

File No. 04-1000-20-2016-380

December 7, 2016

s.22(1)

Dear s.22(1)

Re: **Request for Access to Records under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the "Act")**

I am responding to your request of November 7, 2016 for:

**All emails sent to and from the Mayor, the City Manager, and Mike Magee (both in his previous role as Chief of Staff and current role) pertaining to the natural gas ban from January 1, 2016 to October 13, 2016.**

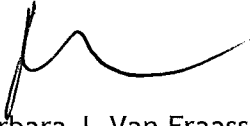
All responsive records are attached. Some information in the records has been severed, (blacked out) under s.13(1) and s.22(1) of the Act. You can read or download these sections here: [http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws\\_new/document/ID/freeside/96165\\_00](http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/96165_00)

Under section 52 of the Act you may ask the Information & Privacy Commissioner to review any matter related to the City's response to your request. The Act allows you 30 business days from the date you receive this notice to request a review by writing to: Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner, [info@oipc.bc.ca](mailto:info@oipc.bc.ca) or by phoning 250-387-5629.

If you request a review, please provide the Commissioner's office with: 1) the request number assigned to your request (#04-1000-20-2016-380); 2) a copy of this letter; 3) a copy of your original request for information sent to the City of Vancouver; and 4) detailed reasons or grounds on which you are seeking the review.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Freedom of Information Office at [foi@vancouver.ca](mailto:foi@vancouver.ca) if you have any questions.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Van Fraassen', written in a cursive style.

Barbara J. Van Fraassen, BA  
Director, Access to Information  
*City Clerk's Department, City of Vancouver*  
Email: [Barbara.vanfraassen@vancouver.ca](mailto:Barbara.vanfraassen@vancouver.ca)  
Telephone: 604.873.7999

Encl.  
:jb

From: s.22(1)

To: ["Affleck, George" <George.Affleck@vancouver.ca>](mailto:George.Affleck@vancouver.ca)  
["Ball, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Ball@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Elizabeth.Ball@vancouver.ca)  
["Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca)  
["De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca)  
["Deal, Heather" <Heather.Deal@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Heather.Deal@vancouver.ca)  
["Jang, Kerry" <Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca)  
["Louie, Raymond" <Raymond.Louie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Raymond.Louie@vancouver.ca)  
["Meggs, Geoff" <Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca)  
["Reimer, Andrea" <Andrea.Reimer@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Andrea.Reimer@vancouver.ca)  
["Stevenson, Tim" <Tim.Stevenson@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Tim.Stevenson@vancouver.ca)  
["Robertson, Gregor" <Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca)

Date: 9/22/2016 1:48:55 PM

Subject: Banning natural gas???

This news story circulating this afternoon has caused me to stop work and write to each of you to let you know I am very happy I no longer live in Vancouver.

After 30 years as a renter and resident, living in the West End and then East Van, we were forced to move out 3 1/2 years ago as our landlord decided to cash in on the real estate market and sell the home we rented for the previous s.22(1).

And it was just in time.

The city started undergoing massive change when Vision Vancouver achieved electoral majority in the municipal government. Sometimes change is good, or very good. Unfortunately, I thought Vision Vancouver would make an excellent civic government and I supported and voted for the party.

But I was wrong.

You are ruining the City. And today, I hear about this absolutely INSANE policy put forward by Vision Vancouver that will ban natural gas and replace it with electricity.

YOU ARE ALL CRAZY. NUTS. AND DEVIOUS.

And this ain't the only nut-bar idea you have thought of, and implemented, to ruin this once beautiful, affordable and liveable city.

I hope you are voted out in the next election. Too bad our family, with a combined annual income of over \$130,000 (after taxes) can't afford to live in Vancouver to help make that happen.

s.22(1)



From: "[Zaharia, Sarah](mailto:Sarah.Zaharia@vancouver.ca)" <Sarah.Zaharia@vancouver.ca>

To: "[Robertson, G](mailto:G.Robertson@vancouver.ca)" <G.Robertson@vancouver.ca>

Date: 10/5/2016 4:10:52 PM

Subject: BIA Letter - Natural Gas

Attachments: Letter from Mayor Robertson on Natural Gas.docx

Hey G,

Below (and attached) is a letter for your approval that we'd like to send to key BIA's to clarify our position on Natural Gas. We'll be working with Heather to make sure we are distributing them appropriately.

October 3, 2016

Mr. \*\*\*\*

Address

Address

Dear local business owner,

Given recent misinformation in the media, I would like to clarify the [City of Vancouver's position on natural gas](#).

Restaurants can continue to cook with natural gas and residents are not being asked to replace their gas appliances. We are not asking or expecting you to change your usual way of living or doing business.

Earlier this year, Vancouver City Council adopted the Zero Emissions Building Plan – an action plan that lays out a phased approach to combat and reduce carbon pollution in Vancouver. The plan establishes specific targets and actions to achieve zero emissions in all new buildings by 2030 - it does not focus on retro-fitting existing buildings and will not have any immediate impact on your operations.

Our Renewable City Strategy outlines a long term plan for moving Vancouver towards a sustainable future where we use 100% renewable energy, including natural gas from renewable sources. City wide, natural gas use in stoves, including in restaurants, is relatively small when compared to heating and hot water and therefore there is no immediate need to wean off fossil fuel sourced natural gas. A restaurant can, however, choose to use renewable natural gas, the cost of which is dropping and will continue to do so as more supply comes on line.

In Vancouver, we produce renewable natural gas by capturing it from organics waste, dairy farms, and landfill gas. In fact, Vancouver City Hall is already powered with renewable natural gas purchased from Fortis, demonstrating that the transition to 100% renewable energy is realistic and achievable.

I recognize that affordability and maintaining an efficient operation are major concerns. However, sourcing heat, water and power from renewable energy, and accelerating energy efficiency do not mean higher costs. Vancouver homes and businesses already save \$44 million per year from our energy efficient building policies.

Vancouver's Renewable City Strategy is setting us up to make smart decisions for the future. We are working to gradually increase the amount of renewable energy in Vancouver, and to make our buildings more energy efficient over time.

I'd like to reiterate that news reports claiming the City is banning natural gas or forcing restaurants to stop using natural gas is false. We have been working in close collaboration with the restaurant industry to manage the long-term operational impacts of the Renewable City Strategy after 2030. If you have any questions about the Renewable City Strategy, the Zero Emission Building Plan or any other issue at City Hall, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Mayor Gregor Robertson

ni? ct xaʔəmətəʔ, tə ʔnimət, tə təməxʷ ʔi? tə kʷaʕkʷə ʔ I \*  
We watch over the land and sea and in turn they watch over us.

October 3, 2016

Mr. \*\*\*\*  
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Address

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ni? ct xaʔəmətəʔ, tə ʔnimət, tə təməxʷ ʔi? tə kʷaʕkʷə 1 \*

*We watch over the land and sea and in turn they watch over us.*

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Sincerely,

Mayor Gregor Robertson

From: ["Quinlan, Kevin" <Kevin.Quinlan@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Kevin.Quinlan@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)

["Kendall-Craden, Rena" <Rena.Kendall-Craden@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Rena.Kendall-Craden@vancouver.ca)

["Smith, Doug \ \(Sustainability\)" <doug.smith@vancouver.ca>](mailto:doug.smith@vancouver.ca)

["Robb, Katie" <Katie.Robb@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Katie.Robb@vancouver.ca)

["Lee, Emma" <Emma.Lee@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Emma.Lee@vancouver.ca)

["Reimer, Andrea" <Andrea.Reimer@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Andrea.Reimer@vancouver.ca)

Date: 9/26/2016 7:23:12 AM

Subject: Follow up: natural gas stories

Hi all, the misinformation about the ban on natural gas is still circulating and I am worried it is going to penetrate further. We need to keep pushing back on a number of channels.

Katie in our office is heading up a number of responses today:

- Letter from the Mayor to run in the province newspaper, as well as the Vancouver sun story today on restaurant concerns
- Twitter and Facebook content from the Mayor's channels clarifying information
- a message from the Mayor translated into Mandarin for local Chinese media
  - a follow-up piece on daily hive outlining what you need to know about the 100% renewable strategy and clarifying myths

We are also working on a letter from the Mayor to be circulated to BIAs who can distribute it to their members. Katie will work with Doug's team to get info to flesh that out.

It would be appreciated if we could have clarifying information disseminated through the city's various channels: city Twitter and Facebook, greenest city Facebook page, and greenest city email newsletter.

Could we get stats on how many calls we have received from 311 so far on this issue? I'd like to get a sense of the volume

We also need a specific section on the front page of the city's website that clarifies there is no ban on natural gas and where people can get the facts. Given the web traffic we get this is a key tool we have to get information out to people who don't follow our other channels.

Let's also set up a meeting to start discussing the renewable city update that is set to come later this fall. The latest media means we will need to adjust how we roll it out.

Any other suggestions for ways to get the word out right away pushing back on the misinformation would be great

Thanks

Kevin Quinlan

Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor

City of Vancouver

Office: 604.873.7232

Cell: 778.995.2264

From: s.22(1)

To: "Robertson, Gregor" <Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca>

Date: 10/3/2016 9:02:24 PM

Subject: HPRM: alternative fuels to natural gas

Hello Gregor

I recently read of your proposal to eliminate natural gas from Vancouver - not sure how that will work or what it will cost.

the following video showing an alternate method of capturing sunlight was one I found on FB. They have 2 in Paris apparently and actually look pretty cool!

It's a bit costly but perhaps something similar will be created to use the free energy available to us - thermal, solar, wave/tidal, wind

<https://www.facebook.com/ScienceNaturePage/videos/900678603397732/?pnref=story>

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namasté and have a beautiful day!

s.22(1)



From: s.22(1)

To: "[Robertson, Gregor](#)"

Date: 9/28/2016 9:02:00 AM

Subject: HPRM: Unnatural gas

I find it amazing that while Vancouver plans to ban natural gas because of the emission of pollutants, the provincial/federal government approves a pipeline for liquefied natural gas to Vancouver which will add to the emission of pollutants!

Contradictory? Pampering to business interests at the expense of consumers?

I am lost for words.

From: s.22(1)

To: "[Robertson, Gregor](mailto:Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca)" <[Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca](mailto:Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca)>

Date: 9/22/2016 4:01:43 PM

Subject: Natural Gas

Mr. Robertson

I want to commend you for the stand on Natural Gas. I am in the process of moving from s.22(1) BC. I have been forced to sell the best small apartment building on the prairies because of the Natural Gas power plant just up wind of us. It will cost me \$500,000 in tax to get out. i now consider it well worth the money to get out. I would have healthier if i would have known what was causing my health decline years ago and moved earlier.

iIn 2003 i was jogging 5 miles 5 times a week on the river bank near my home. Than il was so week and achey that i quit and did yoga at home. In 2010 I was unable to exercise at home as i was so sick that i could hardly stand, many days i had to sit up all night to breath. in both cases il thought it was just my asthma getting worse with age. Until last summer when even if i was out side for a minute i would be sick all day. When my wife and i came home from a trip to BC in October last year we saw the announcement that celebrated the governments doubling the electrical output of the QE power plant with clean burning Natural Gas. when i did a search i discovered that every time my health declined there had been an upgrade to the "clean burning" power plant. I have talked to many who are suffering as well.

We put a self designed "charcoal filter system in and it saved my life but trapped me inside.

If i can be of any help to you in this cause please contact me.

s.22(1)



From: "[Robb, Katie](mailto:Katie.Robb@vancouver.ca)" <Katie.Robb@vancouver.ca>  
To: "[Robertson, G](mailto:G.Robertson@vancouver.ca)" <G.Robertson@vancouver.ca>  
Date: 9/22/2016 7:43:15 PM  
Subject: Natural gas

Here's the full Q&A, distilled down to:

- contrary to misinformation being spread today, the city is not banning natural gas
- last fall, the city adopted the 100% renewable strategy, a long term plan to be renewably powered by 2050 or sooner
- Vancouver is one of many cities around the world working to reduce its carbon footprint by implement viable solutions like 100% renewable to take action on climate change
- a key area of focus to cutting greenhouse gases are buildings, which account for the majority of GHGs, focusing on reducing energy use while transitioning to more renewable forms of energy
- despite cutting building emissions 20% below 2007 levels, we need to be more aggressive to truly make an impact
- in July Council adopted a zero emission building strategy for new buildings only, to be phased in gradually by 2050
- both the 100% renewable strategy and the zero emissions building strategy undertook public and stakeholder consultation before coming to council and eventually being passed
- We've already seen significant cost savings to Vancouver residents and businesses due to buildings that use less energy. We estimate that relative to our 2007 baseline that Vancouver's businesses and residents save \$44 million annually in building energy costs thanks to decreasing energy use and buildings emissions. To date this we've saved Vancouver taxpayers approximately \$390 million since 2007.

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Why does the city want to eliminate natural gas?

- Vancouver is one of many cities around the world, working to reduce its carbon footprint by implement viable solutions like RCS. We are trying to do our part to keep global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius and set the standard for what a thriving livable city looks like.
- We are not banning natural gas.
- 58% of the energy used in buildings comes from natural gas use, but is actually responsible for 96% of the greenhouse gas emissions.
- The consequences of inaction to reduce fossil fuel use—climate change, poor air quality and detrimental health impacts—can be mitigated through adopting renewable energy and reducing these emissions.

What is the target date?



- Our goal is to derive 100% of our energy from renewable sources before 2050
- Because buildings have such a long life span we need to start acting now. By phasing in these changes slowly, we are giving residents, businesses industry time to adapt.

How many residents of Vancouver currently use natural gas?

- Fortis's number is correct: about 108,000 resident and commercial accounts in Vancouver, which comprises residents and businesses.

