

Dear Mayor and Council

Re: Resources for Esquimalt Council to accompany Power Point on June 12th

It is my understanding that, as an important part of your strategic planning, Council is planning to hold two workshops soon on both Climate and Housing. It is my understanding that these workshops will help determine your priorities for these two important topics. Accordingly, I would like to encourage you to include the following action "That Esquimalt align with Victoria and Saanich on the expedited timelines for the implementation of Level 4 of the Zero Carbon Step Code starting on November 1, 2023 which will establish Esquimalt as a team player in helping to shape the regional approach that industry is asking for."

Some of you may wish to take a closer look at what transpired at the Victoria and Saanich Council meetings to come to their decisions so I have included the recordings of the council meetings (times marked) as well as motions, reports and bylaw amendments.

Victoria Council April 6, 2023

On April 6, 2023 Victoria Council passed a Council Member Motion to accelerate the decarbonization of new building energy systems starting November 1, 2023.

Here is the link to the [Council Member Motion](#). The **Recommendation** is on page 2 of the doc.

Victoria council motion to accelerate timing (has a short background). Item H.1: <https://pub-victoria.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=d81d0e1f-296b-4fe4-8588-12b3d11ce4ba&Agenda=Merged&lang=English&Item=22&Tab=attachments>

The motion was debated at the Committee of the Whole meeting in the morning and was passed unanimously. Deliberations start at about the 59 minute mark till about 1:07 in the video link found in the above.

In the afternoon session, an email from UDI had been sent to council over the lunch hour. The motion was debated again and council again voted unanimously to pass the motion to mandate the implementation of the Level 4 Zero Carbon Step Code in new builds as of November 1, 2023.

Here is the link to view the afternoon council meeting.

<https://pub-victoria.escribemeetings.com/Players/ISISStandAlonePlayer.aspx?Id=8a076a09-5332-4062-a23f-2ed25b33179c>

Discussions start at the 20 - 26 minute mark. There is a slight break then resumes at 30 - 39 minutes.

Saanich Council April 24, 2023

Saanich report, bylaws and other background docs. The report gives rationale for Saanich to accelerate zero carbon because Victoria did – so this is the most useful of all.

ItemG5: https://saanich.ca.granicus.com/player/clip/744?view_id=1&meta_id=56411&redirect=true&h=271111574937634433e1cf8ae507a8bd

Rebecca Newlove Saanich's Sustainability Manager discusses the Zero Carbon Step Code **4:06:32 to 4:30:31**

Rebecca gives a comprehensive overview of the Step Codes and the Zero Carbon Step Code and how it is urgent to implement this as soon as possible. Every gas hookup locks us into decades more of harmful methane emissions and will affect our ability to reach our GHG emissions reduction targets.

Here is a link to a well-researched doc by Stand.Earth that challenges the many claims that FortisBC makes.
https://www.stand.earth/sites/stand/files/briefing_note_on_rng_in_bc.pdf

Here is an example regarding BV Hydro's capacity to meet the demands:

Fortis Claim: If all buildings in BC switched to electric heating and hot water, more mega-dams the size of Site C would be needed to keep up with demand

Fact: Invoking the controversial Site C project is a great way to shut down conversation about electrification, but this claim just isn't accurate. It's true that in order to switch buildings off gas, we'll need to ramp up electricity production, storage and transmission. However, this is eminently doable. Several recent studies, including The Big Switch report from the Climate Institute and the David Suzuki Foundation's recent modelling study, have found that by increasing solar and wind capacity, building a smarter and more efficient grid, making use of existing hydroelectricity capacity, and focusing on efficiency improvements across all sectors, we can meet future needs without any new large-scale hydro projects. **BC Hydro currently has a surplus of power and expects to have more than enough until 2030**, and its 20-year Integrated Resource Plan is forecasting and preparing for scenarios with significantly increased electricity demand. BC Hydro's scenarios, including for accelerated electrification of buildings and vehicles, indicate that future demand can be met without adding any new mega-projects like Site C.

Hope this information will prove helpful. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully yours,
Jane Devonshire
Co-Chair of SI-CAN

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