

The the Mayor and Council,

The liquefied fossil gas plant being constructed in Squamish claims to achieve “net zero” emissions by purchasing carbon credits from the Cheakamus Community Forest. As the Resort Municipality of Whistler is a partner in this initiative, it is imperative to understand the implications of this decision.

This situation uses the growth of trees in Whistler to justify a fossil fuel megaproject, with the Whistler Municipality directly supporting fracking and fossil gas expansion. This stance is in stark contrast to the values of a community known for its natural beauty and commitment to conservation.

Fossil gas, unlike our old-growth forests, is neither green nor a solution to climate change.

Methane that leaks from fossil gas warms the climate 86 times faster than carbon dioxide¹.

Hydraulic fracturing (fracking) for fossil gas extraction pierces aquifers and contaminates groundwater, disproportionately harming the indigenous communities who harvest their traditional foods on those lands².

Fossil gas contains carcinogenic compounds such as benzene and toluene, which are piped directly into people’s homes, which has resulted in multiple cases of fossil gas poisoning here in Whistler ³.

Burning fossil gas indoors for cooking releases significant amounts of SOx and NOx, which has been shown to increase the risk of asthma in children by 40%⁴.

Fossil gas exacerbates climate change and threatens the winter sports ecosystem vital to Whistler’s identity and economy.

Selling "carbon credits" to fossil gas companies so they can claim "net zero" status is unequivocally greenwashing and a disgrace to our community.

This decision, which seems to have been made without broad consent, raises significant concerns about transparency and accountability within our governance. In light of these issues, I respectfully request clarification on the following points:

Which members of the council support the decision to sell carbon credits to fossil gas projects?

What steps are being taken to ensure accountability and transparency in decisions that have far-reaching environmental implications?

I urge the Whistler Municipality and the Cheakamus Community Forest to halt the sale of carbon credits to fossil gas projects and to publicly denounce a project that contradicts the environmental principles they profess to uphold.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Kind Regards,



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We gratefully acknowledge the land, now known as Whistler and Revelstoke, where we live create and play, in the unceded traditional lands of the Skwxwú7mesh and Lilwat7úl, the Sinixt, Ktunaxa, Secwepemc and Syilx.

References:

- 1] Canada's methane leaks — underreported and overwhelming. National Observer
<https://www.nationalobserver.com/2023/10/18/analysis/canadas-methane-leaks-underreported-and-overwhelming>
- 2] Fracking the Peace is a powerful documentary by Stand.earth following the people whose lives, water, and land have been changed by fracking. <https://stand.earth/fracking-the-peace/>
- 3] Michanowicz, et. Al. (2022). Home is Where the Pipeline Ends: Characterization of Volatile Organic Compounds Present in Natural Gas at the Point of the Residential End User. *Environmental Science & Technology*, 56(14), 10258–10268. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.1c08298>
- 4] Gruenwald, et. Al. (2023). Population Attributable Fraction of Gas Stoves and Childhood Asthma in the United States. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 20(1), 75. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph20010075>