What does the city want to use to replace natural gas?

- The Renewable City Strategy proposes a route to using 100% Renewable Energy - Natural gas would be replaced with a number of present and future technologies, including biomethane (renewable natural gas, given sufficient supply\*), heat pumps, geo-exchange systems, and renewable waste streams that can be harnessed to generate heat (e.g., the South East False Creek Neighbourhood Energy Utility). As long as they meet the definition for "renewable", new innovations will be considered as the RCS is updated and refined.
- The RCS states very clearly that it is not intended to be a detailed roadmap or technology guide.

How much would this cost?

- One of the three key approaches outlined in the RCS is to first reduce energy use, while transitioning to more renewable forms of energy.
- We've already seen significant cost savings to Vancouver residents and businesses due to buildings that use less energy. We estimate that relative to our 2007 baseline that Vancouver's businesses and residents save \$44 million annually in building energy costs thanks to decreasing energy use and buildings emissions. To date this we've saved Vancouver taxpayers approximately \$390 million since 2007.

Bateman says a single-family home could see a 1,400/year rise in energy bills if it moves from natural gas to electricity, is this true?

- First and foremost we are working towards reducing the amount of energy a household uses. So that as we transition to more renewable sources of energy, we're keeping the overall costs down.
- A good example – Vancouver's first certified passive house was completed this winter. The energy bill for a family of four in the middle of winter was about \$20 a month.
- Passive House Standard is a standard for energy efficiency in a building, reducing its ecological footprint. It results in ultra-low energy buildings that require little energy for space heating or cooling.
- It's not just about cost savings. Building to zero emission standards means better quality homes and better quality of life. They are quieter, healthier and the air quality is better and they're easy to operate. They're also resilient - so if your power goes out in the middle of winter, your home will stay warm.
- The consequences of inaction to reduce fossil fuel use, such as climate change, poor air quality and detrimental health impacts, can be avoided through the adoption of renewable energy, while increasing social equity. Buildings that use less energy means lower energy bills for renters and owners alike. A move towards electrification and the use of renewables to produce that electricity, with BC's regulated utilities, provides more certainty in long-term energy costs compared to the variability of fossil fuel prices.



Katie Robb  
Director of Communications  
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver  
Office: [604.873.7490](tel:604.873.7490) | Cell: [778.918.7973](tel:778.918.7973)  
[Mayorofvancouver.ca](http://Mayorofvancouver.ca)

From: s.22(1)

To: ["Robertson, Gregor" <Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca)

Date: 9/22/2016 7:31:08 PM

Subject: Natural Gas Ban

Mr Mayor,

Sorry, this is over the top for me. Sorry I cannot vote for you or your Vision Team in the next election. Then again all the neighbours I just talked to won't be voting for you either.

s.22(1)

Sent from my iPad

From: s.22(1)

To: "[Robertson, Gregor](mailto:Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca)" <[Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca](mailto:Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca)>

Date: 9/22/2016 4:37:31 PM

Subject: Natural Gas

Mr. Robertson

I forgot to mention that there are over one million Canadians who are disabled because of MCS. Yet no one takes this seriously in our country. The pain and suffering as well as the economic impact or drain on our society.

s.22(1)

From: ["Van Mayor's Office" <vanmayoroffice@vancouver.ca>](mailto:vanmayoroffice@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 10/3/2016 10:31:28 AM

Subject: Natural gas

Hello s.22(1)

Thank you for taking the time to reach out to Mayor Robertson and for sharing your concerns with us.

To clarify, the City is not banning natural gas. Restaurants can continue to cook with natural gas, and residents can continue to use their natural gas fireplaces. We're not asking anyone to give up their usual way of living or doing business.

What the Renewable City Strategy does is outline a long term plan for moving Vancouver towards a sustainable future where we use 100% renewable energy, including natural gas from renewable sources. In Vancouver, we produce renewable natural gas by capturing it from organics waste, dairy farms, and landfill gas. Vancouver City Hall is already powered with renewable natural gas purchased from Fortis, demonstrating that the transition to 100% renewable energy is realistic and achievable.

The transition to 100% renewable energy will be done in combination with more energy efficient buildings. The City knows that affordability is a major concern for many residents – but renewable energy and energy efficiency do not mean higher costs. In fact, Vancouver homes and businesses already save \$44 million per year from our energy efficient building policies.

Rather than making sudden moves, we are working to gradually increase the amount of renewable energy in Vancouver, and to make our buildings more energy efficient over time. The alternative path of continuing to wreck the planet is not an option, and we refuse to sit on the sidelines in the fight against climate change.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Vancouver Mayor's Office Team



From: "[Van Mayor's Office](mailto:vanmayoroffice@vancouver.ca)" <vanmayoroffice@vancouver.ca>  
To: s.22(1)  
Date: 9/26/2016 10:30:09 AM  
Subject: RE: A little more thought please

Hi s.22(1)

Appreciate you taking the time to write. To clarify, the City is not banning natural gas, despite a misinformed and non-factual opinion piece published in the Province last week. The policy to achieve zero emissions in new (permitted after 2016) buildings only does not affect existing residences and businesses. Restaurants can continue to cook with natural gas, and residents can continue to use their natural gas fireplaces. We're not asking anyone to give up their usual and accustomed way of living or doing business.

In 2015, City Council adopted – unanimously, by all Vision and NPA Councillors – a strategy to be 100% renewable by 2050 or sooner. First and foremost, this counts on aggressive energy reduction in buildings and transportation, the two major sources of carbon pollution. We're but one of many cities and regions around the world, including Stockholm, Copenhagen, Victoria and the Netherlands, to commit to cleaner energy for the sake of cutting carbon pollution.

Here's some background that might be helpful:

The 100% Renewable strategy and decision to become fossil fuel free was adopted in 2015, after a four year, consultation with 35k+ people and engaging with over 150+ organizations. In March 2015 council passed a motion that reconfirmed this direction and requesting staff to bring back a strategic framework on how this transition would happen over the next 35 years.

The City then had a wide ranging public engagement and consultation initiative in which many thousands of people and organizations chose to participate. There were specific consultations with food service workers and owners of restaurants, in addition to a number of other economic sectors.

The Renewable City Strategy was then developed by an expert team, which included Fortis, based on this engagement.

The strategy came back to council in November 2015 where it was approved. Since then City staff have been working on each of the component policies on the established timeline with full consultative process for each of those policies.

To date the only policy passed by Council applied to new building construction and energy efficiency. Indeed, there is plenty to do to prepare policies that govern new infrastructure and the strategy anticipates that existing infrastructure won't have new policies applied for quite a number of years. However, the long time horizon was approved (unanimously) to ensure that if owners are looking at capital expenditures, they have a clear understanding of where policies are headed over the lifetime of the new capital investment.

If you'd like to examine the documents, reports, research, public consultation and meetings that have informed this 7+ year discussion to date, you can find all the material online <http://vancouver.ca/green-vancouver.aspx>

As for the assumptions about the nature of how this decision was made, it seems like the misinformation you read/heard was very concerning. Policy development does tend to be subject to this kind of long timelines and robust public, stakeholder and expert input that is well documented on the City's website. If you have an interest in a specific policy area, you can sign up for updates to ensure you never have to depend on misinformation such as you fell victim to last week.

Vancouver Mayor's Office Team

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22(1)  
Sent: Thursday, September 22, 2016 8:02 PM  
To: Robertson, Gregor  
Subject: A little more thought please

Dear Mayor Robinson:

Up until about 4 hours ago, I defended Vision Vancouver's positions on many things that received less than enthusiastic public responses in places: Burrard Bridge lane closures, bike lanes in general, densification, etc. However, this proposed forced conversion away from natural gas is a special brand of stupid. Stupid as in not well thought out. Vis a vis:

- 1) Have you ever worked in a commercial kitchen? Obviously not, as all chefs use natural gas for its instant high heat. (What a surprise that most of council are male.)
- 2) The cost of conversion forced on homeowners, some of whom may have to rebuild to comply.
- 3) Translink natural gas buses.
- 4) Public institutions such as schools, hospitals, (even City Hall) that will be forced to convert at public expense, raising taxes.
- 5) Electricity has an environmental cost as well. Further information is available from those displaced by the Site C project.

Perhaps the rarified air of power has not supplied enough cranial oxygen to think this one all the way through. A ban on future buildings is one thing, this smacks of totalitarianism as it affects existing buildings. I urge cooler heads to prevail and re-think the intent.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)

From: "[Robertson, G](mailto:G.Robertson@vancouver.ca)" <[G.Robertson@vancouver.ca](mailto:G.Robertson@vancouver.ca)>

To: "[Robb, Katie](mailto:Katie.Robb@vancouver.ca)" <[Katie.Robb@vancouver.ca](mailto:Katie.Robb@vancouver.ca)>

Date: 9/27/2016 11:53:50 PM

Subject: Re: LTE: Vancouver Sun re: Restaurants protest natural gas ban

Good to go thanks!

G

Gregor Robertson

[MayorofVancouver.ca](http://MayorofVancouver.ca)

@mayorgregor

604.873.7621

On Sep 27, 2016, at 3:00 PM, Robb, Katie <[Katie.Robb@vancouver.ca](mailto:Katie.Robb@vancouver.ca)> wrote:

Over to you for final signoff.

**Katie Robb**

Director of Communications

Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver

Office: 604.873.7490 | Cell: 778.918.7973

[Mayorofvancouver.ca](http://Mayorofvancouver.ca)

Dear editor:

Monday's article "Restaurants protest Vancouver zero-emission plan that targets natural gas" gave the impression the City is banning natural gas. Let me be clear: Vancouver is not banning natural gas, and we're not forcing restaurants to stop cooking with gas.

What Vancouver is doing is moving towards a sustainable future where we use natural gas from renewable sources. In Vancouver, we produce renewable natural gas by capturing it from organics waste, dairy farms and landfill gas. And we walk the walk on living renewable: City Hall is heated with renewable natural gas, purchased from Fortis's renewable natural gas program.

Our goal to use 100% renewable energy by 2050 or sooner is also about building smarter. If we build better new buildings now, we will use less energy in the future and that saves money. Already Vancouver residents and business save \$44 million a year in avoided energy costs in new buildings built since stronger energy efficiency requirements in 2008, and those savings will continue to increase.

The buildings of today and tomorrow will use the same kinds of gas stoves and other gas appliances: the difference will be the kinds of gas going in and the energy efficiency of the buildings.

Vancouver's 100% Renewable City strategy is a 35-year guide setting us up to make smart decisions for the future. Rather than making sudden moves, we can gradually increase the amount of renewable energy in Vancouver, and make our buildings more energy efficient over time. The ignorant and irresponsible path is to continue polluting our planet, but sitting on the sidelines is not an option in fighting climate change.

Mayor Gregor Robertson



From: "[Van Mayor's Office](mailto:vanmayorsoffice@vancouver.ca)" <vanmayorsoffice@vancouver.ca>  
To: s.22(1)  
Date: 10/5/2016 2:24:27 PM  
Subject: RE: Natural gas

Appliances such as gas stoves and BBQs are not impacted by the City's actions, and homes and restaurants will continue to be able to use gas for cooking. The same applies to fireplaces.

The City's primary focus is natural gas use for heating and hot water, as natural gas is responsible for 96% of a typical building's greenhouse gas emissions. Earlier this year, City Council adopted the Zero Emissions Building Plan which lays out a phased approach to achieve zero emissions in all new residential and office buildings by 2030. The emphasis in this plan is to reduce heating energy demand and to transition heating systems in new buildings to renewable energy – including electricity, renewable natural gas, and waste heat.

The Zero Emissions Building Plan does not impact existing homes and buildings, which will continue to be able to use gas boilers for the foreseeable future. A retro-fitting plan for existing buildings will be created in the future as part of the Renewable City Strategy.

We hope that answers your questions. We would also be happy to connect you with City staff who could answer detailed questions about the plan.

Thanks,  
Vancouver Mayor's Office Team

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**From:** s.22(1)  
**Sent:** Friday, September 30, 2016 10:10 AM  
**To:** Van Mayor's Office  
**Subject:** Re: Natural gas

I don't believe you answered my questions...

1. If we need to replace our gas appliance (cook top, furnace, water tank or ac unit) will we be required to replace with electric? At what point would u not allow it?
2. Can I put in a gas fireplace in the future?

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 29, 2016, at 11:49 AM, Van Mayor's Office <[vanmayorsoffice@vancouver.ca](mailto:vanmayorsoffice@vancouver.ca)> wrote:

Hello s.22(1)

Thank you for taking the time to reach out to Mayor Robertson and for sharing your concerns with us.

To clarify, the City is not banning natural gas. Restaurants can continue to cook with natural gas, and residents can continue to use their natural gas fireplaces. We're not asking anyone to give up their usual way of living or doing business.

What the Renewable City Strategy does is outline a long term plan for moving Vancouver towards a sustainable future where we use 100% renewable energy, including natural gas from renewable sources. In Vancouver, we produce renewable natural gas by capturing it from organics waste, dairy farms, and landfill gas. Vancouver City Hall is already powered with renewable natural gas purchased from Fortis, demonstrating that the transition to 100% renewable energy is realistic and achievable.

The transition to 100% renewable energy will be done in combination with more energy efficient buildings, reducing our climate pollution and greenhouse gases. The City knows that affordability is a major concern for many residents – but renewable energy and energy efficiency do not mean higher costs. In fact, Vancouver homes and businesses already save \$44 million per year from our energy efficient building policies.

