Dear Executive Policy Committee

I'm writing as a carpenter and father of 3 children who is very concerned about the climate change crisis we find ourselves in, and the lack of necessary action to deal with it. I worry for the future of my children, and the rest of our world because of this.

Last summer, the City of Winnipeg released the Community Energy Investment Roadmap (CEIR), as a vision of how Winnipeg can deal with its responsibilities for carbon emissions and adapt to a carbon free future.

I get really excited when someone puts out a plan, an idea, of how we can deal with our carbon problem, and how we can continue to live in a good way while making changes.

The CEIR needs to be front and centre in Winnipeg's Strategic Priorities Action Plan. It requires massive investments, but also makes clear that the costs of business as usual are too great to be ignored. In the long run, the savings, both economic and livability, are huge.

Some friends and I were talking a few months ago, and someone compared this investment to the investment in the Red River Floodway around Winnipeg - how it was mocked as "Duff's Ditch" - too expensive, not worth it. And yet, years later, the amount of money and damage it has saved us is astronomical, and I'm so thankful I don't have to worry about floods!

In the same way, I believe that the investments and changes described in this report are absolutely necessary and will pay off significantly in the long run. These changes will make life in Winnipeg healthy and affordable for us and future generations, and do our part to stop harming the planet.

While the committee has voted to recommend the report, council needs to follow up with the work of implementing the roadmap and starting on the projects necessary to transformation. We don't have time to waste. We are in a climate crisis, and reductions in the next few years are critical.

A central part of the CEIR is the creation of a carbon budget that gets us to net 0 by 2050, and that we make all decisions with this lens in mind and make all policy and budget decisions with this budget in mind. We also need to put this report front and centre as a vision for what we can do so that citizens can engage with it and rally around it.

Winnipeg needs to partner with federal and provincial governments to be creative in financing, building code and transportation changes. There is currently money out there from other levels of government to implement these changes. It needs to be taken advantage of.

Your leadership and vision are required so that Winnipeg can adapt and thrive in the changing environment we find ourselves in.

We need strong climate action so that our city can thrive in the future. I look forward to seeing the CEIR take a central place in Winnipeg's Strategic Priorities Action Plan that show that Winnipeg is taking our children's futures and this report seriously.
Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Thiessen