany Cotton, conservation director with Cascadia Wildlands.** “Eugene has an ambitious climate plan, but heretofore has not done enough to enliven that document. We applaud the council for moving these resolutions forward and look forward to them finalizing the ordinances this fall.”

In addition to voting to advance ambitious targets for electrifying homes and buildings, the City Council also voted to direct the City Manager to return to the city with a public engagement plan regarding the transition of existing buildings to all electric, focused on social, environmental and economic equity. To effectively serve the low-income communities and communities of color that are most burdened by fossil fuel pollution, high energy bills, and climate crisis, Eugene’s policy framework for transitioning existing homes to run on 100% clean energy must be developed in partnership with local community leaders.

“Transitioning homes in Eugene off of fossil fuels in favor of clean energy can advance public health, racial, and income justice. We look forward to partnering with the city in developing a policy framework that will ensure low-income communities and communities of color are prioritized in the transition to healthier homes, and not left behind,” **said Eloise Navarro, environmental climate justice coordinator with the Eugene/Springfield NAACP.**

Eugene’s vote directing staff to draft ordinance language phasing out gas in new homes and buildings follows months of community engagement and workshops — during which NW Natural, the gas utility serving the city, sought to derail the policy, despite the health, climate and economic benefits. In recent [testimony](#) from the utility in an ongoing rate case surrounding its proposed 11.8% rate hike for residential customers, the utility affirmed its intent to bill utility customers for staff time spent fighting Eugene’s climate policy for new homes.

“The Eugene City Council has been subjected to months of fossil fuel industry manipulation tactics from NW Natural. Today, the Council listened to the hundreds of community members

who testified and emailed them supporting a just transition and proved that they will not back down from delivering on healthy and climate-resilient homes for their constituents,” **said Aya Cockram, coalition coordinator with Fossil Free Eugene.**

“After months of intense lobbying, advertising and other scare tactics by one of Oregon’s largest fossil fuel corporations, it is relieving to see Eugene City Council hold firm and continue on the path towards building electrification. Electrifying new residential buildings is the low-hanging fruit, and we now have a clear timeline for making that happen. But it is encouraging that Council also signaled their commitment to taking on the challenge of electrifying new commercial buildings and our existing building stock,” **said Danny Noonan, climate and energy strategist with Breach Collective.**

ELECTRONIC SUBMITTAL

July 29, 2022

Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle
Mayor Pro-Tem Ty Stober
Members of the Vancouver City Council
City Manager Eric Holmes
City of Vancouver
PO Box 1995
Vancouver, WA 98668-1995

July 29, 2022

Dear Mayor McEnery-Ogle, Councilmembers and City Manager Holmes,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the next steps of the City of Vancouver Climate Action Plan. We commend the City of Vancouver for its 15 years of significantly reducing carbon without a structured plan and are excited to partner on decarbonization and innovation.

Addressing climate change is urgent and complex, and as partner in decarbonization, we know that options and consequences need to be fully evaluated with the latest technology, market analysis, and modeling data in mind. NW Natural continues to have concerns about language within the Building & Energy category of the current draft list of actions.

While we are appreciative that city staff has begun stating publicly there is no ban on natural gas proposed for this policy, and that the plan is “energy source agnostic”, we have specific concern around the ambiguous language of the Buildings & Energy actions. The ambiguity results in assumptions and perceptions that natural gas is to be phased out of the energy supply in the City of Vancouver versus the approach of a coordinated plan: One which leverages existing gas infrastructure, alongside electricity infrastructure and innovation/new technologies, to achieve the carbon transition in an affordable and reliable way. It is also possible that some language is simply incorrect and updating it has been an oversight with the chance to correct now.

Among our concerns

- BE1.13 in the GHG Impact Table – It is possible this current language is just a mistake and needs to be refined. Currently, it confuses demand side strategies with supply side. It states: “Reduce building energy demand” as the strategy but then speaks to supplying renewable gases like renewable natural gas and renewable hydrogen. NW Natural recommends congruence in the language and the simplest change is to change the strategy to “Shift to Renewable Energy Supply” or some variation.

- Action BE.1.F Natural Gas Demand Management. We again request this be changed to “Work with NWN to reduce demand for energy provided by the gas system through energy efficiency in accordance with NWN’s Vision 2050 (“RNG Constrained” Scenario)”.
- Action BE.2.A (Home electrification incentives (existing)), BE.2.B (Commercial building electrification incentives (existing)), and BE.2.C (Heat pumps in new commercial and multi-family residential) fall far short of including the emerging technologies and reduction of carbon emissions. While these certainly do not say “ban on natural gas”, it is reasonable to imply that it could be perceived that way.
- Actions BE.2.A and BE.2.B clearly say there would be a push to transition from natural gas to electrification, not to mention BE.2.D (All-electric incentives for new development), BE.2.E (All-electric reach code for new development) and BE.2.F (All-electric reach code for residential buildings), each of which is – in its essence – a codified ban on new natural gas hookups.
- Action BE.2.H (Contractor training for electric transition) details should include all types of heat pumps, furnaces, water heat and fireplaces so that emerging and new technologies (i.e. gas heat pumps) that are not quite on the market are not eliminated as options.
- Finally, throughout BE.2 actions, there are references to smart energy that should not be strictly associated with electrification efforts as they are completely unrelated. Smart energy actions should be specific and recognize emerging and future technologies, or they should not be included.

