
From: Ondřej Machotka [REDACTED]

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To: Jack Crompton <jcrompton@whistler.ca>, Arthur De Jong <adejong@whistler.ca>, Duane Jackson <djackson@whistler.ca>, John Grills <jgrills@whistler.ca>, Cathy Jewett <cjewett@whistler.ca>, Jen Ford <jford@whistler.ca>, Ralph Forsyth <rforsyth@whistler.ca>, Erin Marriner <emarriner@whistler.ca>

Subject: EV charging fee decision

Dear Mayor Crompton and members of Council,

I am writing to you to express my disappointment with the recent Council decision to introduce fees for charging electric vehicles in Whistler on Level 2 chargers.

My name is Ondrej Machotka and I am a pharmacist at Nesters Pharmacy. I lived in Whistler for 5 years before the housing situation forced me and my wife to move out from this lovely town and found our new home in Squamish in 2020. Because I really like my job here and my patients mostly from this community, I decided to stay at Nesters and commute four times a week. We quickly realized that because of my job, our love to ski and my wife's Martina volunteer position at Blackcomb Ski Patrol team, we basically commute 6-7 days a week. We also started to feel pretty bad for all the greenhouse gases we are creating by driving the car so much (I count it as more than 6 tones per year). Therefore, in January 2021 we bought an older used Nissan Leaf, a car which has enough range to make it between Whistler and Squamish when fully charged. This means I have to charge it at home in Squamish and here near my work at Nesters.

If you run simple math, the proposed fee \$2 per hour seems unnecessarily high to me. My Nissan Leaf needs about 3-4 hours to charge to 80% which is typically enough to make it to Squamish. That means \$6-8 for charge. If I would go with my 4WD Subaru with a combustion engine, the price of gas is about \$7 for the distance Squamish to Whistler. If you compare your proposed fees to BC Hydro rate (my Step 1 in Squamish is \$0.093/kWh and Step 2 is \$0.1394/kWh), the cost of electricity per hour of charging with speed 6.6kW per hour is somewhere between \$0.61 and \$0.92.

Also, the combination of parking fees and charging fees does not make sense to me. Typically, when we go skiing or my wife volunteers for Blackcomb Ski Patrol, we need to park at Lot 4 to charge. We currently pay \$6 per parking and then have to walk from Lot 4 to Blackcomb gondola or walk to Lot 6 where the Ski Patrol station is. Now with the new fees we will be paying \$6 for the parking and another \$6-8 for the charging, compared to \$7 for gas car and comfortably close and free parking in lots 6-8. It only gets worse if you count on higher parking fees on Lots 1-3.

I understand that the Municipality would like to cover the operating cost and it is fair to pay for this service. But setting the fees to more than triple the price of BC Hydro electricity cost does not sound sustainable to me. Please consider what kind of signal does it send to new potential EV adopters. There are more and more people in Whistler and whole BC considering to go electric, but EVs still represents less benefits and more troubles compare to combustion engine cars (higher purchase prices even with incentives, far less range, longer charging times compare to refueling gas, especially on level 2 chargers, winter range anxieties to name just a few). The occasionally free charging is one of the few benefits, other than a good feeling about greenhouse gases saved.

If you are certain that Municipality cannot afford free charging anymore (or at least till more massive EV adoption), please consider a fee which would be more sustainable for new EV owners. My proposal would be \$0.75 per hour, which is between Step 1 and Step 2 of BC Hydro rate. Another possibility would be a discount or special rate for local residents and local workers. E.g. tourists would pay the proposed \$2 per hour and locals would pay \$0.75, the same principle as with the parking on Lots 4 and 5 for local workers.

Another proposal would be to build more fast charging stations (we currently only have 1 in Whistler from BC Hydro and that one is pretty much occupied all the time) and charge fees for those. It is much more comfortable and faster for tourists (and it will probably become comparable in time to gas filling pretty soon) and I think EV owners are willing to pay for that service. Also, it can charge the car in 20-50 minutes to 80% so to pay even \$5 per hour sounds reasonable to me.

I am hoping you reconsider your decision and send a positive signal for current and new EV adopters and support the goal to have 50% of kilometers driven in Whistler by zero-emissions vehicles by 2030. Otherwise this goal and your advocating for EV adoption are endangered and not feasible in my opinion.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ondrej Machotka

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