

Dear Mayor and Council, Whistler:

We support Edgar Dearden's letter of Nov. 21, 2021 in The Pique and absolutely agree that Whistler needs to act more quickly and strongly on building codes for energy efficient housing. Indeed it's surprising to us that this is even a question.

In 2013-14 we built a house to passive house standards. And while we are not saying the strict measurements of passive house are essential, the principles involved are needed. Builders and designers in our region know how to create beautiful homes that are comfortable summer and winter and buildings that are so energy efficient they cost a fraction to operate compared to standard construction. And they don't need methane (natural) gas systems so GHG emissions are reduced too.

What are we waiting for? We see the chaos and costs of this years disasters in BC. If you're building now why not be a solution to the climate crisis?

According to the the RMOW website on Climate Action Big Moves and AWARE's Small Steps for Big Moves, in 2019 Whistler used just a bit less 'methane' natural gas (27%) than vehicle fuel (31%). And the energy use in our buildings was responsible for 39% of Whistler's GHG emissions because of the way we are heating our indoor spaces and water.

Isn't this a motivation to make your existing residence or business a solution to your comfort, energy bills, and GHG emissions by switching to electricity and installing an air source heat pump such as a mini-split. They are fast acting, highly efficient to operate so electrical bills are lower and much cheaper than electric baseboards. By the way, our house rarely needs air conditioning in summer but this year the mini split (air source heat pump) worked perfectly in the heat dome.

We know the installation costs and logistics such as mini-splits in strata units are deterrents. But what about the costs of greenhouse gas emissions? Isn't it going to take a lot of work and money to fix our highways and agricultural system from this past months rains?

We keep thinking we can put off paying for what we are doing to our earth. But even in temperate coastal BC it is all too evident that we can not.

We are writing to council and staff, especially planners; to builders and designers; and also to homeowners and prospective home builders. Let's do whatever we can do now to make new and existing buildings energy efficient AND free of fossil fuel use. 2030 is too long to wait.

Sincerely,  
Leslie and Shep Alexander

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We gratefully and respectfully acknowledge that we reside on the unceded territory of the Skwxwú7mesh & Lilwat7úl People