We have worked with staff to highlight these concerns and ask for the opportunity to write them differently – focusing on “decarbonization” instead of “electrification,” with the interests of all your constituents in mind but the language continues to persist in drafts.

Request for data transparency

Further, staff and the consultant estimate GHG reductions for various actions but, even after NW Natural requested via public records request, the data used to model the estimated savings on the GHG Savings Table has not been shared with NW Natural.

NW again requests the city provide data to stakeholders. We request the ability to review the derivation of the data being published for each action in the Buildings and Energy sections. We are specifically interested in how both gas and electricity supply are modeled together for reliability evaluation alongside carbon reduction and under current and new laws.

NW Natural continues to refine our work and planning under Vision 2050: Destination Zero, a scenario analysis of how to achieve carbon neutrality for our entire system by 2050. Moreover, NW Natural’s modeling results are consistent with the most comprehensive, regionally-specific analysis of building electrification in the context of economy-wide decarbonization that exists, a 2018 study by Environmental+Energy Economics (“E3 Study”) – contracted by NW Natural. This study analyzed the most efficient and cost-effective approach to decarbonizing the economy in the Pacific Northwest while focusing on the important issue of reliably serving heating loads during cold weather events. That study concluded that natural gas companies serving existing and new customers while decarbonizing “is a cost-effective strategy to meet the region’s climate goals while also reliably serving winter peak demands.” Other studies have demonstrated only that electrification is one possible means of accomplishing the GHG reduction goals but did not compare other potential decarbonization pathways or indicate that the only option is to pursue electrification as the only means of achieving the GHG-reduction goals. For example, one study from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory specifically stated that it focused on the potential for and impacts of a high electrification pathway but “d[id] not

compare these scenarios to alternative GHG abatement pathways,” and “d[id] not judge or evaluate the likelihood of [electrification] pathways or their merit relative to other strategies.”

Given that most comprehensive analysis conducted to date concludes that both approaches appear to be feasible methods of meeting climate goals there is no basis for assertions that Vancouver must move rapidly toward building electrification to meet its climate goals.

New opportunities for collaboration and investment

Additionally, considering the July 27, 2022, federal announcement regarding the currently titled “Inflation Reduction Act,” we see many opportunities to create local investment in new technologies if timelines for development are prioritized – potentially including tax credits on conditioning equipment for RNG cleaning and conditioning equipment – but only if projects begin construction in the near term. This is our early read, and while this legislation has yet to pass, the draft is promising, and we would be pleased to discuss more in the coming months. We urge the city and staff to prioritize collaborative projects as soon as possible.

As your partner in the energy sources for the City of Vancouver’s residents, we continue to position ourselves ready to work together. That said, we do invite the council to challenge and correct the current language in draft actions, in the interest of being clear and unambiguous with residents and businesses about the city’s commitment to lead on an “energy source agnostic” Climate Action Plan. We are always available to participate in conversations about re-wording these actions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nelson Holmberg', written in a cursive style.

Nelson Holmberg
Community Affairs & Customer Acquisition Manager, Clark County

July 29, 2022
Alliance for Community Engagement SWWA (ACE)

Vancouver City Council and Staff

Dear City Council and Staff,

Thank you for your continued work to establish Vancouver as a leader in addressing the climate crisis. The ambitious goals the Council set in June 2022 reflect a deep commitment to the work of making Vancouver more livable, resilient, and equitable in a changing climate.

ACE and the organizations we represent support many of the actions identified as potential high priorities in the Climate Action Plan (CAP). Vehicle electrification, building electrification, reductions in transportation impacts and emissions, access to transportation options, and a renewed focus on expanding and sustaining green spaces will help Vancouver meet its ambitious goals while averting and reducing some of the worst impacts of fossil fuel use and climate change.

Additionally, we urge the City to de-prioritize specific actions that have the potential to bolster fracked gas use in Vancouver. For the foreseeable future, Vancouver's gas supply will remain dominated by fracked gas. Vancouver's CAP should not rely on NW Natural's (NWN) Smart Energy program or renewable natural gas (RNG), which may be expensive, unavailable, or involve purchasing credits for the capture of methane from out-of-state sources (methane that will never enter Vancouver's gas system).

As the CAP nears completion, ACE would like to share our suggestions to strengthen specific aspects of the plan. We are grateful for the opportunity to comment, and would be happy to discuss these points further with you.

Buildings section –

- **BE.1.E** Municipal section – Add clarifying language making explicit that the reference to renewable natural gas is specific to the wastewater treatment center's methane capture process (p. 5 of Draft Actions).
- **BE.2.A** and **BE.2.B** – To improve the accuracy of these sections, remove references to "Smart Energy" and NWN, since this program and NWN are not focused on electrification (pp. 9 & 10).
- **BE.2.G** - Update this section to read simply: "Work with NWN to reduce the intensity of natural gas" so the City isn't seen as endorsing specific approaches such as renewable natural gas, hydrogen technologies and offsets (p. 13).

