Dear Mayor Gillingham and committee members,

I applaud your vision in the Strategic Priorities Action Plan 2023-2026 (SPAP) for our city.

I was particularly pleased to see as one of your five key priority themes
• A Green and Growing City with Sustainable Renewal of Infrastructure.

And I was also very pleased to see included in your opening statement of the SPAP the following.

“It recognizes a need for climate mitigation and adaptation to keep pace with a changing climate as well as minimizing greenhouse gas emission impacts on current and future generations. It prioritizes actions related to waste diversion, reducing litter, protecting and growing the urban forest, climate resiliency, and renewable energy.”

But I am truly disheartened to see that the funding of the Community Environment Investment Roadmap (CEIR) has not been included in the SPAP. Without a financial commitment another 4 years will pass and we will have done little to reduce our GHG emissions.

Cities around the world (2500 plus) including Calgary ($87B to a net-zero plan over 28 years), Edmonton ($24B over 10 years), Ottawa ($30B over 28 years), and Saskatoon ($19B over 28 years) have seen that the money spent on GHG mitigation in the form of building retrofits, fleet conversion from fossil fuel, and energy efficiency upgrades pay immediate benefits of lower energy costs as well as avoided carbon taxes. These cities have recognized the gravity of the climate change situation and made declarations of climate emergency (652 in Canada). Winnipeg has not. Please don’t let Winnipeg be left behind.

Winnipeg has commissioned an action plan entitled the **Community Energy Investment Roadmap (CEIR),** a taxpayer-funded, evidence-based plan that defines the actions, scale, and economics necessary for the transformation of Winnipeg to a net-zero economy by 2050.

As you know CEIR was formally approved as a motion of City Council in June 2022 with direction for the public service to "analyze and research how to include climate change impact in the operating and capital investment processes and decisions." **And yet, there no mention of CEIR anywhere on *Council's Strategic Priorities Action Plan 2023-2026*.**

As quoted from the report you commissioned:
The CEIR demonstrates that **a zero-carbon economy is a good investment**:
• The net community **benefit** to Winnipeg is **$35.6 billion over 28 years, a climate dividend that averages $1.2 billion per year**. By 2050 the total energy **cost savings will be nearly $2 billion per year** - and all this energy is made-in-Manitoba. The billions sent to Alberta every year recirculate inside Winnipeg for additional benefits.
• CEIR projects an increase of over 100,000 person years of employment between 2020-2050.
• To achieve this result, CEIR recommends a societal investment (from public and private sources) of $23 billion over 28 years (from 2022–2050), averaging $800 million per year (or 1% of Manitoba's GDP).
• This investment pays for itself two times over, **generating savings of $53.7 billion from avoided carbon costs,** reduced energy costs, and avoided maintenance costs and revenues of nearly $5 billion until 2050.
CEIR demonstrates that **households save money and improve health**:
• If CEIR is implemented, household expenditure will shift away from natural gas and gasoline to electricity, using high efficiency space heating and cooling with heat pumps, and improving the efficiency of homes and reducing energy costs by 56% per year

• With carbon tax increases and CEIR reduced costs, **an average household in 2050 will save $4500 per year**. These savings can be used to finance the incremental capital expenditures required to achieve the carbon targets.
• Health is improved with better air quality as we eliminate fossil fuels. Clean energy reduces asthma, bronchial conditions and absenteeism while improving mental health.
• Achieving a net-zero economy can reduce energy poverty, when a household's energy costs represent a disproportionate share of their income.

All of the above can be found in the report you approved and adopted.

Your financial commitment to reducing our GHG emissions and making our city and province a better place to live will be akin to the benefit of the floodway. Winnipeg's future is in your hands.

The time to declare a climate emergency is **now**.

The time to invest in the CEIR is **now**. Funding the CEIR makes economic, environmental, social and better health sense for all of us.

I respectively request that you take immediate action to prioritize greenhouse gas emissions reduction (GHGs) through the Community Energy Investment Roadmap (CEIR) in Winnipeg's Budget Process.

Thank you for your time, your dedication to the citizens of Winnipeg and your attention.
Kind regards,

Shawn Kettner