CLIMATE CHANGE CONNECTION

Winnipeg City Council

Oct 24, 2024 Council Meeting

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON WATER, WASTE AND ENVIRONMENT - NOTICE OF MOTION

Item No 1 Retrofit Investments

I stand in support of Councillor Mayes motion, and I thank him for standing up for the citizens of Winnipeg by bringing it forward.

The motion before you reveals a startling fact. If the same mathematics were used for the building energy retrofit proposal as was used for the Route 90 widening project this would be the conclusion:

> "the retrofits will produce 36% greater social/environmental benefit than the Route 90 widening proposal approved by Council, at less than 1/3 of the cost"

The fact that Councillor Mayes' motion was necessary forces me to question whether of not this Council truly understands its obligation to act on climate change.

OurWinnipeg 2045 set a climate target for Winnipeg to meet or exceed net zero emissions by 2050. The *Community Energy Investment Roadmap* (CEIR) was developed to show how we can achieve this target. The CEIR report was developed at significant cost to the City of Winnipeg and with input from many experts and community members. The CEIR report not only shows an actionable pathway off of our reliance on fossil fuels for heat and transportation, it shows how investing in this pathway will have a substantial net financial benefit and save households money.

This report was adopted by Winnipeg's City Council in 2022.

In May 2023 this Council sought input to the development of Winnipeg's Strategic Priorities Action Plan. At that time, I and a number of other citizens presented in this chamber to suggest that CEIR provide a central guiding framework for that Plan.

Council's Strategic Priorities Action Plan that was subsequently released did not mention CEIR even once.

This Council seems to have an intention to expand the roadway system and will fit the calculus to justify that aim but is unwilling to apply the same methodology to a project that arguably has more benefit at less cost.

The consequences of climate change continue to mount. Sooner or later, its impacts will become intolerable. We will have to realize that we can no longer burn fossil gas to heat our buildings. This means that we must find a way to heat all of our buildings electrically. To enable that, we need the efficiency of heat pumps and we need energy efficient buildings. The work to making that conversion needs to start now.

Let's use CEIR and apply consistent determinants as to what the priorities should be in that process.