Rather than making sudden moves, we are working to gradually increase the amount of renewable energy in Vancouver, and to make our buildings more energy efficient over time. The alternative path of continuing to wreck the planet is not an option, and we refuse to sit on the sidelines in the fight against climate change.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Vancouver Mayor's Office Team

From: "Kris Begic" <[kbegic@platinumgroupmetals.net](mailto:kbegic@platinumgroupmetals.net)>

To: "Van Mayor's Office" <[vanmayoroffice@vancouver.ca](mailto:vanmayoroffice@vancouver.ca)>

Date: 9/27/2016 4:12:11 PM

Subject: Re: Restaurants protest Vancouver zero-emission plan that targets end to natural gas - Vancouver Sun

City council should focus on delivery of basic services not pontificating on fantasy projects to embellish Gregor's image. Regular working People in Vancouver are sick and tired of this stuff. The sheer magnitude of our housing problems, drug problems, transit problems, tax problems is not being adequately dealt with and council spends time on this crap? I have had enough! Bet your bottom dollar Gregor I'll make sure personally that you and your ilk stay out of office next go around.

I'm as mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore!

KB

Kris Begic  
Platinum Group Metals Ltd.  
+1 604 842 1074

On 27 Sep 2016, at 3:09 PM, Van Mayor's Office <[vanmayoroffice@vancouver.ca](mailto:vanmayoroffice@vancouver.ca)<<mailto:vanmayoroffice@vancouver.ca>>> wrote:

Hi Kris,

Thank you for taking the time to write to Mayor Robertson and for sharing your concerns with us.

To clarify, the City is not banning natural gas. Restaurants can continue to cook with natural gas, and residents can continue to use their natural gas fireplaces. We're not asking anyone to give up their usual way of living or doing business.

What the Renewable City Strategy does is outline a long term plan for moving Vancouver towards a sustainable future where we use 100% renewable energy, including natural gas from renewable sources. In Vancouver, we produce renewable natural gas by capturing it from organics waste, dairy farms, and landfill gas. Vancouver City Hall is already powered with renewable natural gas purchased from Fortis's renewable natural gas program, demonstrating that the transition to 100% renewable energy is realistic and achievable.

The transition to 100% renewable energy will be done in combination with more energy efficient buildings, reducing our climate pollution and greenhouse gases. The City knows that affordability is a major concern for many residents – but renewable energy does not mean higher costs. In fact, Vancouver homes and businesses already save \$44 million per year from our energy efficient building policies.

Rather than making sudden moves, we are working to gradually increase the amount of renewable energy in Vancouver, and to make our buildings more energy efficient over time. The alternative path of continuing to wreck the planet is not an option, and we refuse to sit on the sidelines in the fight against climate change.

Sincerely,  
Vancouver Mayor's Office Team

-----Original Message-----

From: Kris Begic [<mailto:kbegic@platinumgroupmetals.net>]

Sent: Monday, September 26, 2016 10:16 PM

To: Robertson, Gregor

Subject: Restaurants protest Vancouver zero-emission plan that targets end to natural gas - Vancouver Sun

Gregor the twit.

By Randy Shore Vancouver's Zero Emission Building Plan has shone fresh light on council's ambitious plan to wean the city from all fossil fuels by 2050 and it already has city restaurateurs simmering. The city will require that all new construction meet its zero emission goal by 2030 and is bringing in a series of phased changes to building standards to allow [...]

<http://vancouversun.com/storyline/restaurants-protest-vancouver-zero-emission-plan-that-targets-end-to-natural-gas>

Kris Begic  
Platinum Group Metals Ltd.  
+1 604 842 1074



From: "Reimer, Andrea" <Andrea.Reimer@vancouver.ca>  
To: s.22(1)  
"Meggs, Geoff" <Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca>  
"Robertson, Gregor" <Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca>  
"Deal, Heather" <Heather.Deal@vancouver.ca>  
"Stevenson, Tim" <Tim.Stevenson@vancouver.ca>  
"Jang, Kerry" <Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>  
"Louie, Raymond" <Raymond.Louie@vancouver.ca>  
Date: 9/23/2016 12:31:38 AM  
Subject: RE: Vote to eliminate natural gas usage by 2050

Hi s.22(1)

Thanks for taking the time to write. It sounds like there may have been some significant misreporting today around this issue.

Some background that may be helpful:

In 2011, after consulting with 35k+ people and engaging with over 150+ organizations, Council unanimously approved a policy to be fossil fuel free by 2050. In March 2015 council passed a motion that reconfirmed this direction and requesting staff to bring back a strategic framework on how this transition would happen over the next 35 years.

The City then had a wide ranging public engagement and consultation initiative in which many thousands of people and organizations chose to participate. There were specific consultations with food service workers and owners of restaurants, in addition to a number of other economic sectors.

The Renewable City Strategy was then developed by an expert team, which included Fortis, based on this engagement.

The strategy came back to council in November 2015 where it was approved. Since then City staff have been working on each of the component policies on the established timeline with full consultative process for each of those policies.

To date the only policy passed by Council applied to new building construction and energy efficiency. Indeed, there is plenty to do to prepare policies that govern new infrastructure and the strategy anticipates that existing infrastructure won't have new policies applied for quite a number of years. However, the long time horizon was approved (unanimously) to ensure that if owners are looking at capital expenditures, they have a clear understanding of where policies are headed over the lifetime of the new capital investment.

If you'd like to examine the documents, reports, research, public consultation and meetings that have informed this 7+ year discussion to date, you can find all the material online <http://vancouver.ca/green-vancouver.aspx>

As for the assumptions about the nature of how this decision was made, it seems like the misinformation you read/heard was very concerning. Policy development does tend to be subject to this kind of long timelines and robust public, stakeholder and expert input that is well documented on the City's website. If you have an interest in a specific policy area, you can sign up for updates to ensure you never have to depend on misinformation such as you fell victim to today.

Sincerely,

Andrea

Councillor Andrea Reimer | City of Vancouver  
Chair, Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities  
p: 604-873-7241  
e: andrea.reimer@vancouver.ca  
a: 453 W 12 Ave Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4  
t: @andreareimer  
f: www.facebook.com/CouncillorAndreaReimer

From s.22(1)  
Sent: Thursday, September 22, 2016 2:39 PM  
To: Meggs, Geoff; Reimer, Andrea; Robertson, Gregor; Deal, Heather; Stevenson, Tim; Jang, Kerry; Louie, Raymond  
Subject: Vote to eliminate natural gas usage by 2050

My biggest concern is that Vision made this monumental decision WITHOUT making any attempt to make the public aware of it.

If you were so proud of this direction why did you hide the decision?

This demonstrates the absolute arrogance of the Vision caucus by proceeding with the decision without considerable consultation.

Geoff today gave the excuse that the public voted Vision in so Vision can essentially do anything it wants; that somehow the vote gave you a blanket license. Let me be very clear. You serve on Council to represent all the citizens of Vancouver and we expect consultation on major initiatives.

Thanks, s.22(1)

From: "[Van Mayor's Office](mailto:vanmayoroffice@vancouver.ca)" <[vanmayoroffice@vancouver.ca](mailto:vanmayoroffice@vancouver.ca)>

To: [p\\_ruel@straight.com](mailto:p_ruel@straight.com)

Date: 9/27/2016 2:10:59 PM

Subject: RE: You lost me

Hi Patrick,

Thank you for taking the time to write to Mayor Robertson and for sharing your concerns with us.

To clarify, the City is not banning natural gas. Restaurants can continue to cook with natural gas, and residents can continue to use their natural gas fireplaces. We're not asking anyone to give up their usual way of living or doing business.

What the Renewable City Strategy does is outline a long term plan for moving Vancouver towards a sustainable future where we use 100% renewable energy, including natural gas from renewable sources. In Vancouver, we produce renewable natural gas by capturing it from organics waste, dairy farms, and landfill gas. Vancouver City Hall is already powered with renewable natural gas purchased from Fortis's renewable natural gas program, demonstrating that the transition to 100% renewable energy is realistic and achievable.

The transition to 100% renewable energy will be done in combination with more energy efficient buildings, reducing our climate pollution and greenhouse gases. The City knows that affordability is a major concern for many residents – but renewable energy and energy efficiency do not mean higher costs. In fact, Vancouver homes and businesses already save \$44 million per year from our energy efficient building policies.

Rather than making sudden moves, we are working to gradually increase the amount of renewable energy in Vancouver, and to make our buildings more energy efficient over time. The alternative path of continuing to wreck the planet is not an option, and we refuse to sit on the sidelines in the fight against climate change.

Sincerely,  
Vancouver Mayor's Office Team

---

**From:** Patrick Ruel [[mailto:p\\_ruel@straight.com](mailto:p_ruel@straight.com)]

**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2016 11:53 AM

**To:** Robertson, Gregor

**Subject:** You lost me

Wow,  
Enough already.  
The ban on natural gas is over the top.  
Last time I will be voting your way.

**Pat Ruel**  
*Advertising Representative*

*Email:* [p\\_ruel@straight.com](mailto:p_ruel@straight.com)

*Phone:* 604-730-7027 | *Cell:* 604-341-7286 | *Fax:* 604-730-7012

**THE GEORGIA**  
**straight | straight.com**

1635 West Broadway, Vancouver B.C. V6J 1W9



From: "Van Mayor's Office" <[vanmayorsoffice@vancouver.ca](mailto:vanmayorsoffice@vancouver.ca)>  
To: s.22(1)  
Date: 10/5/2016 2:20:09 PM  
Subject: RE: Natural gas

Appliances such as gas stoves and BBQs are not impacted by the City's actions, and homes and restaurants will be able to use gas for cooking.

The City's primary focus is natural gas use for heating and hot water, as natural gas is responsible for 96% of a typical building's greenhouse gas emissions. Earlier this year, City Council adopted the Zero Emissions Building Plan which lays out a phased approach to achieve zero emissions in all new residential and office buildings by 2030. The emphasis in this plan is to reduce heating energy demand and to transition heating systems in new buildings to renewable energy – including electricity, renewable natural gas, and waste heat.

The Zero Emissions Building Plan does not impact existing homes and buildings, which will continue to be able to use gas boilers for the foreseeable future. A retro-fitting plan for existing buildings will be created in the future as part of the Renewable City Strategy.

We hope that answers your questions. We would also be happy to connect you with City staff who could answer detailed questions about the plan.

Thanks,  
Vancouver Mayor's Office Team

---

From: s.22(1)  
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2016 2:15 PM  
To: Van Mayor's Office  
Subject: Re: Natural gas

Hi,

Glad to hear from you, but disappointed that my specific question has not been answered. This feels like it might be a bit of a form letter, so I hope you can refer to my original question to respond more fully. In case it's not at hand, I was asking about what this will mean for new homes or renovations or new restaurants. I totally get that any existing gas appliances will not be an issue, but what happens for new buildings? Will new buildings always be allowed to have a gas stove, gas BBQ, gas boiler...? Or will there ever be a ban for new buildings specifically, or new restaurants or renovations? That was not clear from your statements and the email below, does not help either, so I hope someone can take the time to respond.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)

On Sep 29, 2016, at 11:46 AM, Van Mayor's Office <[vanmayorsoffice@vancouver.ca](mailto:vanmayorsoffice@vancouver.ca)> wrote:

Hello s.22(1)

Thank you for taking the time to reach out to Mayor Robertson and for sharing your concerns with us.

To clarify, the City is not banning natural gas. Restaurants can continue to cook with natural gas, and residents can continue to use their natural gas fireplaces. We're not asking anyone to give up their usual way of living or doing business.

What the Renewable City Strategy does is outline a long term plan for moving Vancouver towards a sustainable future where we use 100% renewable energy, including natural gas from renewable sources. In Vancouver, we produce renewable natural gas by capturing it from organics waste, dairy farms, and landfill gas. Vancouver City Hall is already powered with renewable natural gas purchased from Fortis's renewable natural gas program, demonstrating that the transition to 100% renewable energy is realistic and achievable.

The transition to 100% renewable energy will be done in combination with more energy efficient buildings, reducing our climate pollution and greenhouse gases. The City knows that affordability is a major concern for many residents – but renewable energy and energy efficiency do not mean higher costs. In fact, Vancouver homes and businesses already save \$44 million per year from our energy efficient building policies.

Rather than making sudden moves, we are working to gradually increase the amount of renewable energy in Vancouver, and to make our buildings more energy efficient over time. The alternative path of continuing to wreck the planet is not an option, and we refuse to sit on the sidelines in the fight against climate change.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Vancouver Mayor's Office Team



From: s.22(1)  
To: "Robertson, Gregor" <Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca>  
Date: 9/22/2016 1:00:16 PM  
Subject: Vision Vancouver's Natural Gas Ban

Hello Mayor Robertson,

I am writing to tell you that once again, you and your Vision Vancouver's green obsession is ill-conceived and completely out of touch with reality -- I am referring to your latest plans to practically ban natural gas over the next 10 years.

According to the news, you are looking to have the city reduce natural gas use by 70% by 2020, and eliminate 90% of it in 10 years.

Do you realize that we are already in Fall 2016? With well over 50% of the Vancouver homes relying on natural gas to heat their homes, you are asking 70% of those people to somehow cough up a huge chunk of money on upfront costs -- in the range of thousands of dollars -- to convert their existing and fully functional gas systems to whatever alternative systems there might be (probably electric?) to fulfill your green-tinted pipe dreams. And this needs to be done within the next 3 years. Then on top of it, the subsequent energy bills (as estimated by BC Hydro and Fortis BC) will climb by almost \$1500 per year after the conversion. I don't know about you, but I grew up and continue to live in a comfy old house that has already been property taxed to death by your municipal government. I am all tapped out, and I do not have the capacity to cough up that kind of money in a mere 3 years to fulfill your stupid green dreams. Nor do I have the on-going capacity to foot an additional \$1500 on energy costs that I could have avoided if I didn't have to convert.

