

Climate Action Plan Needs Improvements

Urban planning – communities

For the last 30 years, as an environmental activist, my number one point to make has always been urban planning... something the City of London has not done a good job with since the 60's! In 2014, I ran for Mayor (knowing I wasn't going to win) for the sole purpose of getting people to realize our need for swift and unprecedented action to secure a future for humanity. I created a series of videos to share my ideas. This 8 minute video shares the history of urban planning in London, as well as our need to begin a new way of moving forward....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Md6zMBxTuK8> I believe this video has many points of value and I highly recommend the time to watch it.

It is completely evident that the housing developments that have happened throughout London over the last 40 years are only creating environmental problems. 100% of residents needs are out of range of walking or cycling, so more cars on the roads. The City needs to begin creating communities... it's about that simple!

And let's not be fooled by what's happening in West 5. There sure is a lot of talk and high fiving going on with this development and sadly... there is so little about this development worthy of applause! The problem is that people think we need to do things differently... and while this is the case... we can do things differently by embracing community planning concepts from our past. We need to create small urban centres similar to London's own downtown core or the Wortley village... but we need to create these developments to be carbon neutral. This brings us to energy...

Energy excess in new developments to feed inner city core

Once it has been recognized that community development NEEDS to become the way the city moves forward, we will need to address our energy needs to sustain these developments. By making each new home, community centres, schools, workplaces, etc. sustainable by incorporating solar, wind and geothermal, an excess of energy will result. A new way of moving this energy needs to be developed to take the excess energy so it can feed the needs of older developments and inner city core regions. By doing this, we can say goodbye to nuclear energy! It's about that simple!

Here's a great example of geothermal in use - <https://orkustofnun.is/gogn/unu-gtp-report/UNU-GTP-2003-01-06.pdf>

We need to stop thinking about creating large power generating stations and begin to realize the potential is creating energy in smaller scaled ways that will combine to be even more effective than large scale plants! This same philosophy needs to be embraced when it comes to waste management and how waste management can generate energy for our city...

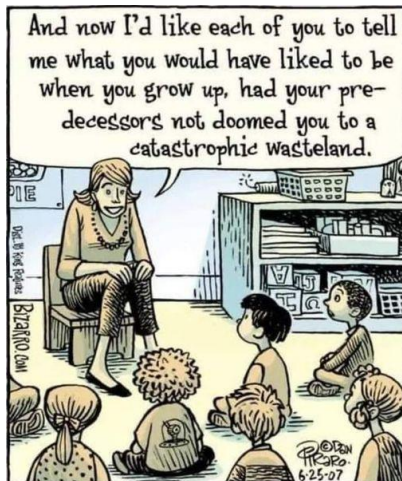
Instead of one large anaerobic digestive plant like what we see in the south part of London, the city needs to embrace smaller community installations... for several reasons!

Here's a great video that shows how anaerobic systems can benefit any community - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lHyL41grGUo>

Contract and legalities

It's sad when I speak to city councilors and they tell me that the current housing developments cannot be stopped due to legal processes! Considering all that we are up against, it is imperative that this system needs to change immediately. We can't continue to build unsustainable developments furthering our dependencies on fossil

fuels for this reason... that's just insane! It has also been brought to my attention that it actually is possible to break existing contracts with developers! Can you imagine our children asking us why they are living in misery without clean water and food and we tell them that a piece of paper is to blame! If the declaration of a climate emergency has any weight at all, it is for this purpose... to immediately halt any continuation of unsustainable developments! It's about that simple!



Time to quite passing the buck

I've had many conversations with city councilors who reply to my communications by saying 'this is a provincial matter... we can't do anything about it.' and this needs to stop. Very clearly, on the first page of the first climate action plan documents produced by the City is states very clearly that working together will all levels of government will be needed! I guess this statement was overlooked!

If the City feels it is necessary to change provincial building code standards in order to mitigate our extinction.... the City had better take the steps to make these changes, instead of sitting around waiting for higher levels of government to take action!

Case in point... many years ago, I inquired about the City taking action against single use plastics. The response I got said that the City won't do anything about this issue as the Federal government would be taking action... and even though there are plans to deal with this plastics issue by the end of this year, we would have been so much further ahead if the City had taken its own action and been accountable on the municipal level many years ago! Will the feds bring their plan into place this year, as they said they would??? Can we afford to wait for trickle down politics to do what is right? It's time for the City to do what is right and inspire other communities to do the same. We are running out of time! It's about that simple!

Food security

We are seeing more and more high quality farmland disappearing as unsustainable housing developments continue to grow! There are so many examples about how community planning can also help to solve the issues around food security! It's time to take action!!

https://www.victoria.ca/assets/Departments/Parks~Rec~Culture/Parks/Documents/Growing-in-the-City/Growing%20Food%20and%20Gardening%20Final_e.pdf

Education

Last summer, my 9 year old son had some friends over. It was lunch time. I got out bowls and shovels and assigned tasks. Some were on bean and tomato detail. Some were on lettuce and herb detail and the last group was on potato detail. Then I showed them how to make a lunch with all we had picked from my garden. All of the kids had

never done this before and this is absolutely frightening! If children are not taught how to grow food and create gardens that include veggies, berries, fruit trees as well as native pollinator flower gardens, future generations will see their chances of survival dwindle! It is imperative that our education system needs to change so that kids will grow to become parents who know how to provide for their families! It's about that simple!