Additionally, we suggest considering the use of energy scorecards for transfer of all buildings ([residential](#) & [commercial](#)) – both sale & rental. This stipulation could be initially voluntary and eventually mandated. It could be included in the provision regarding working with realtors and could also include working with developers. The City can decide later on a preferred scoring system (we prefer the scorecards from the EPA/DOE because they do not favor a private company).

Transportation & Land Use section –

- Add into Strategy **TLU2** the following clarifications:
 - Under the supporting action titled, “Modal Hierarchy,” add language that considerations relating to serving overburdened and underserved communities will be part of the evaluation process for prioritizing projects/investments.
 - Under the supporting action titled “City Plan Alignment,” add language around including a timeline, and ensure public transparency on how alignment will be achieved.

Additionally, we suggest that the City include language about seeking to build more park & rides as incentives to reduce VMT/encourage transit ridership, and working with the County to incentivize conversion of denser buildings near transit hubs, via a property tax exemption.

Natural Systems & Water Resources section –

- Add into Strategy **NS1** that the City will include salmon and other species recovery into the prioritization of areas for resiliency/restoration.
- Add into Strategy **NS2** that the City will pursue increasing the overall tree canopy goal and deploy strategies for increasing tree canopy, including around bike lanes & pedestrian paths, and around playgrounds. Consider additional ways to increase open space and tree canopy, such as adding a positive factor for increased green spaces, in a reference to the Multifamily Housing Property Tax Exemption.

We support the City's efforts to coordinate CAP actions across agencies and within the City. We suggest adding in C-Tran and school districts as partners across all the actions.

It's helpful for City staff to identify in presentations how City departments are already integrating consideration of CAP actions. Relatedly, has the City identified any next steps regarding the municipal energy fund since that received attention at the June meeting?

Thank you for your hard work, diligence, and success in crafting CAP actions.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Community Engagement

From: [Cathryn Chudy](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Lande, Aaron](#); [Small, Rebecca](#)
Subject: For the August 8th Workshop on Vancouver's Draft Climate Action Plan
Date: Friday, July 29, 2022 3:00:24 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Vancouver. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

For the Aug. 8th Workshop on the Draft Climate Action Plan (CAP):

I support the City of Vancouver's Draft Actions to **“Work With NWN to reduce demand for natural gas” (BE 1.F) and “Work with NWN to reduce the carbon intensity of natural gas” (BE 2.G)**. These Actions are clearly necessary for emissions reduction, since existing homes and businesses will need time, support and resources to transition to electric. However, I am concerned that Vancouver is endorsing expansion of NWN's Smart Energy program as a viable way to accomplish these essential actions under home and commercial building electrification, which in effect puts our city on record encouraging a program leading to the opposite of what the stated actions intend.

I am a 71 year old long time Vancouver resident. My old house has had a gas furnace and water heater for nearly two decades, after decommissioning my oil furnace in 2003. When I made the decision to put in gas back then, I knew nothing about the health hazards and climate impacts of burning gas in my home, even in what was then considered to be a “high efficiency” system for heating my house and water.

NW Natural tells me that renewable natural gas (RNG) is “on its way home” and “can be delivered through our existing pipeline to your home or business.” NWN offers me a way to “reduce carbon emissions” by enrolling in the Smart Energy Program for RNG, for an additional \$8 a month on my bill. My gas bill has gone up and will continue to rise with periodic rate increase requests by the utility, even though my retirement income remains the same.

If I did not know better, I would enroll and pay the \$8 a month extra, even if it meant going without other things on my now limited income, because I care about doing my part to reduce my carbon footprint and I see “renewable” as the key to doing that. I would not know that “renewable natural gas” has cost, availability and feasibility barriers that make it a “false solution” for decarbonizing buildings.

This past month my gas water heater stopped working and the repair person determined it was a leak that could not be repaired. I had to replace my water heater. If I believed NW Natural bill inserts about energy efficiency and gas water heaters, I would replace my water heater with another gas one, locking me into another 20 years of heating my water with gas. And, when my gas furnace (also nearly 2

decades old) fails, I would then replace it with a gas furnace for the same reason. I would make this “choice” believing that along with my \$8 a month “Smart Energy” voluntary contribution to NWN for RNG, I will soon be getting “renewable natural gas,” thereby doing the best for myself and my community’s environment. And, I would forego the better decision to replace it with a much more efficient heat pump that would give me air conditioning in these very hot stretches that now happen so much more frequently.

I have researched the impacts of continuing to burn methane gas on our health and our environment, as well as the realistic barriers to “renewable natural gas” being actually used and effective in decarbonizing my home. I know that switching to electric would help health, safety and our community environment.

Vancouver should not encourage/endorse expanding an offset program offered by a private utility (NWN's “Smart Energy” program). It does not in fact “reduce the intensity” of the gas that is delivered by NWN's pipelines to our homes and businesses here in Vancouver. The program most likely will maintain and even increase the demand for “natural” (fracked) gas in our buildings.

Promoting RNG as a climate-friendly alternative (which is what the Smart Energy program is all about) is really a greenwash used by gas utilities like our NWN. RNG is costly to acquire, the supply of source material is minimal and from out-of-state, and it still requires fossil fuel infrastructure. NWN is free to offer this voluntary program to its customers, but I believe it is not wise or credible for our city of Vancouver to even inadvertently encourage expanding this program as written into the Draft Climate Action Plan under home and commercial electrification sections.

