

Mayor Dan O'Mara and Council,
Municipality of Temagami
7 Lakeshore Drive
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July 22, 2020

Dear Mayor O'Mara and Council,

Thank you for your effective and ongoing efforts to serve and inform this community despite the disruptions and difficulties of the continuing COVID pandemic. Happily, we will eventually be successful in stabilizing this health crisis with some combination of immunization, treatments and other mitigating strategies.

Unfortunately, this world faces a much greater problem. Our ongoing emission of greenhouse gases into the planet's atmosphere is resulting in accelerating world-wide climate change. We are all aware of negative consequences already. Scientists are telling us that if we do not radically and rapidly reduce the volume of emissions, we are looking at our own extinction and the destruction of life as we know it on planet Earth.

We know that the use of fossil fuels is the main contributor to greenhouse effects. We have made a good start on finding and implementing energy alternatives to lower greenhouse gas emissions, but we have not done enough fast enough to get ahead of this possible disaster. Most of the world's top scientists in this field are now calling this a climate emergency not just a crisis. They tell us that we need to act decisively now to reduce problem gas emissions to half their present level before 2030 and achieve net zero carbon levels before 2050 to have any reasonable chance of getting to a survivable and sustainable future.

I noted above that we will manage the current health crisis. We will also begin to manage the extensive associated economic disruption. In Canada and much of the world massive financial stimulus will be a major management tool. Given the dire existential emergency we are all facing, we must not squander this opportunity. We must invest these stimulus funds to further our necessary transition from the destructiveness inherent in the old fossil fuelled past to survival in a sustainable new and better future.

This necessary transition to a greener future will have significant benefits for us humans and will also benefit the wellbeing of all life here on Earth. The process of transition itself will not be easy. We must leave our dependence on fossil fuels behind and we must do it fast. We have the technology, we have the resources, we have the know how, we must find the will. We will need the best in each of us and we will need each other to succeed. **TOGETHER WE CAN DO THIS!!**

Temagami will have the opportunity to participate in the coming economic stimulation investment process. We have to decide what needs to be done locally that will serve our communities economically and environmentally. Then we need to ask for, lobby for, and push for the programs that benefit our economic situation and are consistent with a green recovery. We do not serve our country or our constituents if we don't do both.

We have a wealth of experience, ideas and commitment within this council and the municipal staff and I am sure that more of the same can be found in all parts of this community and beyond. **LETS START NOW!!**

Here are a few thoughts that have come my way that might be useful:

We have inherited some of the finest forest left in this world. Let's continue to protect it and expand it by replanting as much deforested land as possible. Let's look at our forestry practices to be sure they are concurrent with best practices to both sustain the forest and to maximize the many benefits it provides including the value of carbon sequestering.

We have an abundance of beautiful clean water. In a rapidly heating world water, especially clean water, is getting rarer. We need to continue and enhance our efforts to nurture and protect this gift of nature. One enhancement would be to officially declare Temagami a Blue Community committed to public management and stewardship of water and opposed to the commodification or export of this common necessity.

Given that buildings and transport are still heavy fossil fuel users, I suggest we take advantage of any and all programs that will result in reduction of fossil fuel use. Items such as upgrades to heating and cooling systems, energy conservation measures including upgrades to appliances, windows, doors, insulation, caulking, ventilation etc.

Domestic or community green energy generation projects would be appropriate.

Any investment in vehicle charging infrastructure, and encouragement to switch to electric vehicles or equipment, including recreational vehicles, could help.

Trails and recreational facilities maintenance, upgrades or expansion would also serve the dual goals of economic recovery and transition to a prosperous, sustainable, green future.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this submission.



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