

## Jonah Ross

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**From:** Liz McDowell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** June-11-23 9:54 PM  
**To:** Council  
**Subject:** Public comment for CoTW meeting June 12th  
**Attachments:** Stand.earth letter of support to Esquimalt on zero carbon bldgs - June 2023 (1).pdf  
**Categories:** Acknowledged, Inputted in to Mail Log

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Hi there,

Please find attached a letter of public comment in support of the planned presentation from Jane Devonshire of the South Island Climate Action Hub.

With appreciation for all your good work,  
Liz

**Liz McDowell** | She / her

Senior Campaigns Director

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**M:** [REDACTED]



*Based on the unceded territories of the səliłwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh), xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) nations.*



June 12, 2023

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of Stand.earth and our 98,000 community members across BC, I'm writing to voice support for the recommendation from the South Island Climate Action Network (presented to the Committee of the Whole) that Esquimalt align with the City of Victoria and the District of Saanich and adopt the Zero Carbon Step Code for all new buildings without haste.

As we all move to tackle the climate crisis and adapt our communities to cope with the extreme weather impacts so many of us are already feeling, we will have many difficult decisions ahead of us. Building zero carbon new buildings isn't one of those hard decisions – in fact, it's very straightforward. We already have the technology to heat, cool and power our homes with clean electricity rather than polluting methane gas, and studies have shown that all-electric new buildings are cost comparable to those built with gas systems. Moving quickly and decisively to align with neighbouring municipalities also gives certainty to builders and developers.

It's also no exaggeration to say that zero carbon buildings save lives. Highly efficient electric heat pumps automatically provide cooling, keeping homes more comfortable and safe during extreme heat events. As we enter into yet another heartbreaking terrible wildfire season, requiring new buildings to provide cooling via electric heat pumps is one of the best things we can do to avoid another deadly event like the 2021 heat dome.

By moving to implement the new provincial Zero Carbon Step Code, Esquimalt will be joining a wave of municipalities taking action to future-proof their building stock. Last month, Victoria and Saanich both voted to accelerate their Zero Carbon Step Code commitments – smaller (Part 9) buildings will be Zero Carbon ready starting Nov 1, 2023, and new multi-family buildings will all be Zero Carbon by Nov 1, 2024. Just in the last month, Burnaby and Rossland have similarly voted to move forward leading buildings policies, requiring all new buildings to be Zero Carbon ready by 2025. And more than a dozen additional municipalities across the province have already used the existing Energy Step Code to incentivize low carbon new construction.

Municipalities across the province are looking for examples of climate action from communities that look like theirs, and Esquimalt has the opportunity to serve as an inspiration and example to so many places across BC by making the Zero Carbon Step Code a priority item.

Thank you,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Liz McDowell.

Liz McDowell  
Senior Campaigns Director  
Stand.earth