There is an additional equity concern with encouraging the Smart Energy Program in that those who are most affected by the public health and climate impacts of continued use of gas in their homes are also those who can least afford to add the additional “voluntary” \$8 a month to their already rising gas bills, or to afford switching to electric when their gas appliances die. The underlying equity lens for accomplishing the Actions in the CAP points to our city doing everything it can with programs to assist residents with transitioning to electric as soon as possible.

Vancouver is on track with Washington state to actively support the transition away from fossil fuel infrastructure with building electrification, and our Climate Action Plan should reflect that. Please talk about this at the Aug. 8 workshop, and I hope you will direct city staff to amend the Draft Actions to remove “Work with NW Natural to expand participation in the Smart Energy program (carbon-neutral option) to offset natural gas emissions”. This appears on p. 9, under “Home Electrification Incentives” and p. 10, under “Commercial Building Electrification Incentives.”

Thank you for everything you are doing to get the CAP across the finish line!

Cathryn Chudy

From: [Cathryn Chudy](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Lande, Aaron](#); [Small, Rebecca](#)
Subject: For Vancouver's Aug. 8th Workshop review and discussion of Draft CAP Actions
Date: Friday, July 29, 2022 4:34:54 PM

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Re: Proposed Actions for decarbonizing Buildings and Energy

In the proposed Draft Actions for Vancouver's Climate Action Plan in the **Buildings and Energy** section: Action BE.2.G: "Natural Gas Carbon Intensity" the Action Summary includes "hydrogen technologies" to reduce the carbon intensity of natural gas (for building heating and cooling).

For the record, **the article below** is directed at policy makers, and ends with this conclusion about hydrogen for reducing emissions in buildings:

*"The "code red" flashed by the newest [UN climate report](#) confirms we cannot afford to give credence to delay tactics and derail proven actions on climate that are necessary today. **Green hydrogen has the potential to play a pivotal role in reducing emissions in hard-to-electrify sectors. But buildings are not the place for it.**"*

The content of this article provides an in depth explanation for **why hydrogen is not suitable as a solution to decarbonize buildings**.

Once again, I support working with NWN to reduce the carbon intensity of natural gas in existing buildings as Vancouver implements investments in electrification, particularly for those least able to afford the transition from gas to electric for heating and cooling, as a key Action in the CAP for reducing emissions and protecting public health (an equity issue).

What doesn't make sense is for Vancouver to include in proposed Actions the pursuit of "hydrogen technologies" as a way to decarbonize our buildings, as this article illustrates. Given the aggressive CAP emissions reduction goals, the timeline for making an equitable transition, and the unique public health challenges Vancouver faces, we need readily available and proven, least-cost energy sources for buildings, provided by the electrification pathway.

I appreciate this opportunity to provide feedback to Council and staff in advance of the Aug. 8th Workshop discussion.

-Cathryn Chudy

Vancouver, WA

chudyca@gmail.com

<https://www.nrdc.org/experts/rachel-fakhry/hydrogen-buildings-poster-child-tech-crastination#:~:text=Hydrogen%20can%20hypothetically%20substitute%20for,a%20highly%20efficient%20heat%20pump.>

Hydrogen in Buildings: The Poster Child of Tech-Crastination

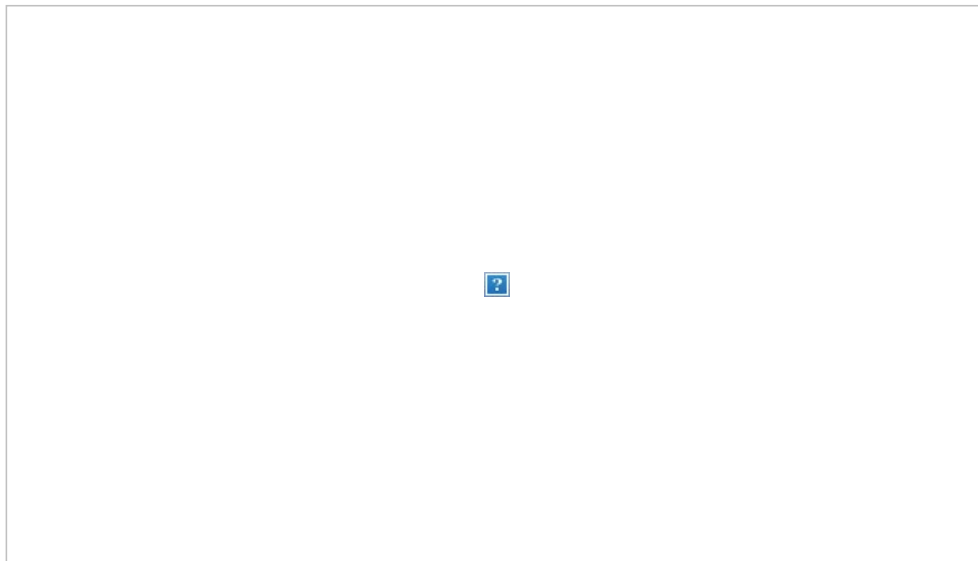
September 07, 2021 [Rachel Fakhry Merrian Borgeson](#)

[Tech-crastination](#) refers to cases where the promise of a future technology diminishes interest in the deployment of existing, reliable, and cost-effective technologies. Tech-crastination is an appropriate characterization of the gas industry's claims around the suitability of hydrogen as a solution to decarbonize buildings, even though heating homes with hydrogen is one of the least-efficient and most costly options available.