Obviously, I cannot be the only home owner getting financially slammed by this, but the higher costs don't just stop at home owners. Businesses, schools, and public institutions will all need to comply with your pipe dreams, and that means millions and billions of unnecessary spendings. Stuff will get even more expensive because businesses need to recoup their costs. Taxes will go yet higher because the municipal and provincial governments will need ways to fund those conversions from natural gas-powered sources. And guess where that money is coming from again???

I am so angry with your natural gas ban plans that I don't even know how to convey a fraction of that anger to you. To put it into perspective, your grand plans here is the equivalent of asking 70% of the Vancouver motorists to dump their perfectly (or not so perfectly) functioning gasoline / diesel powered cars, and switch to an electric vehicle within a span of 3 years, and eliminate 90% of all gas / diesel powered cars in 10 years. Do you know what kind of uproar and backlash that would result in?

You are quite the cunning veteran politician, and I am sure you'd know how that kind of ridiculous proposal would swiftly end your political career. But how you think you can get away with this kind of bs when it comes to natural gas bans, I simply do not know. Or maybe you are just gauging to see how much backlash you will get from pushing forward yet another one of our green obsessive dreams?

Voters elected you to take office so that we do not have to be overly concerned with the details of municipal operations -- that is the spirit of a legislative system. But you and your stupid plans continue to make us spend time on keeping you in check. If that's the case, why would we want to vote you into office in the first place?

So please, retract this stupid plan of yours. The financial costs on home owners make it completely out of touch with reality. Stop ruining our beautiful city.

s.22(1)



From: "Pander, Sean" <[sean.pander@vancouver.ca](mailto:sean.pander@vancouver.ca)>

To: "Johnston, Sadhu" <[Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)>

"Smith, Doug \ (Sustainability)" <[doug.smith@vancouver.ca](mailto:doug.smith@vancouver.ca)>

Date: 9/26/2016 9:10:33 AM

Subject: City is not banning Natural Gas - call with Restaurant Association

FYI – I plan to speak to Ian tomorrow.

Sean

---

**From:** Ian Tostenson [mailto:[itostenson@bcrcfa.com](mailto:itostenson@bcrcfa.com)]

**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2016 10:03 AM

**To:** Pander, Sean

**Subject:** Re: City is not banning Natural Gas

Hi Sean. s.22(1) but will call Tuesday

Thanks

Ian

Mobile 604.986.1429

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 26, 2016, at 9:46 AM, Pander, Sean <[sean.pander@vancouver.ca](mailto:sean.pander@vancouver.ca)> wrote:

Ian,

I understand that there has been recent discussion in the media about Vancouver's purported plans to ban natural gas. As we discussed earlier this summer, that is not the case. Please give me a call and I will clarify.

**Sean Pander | Green Building Manager**

Sustainability Group | City of Vancouver

City Hall, 7th Floor | 453 West 12th Ave, Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

T: 604.871.6542

From: "[Panday, Dhaneva](mailto:Dhaneva.Panday@vancouver.ca)" <[Dhaneva.Panday@vancouver.ca](mailto:Dhaneva.Panday@vancouver.ca)>

To: "[Sebastian, Lorraine](mailto:lorraine.sebastian@vancouver.ca)" <[lorraine.sebastian@vancouver.ca](mailto:lorraine.sebastian@vancouver.ca)>

Date: 9/22/2016 2:11:03 PM

Subject: FW: Comment on natural gas ban

Sadhu is confirmed to do an on-camera interview at 5:45 at city hall with CBC.

Dhaneva Panday | Communications Coordinator, Sustainability & Engineering

Corporate Communications | City of Vancouver

t. 604.673.8415 | c. 604.358.9341 | fax 604.873.7884

[dhaneva.panday@vancouver.ca](mailto:dhaneva.panday@vancouver.ca)

website: [vancouver.ca](http://vancouver.ca)

City app: VanConnect

twitter: @CityofVancouver

phone: 3-1-1 (180 languages)

---

City of Vancouver, Corporate Communications

453 West 12th Avenue, Seventh Floor

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V5Y 1V4

**From:** Megan Batchelor [<mailto:megan.batchelor@cbc.ca>]

**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2016 3:01 PM

**To:** Panday, Dhaneva

**Subject:** Re: Comment on natural gas ban

It's for the late show tonight so 10pm

On Thu, Sep 22, 2016 at 3:00 PM, Panday, Dhaneva <[Dhaneva.Panday@vancouver.ca](mailto:Dhaneva.Panday@vancouver.ca)> wrote:

Hi Megan,

When is your deadline?

Dhaneva Panday | Communications Coordinator, Sustainability & Engineering

Corporate Communications | City of Vancouver

t. [604.673.8415](tel:604.673.8415) | c. [604.358.9341](tel:604.358.9341) | fax [604.873.7884](tel:604.873.7884)

[dhaneva.panday@vancouver.ca](mailto:dhaneva.panday@vancouver.ca)

website: [vancouver.ca](http://vancouver.ca)

City app: VanConnect

twitter: @CityofVancouver

phone: 3-1-1 (180 languages)

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City of Vancouver, Corporate Communications

453 West 12th Avenue, Seventh Floor

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V5Y 1V4

**From:** Megan Batchelor [<mailto:megan.batchelor@cbc.ca>]

**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2016 2:58 PM

**To:** Media

**Subject:** Comment on natural gas ban

Hi there

I was wondering if we could get someone on camera this afternoon to talk about the commitment to eliminate natural gas in Vancouver by 2050.

Let me know what might work, sorry for the last-minute nature of this request.

Thanks

--

**[Megan Batchelor](#)**

Reporter, CBC Vancouver

[megan.batchelor@cbc.ca](mailto:megan.batchelor@cbc.ca)

@MegsBatchelor

 **VANCOUVER**

--

**[Megan Batchelor](#)**

Reporter, CBC Vancouver

[megan.batchelor@cbc.ca](mailto:megan.batchelor@cbc.ca)

@MegsBatchelor

 **VANCOUVER**

**From:** ["Panday, Dhaneva" <Dhaneva.Panday@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Dhaneva.Panday@vancouver.ca)  
**To:** ["Postma, Tobin" <Tobin.Postma@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Tobin.Postma@vancouver.ca)  
["Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)  
**Date:** 9/22/2016 2:44:49 PM  
**Subject:** Natural Gas Ban Key Messages

See below.

Please let me know if you need anything. Available by phone after 4:00pm

d

Dhaneva Panday | Communications Coordinator, Sustainability & Engineering  
Corporate Communications | City of Vancouver  
t. 604.673.8415 | c. 604.358.9341 | fax 604.873.7884  
[dhaneva.panday@vancouver.ca](mailto:dhaneva.panday@vancouver.ca)

website: [vancouver.ca](http://vancouver.ca)  
City app: VanConnect  
twitter: [@CityofVancouver](https://twitter.com/CityofVancouver)  
phone: 3-1-1 (180 languages)

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City of Vancouver, Corporate Communications  
453 West 12th Avenue, Seventh Floor  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V5Y 1V4

---

**From:** Smith, Doug (Sustainability)  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2016 3:42 PM  
**To:** Panday, Dhaneva  
**Cc:** Postma, Tobin  
**Subject:** RE: CKNW Radio Request

Excellent. One minor change.

Nice work.

**Doug Smith, P.Eng | Acting Director**  
Sustainability Group | City of Vancouver  
City Hall, 7th Floor | 453 West 12th Ave, Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4  
T: 604.829.4308  
**Stay up-to-date with the [Greenest City e-newsletter](#)**

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**From:** Panday, Dhaneva  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2016 3:10 PM  
**To:** Smith, Doug (Sustainability)  
**Subject:** RE: CKNW Radio Request

Made a couple of minor changes in red.

Dhaneva Panday | Communications Coordinator, Sustainability & Engineering  
Corporate Communications | City of Vancouver  
t. 604.673.8415 | c. 604.358.9341 | fax 604.873.7884  
[dhaneva.panday@vancouver.ca](mailto:dhaneva.panday@vancouver.ca)

website: [vancouver.ca](http://vancouver.ca)  
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phone: 3-1-1 (180 languages)

-----  
City of Vancouver, Corporate Communications  
453 West 12th Avenue, Seventh Floor  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V5Y 1V4

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**From:** Panday, Dhaneva  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2016 2:58 PM  
**To:** Robb, Katie; Pickard, Gail  
**Subject:** RE: CKNW Radio Request

Doug is vetting now. These might change.

Why does the city want to eliminate natural gas?

Vancouver is one of many cities around the world, working to reduce its carbon footprint by implementing viable solutions like RCS. We are trying to do our part to keep global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius and set the standard for what a thriving livable city looks like.

**We are not banning natural gas.** Natural gas would be replaced with a number of present and future technologies, including biomethane (renewable natural gas, given sufficient supply)

58% of the energy used in buildings comes from natural gas use, but is actually responsible for **96% of the greenhouse gas emissions.**

The consequences of inaction to reduce fossil fuel use—climate change, poor air quality and detrimental health impacts—can be mitigated through adopting renewable energy and reducing these emissions.

What is the target date?

Our goal is to derive 100% of our energy from renewable sources before 2050

Because buildings have such a long life span we need to start acting now. By phasing in these changes slowly, we are giving residents, businesses industry time to adapt.

How many residents of Vancouver currently use natural gas?

About 108,000 resident and commercial accounts in Vancouver, which comprises residents and businesses.

What does the city want to use to replace natural gas?

The Renewable City Strategy proposes a route to using 100% Renewable Energy - Natural gas would be replaced with a number of present and future technologies, including biomethane (renewable natural gas, given sufficient supply\*), heat pumps, geo-exchange systems, and renewable waste streams that can be harnessed to generate heat (e.g., the South East False Creek Neighbourhood Energy Utility). As long as they meet the definition for “renewable”, new innovations will be considered as the RCS is updated and refined.

The RCS states very clearly that it is not intended to be a detailed roadmap or technology guide.

How much would this cost?

One of the three key approaches outlined in the RCS is to first reduce energy use, while transitioning to more renewable forms of energy.

We’ve already seen significant cost savings to Vancouver residents and businesses due to buildings that use less energy. We estimate that relative to our 2007 baseline that Vancouver’s businesses and residents save **\$44 million annually** in building energy costs thanks to decreasing energy use and buildings emissions. **To date this we’ve saved Vancouver taxpayers approximately \$390 million since 2007.**

Bateman says a single-family home could see a 1,400/year rise in energy bills if it moves from natural gas to electricity, is this true?

First and foremost we are working towards reducing the amount of energy a household uses. So that as we transition to more renewable sources of energy, we’re keeping the overall costs down.

A good example – Vancouver’s first certified passive house was completed this winter. The energy bill for a family of four in the middle of winter was about \$20 a month.

Passive House Standard is a standard for energy efficiency in a building, reducing its ecological footprint. It results in ultra-low energy buildings that require little energy for space heating or cooling.

It’s not just about cost savings. Building to zero emission standards means better quality homes and better



quality of life. They are quieter, healthier and the air quality is better and they're easy to operate. They're also resilient - so if your power goes out in the middle of winter, your home will stay warm.

The consequences of inaction to reduce fossil fuel use, such as climate change, poor air quality and detrimental health impacts, can be avoided through the adoption of renewable energy, while increasing social equity. Buildings that use less energy means lower energy bills for renters and owners alike. A move towards electrification and the use of renewables to produce that electricity, with BC's regulated utilities, provides more certainty in long-term energy costs compared to the variability of fossil fuel prices.

Dhaneva Panday | Communications Coordinator, Sustainability & Engineering  
Corporate Communications | City of Vancouver  
t. 604.673.8415 | c. 604.358.9341 | fax 604.873.7884  
[dhaneva.panday@vancouver.ca](mailto:dhaneva.panday@vancouver.ca)

website: [vancouver.ca](http://vancouver.ca)  
City app: VanConnect  
twitter: @CityofVancouver  
phone: 3-1-1 (180 languages)

---

City of Vancouver, Corporate Communications  
453 West 12th Avenue, Seventh Floor  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V5Y 1V4

---

**From:** Robb, Katie  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2016 2:57 PM  
**To:** Panday, Dhaneva; Pickard, Gail  
**Subject:** RE: CKNW Radio Request

Any chance you can send me a few topline messages now?

**Katie Robb**

Director of Communications  
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver  
Office: 604.873.7490 | Cell: 778.918.7973  
[Mayorofvancouver.ca](http://Mayorofvancouver.ca)

---

**From:** Panday, Dhaneva  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2016 12:23 PM  
**To:** Robb, Katie; Pickard, Gail  
**Subject:** Re: CKNW Radio Request

Working on pulling them together now. Sadhu will be doing the two interviews this afternoon.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

---

**From:** Robb, Katie  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2016 12:22 PM  
**To:** Pickard, Gail  
**Cc:** Panday, Dhaneva  
**Subject:** Re: CKNW Radio Request

Can you flip me the key messages/proof points on this one when you have a sec?

**Katie Robb**

Director of Communications  
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver  
Office: [604.873.7490](tel:604.873.7490) | Cell: [778.918.7973](tel:778.918.7973)  
[Mayorofvancouver.ca](http://Mayorofvancouver.ca)



On Sep 22, 2016, at 11:07 AM, Pickard, Gail <[Gail.Pickard@vancouver.ca](mailto:Gail.Pickard@vancouver.ca)> wrote:

You want us to handle this operationally or?  
Dhaneva is going to work on the Op Ed as per earlier email.  
G.

---

**From:** Shelby Thom [<mailto:shelby@cknw.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2016 11:04 AM  
**To:** Media  
**Subject:** CKNW Radio Request

Good afternoon.

Shelby Thom here with CKNW in Vancouver.

We have Jordan Bateman on air today talking about the city's natural-gas ban.

