

From: Ben Cowie (London Bicycle Cafe)
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 11:29 AM
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Cc: Woolsey, Heather
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Budget Public Participation Meeting Feedback: February 13, 2020

Dear Mayor and Council,

Siri, define “negligence.”

Negligence is failure to use reasonable care, resulting in damage or injury to another.

In April 2019, this council declared the following in a 12-3 vote:

"Whereas climate change is currently contributing to billions of dollars in property and infrastructure damage worldwide, stressing local and international economies;

Whereas climate change is currently jeopardizing the health and survival of many species and other natural environments worldwide, stressing local and international ecosystems;

Whereas climate change is currently harming human populations through rising sea levels and other extraordinary phenomena like intense wildfires worldwide, stressing local and international communities;

Whereas recent international research has indicated a need for massive reduction in carbon emissions in the next 11 years to avoid further and devastating economic, ecological, and societal loss;

Whereas the climate in Canada is warming at twice the rate of the rest of the world, as per Canada's Changing Climate report;

Whereas current initiatives such as the green of the city's fleet and energy reduction initiatives are not sufficient to meet the targets as defined by the IPCC scientists;

Whereas an emergency can be defined as "an often dangerous situation requiring immediate action;

Whereas an emergency can be defined as "an often dangerous situation requiring immediate action"; Whereas municipalities such as Kingston, Vancouver and Hamilton have already declared climate emergencies;

Therefore, a climate emergency BE DECLARED by the City of London for the purposes of naming, framing, and deepening our commitment to protecting our economy, our eco systems, and our community from climate change."

However, during the 2020-2023 budget discussions in January and February 2020, **every single councilor** voted in support of the roads capital growth budget to expand development of fossil fuel infrastructure by more than two hundred million dollars. A further ten councilors voted in favour of a free private vehicle storage program that also constitutes a direct fossil fuel subsidy of six hundred thousand dollars. The former item gives Londoners wider, more dangerous roads, more congestion from increased car

travel, a half-baked rapid transit project, and an investment in the city's cycling network far too small to produce any measurable outcome. The latter gives a handout to those who need it least: drivers who can afford the average \$9500 annual cost of owning and operating a vehicle (estimated cost of a compact vehicle according to the Canadian Automobile Association). Both of these motions constitute negligence in the councilors who voted to support the climate emergency. The mayor and eleven councilors have acknowledged the need for immediate and transformational change in the city's energy and transportation systems, yet at budget time they have used their vote to continue the status quo through the construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure.

The whole point of an emergency is to act like your house is on fire. This business as usual budget is pouring literal gasoline on our proverbial global fire. The current transportation budget will not get the city close to its stated goals of 5% cycling and 20% transit mode share by 2030, let alone the targets required to keep our city's carbon emissions below the targets required by the Paris Agreement. Those targets for 2030 are >35% transit, >35% walking and cycling, and <30% automobile. We will fail spectacularly to achieve our goals if we do not try to reach them, and this council has shown no intention of making an attempt.

I don't have a kinder way to say this: each one of you who voted for these two parts of the budget is choosing to do great harm to future generations of Londoners. By voting for this budget, ***you are failing to use reasonable care to avoid harm to the young people who will call this city home for the next hundred years of its history.*** That's the definition of negligence. Please reverse your vote on the roads capital growth budget, and free downtown parking subsidy, before it's too late.

Dr Benjamin Cowie
PhD Earth and Planetary Sciences

415.05 parts per million (ppm) CO2 in air February 8, 2020

344.79 parts per million (ppm) CO2 in air February, 1984 (when I was born)

260 to 280 parts per million (ppm) CO2 in air from 10000 years before present until the early 1800s when we started widespread burning of fossil fuels.

London Bicycle Café
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