Green hydrogen has emerged as the darling of the gas industry and those considering pathways to reach aggressive climate targets. It is a promising solution to clean up the most challenging sectors of the economy—aviation, maritime shipping, and steelmaking—where electrification faces technical hurdles. However, it is an [inefficient and costly solution](#) outside of those narrow applications where it's uniquely suited for the task.

For example, green hydrogen is a woefully inefficient and risky solution to decarbonize buildings relative to proven and readily available high-efficiency electric heat pumps. Despite this reality, and to protect and perpetuate their business model, some in the gas industry are increasingly [broadcasting](#) the merits of hydrogen's widespread use in buildings and setting up the [foundations](#) for its deployment. This could derail investments in building efficiency and electrification, undermine climate progress, and lock customers into expensive and illusive hydrogen-heavy pathways. Burning hydrogen in homes could also *worsen* indoor air pollution.

Policymakers should cut through the industry noise and decisively pursue widespread electrification as the lower-cost and lower-risk solution to decarbonize buildings.



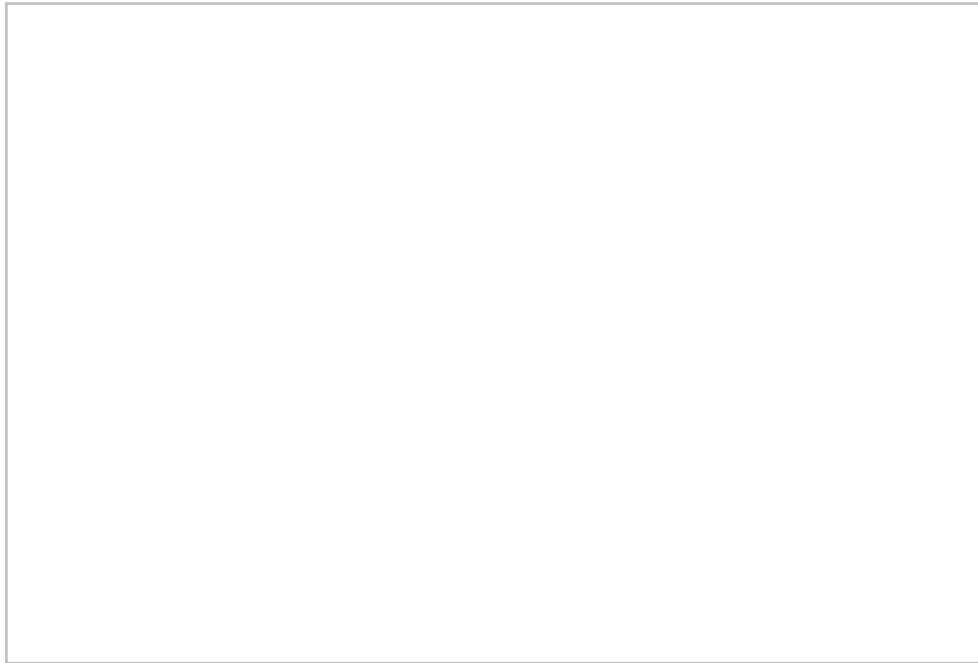
Hydrogen use to heat buildings receives a meagre “F” grade on the now-famous Liebreich “hydrogen ladder.”
Source: Liebreich: ‘Oil sector is lobbying for inefficient hydrogen cars because it wants to delay electrification’,
Recharge News, 2021

Hydrogen use in buildings creates harmful air pollution

Burning hydrogen [generates harmful air pollutants](#), and the extent to which those could be mitigated remains uncertain. This reality is acknowledged by California gas utilities; they [recognize](#) that, due to hydrogen's chemical characteristics, blends of hydrogen and methane may even yield *higher* emissions of health-damaging nitrogen oxides than methane alone. In contrast, heat pumps produce *zero* indoor air pollution by eliminating combustion, and provide a robust pathway towards zero-emission buildings as the electricity supply transitions away from fossil fuel generation.

An inefficient and risky solution relative to direct and efficient electrification

Hydrogen can *hypothetically* substitute for methane gas in heating buildings. However, a range of studies ([here](#) and [here](#)) estimate that heating a home with green hydrogen would require **5 to 6 times more renewable electricity** than heating that same home with a highly efficient heat pump. **More than 20 percent of the electricity is lost** in producing the hydrogen and readily available high-efficiency heat pumps can be **4.5 times more efficient** relative to the still pre-commercial hydrogen boilers (figure below). Opting for hydrogen instead of a high-efficiency heat pump is akin to choosing to take your car to work, spend 30 minutes in gridlock traffic and pay \$35 for parking to boot, instead of biking 10 minutes from home.