I'd like to request further information on this.

Why does the city want to eliminate natural gas?

What is the target date?

How many residents of Vancouver currently use natural gas?

Would does the city want to use to replace natural gas?

How much would this cost?

Bateman says a single-family home could see a 1,400/year rise in energy bills if it moves from natural gas to electricity, is this true?

Deadline is as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Shelby Thom

From: "[Johnston, Sadhu](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)" <[Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)>  
To: "[Wilson, Darcy](mailto:Darcy.Wilson@vancouver.ca)" <[Darcy.Wilson@vancouver.ca](mailto:Darcy.Wilson@vancouver.ca)>  
Date: 9/26/2016 9:23:34 AM  
Subject: RE: ban on natural gas

thanks

**Sadhu Afochs Johnston** | City Manager  
City of Vancouver | 453 W 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver | BC V5Y 1V4  
604.873.7627 | [Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)  
Twitter: [sadhuajohnston](https://twitter.com/sadhuajohnston)



---

**From:** Wilson, Darcy  
**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2016 10:09 AM  
**To:** Johnston, Sadhu  
**Cc:** Smith, Doug (Sustainability); Kendall-Craden, Rena; Traer, Richard  
**Subject:** RE: ban on natural gas

Hi Sadhu

Rena also asked for this information.....I will touch base with the team and get back to you shortly

Darcy Wilson  
Director, Digital and Contact Centre Services City of Vancouver  
Phone: 604.871.6657 Cell: 604.375.0320

---

**From:** Johnston, Sadhu  
**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2016 9:56 AM  
**To:** Wilson, Darcy  
**Cc:** Smith, Doug (Sustainability)  
**Subject:** ban on natural gas

Hi Darcy-

There was an erroneous story last week stating that we were going to ban natural gas. We have been trying to correct the misinformation, but I'm wondering if we've gotten many calls. Do you know?

Thanks  
Sadhu

**Sadhu Afochs Johnston** | City Manager  
City of Vancouver | 453 W 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver | BC V5Y 1V4  
604.873.7627 | [Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)  
Twitter: [sadhuajohnston](https://twitter.com/sadhuajohnston)





From: "[Johnston, Sadhu](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)" <[Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)>  
To: "[José Luis Gutiérrez](mailto:joseluisgtz@gmail.com)" <[joseluisgtz@gmail.com](mailto:joseluisgtz@gmail.com)>  
Date: 9/25/2016 6:17:35 PM  
Subject: Re: City of Vancouver votes to ban natural gas by 2050

Thanks

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston  
City Manager  
[Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)  
O. 604 873 7627  
T. Sadhuaajohnston

---

**From:** José Luis Gutiérrez  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 25, 2016 10:38 AM  
**To:** Johnston, Sadhu  
**Cc:** Dobrovolny, Jerry; Reimer, Andrea; Bugey, Bryan; Edwards, Craig; Aujla, Bill; John McPherson; Robertson, Gregor  
**Subject:** City of Vancouver votes to ban natural gas by 2050

---

Hello Sadhu,

I just read the article on Global News: <http://bit.ly/2cwqw36>

"In its efforts to become the greenest city in the world, Vancouver city council has moved to ban *natural gas from homes and restaurants.*"

*This is a very important step for the city and for Vancouver residents; a decision that is intrinsically linked to using renewable energy from the sun in The Greenest City, and also to address the concerns of Mr. Jordan Bateman, BC director for the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.*

Motoca is here to help Vancouver's restaurants and schools transition from natural gas to solar heating and cooking.

We need legislation in place from the leadership in Vancouver to have solar thermal and solar PV new builds and retrofits, along with incentives to offset the perceived costs to small businesses and higher energy costs schools face by switching to electricity.

My Motoca address is off-line at the moment so I am using my personal email until further notice. Thank you for your attention.

José Luis Gutiérrez-  
Motoca  
604-984-4327 ext 1

-

On Fri, Sep 16, 2016 at 4:37 PM, José Luis Gutiérrez <[joseluis@motoca.ca](mailto:joseluis@motoca.ca)> wrote:

Hello Sadhu,

I keep wondering how and why we are not following suit with our versions of progressive legislation set as an example by our neighbours.

Not convinced that the City of Vancouver does not have the power to act proactively.



BREAKING NEWS from San Francisco! Leadership in San Francisco has unanimously passed an ordinance today (September 16) which will require up to 30% of the roof area of new buildings to be a green roof, or 15% of the roof area in solar panels. [Green Roofs for Healthy Cities](#) worked with the City of San Francisco and other local stakeholders for several years on this, since before the San Francisco CitiesAlive Conference in 2013.

Please let me know how we can help to make Vancouver a great solar city.

Thank you for your attention and in advance for your reply.

Regards,



[José Luis Gutiérrez-García](#), Principal | Motoca Specific

Vancouver: [604 984 4327](tel:6049844327) ext 1 | Toll free from Canada: [1 \(877\) 580-9725 ext 1](tel:18775809725) | [www.motoca.ca](http://www.motoca.ca)

On Tue, Jul 26, 2016 at 10:02 AM, José Luis Gutiérrez <[joseluis@motoca.ca](mailto:joseluis@motoca.ca)> wrote:

Morning Sadhu,

Thank you very much for your reply.

Bryan, you and I know each other already.

As a summary of the email I sent to the City of Vancouver to which Sadhu replied;

My company Motoca (part of the UpGyres Group) based in North Vancouver affiliated with one of the Largest Solar Companies in the United States and we are providing a 100% financing solution to install solar power at zero out of pocket expenses to our customers for applications in:

- Residential
- Business
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Agricultural

I understand that there are a number of businesses that rent property from the City and have a utility agent. My proposal is to get the City of Vancouver powered by the sun; from public buildings and commercial operations to translink depots and parking lots.



I look forward to continuing this conversation and would be happy to schedule a call to learn more about the GDDP program and discuss your specific questions, determine next steps.

Thank you for your attention and in advance for your reply.

Regards,

[José Luis Gutiérrez-García](#), Principal | Motoca Specific



On Tue, Jul 26, 2016 at 9:47 AM, Johnston, Sadhu <[Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)> wrote:  
Greetings Jose Luis-

I wanted to introduce you to Bryan Buggiey at the VEC to let you know about our GDDP program. Also Craig Edwards oversees our energy work for city facilities. Probably most efficient for you to engage with Bryan first as the GDDP program is intended to help local companies work with the city of Vancouver.

Sadhu

-

**From:** [jose Luisgtz@gmail.com](mailto:jose Luisgtz@gmail.com) [mailto:[jose Luisgtz@gmail.com](mailto:jose Luisgtz@gmail.com)] **On Behalf Of** José Luis Gutiérrez  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 26, 2016 9:40 AM  
**To:** Dobrovolny, Jerry; Reimer, Andrea; Johnston, Sadhu  
**Subject:** Solar Energy for the City of Vancouver

Hello Jerry,

As City of Vancouver Engineer, I trust this inquiry reached you as the right person.

My company Motoca (part of the UpGyres Group) based in North Vancouver affiliated with one of the Largest Solar Companies in the United States and we are providing a 100% financing solution to install solar power at zero out of pocket expenses to our customers for applications in:

- Residential
- Business
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Agricultural

I understand that there are a number of businesses that rent property from the City and have a utility agent. My proposal is to get the City of Vancouver powered by the sun; from public buildings to translink depots and parking lots.

Please let me know if this is a conversation to have between you and I, or; I will appreciate it if you put me in touch with the person who is in charge of energy use and energy efficiency for the City of Vancouver.

Thank you for your attention.

Looking forward to your reply.

Regards,

[José Luis Gutiérrez-García](#), Principal | Motoca Specific



Vancouver: [604 984 4327](tel:6049844327) ext 1 | Toll free from Canada: [1 \(877\) 580-9725](tel:18775809725) ext 1 | [www.motoca.ca](http://www.motoca.ca)

The sender has requested a read receipt. If you do not wish to provide one, [click here](#).



From: "[Johnston, Sadhu](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)" <[Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)>  
To: "[Lee, Lloyd](mailto:Lloyd.Lee@vancouver.ca)" <[Lloyd.Lee@vancouver.ca](mailto:Lloyd.Lee@vancouver.ca)>  
"[Pickard, Gail](mailto:Gail.Pickard@vancouver.ca)" <[Gail.Pickard@vancouver.ca](mailto:Gail.Pickard@vancouver.ca)>  
"[Quinlan, Kevin](mailto:Kevin.Quinlan@vancouver.ca)" <[Kevin.Quinlan@vancouver.ca](mailto:Kevin.Quinlan@vancouver.ca)>  
Date: 9/23/2016 8:52:31 AM  
Subject: RE: DRAFT IB>natural gas clarification

s.13(1)

**Sadhu Afochs Johnston** | City Manager  
City of Vancouver | 453 W 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver | BC V5Y 1V4  
604.873.7627 | [Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)  
Twitter: sadhuajohnston



---

**From:** Lee, Lloyd  
**Sent:** Friday, September 23, 2016 9:27 AM  
**To:** Pickard, Gail; Quinlan, Kevin; Johnston, Sadhu  
**Cc:** Sebastian, Lorraine; Kendall-Craden, Rena; Robb, Katie; Smith, Doug (Sustainability); Postma, Tobin; Panday, Dhaneva  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT IB>natural gas clarification

s.13(1)

s.13(1)

Thx  
LL

---

**From:** Pickard, Gail  
**Sent:** Friday, September 23, 2016 9:15 AM  
**To:** Quinlan, Kevin; Johnston, Sadhu  
**Cc:** Sebastian, Lorraine; Kendall-Craden, Rena; Robb, Katie; Smith, Doug (Sustainability); Lee, Lloyd; Postma, Tobin; Panday, Dhaneva  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT IB>natural gas clarification

Got it thanks

---

**From:** Quinlan, Kevin  
**Sent:** Friday, September 23, 2016 9:14 AM



**To:** Pickard, Gail; Johnston, Sadhu

**Cc:** Sebastian, Lorraine; Kendall-Craden, Rena; Robb, Katie; Smith, Doug (Sustainability); Lee, Lloyd; Postma, Tobin; Panday, Dhaneva

**Subject:** RE: DRAFT IB>natural gas clarification

This looks great, thank you. Only change I request is to underline "new buildings" in the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph.

One of the main pieces of misinformation is the claim that existing homeowners are suddenly going to start getting rid of their stoves, fireplaces etc.. the new building piece is a key clarification.

thanks

---

**From:** Pickard, Gail

**Sent:** Friday, September 23, 2016 9:09 AM

**To:** Johnston, Sadhu

**Cc:** Sebastian, Lorraine; Kendall-Craden, Rena; Quinlan, Kevin; Robb, Katie; Smith, Doug (Sustainability); Lee, Lloyd; Postma, Tobin; Panday, Dhaneva

**Subject:** DRAFT IB>natural gas clarification

**Importance:** High

Katie and I collaborated on this latest draft - would like to get out ASAP. Doug/Lloyd can you confirm the numbers re: savings are correct? Sadhu used in his CBC Radio interview but just want to be sure before we hit send.

Thanks

Gail

**City of Vancouver  
Information Bulletin  
September 23, 2016**

### **Clarification of City's position on natural gas**

*Long-term plans call for transition to more renewable energy forms,  
zero emissions buildings*

The City of Vancouver is not banning the use of natural gas, despite claims to the contrary in a misinformed opinion piece in The Province newspaper.

Earlier this year, Vancouver City Council adopted the Zero Emissions Building Plan - an action plan that lays out a phased approach to combat and reduce carbon pollution in Vancouver. The plan establishes specific targets and actions to achieve zero emissions in all new buildings by 2030.

The Zero Emissions Building Plan is a product of Vancouver's Renewable City Strategy (RCS), committing Vancouver to derive 100 per cent of its energy from renewable sources before 2050. Vancouver is one of many cities worldwide that have adopted 100 per cent renewable policy strategies to combat climate change.

The three core strategies in the Renewable City Strategy (approved by unanimous City Council vote in Fall 2015) include:

1. Reduce energy use through energy conservation and efficiency programs.
2. Increase the use of renewable energy (for example biomethane - renewable natural gas).
3. Increase the supply of renewable energy and support that with new infrastructure.

Fifty-eight per cent of the energy used in buildings (heat, hot water) comes from natural gas use (with the remainder from electricity); because electricity is green energy, natural gas is responsible for 96 per cent of a typical building's greenhouse gas emissions. The phased approach laid out in the Zero Emissions Building Plan aims to reduce emissions from newly permitted buildings by 70 per cent by 2020, 90 per cent by 2025 and 100% by 2030.



In addition to helping to combat climate change, these new building standards will also result in better quality homes that are quieter, healthier, and easier to operate and maintain.

The Zero Emissions Building Plan was brought forward after extensive consultation with designers, builders, developers, building operators and utilities. Consultation will continue as components of the plan are implemented. Stakeholders consulted (see [Report to Council](#)) included:

BC Hydro (cofounded research and consultation)  
FortisBC  
Creative Energy  
River District Energy  
Urban Development Institute (collaborated on establishing scope of research work and supported industry consultation to ensure representative voices from the designers, developers, builders, and suppliers for multi-unit residential buildings)  
Greater Vancouver Home Builders Association  
BC Ministry Responsible for Housing, Building and Safety Standards Branch  
BC Ministry of Energy and Mines, Electricity and Alternative Energy Division  
Staff from the cities of Richmond, New Westminster, and Surrey  
BC Housing and the Homeowners Protection Office  
International Building Performance Simulation Association - BC Chapter  
Fenestration Association of BC  
New Buildings Institute (one of the leading U.S. building energy code think tanks)  
Pembina Institute  
Canadian Passive House Institute

As a result of City of Vancouver green building policies there have already been significant cost savings for Vancouver residents and businesses due to less energy use in buildings. The City estimates that, relative to our 2007 baseline, Vancouver's businesses and residents save \$44 million annually in building energy costs thanks to decreasing energy use and reduced buildings emissions. To date, these policies have saved Vancouver taxpayers approximately \$390 million.

