

MN18-4 Councillor Mike O'Donnell: Solar Panels

PRESENTATION BY KELLY HUSACK – April 30, 2018

Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to speak here today on behalf of the Regina Blue Dot Movement. You may remember our group from just over a year ago when this council voted unanimously to pass a municipal declaration for the R2HE.

I am happy to report that we have been making progress at a national level – working to encourage our federal government to act on the proposed changes to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act. These proposed changes include the right to a healthy environment in the recommendations and is reflected in the title: *Healthy Environment, Healthy Canadians, Health Economy*¹. This awareness and use of such positive language is a result of the action taken by municipalities like yourself – those that have set an example for what is in the best interest of their citizens by acting on issues of the environment.

One does not have to look far to see the potential of renewable energy and the opportunities it creates for tackling the major crises we face. All around the world, countries and cities are moving forward on developing alternative energy solutions because their leaders recognize the imminent threat that climate change poses to the health of the environment.

By investigating into low-carbon options for energy sourcing, the City of Regina is promoting numerous priorities that it has identified for itself, including the “promotion of conservation, stewardship, and environmental sustainability.”²

In fact, I believe the most important aspect of this motion is that it provides leadership on climate action within the province of Saskatchewan.

Transitioning to a low carbon future will take innovation, leadership, and most importantly action. This action needs to be shared by all levels of government, from federal to provincial, to the individual. The issue of climate change is bigger than any one city, but motions such as the one in front of you today help to shape the norms and values of everyday people and guide them to the positive action that our planet needs.

Regina has an opportunity to continue to lead on issues of the environment and climate. As our municipal leaders, we require you to make tangible action in the best interests of the community.

I am happy and proud to see investigation into renewable energy projects taking shape here in the City of Regina. I hope you all will support it as well.

¹ http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2017/parl/xc50-1/XC50-1-1-421-8-eng.pdf

² <http://www.designregina.ca/official-community-plan-3/final-draft-community-priorities/>