*Relative Efficiency of Heating Electricity in Heat Pumps vs. Electrolytic Hydrogen in Boilers
from a study conducted by the U.K. Climate Change Committee
Source: Hydrogen in a Low-Carbon Economy, UK CCC, 2018*

This wide efficiency differential has important implications on both the costs and risk profile of hydrogen-heavy pathways. Achieving the U.S. climate goals will require a [substantial increase](#) in wind and solar deployment. An unnecessary **fivefold multiplier** on this renewable buildout would massively increase the difficulty of cleaning up our economy. It also raises potential hydrogen [supply risks](#), which must be aptly considered in evaluating the suitability of an extensive hydrogen agenda. A diverse group of European stakeholders has [urged](#) their governments to steer clear of pursuing hydrogen as a widespread solution in buildings on account of those critical limitations. Policymakers across the globe should heed this recommendation.

The “no-disruption” slogan is a myth: hydrogen requires modified or entirely new pipelines and appliances

Some in the gas industry argue that using hydrogen to heat buildings is a “[no-disruption](#)” solution relative to electrification, owing to the potential to utilize the existing gas network to transport the hydrogen. But this claim ignores some critical challenges.

Hydrogen is a [fundamentally different](#) gas relative to methane gas:

- When blended at high shares with methane, its chemical properties cause embrittlement to steel gas pipelines and diminish their integrity;
- It’s a much smaller molecule than methane and is thereby more [prone](#) to leakage, with important implications on the required pipe materials.

Hydrogen could be blended with methane in low proportions with minimal investments into the existing gas system—perhaps [up to 7 percent](#) by energy, although this is subject to ongoing [investigations](#). However, any quantity of hydrogen exceeding the 7 percent threshold is likely to require either **major network repurposing measures or the buildout of an entirely new dedicated hydrogen pipeline network**.

Our appliances are also [not made](#) to run on a high mix of hydrogen; gas boilers, furnaces and cookstoves would have to be **replaced with hydrogen-compatible alternatives**, which are not currently available to consumers.

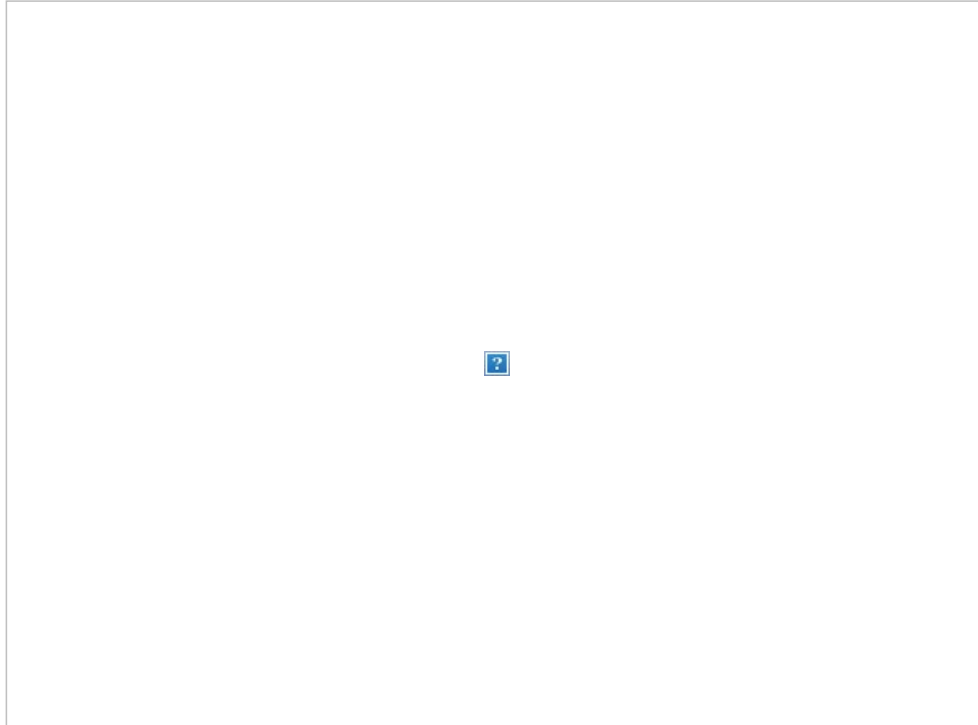
The high costs and effort associated with a large-scale conversion to hydrogen therefore decidedly impugn the glossy “no disruption” marketing claim.

Risks of expensive energy system “supersizing”

Some claim that widespread hydrogen use in buildings would deliver huge savings on electric transmission and distribution infrastructure relative to the electrification of buildings. However, this premise is questionable as it selectively overlooks the broader picture. While it may deliver some savings on electricity distribution infrastructure, a hydrogen-

heavy pathway would require large incremental infrastructure elsewhere on the system due to its much lower efficiency relative to direct electrification and the need for a hydrogen-compatible network.

A [study](#) by the European Climate Foundation found that the savings on electric network infrastructure in a high hydrogen case would be much smaller than the increased costs in renewable projects, electrolyzers, and storage facilities to produce and store green hydrogen, and in the upkeep and refurbishing of the gas network to transport the hydrogen. This energy infrastructure “supersizing” sharply increases energy system costs and household energy bills relative to high electrification cases.