For more information about the Renewable City Strategy, visit [Vancouver.ca/renewablecity](http://Vancouver.ca/renewablecity).

-30-

**Media Contact:**

Corporate Communications  
604.871.6336  
[media@vancouver.ca](mailto:media@vancouver.ca)



From: "[Reimer, Andrea](mailto:Andrea.Reimer@vancouver.ca)" <[Andrea.Reimer@vancouver.ca](mailto:Andrea.Reimer@vancouver.ca)>  
To: "[Pickard, Gail](mailto:Gail.Pickard@vancouver.ca)" <[Gail.Pickard@vancouver.ca](mailto:Gail.Pickard@vancouver.ca)>  
Date: 9/23/2016 10:25:41 AM  
Subject: Re: follow up interviews>City statement on natural gas

For sure. Fairchild I can do between 12:30 and 1, roundhouse whenever

Councillor Andrea Reimer  
Chair | Policy and Strategic Priorities  
City of Vancouver  
p: [604-873-7241](tel:604-873-7241)  
e: [andrea.reimer@vancouver.ca](mailto:andrea.reimer@vancouver.ca)  
a: [453 W 12 Ave Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4](https://www.google.com/maps/place/453+W+12+Ave+Vancouver,+BC+V5Y+1V4)  
t: [@andreareimer](https://www.instagram.com/andreareimer)  
f: [www.facebook.com/CouncillorAndreaReimer](https://www.facebook.com/CouncillorAndreaReimer)

On Sep 23, 2016, at 11:13 AM, Pickard, Gail <[Gail.Pickard@vancouver.ca](mailto:Gail.Pickard@vancouver.ca)> wrote:

Good morning, Councillor. We've had two follow up requests from media so far on the IB just issued to clarify the City's position on natural gas.

Fairchild TV is asking for an on camera interview between 12 noon and 2 pm and Roundhouse Radio is looking for a follow up statement as well.

Are you able to take either of these interviews? I spoke with your assistant and she suggested with your meetings/travel today you might have difficulty meeting the TV deadline.

If not we can line up someone from the City. IB pasted below for your reference.

Thanks,  
Gail

**City of Vancouver  
Information Bulletin  
September 23, 2016**

#### **Clarification of City's position on natural gas**

*Long-term plans call for transition to more renewable energy forms,  
zero emissions buildings*

The City of Vancouver is not banning the use of natural gas, despite claims to the contrary in a misinformed opinion piece in The Province newspaper.

Earlier this year, Vancouver City Council adopted the Zero Emissions Building Plan – an action plan that lays out a phased approach to combat and reduce carbon pollution in Vancouver. The plan establishes specific targets and actions to achieve zero emissions in all new buildings by 2030 i.e. the plan does not focus on retro-fitting buildings. Restaurants can continue to cook with natural gas and residents are not being asked to replace their gas appliances.

The Zero Emissions Building Plan is a product of Vancouver's Renewable City Strategy (RCS), committing Vancouver to derive 100 per cent of its energy from renewable sources before 2050. Vancouver is one of many cities worldwide that have adopted 100 per cent renewable policy strategies to combat climate change.

The three core strategies in the Renewable City Strategy (approved by unanimous City Council vote in Fall 2015) include:

1. Reduce energy use through energy conservation and efficiency programs.
2. Increase the use of renewable energy (for example biomethane - renewable natural gas). The City of Vancouver powers City Hall with green gas we purchase from FortisBC.
3. Increase the supply of renewable energy and support that with new infrastructure.

Fifty-eight per cent of the energy used in buildings (heat, hot water) comes from natural gas use (with the remainder



from electricity); because electricity is green energy, natural gas is responsible for 96 per cent of a typical building's greenhouse gas emissions. The phased approach laid out in the Zero Emissions Building Plan aims to reduce emissions from newly permitted buildings by 70 per cent by 2020, 90 per cent by 2025 and 100% by 2030. In addition to helping to combat climate change, these new building standards will also result in better quality homes that are quieter, healthier, and easier to operate and maintain.

The Zero Emissions Building Plan was brought forward after extensive consultation with designers, builders, developers, building operators and utilities. Consultation will continue as components of the plan are implemented. Stakeholders consulted (see [Report to Council](#)) included:

- BC Hydro (cofunded research and consultation)
- FortisBC
- Creative Energy
- River District Energy
- Urban Development Institute (collaborated on establishing scope of research work and supported industry consultation to ensure representative voices from the designers, developers, builders, and suppliers for multi-unit residential buildings)
- Greater Vancouver Home Builders Association
- BC Ministry Responsible for Housing, Building and Safety Standards Branch
- BC Ministry of Energy and Mines, Electricity and Alternative Energy Division
- Staff from the cities of Richmond, New Westminster, and Surrey
- BC Housing and the Homeowners Protection Office
- International Building Performance Simulation Association - BC Chapter
- Fenestration Association of BC
- New Buildings Institute (one of the leading U.S. building energy code think tanks)
- Pembina Institute
- Canadian Passive House Institute

As a result of City of Vancouver green building policies there have already been significant cost savings for Vancouver residents and businesses due to less energy use in buildings. The City estimates that, relative to our 2007 baseline, Vancouver's businesses and residents save \$44 million annually in building energy costs thanks to decreasing energy use and reduced buildings emissions.

For more information about the Renewable City Strategy, visit [Vancouver.ca/renewable-city](http://Vancouver.ca/renewable-city).

-30-

**Gail Pickard, ABC | Communications Manager**  
Corporate Communications | City of Vancouver  
453 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver BC V5Y 1V4  
t. 604.873.7397  
m. 604.306.8360  
[gail.pickard@vancouver.ca](mailto:gail.pickard@vancouver.ca)

Never miss a chance to have your say. Join [TalkVancouver.com](http://TalkVancouver.com) and stay in the loop on civic engagement opportunities!

From: "[Reimer, Andrea](mailto:Andrea.Reimer@vancouver.ca)" <[Andrea.Reimer@vancouver.ca](mailto:Andrea.Reimer@vancouver.ca)>  
To: "[Robb, Katie](mailto:Katie.Robb@vancouver.ca)" <[Katie.Robb@vancouver.ca](mailto:Katie.Robb@vancouver.ca)>  
Date: 9/27/2016 1:17:26 PM  
Subject: Re: Follow up: natural gas stories

Yes, although we did do a pretty good job at that in July after the council meeting and I think that original plan continues to be a good one.

Rena - any chance that there are notes from that meeting? I didn't keep them but thinking that Dhaneva may have. If not I can flesh out the Coles notes of what I remember

Councillor Andrea Reimer  
Chair | Policy and Strategic Priorities  
City of Vancouver  
p: [604-873-7241](tel:604-873-7241)  
e: [andrea.reimer@vancouver.ca](mailto:andrea.reimer@vancouver.ca)  
a: [453 W 12 Ave Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4](https://www.google.com/maps/place/453+W+12+Ave+Vancouver,+BC+V5Y+1V4)  
t: [@andreareimer](https://www.instagram.com/andreareimer)  
f: [www.facebook.com/CouncillorAndreaReimer](https://www.facebook.com/CouncillorAndreaReimer)

On Sep 27, 2016, at 9:27 AM, Robb, Katie <[Katie.Robb@vancouver.ca](mailto:Katie.Robb@vancouver.ca)> wrote:

Something to consider: now that the BCUC's decision on creative energy is out there, and being promoted by certain organizations like GVBOT, we should be ready to keep holding our ground on RCS.

Suggest we put our heads together sooner rather than later for a solid messaging framework around RCS that will serve as the foundation for natural gas, the BCUC decision, and upcoming initiatives under RCS that may trigger the same dialogue in the media.

Katie Robb  
Director of Communications  
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver  
Office: [604.873.7490](tel:604.873.7490) | Cell: [778.918.7973](tel:778.918.7973)  
[Mayorofvancouver.ca](http://Mayorofvancouver.ca)

On Sep 27, 2016, at 9:11 AM, Quinlan, Kevin <[Kevin.Quinlan@vancouver.ca](mailto:Kevin.Quinlan@vancouver.ca)> wrote:

Thanks Katie. Rena, could I get an update on the corp comms side?

thanks

---

**From:** Robb, Katie  
**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2016 5:33 PM  
**To:** Quinlan, Kevin; Reimer, Andrea; Johnston, Sadhu  
**Cc:** Smith, Doug (Sustainability); Kendall-Craden, Rena; Lee, Emma; Robertson, G; Kelley, Gil; Zaharia, Sarah  
**Subject:** RE: Follow up: natural gas stories

From VMO, see below in red.



**Katie Robb**

Director of Communications  
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver  
Office: 604.873.7490 | Cell: 778.918.7973  
[Mayorofvancouver.ca](http://Mayorofvancouver.ca)

---

**From:** Quinlan, Kevin  
**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2016 4:07 PM  
**To:** Reimer, Andrea; Johnston, Sadhu  
**Cc:** Smith, Doug (Sustainability); Kendall-Craden, Rena; Robb, Katie; Lee, Emma; Robertson, G; Kelley, Gil  
**Subject:** RE: Follow up: natural gas stories

Hi all, can I get an update on where these pieces stand

Mayor's Office:  
Letter from the Mayor to the Province

Waiting final signoff and will ideally send tonight for print and online tomorrow.

Letter from Mayor for BIAs

Will tackle this one tomorrow/Wednesday, and will aim to have this out by Thursday (email) and Friday (hard copy if necessary). Tomorrow I will call DV BIA to talk through best strategy for dissemination.

Translated message from the Mayor

Will have to our translator first thing tomorrow – as FYI, there has been no coverage in Chinese media except the one Fairchild TV segment

Follow-up piece from Daily Hive on the facts

Will slice and dice the KMs and LTEs and pitch tomorrow am. Will also consider a statement from the Mayor to post to our website that's a bit lengthier and more detailed.

City:  
Twitter and Facebook content for City channels  
Message in next Greenest City email  
City website homepage updated with clarifying messaging  
311 stats

Thanks

---

**From:** Reimer, Andrea  
**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2016 9:57 AM  
**To:** Johnston, Sadhu  
**Cc:** Quinlan, Kevin; Smith, Doug (Sustainability); Kendall-Craden, Rena; Robb, Katie; Lee, Emma; Robertson, G; Kelley, Gil  
**Subject:** Re: Follow up: natural gas stories

We can mobilize - as noted I was trying to take the air out of the story this weekend rather than put it in

On the restaurant front, the VEC had a working group and likely the best contact to quickly mobilize people

**Councillor Andrea Reimer**  
Chair | **Policy and Strategic Priorities**



City of Vancouver  
p: [604-873-7241](tel:604-873-7241)  
e: [andrea.reimer@vancouver.ca](mailto:andrea.reimer@vancouver.ca)  
a: [453 W 12 Ave Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4](#)  
t: [@andreareimer](#)  
f: [www.facebook.com/CouncillorAndreaReimer](http://www.facebook.com/CouncillorAndreaReimer)

On Sep 26, 2016, at 9:54 AM, Johnston, Sadhu <[Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)> wrote:

Hi-

I agree with the steps that are suggested by Kevin. Additionally, I have emailed Ian Tostensen and have asked that Doug meet with him to hear him out and to share with him the RCS strategy. Not sure we'll win him over, given who he is, but I think it's good to at least give it a try.

Do we have allies in the restaurant business that could come-up with some support?

Where's Suzuki and other supporters on this? We should ask them to mobilize some support.

Sadhu

**Sadhu Aufochs Johnston** | City Manager  
City of Vancouver | 453 W 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver | BC V5Y 1V4  
604.873.7627 | [Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)  
Twitter: [sadhuajohnston](#)

<image001.jpg>

---

**From:** Reimer, Andrea  
**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2016 9:18 AM  
**To:** Quinlan, Kevin  
**Cc:** Smith, Doug (Sustainability); Johnston, Sadhu; Kendall-Craden, Rena; Robb, Katie; Lee, Emma; Robertson, G; Kelley, Gil  
**Subject:** Re: Follow up: natural gas stories

Got it. I'm on the wrong side of the water and hadn't seen the online versions yet.

**Councillor Andrea Reimer**  
Chair | **Policy and Strategic Priorities**  
City of Vancouver  
p: [604-873-7241](tel:604-873-7241)  
e: [andrea.reimer@vancouver.ca](mailto:andrea.reimer@vancouver.ca)  
a: [453 W 12 Ave Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4](#)  
t: [@andreareimer](#)  
f: [www.facebook.com/CouncillorAndreaReimer](http://www.facebook.com/CouncillorAndreaReimer)

On Sep 26, 2016, at 9:08 AM, Quinlan, Kevin <[Kevin.Quinlan@vancouver.ca](mailto:Kevin.Quinlan@vancouver.ca)> wrote:

It is front page of today's Vancouver Sun and A4 of the Province. Story needs pushback – leaving it unchecked will just make it spread further.

