

From:

Sent: Monday, March 28, 2022 8:45 AM

To: SPPC <sppc@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments Re: Climate Emergency Action Plan

Please consider the following changes to the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

- Place a *maximum* parking limit of one parking space per unit for multi-family residential;
- In conjunction with the parking maximum, increase and/or enforce the Landscaped Open Space By-law (Zoning By-Law Z.-1-97465).

In Near Campus Neighbourhoods and over-intensified neighbourhoods, backyards have been eroded, converted or cleared for excessive parking and enforcement, despite registered complaints, does not enforce the Landscaped Open Space By-law.

By setting a maximum parking limit, open green space will be better preserved.

This is necessary to expand the city's green infrastructure. **The urban forest is London's largest asset in mitigating the negative impacts of climate change and the continuous interior blocks of neighbourhoods offers the best opportunity to expand the tree canopy away from roads and road salt.** Helping the urban forest to adapt and be resilient in the face of a changing climate, as this is difficult to do, should be a greater part of this workplan and should be fully staffed and fully funded.

- Introduce a strong tree by-law on private property because the vast majority of land in any city is privately owned. The City cannot achieve its Urban Forestry Strategy goals without considering private land.
- Adopt a series of milestones to occur every four years, rather than every five to ten, such that every single City Council, from here through to 2050, will be responsible for ensuring London achieves its climate change mitigation and adaptation goals.
- **Timber construction should be removed from the report - Workplan 3:**
Transforming Buildings and Development

Forests regulate climate systems on a global scale and cannot be destroyed. The argument that old growth forests expel carbon while only fast growing trees absorb carbon and therefore should be encouraged - is a false argument and singularly focuses on an arbitrary measurement that fails to understand the biodiversity value of old growth forests. Many species of the Boreal Forest such as interior song birds, Woodland Caribou and the Marten are all facing extinction because of the logging of Boreal Old Growth Forests.

- Assisted migration - in real terms – accelerates the impacts of climate change by introducing species that do not originate from regional ecozones. Assisted Migration is based on a premise that as the climate warms new tree species are introduced that will thrive in those conditions. This would displace native species and could have irreversible consequences such as the introduction of genetically modified (GMOs) species. The focus should be in identifying which locally native species are adapting and preservation. The idea of Assisted Migration is very controversial. It originates from a forestry management perspective but not from an ecological perspective. This idea should not be adopted without scientific study. Currently it is only a theory but alarmingly it is already begin practiced. This practice needs to stop because it begins to alter the very fabric of the landscape. It remains unknown how it impacts wildlife species depended on regionally native trees. All related species are uniquely adapted to its local region.
- In addition to local action, the focus should also include systematic change. The city must communicate to developers that plan approvals must require – Low Impact Development designs, green energy designs especially for medium and high-density buildings where large surface areas can accommodate solar and wind technologies, tree preservation plans to preserve existing canopies and a tree planting strategy.

There should be a focus of floodplain preservation as floodplains naturally prevent flooding up and down waterways because they act as overspill areas, slow rushing water and create seasonal wetlands that are ecologically unique.

- Stop widening roads such as Highbury Avenue.
- Include a section that addresses meat consumption as meat production contributes significantly to the climate crisis.
- Increase wildlife corridors as part of the planning process in support of green infrastructure. These concepts were originally included in the London Plan but were negotiated away on Appeal with the London Development Institute as were many other hard fought, hard won environmental protection measures. All negotiated away on Appeal. They should be reintroduced now in the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

AnnaMaria Valastro