

July 22, 2019

Elyse Wong

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Burnaby, BC ██████████

Referred to:
Environment and Social Planning
Committee (2019.09.03)

Copied to:
City Manager
Dir. Corporate Services
Dir. Engineering

Dear Mayor Hurley and Councillors,

The IPCC report gives us 10 more years to reduce our global emissions by half to avoid the worst impacts of a 2 degree global warming increase and keep us at a 1.5 degree limit. With current climate policies, we are on track to 3-5 degree warming.

Canada recently joined the UK and nearly 1000 other governments who have recently declared climate emergency. Canada lacks a clear emission ~~plan~~ reduction plan to meet our international commitment to keep warming to 1.5 degrees. By joining other municipalities in Canada who are adopting higher climate targets, we can demonstrate the need for these policies and show leadership to other levels of government who may follow our lead.

A clear emissions reduction strategy would direct staff planning and create more sustainable systems and infrastructure to benefit our communities, while decreasing emissions and creating a cleaner more equitable city.

Cities control 50-70% of emissions in Canada and therefore must be leaders in rapid emission reductions. The decisions city councils make, when we make them together, can have one of the biggest impacts ~~on~~ ^{on} cooling our planet down fast enough.

Global warming brings new challenges, and our actions affect not only ourselves, but also other organisms and their habitats. As someone who enjoys spending time outdoors and is thankful

to live in a city as beautiful as Burnaby, it concerns me to think that my kids may not be able to appreciate the same biodiversity.

Climate change and irreversible impacts are rapidly approaching and climate action should not be put off. As youth, we are trying to educate ourselves on this issue to make an impact, however we are still looking to you, as leaders in our own community, to create change. The City of Vancouver, Richmond, New Westminster, Port Moody, the District of North Vancouver, and the City of North Vancouver have adopted the IPCC targets or higher for community-wide greenhouse gas reduction, ~~and~~ and have also declared climate emergency. I hope to soon be able to say that the city that I live in has joined that list, and has also implemented a clear path to lower its reductions.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,
Elyse