KQ

---

**From:** Reimer, Andrea  
**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2016 8:52 AM  
**To:** Smith, Doug (Sustainability)



**Cc:** Quinlan, Kevin; Johnston, Sadhu; Kendall-Craden, Rena; Robb, Katie; Lee, Emma; Robertson, G; Kelley, Gil

**Subject:** Re: Follow up: natural gas stories

Thanks for this Kevin

We had a GCAP check in meeting on Friday and did some thinking through on this and the update. Might be easiest to call you with an update when I'm free at 12? Doug may also have some notes

Where is the story continuing to run? I haven't seen anything at all since Friday's round and didn't want to push it out this weekend and inadvertently give the story legs it didn't have

**Councillor Andrea Reimer**

Chair | **Policy and Strategic Priorities**

City of Vancouver

p: [604-873-7241](tel:604-873-7241)

e: [andrea.reimer@vancouver.ca](mailto:andrea.reimer@vancouver.ca)

a: [453 W 12 Ave Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4](#)

t: [@andreareimer](#)

f: [www.facebook.com/CouncillorAndreaReimer](https://www.facebook.com/CouncillorAndreaReimer)

On Sep 26, 2016, at 8:34 AM, Smith, Doug (Sustainability) <[doug.smith@vancouver.ca](mailto:doug.smith@vancouver.ca)> wrote:

Hi Kevin,

I'll find some staff to support Katie with data and I'll call you about the RCS update.

Doug Smith, P.Eng.

Acting Director, Sustainability

City of Vancouver

---

**From:** Quinlan, Kevin

**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2016 8:23 AM

**To:** Johnston, Sadhu; Kendall-Craden, Rena; Smith, Doug (Sustainability); Robb, Katie; Lee, Emma; Reimer, Andrea

**Cc:** Robertson, G

**Subject:** Follow up: natural gas stories

Hi all, the misinformation about the ban on natural gas is still circulating and I am worried it is going to penetrate further. We need to keep pushing back on a number of channels.

Katie in our office is heading up a number of responses today:

- Letter from the Mayor to run in the province newspaper, as well as the Vancouver sun story today on restaurant concerns
- Twitter and Facebook content from the Mayor's channels clarifying information
- a message from the Mayor translated into Mandarin for local Chinese media  
a follow-up piece on daily hive outlining what you need to know about the 100% renewable strategy and clarifying myths

We are also working on a letter from the Mayor to be circulated to BIAs who can distribute it to their members. Katie will work with Doug's team to get info to flesh that out.

It would be appreciated if we could have clarifying information disseminated through the city's various channels: city Twitter and Facebook, greenest city Facebook page, and greenest city email newsletter.

Could we get stats on how many calls we have received from 311 so far on this issue? I'd like to get a sense of the volume

We also need a specific section on the front page of the city's website that clarifies there is no ban on natural gas and where people can get the facts. Given the web traffic we get this is a key tool we have to get information out to people who don't follow our other channels.

Let's also set up a meeting to start discussing the renewable city update that is set to come later this fall. The latest media means we will need to adjust how we roll it out.

Any other suggestions for ways to get the word out right away pushing back on the misinformation would be great

Thanks

Kevin Quinlan  
Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor  
City of Vancouver  
Office: 604.873.7232  
Cell: 778.995.2264



From: "[Johnston, Sadhu](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)" <[Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)>  
To: "[Kendall-Craden, Rena](mailto:Rena.Kendall-Craden@vancouver.ca)" <[Rena.Kendall-Craden@vancouver.ca](mailto:Rena.Kendall-Craden@vancouver.ca)>  
"[Reimer, Andrea](mailto:Andrea.Reimer@vancouver.ca)" <[Andrea.Reimer@vancouver.ca](mailto:Andrea.Reimer@vancouver.ca)>  
"[Quinlan, Kevin](mailto:Kevin.Quinlan@vancouver.ca)" <[Kevin.Quinlan@vancouver.ca](mailto:Kevin.Quinlan@vancouver.ca)>  
Date: 9/26/2016 9:50:42 AM  
Subject: RE: Follow up: natural gas stories

Thanks  
s.

**Sadhu Afochs Johnston** | City Manager  
City of Vancouver | 453 W 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver | BC V5Y 1V4  
604.873.7627 | [Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)  
Twitter: [sadhuajohnston](https://twitter.com/sadhuajohnston)



---

**From:** Kendall-Craden, Rena  
**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2016 10:27 AM  
**To:** Johnston, Sadhu; Reimer, Andrea; Quinlan, Kevin  
**Cc:** Robb, Katie  
**Subject:** RE: Follow up: natural gas stories

Update: we met as a digital/comms team with Sustainability (Lloyd, Doug and Jen) and worked out the approach. We will provide more focused messaging around impacts to consumers both short and longer term along with benefits. Formats: social channel messaging with videos and infographics and clarifying information disseminated through the city's various channels: city Twitter and Facebook, greenest city Facebook page, and greenest city email newsletter. Looking for supporting voices from BIA/and restaurant business  
We are busy to deliver this today/tomorrow. RKC

---

**From:** Johnston, Sadhu  
**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2016 9:55 AM  
**To:** Reimer, Andrea; Quinlan, Kevin  
**Cc:** Smith, Doug (Sustainability); Kendall-Craden, Rena; Robb, Katie; Lee, Emma; Robertson, G; Kelley, Gil  
**Subject:** RE: Follow up: natural gas stories

Hi-  
I agree with the steps that are suggested by Kevin. Additionally, I have emailed Ian Tostensen and have asked that Doug meet with him to hear him out and to share with him the RCS strategy. Not sure we'll win him over, given who he is, but I think it's good to at least give it a try.

Do we have allies in the restaurant business that could come-up with some support?

Where's Suzuki and other supporters on this? We should ask them to mobilize some support.

Sadhu

**Sadhu Afochs Johnston** | City Manager  
City of Vancouver | 453 W 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver | BC V5Y 1V4



---

**From:** Reimer, Andrea  
**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2016 9:18 AM  
**To:** Quinlan, Kevin  
**Cc:** Smith, Doug (Sustainability); Johnston, Sadhu; Kendall-Craden, Rena; Robb, Katie; Lee, Emma; Robertson, G; Kelley, Gil  
**Subject:** Re: Follow up: natural gas stories

Got it. I'm on the wrong side of the water and hadn't seen the online versions yet.

**Councillor Andrea Reimer**  
Chair | **Policy and Strategic Priorities**  
City of Vancouver  
p: [604-873-7241](tel:604-873-7241)  
e: [andrea.reimer@vancouver.ca](mailto:andrea.reimer@vancouver.ca)  
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---

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**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2016 8:52 AM  
**To:** Smith, Doug (Sustainability)  
**Cc:** Quinlan, Kevin; Johnston, Sadhu; Kendall-Craden, Rena; Robb, Katie; Lee, Emma; Robertson, G; Kelley, Gil  
**Subject:** Re: Follow up: natural gas stories

Thanks for this Kevin

We had a GCAP check in meeting on Friday and did some thinking through on this and the update. Might be easiest to call you with an update when I'm free at 12? Doug may also have some notes

Where is the story continuing to run? I haven't seen anything at all since Friday's round and didn't want to push it out this weekend and inadvertently give the story legs it didn't have

**Councillor Andrea Reimer**  
Chair | **Policy and Strategic Priorities**  
City of Vancouver  
p: [604-873-7241](tel:604-873-7241)  
e: [andrea.reimer@vancouver.ca](mailto:andrea.reimer@vancouver.ca)  
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t: [@andreareimer](https://twitter.com/andreareimer)  
f: [www.facebook.com/CouncillorAndreaReimer](https://www.facebook.com/CouncillorAndreaReimer)

On Sep 26, 2016, at 8:34 AM, Smith, Doug (Sustainability) <[doug.smith@vancouver.ca](mailto:doug.smith@vancouver.ca)> wrote:

Hi Kevin,



I'll find some staff to support Katie with data and I'll call you about the RCS update.

Doug Smith, P.Eng.  
Acting Director, Sustainability  
City of Vancouver

---

**From:** Quinlan, Kevin  
**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2016 8:23 AM  
**To:** Johnston, Sadhu; Kendall-Craden, Rena; Smith, Doug (Sustainability); Robb, Katie; Lee, Emma; Reimer, Andrea  
**Cc:** Robertson, G  
**Subject:** Follow up: natural gas stories

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Any other suggestions for ways to get the word out right away pushing back on the misinformation would be great

Thanks

Kevin Quinlan  
Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor  
City of Vancouver  
Office: 604.873.7232  
Cell: 778.995.2264

From: "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

To: "Robb, Katie" <Katie.Robb@vancouver.ca>

"Smith, Doug \ (Sustainability)" <doug.smith@vancouver.ca>

"Pickard, Gail" <Gail.Pickard@vancouver.ca>

"Kendall-Craden, Rena" <Rena.Kendall-Craden@vancouver.ca>

"Quinlan, Kevin" <Kevin.Quinlan@vancouver.ca>

Date: 9/23/2016 7:23:04 AM

Subject: Re: More nat gas stories

That is good Katie.

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston

City Manager

Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca

O. 604 873 7627

T. Sadhuajohnston

---

**From:** Robb, Katie

**Sent:** Friday, September 23, 2016 8:17 AM

**To:** Smith, Doug (Sustainability); Johnston, Sadhu; Pickard, Gail; Kendall-Craden, Rena; Quinlan, Kevin

**Subject:** RE: More nat gas stories

---

That is odd, Cllr. Reimer spoke to 1130 last night.

Nothing in print this morning in sun/globe/metro/24 – so that's good.

**Katie Robb**

Director of Communications

Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver

Office: 604.873.7490 | Cell: 778.918.7973

Mayorofvancouver.ca

---

**From:** Smith, Doug (Sustainability)

**Sent:** Friday, September 23, 2016 8:14 AM

**To:** Johnston, Sadhu; Pickard, Gail; Kendall-Craden, Rena; Robb, Katie; Quinlan, Kevin

**Subject:** More nat gas stories

New s 1130 is still putting incorrect information out there and they say they've reached out for our comment but we didn't get back to them.

Also, Cllr de Genova is using Fortis' data. Should I contact her and send her the facts? Also, I thought she voted in favour of RCS and ZEB?

<http://www.news1130.com/2016/09/23/vancouver-plans-to-ban-the-use-of-natural-gas-by-2050/>

Doug Smith, P.Eng.

Acting Director, Sustainability

City of Vancouver



From: "Quinlan, Kevin" <Kevin.Quinlan@vancouver.ca>

To: "Robb, Katie" <Katie.Robb@vancouver.ca>

Date: 9/23/2016 7:22:33 AM

Subject: Re: More nat gas stories

Global morning news clarified and just had a clip of sadhu

And Cbc interview was great, nice job Sadhu

Haven't checked zero emission building strategy record but renewable city strategy was a unanimous vote

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 23, 2016, at 8:17 AM, Robb, Katie <[Katie.Robb@vancouver.ca](mailto:Katie.Robb@vancouver.ca)> wrote:

That is odd, Cllr. Reimer spoke to 1130 last night.

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**Katie Robb**

Director of Communications

Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver

Office: 604.873.7490 | Cell: 778.918.7973

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**Sent:** Friday, September 23, 2016 8:14 AM

**To:** Johnston, Sadhu; Pickard, Gail; Kendall-Craden, Rena; Robb, Katie; Quinlan, Kevin

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Doug Smith, P.Eng.

Acting Director, Sustainability

City of Vancouver

From: ["Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Smith, Doug \ \(Sustainability\)" <doug.smith@vancouver.ca>](mailto:doug.smith@vancouver.ca)  
["Pickard, Gail" <Gail.Pickard@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Gail.Pickard@vancouver.ca)  
["Kendall-Craden, Rena" <Rena.Kendall-Craden@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Rena.Kendall-Craden@vancouver.ca)  
["Robb, Katie" <Katie.Robb@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Katie.Robb@vancouver.ca)  
["Quinlan, Kevin" <Kevin.Quinlan@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Kevin.Quinlan@vancouver.ca)

Date: 9/23/2016 7:22:45 AM

Subject: Re: More nat gas stories

Yes, pls do. Thanks doug

Sadhu Afochs Johnston  
City Manager  
[Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)  
O. 604 873 7627  
T. Sadhuajohnston

---

**From:** Smith, Doug (Sustainability)

**Sent:** Friday, September 23, 2016 8:14 AM

**To:** Johnston, Sadhu; Pickard, Gail; Kendall-Craden, Rena; Robb, Katie; Quinlan, Kevin

**Subject:** More nat gas stories

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<http://www.news1130.com/2016/09/23/vancouver-plans-to-ban-the-use-of-natural-gas-by-2050/>

Doug Smith, P.Eng.  
Acting Director, Sustainability  
City of Vancouver



From: "[Ian Tostenson](mailto:itostenson@bcrrfa.com)" <[itostenson@bcrrfa.com](mailto:itostenson@bcrrfa.com)>

To: "[Johnston, Sadhu](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)" <[Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)>

Date: 9/26/2016 9:04:28 AM

Subject: Re: natural gas and restaurants

Thanks Sadhu. Hi Doug. I'm in Victoria today but will circle back in the morning

Thank

Ian

Mobile 604.986.1429

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 26, 2016, at 9:51 AM, Johnston, Sadhu <[Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)> wrote:

Hi Ian-

I am reaching out regarding the concerns that you've raised with the media about our efforts to address climate change. We don't intend to ban natural gas. There is plenty of renewable natural gas that can be used. As a matter of fact, here at city hall we are using renewable natural gas that we buy from Fortis. If you are willing, I'd like Doug Smith, who leads our sustainability effort, to meet with you to hear your concerns and share our work on this file.

