

January 8, 2024

Planning and Environment Committee  
City of London  
300 Dufferin Avenue  
London, Ontario  
[pec@london.ca](mailto:pec@london.ca)

RE: Green Development Standards

Dear Councilors,

I strongly support the idea of implementing prioritized green development requirements and actions in the City of London. My name is Sara Soufan, a passionate geography student at Laurier currently enrolled in the CGR4M course. I am writing this letter to encourage our lovely City Counselor's to update our Site Plan Control and Zoning Bylaws to require the development of green development standards. I would like to highlight the following 3 requirements:

1. 5 % electric vehicle charging ports for builds over 40 units
2. 2 Minimum 50% native species for landscaping, with no invasive species planted
3. 3 Short-term bicycle parking at a rate of .1 space / unit for townhouse developments

To begin with my first point, I think it is critical that we are mindful of our electric vehicle charging ports in dense areas of London. 5% of electric vehicle charging stations for buildings above 40 units can encourage the purchase of greener alternative transportation uses, considering that it's at a lower cost, and that it supports environmental justice. With that being said, Canadian government strive to have all new light-duty vehicles and passenger truck sales to be zero-emission by 2035.

To move forward, I strongly believe that there should be a minimum of 50% native species for landscaping, with no invasive species present. This is a concerning issue that is ongoing in London's society. As we continue to densify, we have displaced the habitats of many native species causing a disruption in the statistics and health of individual species. It's important to consider that humans are not the only living things here, there's animals that also live here. As Indigenous population believe that they should be "careful and respectful of the natural life cycles of the animals they *share* the Earth with" ([What is the Relationship Between Indigenous Peoples and Animals](#) 2016).

Lastly, bike-parking space per unit for townhouse developments can greatly promote the idea of clean air commitments, and support our local Londoners. It's important to acknowledge the area in which we propose this requirement, as many people these days struggle financially. The idea of bike parking spaces can allow people to explore the idea of purchasing a bike, another great alternative for transportation. With all of that being said, I highly request that these requirements are put into place, as they are not expensive and will benefit the environment of London for the better of our health and the animals health, as well as our air and atmosphere.

Sincerely,

Sara Soufan