

From: Sahil Bhaiyat
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 2:21 PM
To: PEC <pec@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Green Planning Development Standards

Planning and Environment Committee
City of London
300 Dufferin Avenue
London, Ontariopec@london.ca

RE: Green Development Standards

Dear Members of the Planning and Environment Committee,

I am writing to you as a geography student attending Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School. I am invested in the sustainable development of our beautiful city, and I would like to express my concern regarding the current state of our urban planning practices.

It has come to my attention that the City Council will be discussing the need to implement Green Development Standards that would guide future developments and retrofits across our municipality. As someone who is learning about the environment and the impact of urbanization on biodiversity, I am writing to urge the Planning and Environment Committee to take bold steps in ensuring that our city embraces sustainable practices.

I believe that the adoption of Green Development Standards is crucial for maintaining biodiversity, conserving our natural resources, and meeting our Climate Security Goals. To achieve this, I propose the immediate inclusion of the following requirements in the Site Plan Control Bylaw and Zoning Bylaw:

1. **5% Electric Vehicle Charging Ports:** Require a minimum of 5% electric vehicle charging ports for buildings containing over 40 units. This will contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and promote the use of clean energy in our city.
2. **Minimum 50% Native Species for Landscaping:** Mandate a minimum of 50% native species for landscaping in all developments, with a prohibition on invasive species. This will not only enhance the aesthetic appeal of our neighborhoods but also support local ecosystems.

3. Short-Term Bicycle Parking: Enforce short-term bicycle parking at a rate of 0.1 space per unit for townhouse developments. Encouraging cycling as a sustainable mode of transportation aligns with our city's commitment to environmental responsibility.

Furthermore, I strongly recommend that the Planning and Environment Committee directs staff to incorporate the CSA A460 standard in all city facilities' building design standards. This standard, if adopted, will go a long way in safeguarding our bird population, contributing to the overall ecological health of our city.

I also propose that the CSA A460 standard be used as a reference by staff in building design and construction across the city. By implementing these measures, we not only protect our natural environment but also position London as a leader in sustainable urban development.

In conclusion, I implore the Planning and Environment Committee to consider the long-term benefits of implementing these Green Development Standards. By adopting these measures, we can contribute to the preservation of biodiversity, save bird populations, and demonstrate our commitment to climate action.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to witnessing London become a model city for sustainable and environmentally conscious development.

Sincerely,

Sahil. Bhaiyat

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School