*Source: Towards Fossil-Free Energy in 2050, European Climate Foundation, 2019.
The high hydrogen case reflects more expanded hydrogen use and moderate electrification in both buildings and transportation. The study estimates a net 36% increase in infrastructure costs in the high hydrogen case. The 22% reduction in electricity network investments is largely outweighed by the 248% increase in expenses on electrolyzers, storage facilities, and refurbishing gas networks. The study also estimates a 16% increase in investments in renewable energy projects in the high hydrogen case.*

Misleading claims are intended to delay electrification and could produce expensive lock-in effects

Marketing claims around the merits of the future, widespread hydrogen use in buildings could dull support for electrification among decision makers and reduce related investments. It seems likely that these dubious claims are often made with the intention of [delaying](#) crucial investments in the transition away from fossil infrastructure. This technostination risks undermining climate progress, as numerous studies ([here](#) and [here](#)) have concluded that rapid building electrification and efficiency retrofits in this decade are critical to meeting both the new U.S. 2030 [Paris target](#) and the 2050 net-zero greenhouse emissions target. In addition, continuously pouring investments into the existing gas system with future repurposing to hydrogen in mind (an attractive proposition to gas utilities) risks locking customers into an expensive pathway to deep decarbonization. It could also result in the stranding of gas or hydrogen networks, following an ultimate switch to electrification, the costs of which would be shouldered by customers.

Recommendations for Policymakers: Ignore the Noise and Prioritize Building Electrification and Efficiency

Policymakers should prioritize building electrification and efficiency as the demonstrably more cost-effective widespread solution for buildings. More specifically:

- Policymakers should cut through the noise and decisively proceed with the widespread roll-out of high-efficiency heat pumps in buildings, energy efficiency upgrades, and the development of [smart demand management policies](#). Hydrogen may have a supportive role in niche contexts, and such a proposition could be investigated based on independent assessments.

- Policymakers should exercise caution with efforts to keep pouring money into maintaining and expanding the gas network, premised on the future repurposing to hydrogen, and instead deploy a planning process for its gradual decommissioning in a manner that protects customers and workers. Repurposing portions of the gas network is a compelling proposition to serve challenging sectors that may require priority access to hydrogen—such as steelmaking and maritime shipping—and this targeted opportunity should be examined further.

The “code red” flashed by the newest [UN climate report](#) confirms we cannot afford to give credence to delay tactics and derail proven actions on climate that are necessary today. Green hydrogen has the potential to play a pivotal role in reducing emissions in hard-to-electrify sectors. But buildings are not the place for it.

About the Authors

[Rachel Fakhry](#)

Senior Advocate, Climate & Clean Energy Program

[Merrian Borgeson](#)

Senior Scientist, Climate & Clean Energy Program

From: [Tracy Ceravolo](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Climate action plan comment
Date: Friday, July 29, 2022 5:23:46 PM

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Hello again. One of the most impactful sectors of our economy when it comes to greenhouse gases is food. I know there is no way to mandate diet changes, but I think if there was some recognition of the devastating climate impacts of the animal agriculture industry, people might try to make adjustments on their own. Maybe there can be some kind of positive messaging put out about how switching from animal products is healthier for you and the planet, without sounding preachy?

I sincerely hope you will read this article addressing this!!!

[https://cdn.vox-cdn.com/thumbor/a5clRscG1RfNNR4vvoQDSmo1Se4=/0x0:1536x1380/920x0/filters:focal\(0x0:1536x1380\):format\(webp\):no_upscale\(\)/cdn.vox-cdn.com/uploads/chorus_asset/file/22321449/Environmental_impact_of_food_by_life_cycle_stage_1536x1380.png](https://cdn.vox-cdn.com/thumbor/a5clRscG1RfNNR4vvoQDSmo1Se4=/0x0:1536x1380/920x0/filters:focal(0x0:1536x1380):format(webp):no_upscale()/cdn.vox-cdn.com/uploads/chorus_asset/file/22321449/Environmental_impact_of_food_by_life_cycle_stage_1536x1380.png)

Thank you,
Tracy Ceravolo

From: [T.C](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Draft plan comment on Climate
Date: Friday, July 29, 2022 5:25:22 PM

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Hello. I have comments about your climate draft action plan. One of the concerning things to me is about gas lines running into homes. As someone who used to live in a home with gas appliances and heat and now has a home with all electric, I feel that I have a good perspective on this.

I really don't feel like there should be any gas lines running to residences. There is no reason for it. Heat pumps are efficient and reliable. Induction stoves are a fantastic replacement for gas stoves. No one really needs a gas fireplace as it is just for show.

We have heat pumps in our current house. Many of them are decades old and in perfect working order. Of course they can cool our house in summer as well, but we usually can keep the house cool by closing curtains during the day and opening windows at night. In winter, we let the sun help heat our home. Heat pumps sip energy, and if your electricity source is GREEN (help us, Clark PUD), then you are really reducing your climate footprint.

I used to love cooking on a gas stove, and I cook A LOT. Now that I have an induction stove, I find it to be superior for MANY reasons. It does not put off extra heat which keeps your home cooler in summer PLUS makes it easier to sense when your food is hot. It is very easy to clean. I can wipe the burner while it is on if water boils over (no dangerous flame). It is instant like gas as well. I think if more people would learn about the advantages of cooking on induction stoves, they would give up their gas stoves without a problem.

To replace a gas fireplace, people can use soy candles in a fireplace area. No dangerous pollution emitted, and no explosive methane leak possible.

Methane is dangerously explosive and dangerous for our climate. Please be strict on this antiquated, destructive industry.

