

Dear Mayor & Members of Council,

Re: EX22-41 Energy & Sustainability

My name is Jim Elliott and I have been living in Regina most of my adult life. I have also been asking for changes like what is being proposed in this framework for upwards of ten years in this province and more forcibly in the last 4 years.

When one looks at a large project, it may be appropriate to jump up to the whole program first and see that it will take 11-12 Billion dollars over the timeframe of today to 2050. But rather than think of it that way I want you to bring that down to one individual and what they would need to do to help get us to that goal of 100% renewable by 2050.

We have approximately 200,000 residents in this city for my scenario. It will be 28 years of work to get us down to our goal if we amortize this out to the full term. If you divide it up that way, it will be costing that same individual approximately 2,100 dollars per year (the cost of a holiday somewhere in the Caribbean or Mexico). Now again, that may seem like a lot. But today that person, if they own a reasonably new automobile, it is costing them over \$10,000 a year to have that automobile and these days, that cost is going up almost every day.

This example shows to me and hopefully to you as well that if we take action every year, it will be possible to get there without necessarily making or costing us those easily identifiable big steps, steps that might not be readily available to everyone.

In addition, there are some bigger steps that could make a significant difference. One could instead get rid of their current automobile rather than switching it over to electric. One could become part of a growing car-sharing network and only use an electric car when necessary. And if you don't own a car, not get one. Again, small steps.

And as this report encourages, the city could take some of those bigger steps to show leadership and to enable others to take their steps.

Some that I have talked about earlier is to switch the electrical supply for the water treatment plant to solar and wind with a battery backup like what the Cowessess First Nation is doing southeast of Regina. That step could take about 25% of the emissions by the city off the system, much of that based on coal-fired power from Estevan. In addition, that would take \$2-3 Million dollars a year off the water utility budget this year and more in later years.

As I said in my budget submission last fall, we could begin to replace our diesel transit and paratransit buses starting as soon as we could get them here. This would be a regular yearly replacement and through it, we would build up the capacity and skills of our city workforce. All fleet vehicles that are being replaced could be doing the same requiring all our city yards and facilities to have vehicle charging stations installed.

One substantive action this city could take that would enable thousands, perhaps tens of thousands of residents and businesses, to use their building assets like homes and business buildings as collateral to pay for the installation of photovoltaic energy supply and retrofits. This was introduced earlier in framework discussion by Brent Dolter, a program called PACE, Property Assessed Clean Energy. The property assessed clean energy (PACE) model is an innovative mechanism for financing energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements on private property. PACE programs exist for:

- Commercial properties (commonly referred to as Commercial PACE or C-PACE).
- Residential properties (commonly referred to as Residential PACE or R-PACE).

Those homeowners and building owners could begin to retrofit and add alternative energy systems to their homes and businesses, immediately reducing the emissions from our city and pay for them gradually through their property taxes each year.

And for those people who are now considering building a new home in Regina (approximately \$320,000), if one goes to the full meal deal for energy efficiency, it will cost them an additional 10% in cost while eliminating the need for 90% of their energy needs into the future. Others who work in the commercial side of building construction say that this can be done with commercial buildings as well.

All of these are incremental and much easier than what has been blurted out easily that this will cost 11-12 Billion dollars and who has that kind of money these days.

All of what I have said has not included any provincial and federal funding. With this, we could be doubling or tripling the efforts or speed up the transition.

In conclusion, I am saying that this is entirely doable with some sacrifices. But just imagine, for the next 20 years or more, you would not have to pay a power bill. When the prices at the pump jump again, you will not be worrying about running off to the station to spend \$200 dollars to fill up the tank again this week.

It would have been better to have this begin in 2018 when this motion began this process but with what is being proposed, it is still doable and we know what needs to be done, starting tomorrow.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Elliott