

HARBORD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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To: Councillors
Infrastructure and Environment Committee
Re: IE 26.16

Nov. 29, 2021.

Harbord Village Residents' Association represents members in the catchment from Bloor to College, Spadina to Bathurst. We have long been stewards of the environment, working over the years on projects including solar panel installation, tree inventories, household retrofits, and most recently to realize the City's netzero carbon targets. Most recently, we adopted a mandate to apply an ecological impact consideration to all we do, with the goal of reducing carbon emissions.

We have actively participated in the Transform TO process and applaud the work to date.

We are concerned about the critical need for implementation--particularly of measures to enable households to meet the carbon reduction objectives.

57% of greenhouse gases come from the heating of buildings. Gas furnaces must go. Gas furnaces must be replaced by heat pumps that produce both heating and cooling with electricity. Requiring installation of heat pumps in new buildings and renovations are low hanging fruit. The challenge is to retrofit hundreds of thousands of houses. It is questionable whether we can meet our targets in the normal replacement cycle as furnaces die.

After two years of Climate Emergency and publicity and public meetings and consultations, webinars, we have made scant progress. Most people do not know their houses are a major contributor to climate change. So far, we know of heat pumps at Bob's house in western Etobicoke, Nick's house and mine in Harbord Village, and Mike's house in Seaton Village and there's a hybrid in the Pocket. Five houses. Two years. When what is needed is 100,000 in six years.

The City declared a Climate Emergency in 2019. Staff has done basic analysis. The City has cut back emissions within its control. What is missing are plans for implementation in the private sector.

To replace gas furnaces with heat pumps in every single dwelling, you first need public acceptance, sacrifice, mobilization. And urgency.

This is not without precedent.

Consider historic models.

Think 1940, marshalling a war effort, rearming England in face of an imminent invasion. Canada scaled up wartime production, emptied our home arsenals, delivered the ships and arms to England, because a clear enemy was in sight. Contrast this with the COVID vaccine implementation: several sources, local distribution, and willing arms at no cost, but a less imminent threat. There we have encountered problems with universal acceptance. Today in a Climate Emergency, we have the technology, we don't have the delivery or installation systems in place, and we do not have the financing in place or the consensus and the threat, unless you live in the North, or are a climate refugee in British Columbia or are isolated in Newfoundland, seems remote. And we do not have the time.

Implementation should be no mystery. We have done all of this before.

Since the early 1950s, household heating moved from wood to coal to

oil to gas based on a willing public opting for increasing convenience and lower cost. But those advantages are not present in the conversion to heat pumps. So far we do not have the social consensus and we have not offered a cost benefit.

We need the most sophisticated and widespread public information campaign to convey the urgency and challenge and even sacrifice. We need financing to pick up the \$10,000/house estimated price differential. We cannot wait a falling price with economies of scale. We need to short circuit every installation of a natural gas furnace because we cannot afford to build in the 20 years of gas emissions each represents.

We need a simple system. Call the installer. Get a furnace. Grab up the boxes. Connect what's necessary. Just as we did when we switched off coal and oil. And in times we can't afford to miss, to eliminate gas.

Systems analysis:

The City does not deliver these kinds of programmes. Instead, implementation could be considered in four streams, with the City setting targets and enforcing deliverables. We suggest four silos, under City supervision.

City: targets, deliverables

Household: emissions, the 57% challenge

- heat pumps
- public education
- retooling skilled trades
- manufacture
- delivery
- installation

Finance:

bulk buy arrangements !
no cost/monthly terms !
householder assistance

Persuasion:

Massive campaign
Polling/advertising
Best private sector talent
Public service announcements
All platforms

Electricity:

infrastructure
EV
Solar

The War effort merged the talents and skills of the private sector with !
the public service. In wartime, Hollywood, the Broadcasters, the !
National Film Board were recruited. Dollar a year executives joined the !
cause. !

It is difficult to see success in this enterprise unless we think in terms of
creating coalitions, new instruments, new structures to deliver the results !
we need effectively and quickly. !

The City is uniquely poised to attract partners. It is a significant target
for ghg reduction. We have a mayor and council who not only have
recognized the Climate Emergency, but who can also attract the talent !
we will need to solve this. !

We need only the will. !

Sue Dexter, !
Board, !
Harbord Village Residents' Association. !
97 Willcocks St., !

From: sue@hvrva.com
To: harbord@hvrva.com
Subject: Roof - Best - Long - Island - photos
Date: December 1, 2021 11:29:23 AM

Addendum to HVRA letter on 26.16.
Can these be added to the letter, or could you include them as a separate submission?
Thanks
Sue Dexter
Harbord Village Residents' Association