Sincerely,
Tracy Ceravolo

From: [Therese Livella](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Climate
Date: Friday, July 29, 2022 11:41:10 AM

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Dear Vancouver Council,
I urge you to take strong, swift action on climate change. I am not a Vancouver resident but I know all smaller communities in SW Washington are looking to you for leadership and guidance. Most of us in our lying communities work or play in Vancouver. Please set an example of how we can make improvements to our quality of life on planet Earth.

Peace,
Therese Livella

From: [Lande, Aaron](#)
To: [Obotette, Stephanie](#)
Subject: FW: Information about ACE's Climate Action Teach-In | Thank you, info and links
Date: Friday, July 29, 2022 3:05:49 PM

We can add this one too. Thanks

From: Heidi Cody <hcodystudio@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 29, 2022 2:58 PM
To: Lande, Aaron <aaron.lande@cityofvancouver.us>
Subject: Information about ACE's Climate Action Teach-In | Thank you, info and links

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Vancouver. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Aaron,

Our Alliance for Community Engagement's (ACE's) Climate Action Teach-In last evening drew widespread participation across the community. Thank you to Councilmembers Diana Perez, surprise guest Councilmember Sarah Fox, and new co-sponsors LULAC, Community Roots Collaborative, WA Poor People's Campaign, and Vancouver for Peace! It's so nice to see our wider Vancouver community joining together in support of our City's important work on climate.

Here is a link to the [Vancouver Climate Action Toolkit](#). This is a great all-in-one information hub with information about the CAP, the fossil fuel moratorium, and how to take action.

Here is a link to the [Climate Action Teach-In slide presentation](#) we used last night. The "Resources" page has links to the Climate Action Toolkit, City's Climate Action Plan, the Climate Adaptation Strategy, and more information about the WA Health Disparities Map.

And here is a link to a [recording of the Teach-In](#), in case you're interested (there is a long lead-in, but it gets going at 6:00).

We also hope to show an outdoor screening of Don't Look Up later in August, as a youth-outreach effort to get more new voices involved.

We support what our City Council is doing on climate action. Thank you for all your work.

Sincerely,

Heidi Cody

From: [Lande, Aaron](#)
To: [Obotette, Stephanie](#)
Subject: FW: Comments on Draft Climate Action Plan
Date: Friday, July 29, 2022 12:26:36 PM

For the compilation. Thanks

From: Thomas Curtis <tc63@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 29, 2022 12:15 PM
To: City Council <council@cityofvancouver.us>
Cc: Small, Rebecca <Rebecca.Small@cityofvancouver.us>; Lande, Aaron <aaron.lande@cityofvancouver.us>
Subject: Comments on Draft Climate Action Plan

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CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Vancouver. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Greetings City Council,

We are writing to provide feedback on the draft Climate Action Plan (CAP).

We are supportive of what is included in the list of strategies so far and offer the following additional considerations:

- We see a number of strategies related to energy efficiency and electrification, but do not see strategies related to code innovation related to using buildings for carbon sequestration. With the anticipated growth in the city, we recommend evaluating the impact of additional strategies that incentivize and remove barriers for using buildings to store carbon and allow for alternative building materials and methods. The work of [ReCode](#), [International Living Futures Institute](#), and [Northwest Ecobuilding Guild](#) are just a few examples of groups who provide suggestions for municipal code changes and/or alternative building standards. The city could take many steps, such as establishing an Alternative Technology Advisory Committee like the City of Portland which assists reviewing innovative sustainable building technologies and methods for compliance with the Building Code requirements, or look for ideas in the Northwest Ecobuilding Guild Code Innovations Database or other green building code resources. Due to the city's ambitious timeline, which we support, it makes sense to leverage work that others have done that need local decision makers to champion and make possible.
-
- Related to the above point, Clark County Code [40.200.090](#), which has sunset, was a pilot program for sustainable development projects. The goal of the program was to encourage the development of buildings and communities that incorporate benchmarks of the [Living Building Challenge](#) by allowing departures

from code requirements that might otherwise discourage or prevent such buildings from being built. We recommend the city add a strategy that would allow for departures from some codes in certain circumstances.

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- Related to strategies SW-1, NS1.3, and NS1.4: in addition to siting a composting facility within Clark County, we also recommend the city remove any barriers for community composting programs. The [Institute for Self Reliance](#) has several resources on what local governments can do to promote composting in their jurisdiction.
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- Strategy NS1.3 mentions reduction of synthetic fertilizers. We recommend committing to no use of synthetic fertilizers to make this a more impactful strategy.
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- We recommend adding a strategy related to green/vegetated roofs on commercial buildings. This type of action can serve a dual purpose, like other green infrastructure related strategies, to both help sequester carbon and reduce urban heat island effects. Several other cities have green roof programs, such as the [City of Portland](#).
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- We recommend adding a strategy related to alternative urban infrastructure materials, such as shifting preferred road and sidewalk materials away from extractive materials tied to fossil fuel, like asphalt, or promoting lower carbon footprint concrete over commonly used Portland Cement.
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- We recommend strategy BE1.1 be expanded to address deep energy retrofits.
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- We recommend including a strategy that considers de-paving as a way to transform over-paved areas of the city.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these recommendations.

Regards,
Thomas and Jenna
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