

MOTION

8. Commitment to Affordable Energy in the City of Vancouver

At the Regular Council meeting on November 29, 2016, Vancouver City Council referred this matter to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on November 30, 2016, to hear from speakers.

MOVED by Councillor De Genova
SECONDED by Councillor Ball

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver is facing an affordability crisis and the cost of energy contributes to the affordability of housing;
2. Natural gas is a clean burning energy;
3. Hundreds of thousands of people in the city of Vancouver rely on natural gas as a utility to heat their households, fuel their stoves, barbeques and businesses;
4. Retrofitting and/or replacing heating systems and furnaces in households and buildings that rely on natural gas is expensive and wasteful;
5. Vancouver strives to compete with world class cities and continually strives to strengthen the economy;
6. As a culinary capital, Vancouver has attracted world renowned chefs, restaurateurs and is known worldwide as a hub for culinary tourism who rely on natural gas as their favoured cooking mechanism;
7. The Zero Emissions Building Plan that came to Council on July 12, 2016, states that "City's Renewable City Strategy target to have all buildings in Vancouver (including those already built) use only renewable energy by the year 2050." The report outlines that this strategy expects 30% would be built prior to 2010, 30% would be built between 2010 and 2020, and 40% would be built after 2020;
8. Taking action that limits the number of residential and commercial users of natural gas will have an impact on affordability for restaurants, caterers and other suppliers and limit the ability of suppliers to maintain natural gas as a utility.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council affirms support for natural gas as an acceptable source of affordable energy.
- B. THAT staff be directed to report back to Council within 60 days with recommendations to enhance and amend the 2016 Zero Emissions Report and include natural gas as an acceptable form of energy in the Green Buildings Report.