Thanks

Sadhu

**Sadhu Aufochs Johnston** | City Manager

City of Vancouver | 453 W 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Vancouver | BC V5Y 1V4

604.873.7627 | [Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)

Twitter: sadhuajohnston



From: "[Reimer, Andrea](mailto:Andrea.Reimer@vancouver.ca)" <[Andrea.Reimer@vancouver.ca](mailto:Andrea.Reimer@vancouver.ca)>  
To: "[Johnston, Sadhu](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)" <[Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)>  
Date: 9/23/2016 7:36:36 AM  
Subject: Re: Natural Gas Ban Key Messages

This is great! You totally nailed this

Councillor Andrea Reimer  
Chair | Policy and Strategic Priorities  
City of Vancouver  
p: [604-873-7241](tel:604-873-7241)  
e: [andrea.reimer@vancouver.ca](mailto:andrea.reimer@vancouver.ca)  
a: [453 W 12 Ave Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4](https://www.google.com/maps/place/453+W+12+Ave+Vancouver,+BC+V5Y+1V4)  
t: [@andreareimer](https://twitter.com/andreareimer)  
f: [www.facebook.com/CouncillorAndreaReimer](https://www.facebook.com/CouncillorAndreaReimer)

On Sep 23, 2016, at 7:19 AM, Johnston, Sadhu <[Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)> wrote:

Why does the city want to eliminate natural gas?

Vancouver is one of many cities around the world, working to reduce its carbon footprint by implementing viable solutions like RCS. We are trying to do our part to keep global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius and set the standard for what a thriving livable city looks like.

We are not banning natural gas. Natural gas would be replaced with a number of present and future technologies, including biomethane (renewable natural gas, given sufficient supply)

58% of the energy used in buildings comes from natural gas use, but is actually responsible for 96% of the greenhouse gas emissions.

The consequences of inaction to reduce fossil fuel use—climate change, poor air quality and detrimental health impacts—can be mitigated through adopting renewable energy and reducing these emissions.

What is the target date?

Our goal is to derive 100% of our energy from renewable sources before 2050

Because buildings have such a long life span we need to start acting now. By phasing in these changes slowly, we are giving residents, businesses industry time to adapt.

How many residents of Vancouver currently use natural gas?

About 108,000 resident and commercial accounts in Vancouver, which comprises residents and businesses.

What does the city want to use to replace natural gas?



The Renewable City Strategy proposes a route to using 100% Renewable Energy - Natural gas would be replaced with a number of present and future technologies, including biomethane (renewable natural gas, given sufficient supply\*), heat pumps, geo-exchange systems, and renewable waste streams that can be harnessed to generate heat (e.g., the South East False Creek Neighbourhood Energy Utility). As long as they meet the definition for “renewable”, new innovations will be considered as the RCS is updated and refined.

The RCS states very clearly that it is not intended to be a detailed roadmap or technology guide.

How much would this cost?

One of the three key approaches outlined in the RCS is to first reduce energy use, while transitioning to more renewable forms of energy.

We’ve already seen significant cost savings to Vancouver residents and businesses due to buildings that use less energy. We estimate that relative to our 2007 baseline that Vancouver’s businesses and residents save \$44 million annually in building energy costs thanks to decreasing energy use and buildings emissions. To date this we’ve saved Vancouver taxpayers approximately \$390 million since 2007.

Bateman says a single-family home could see a 1,400/year rise in energy bills if it moves from natural gas to electricity, is this true?

First and foremost we are working towards reducing the amount of energy a household uses. So that as we transition to more renewable sources of energy, we’re keeping the overall costs down.

A good example – Vancouver’s first certified passive house was completed this winter. The energy bill for a family of four in the middle of winter was about \$20 a month.

Passive House Standard is a standard for energy efficiency in a building, reducing its ecological footprint. It results in ultra-low energy buildings that require little energy for space heating or cooling.

It’s not just about cost savings. Building to zero emission standards means better quality homes and better quality of life. They are quieter, healthier and the air quality is better and they’re easy to operate. They’re also resilient - so if your power goes out in the middle of winter, your home will stay warm.

The consequences of inaction to reduce fossil fuel use, such as climate change, poor air quality and detrimental health impacts, can be avoided through the adoption of renewable energy, while increasing social equity. Buildings that use less energy means lower energy bills for renters and owners alike. A move towards electrification and the use of renewables to produce that electricity, with BC’s regulated utilities, provides more certainty in long-term energy costs compared to the variability of fossil fuel prices.

Corporate Communications | City of Vancouver  
t. 604.673.8415 | c. 604.358.9341 | fax 604.873.7884  
[dhaneva.panday@vancouver.ca](mailto:dhaneva.panday@vancouver.ca)

website: [vancouver.ca](http://vancouver.ca)

City app: VanConnect

twitter: @CityofVancouver

phone: 3-1-1 (180 languages)

---

City of Vancouver, Corporate Communications

453 West 12th Avenue, Seventh Floor

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V5Y 1V4

---

**From:** Robb, Katie  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2016 2:57 PM  
**To:** Panday, Dhaneva; Pickard, Gail  
**Subject:** RE: CKNW Radio Request

Any chance you can send me a few topline messages now?

Katie Robb

Director of Communications

Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver

Office: 604.873.7490 | Cell: 778.918.7973

[Mayorofvancouver.ca](http://Mayorofvancouver.ca)

---

**From:** Panday, Dhaneva  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2016 12:23 PM  
**To:** Robb, Katie; Pickard, Gail  
**Subject:** Re: CKNW Radio Request

Working on pulling them together now. Sadhu will be doing the two interviews this afternoon.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.



---

**From:** Robb, Katie

**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2016 12:22 PM

**To:** Pickard, Gail

**Cc:** Panday, Dhaneva

**Subject:** Re: CKNW Radio Request

Can you flip me the key messages/proof points on this one when you have a sec?

Katie Robb

Director of Communications

Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver

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[Mayorofvancouver.ca](http://Mayorofvancouver.ca)

On Sep 22, 2016, at 11:07 AM, Pickard, Gail <[Gail.Pickard@vancouver.ca](mailto:Gail.Pickard@vancouver.ca)> wrote:

You want us to handle this operationally or?

Dhaneva is going to work on the Op Ed as per earlier email.

G.

---

**From:** Shelby Thom [<mailto:shelby@cknw.com>]

**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2016 11:04 AM

**To:** Media

**Subject:** CKNW Radio Request

Good afternoon.

Shelby Thom here with CKNW in Vancouver.

We have Jordan Bateman on air today talking about the city's natural-gas ban.

I'd like to request further information on this.

Why does the city want to eliminate natural gas?

What is the target date?

How many residents of Vancouver currently use natural gas?

Would does the city want to use to replace natural gas?

How much would this cost?

Bateman says a single-family home could see a 1,400/year rise in energy bills if it moves from natural gas to electricity, is this true?

Deadline is as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Shelby Thom



From: "[Johnston, Sadhu](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)" <[Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)>  
To: "[Pickard, Gail](mailto:Gail.Pickard@vancouver.ca)" <[Gail.Pickard@vancouver.ca](mailto:Gail.Pickard@vancouver.ca)>  
"[Quinlan, Kevin](mailto:Kevin.Quinlan@vancouver.ca)" <[Kevin.Quinlan@vancouver.ca](mailto:Kevin.Quinlan@vancouver.ca)>  
Date: 9/23/2016 9:03:26 AM  
Subject: RE: REVISED: DRAFT IB>natural gas clarification

Works for me.

s.

**Sadhu Afochs Johnston** | City Manager  
City of Vancouver | 453 W 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver | BC V5Y 1V4  
604.873.7627 | [Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)  
Twitter: sadhuajohnston



---

**From:** Pickard, Gail  
**Sent:** Friday, September 23, 2016 9:59 AM  
**To:** Johnston, Sadhu; Quinlan, Kevin  
**Cc:** Sebastian, Lorraine; Kendall-Craden, Rena; Robb, Katie; Smith, Doug (Sustainability); Lee, Lloyd; Postma, Tobin; Panday, Dhaneva  
**Subject:** REVISED: DRAFT IB>natural gas clarification  
**Importance:** High

Edits highlighted - did I capture your thoughts Sadhu?

**City of Vancouver**  
**Information Bulletin**  
**September 23, 2016**

**Clarification of City's position on natural gas**  
*Long-term plans call for transition to more renewable energy forms,  
zero emissions buildings*

The City of Vancouver is not banning the use of natural gas, despite claims to the contrary in a misinformed opinion piece in The Province newspaper.

Earlier this year, Vancouver City Council adopted the Zero Emissions Building Plan - an action plan that lays out a phased approach to combat and reduce carbon pollution in Vancouver. The plan establishes specific targets and actions to achieve zero emissions in all new buildings by 2030 i.e. the plan does not focus on retro-fitting buildings. Restaurants can continue to cook with natural gas and residents are not being asked to replace their gas appliances.

The Zero Emissions Building Plan is a product of Vancouver's Renewable City Strategy (RCS), committing Vancouver to derive 100 per cent of its energy from renewable sources before 2050. Vancouver is one of many cities worldwide that have adopted 100 per cent renewable policy strategies to combat climate change.

The three core strategies in the Renewable City Strategy (approved by unanimous City Council vote in Fall 2015) include:

1. Reduce energy use through energy conservation and efficiency programs.
2. Increase the use of renewable energy (for example biomethane - renewable natural gas). The City of Vancouver powers City Hall with green gas we purchase from FortisBC.



3. Increase the supply of renewable energy and support that with new infrastructure.

Fifty-eight per cent of the energy used in buildings (heat, hot water) comes from natural gas use (with the remainder from electricity); because electricity is green energy, natural gas is responsible for 96 per cent of a typical building's greenhouse gas emissions. The phased approach laid out in the Zero Emissions Building Plan aims to reduce emissions from newly permitted buildings by 70 per cent by 2020, 90 per cent by 2025 and 100% by 2030.

In addition to helping to combat climate change, these new building standards will also result in better quality homes that are quieter, healthier, and easier to operate and maintain.

The Zero Emissions Building Plan was brought forward after extensive consultation with designers, builders, developers, building operators and utilities. Consultation will continue as components of the plan are implemented. Stakeholders consulted (see [Report to Council](#)) included:

BC Hydro (cofounded research and consultation)  
FortisBC  
Creative Energy  
River District Energy  
Urban Development Institute (collaborated on establishing scope of research work and supported industry consultation to ensure representative voices from the designers, developers, builders, and suppliers for multi-unit residential buildings)  
Greater Vancouver Home Builders Association  
BC Ministry Responsible for Housing, Building and Safety Standards Branch  
BC Ministry of Energy and Mines, Electricity and Alternative Energy Division  
Staff from the cities of Richmond, New Westminster, and Surrey  
BC Housing and the Homeowners Protection Office  
International Building Performance Simulation Association - BC Chapter  
Fenestration Association of BC  
New Buildings Institute (one of the leading U.S. building energy code think tanks)  
Pembina Institute  
Canadian Passive House Institute

As a result of City of Vancouver green building policies there have already been significant cost savings for Vancouver residents and businesses due to less energy use in buildings. The City estimates that, relative to our 2007 baseline, Vancouver's businesses and residents save \$44 million annually in building energy costs thanks to decreasing energy use and reduced buildings emissions.

For more information about the Renewable City Strategy, visit [Vancouver.ca/renewablecity](http://Vancouver.ca/renewablecity).

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**From:** Johnston, Sadhu  
**Sent:** Friday, September 23, 2016 9:51 AM  
**To:** Quinlan, Kevin; Pickard, Gail  
**Cc:** Sebastian, Lorraine; Kendall-Craden, Rena; Robb, Katie; Smith, Doug (Sustainability); Lee, Lloyd; Postma, Tobin; Panday, Dhaneva  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT IB>natural gas clarification

Hi

We have been asked a couple questions that we might want to answer in this:

- 1) Can restaurants continue to cook using natural gas?
- 2) Are we going to require people replace all of their gas appliances?

In both cases I have highlighted green gas as an option. I have highlighted that the city is using green gas to power city hall that we purchase from Fortis. I think it's worth highlighting that we envision in this plan that gas will continue to be used, but that we aim to increase 'green' gas, such as gas captured at the landfill and put into our pipes in partnership



with fortis...

Thanks

s.

**Sadhu Afochs Johnston** | City Manager  
City of Vancouver | 453 W 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver | BC V5Y 1V4  
604.873.7627 | [Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)  
Twitter: sadhuajohnston



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**From:** Quinlan, Kevin  
**Sent:** Friday, September 23, 2016 9:14 AM  
**To:** Pickard, Gail; Johnston, Sadhu  
**Cc:** Sebastian, Lorraine; Kendall-Craden, Rena; Robb, Katie; Smith, Doug (Sustainability); Lee, Lloyd; Postma, Tobin; Panday, Dhaneva  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT IB>natural gas clarification

This looks great, thank you. Only change I request is to underline "new buildings" in the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph.

One of the main pieces of misinformation is the claim that existing homeowners are suddenly going to start getting rid of their stoves, fireplaces etc.. the new building piece is a key clarification.

thanks

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**From:** Pickard, Gail  
**Sent:** Friday, September 23, 2016 9:09 AM  
**To:** Johnston, Sadhu  
**Cc:** Sebastian, Lorraine; Kendall-Craden, Rena; Quinlan, Kevin; Robb, Katie; Smith, Doug (Sustainability); Lee, Lloyd; Postma, Tobin; Panday, Dhaneva  
**Subject:** DRAFT IB>natural gas clarification  
**Importance:** High

Katie and I collaborated on this latest draft - would like to get out ASAP. Doug/Lloyd can you confirm the numbers re: savings are correct? Sadhu used in his CBC Radio interview but just want to be sure before we hit send.

Thanks

Gail

**City of Vancouver**  
**Information Bulletin**  
**September 23, 2016**

**Clarification of City's position on natural gas**  
*Long-term plans call for transition to more renewable energy forms,  
zero emissions buildings*

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For more information about the Renewable City Strategy, visit [Vancouver.ca/renewablecity](http://Vancouver.ca/renewablecity).

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**Media Contact:**

Corporate Communications  
604.871.6336  
[media@vancouver.ca](mailto:media@vancouver.ca)