



**Tomorrow
Foundation**
for a Sustainable Future

#Yes2ClimateYEG

Interim Report

(October 2020-November 2020)

Submitted to Executive Committee of
Edmonton City Council
(Item 6.14)

November 9, 2020

Table of Contents

Introduction:	2
Who is Tomorrow Foundation & What is #Yes2ClimateYEG?	2
Story Highlight	3
Jennifer's full story	4
Tomorrow Foundation's Letter to Executive Committee	5
In Closing	7

Land

Acknowledgement: We acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional meeting grounds, gathering place, and travelling route to the Cree, Saulteaux (So-toe), Blackfoot, Métis, Dene (De-nay) and Nakota Sioux (Sue). We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

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Introduction:

Who is Tomorrow Foundation & What is #Yes2ClimateYEG?

Tomorrow Foundation for a Sustainable Future is a 50 year old environmental charity based in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. After a period of relative dormancy, we hired Julie Kusiek as our Executive Director in March 2020 to build the organization and mobilize Edmontonians in a positive and meaningful way to impact municipal climate and environmental action towards systemic and measurable change. Our vision is for an Edmonton where residents form a dynamic and engaged community living in a healthy and sustainable low carbon city.

#Yes2ClimateYEG is an ongoing storytelling campaign Tomorrow Foundation for a Sustainable Future launched in October 2020. We believe that taking decisive climate action now has a big upside. We are asking Edmontonians to help tell that story by sharing their experiences on how climate action is good for their lifestyle, good for their livelihood and good for their families and community.

We are thankful to Mike Mellross at Alberta EcoTrust for endorsing this campaign and for boosting its value. You can read the full Alberta EcoTrust statement here: <https://albertaecotrusted.com/lets-say-yes2climateyeg/>

This interim report shows highlights of submissions to date. You can view a full story listing on our website at www.tomorrowfoundation.ca.

Story Highlight

Please find below one selected story submitted by Jennifer Porritt from the Balwin neighbourhood, in support of #Yes2ClimateYEG. Her story encapsulates many of the themes we are hearing from others including:

Indigenous engagement

Active Transportation

PACE funding

Tree coverage and carbon sinks

City building

**#YES
2 CLIMATE
YEG**

"Reading through the Proposed Accelerated Actions for our Energy Transition Strategy, I am heartened to see a focus throughout of Indigenous engagement... I hope we discover wahkohtowin or kinship with the outdoor world and our fellow citizens."

**-JENNIFER
BALDWIN**

Read more, then tell us your story at
tomorrowfoundation.ca/yes2climateyeg



**Tomorrow
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for a Sustainable Future

Jennifer's full story

(emphasis below added by Tomorrow Foundation)

“Reading through the Proposed Accelerated Actions for our Energy Transition Strategy, I am heartened to see a focus throughout of **Indigenous engagement**. I believe this is a critical piece because not only do we need a technology change but a change of mind and heart. The dominating worldview in which we live prioritizes accumulation and growth and we are reaping the fallout of generations of this being lived out. Adopting a worldview in which we realize we are a part of the ecosystem and not apart from it will go a long way in helping us live out a way of life in harmony with the rest of the natural world and not in combat with it. **I hope we embrace our place in nature with naturalized areas as carbon sinks and increased tree coverage**. I hope we discover wahkohtowin or kinship with the outdoor world and our fellow citizens.

Personally, **I am looking forward to living in a city where getting around on bike and foot is safe and easy for children, seniors and everyone in between**. Having a daughter who has just turned 16, while living in northeast Edmonton, I am realizing that I feel safer teaching her to drive a car than learn to navigate the city by bike. It should not be this way.

Another aspect I am looking forward to is **PACE funding for installing solar and other energy efficiency upgrades**. I have been going back and forth about simply buying solar but not being quite able to afford them, I have been waiting for this financial technology to help buy them. With less than a decade left of our carbon budget, we don't have time to wait any longer.

Many Edmontonians are only a generation or two from living in rural settings and we have brought our rural sensibilities with us of being self-sufficient and independent. Those qualities served many of our European ancestors well as they homesteaded but a new set of values is needed for the new milieu we find ourselves in. **The city's strength is found in collaboration and synergy**. Yesterday, while driving to work I saw new **LRT** cars being delivered by train and an **electric bus** going by. I am so thrilled in the direction the city is going in and **excited to see the city we are building together.**”

Tomorrow Foundation's Letter to Executive Committee



November 9, 2020

Tomorrow Foundation for a Sustainable Future
103 – 10535 78 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB

Executive Committee of Edmonton City Council
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, AB

Councillors Cartmell, Hamilton, McKeen, and Walters, and Mayor Iveson,

Subject: Item 6.14, November 9, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting

Thank you for accepting this submission as you consider Edmonton's response to the worldwide climate crisis. Tomorrow Foundation for a Sustainable Future is a charitable environmental organization with deep roots and a 50-year history in Edmonton. We have recently begun organizing the 75% of Edmontonians who are concerned about climate change and are motivated to build a better future for our city through bold, impactful action.

In October, we launched the #Yes2ClimateYEG campaign asking Edmontonians to weigh in on how taking climate action is good for them, good for their lifestyle and good for their livelihood. We will share a campaign report update during December's budget deliberations.

With only a few days between administration's release of the Energy Transition update and this submission, these are the most pressing comments we urge you to consider:

- **Time is of the essence. Our carbon budget is rapidly shrinking.** Since the signing of the Edmonton Declaration in 2018, which committed Edmonton to a carbon budget of 155,000,000 tonnes of CO2 from 2019 onwards, Edmonton has released approximately 32,000,000 tonnes of CO2 equivalent, 21% of our budget.
- **This council has a mandate to act** as we reimagine recovery from COVID and building back better. Decisive, specific, accountable and funded action cannot wait for the next council, or we miss the opportunity before us.
- **Please fund all of the "Proposed Accelerated Actions" put forth by administration and expedite those with the potential to target systemic inequality (CR_7576 Attachment 1_ Energy Transition Strategy Accelerated Actions.pdf).**
 - Bike infrastructure and tree planting could be particularly good parts of an equity strategy, and they should be funded and directed to specific and underserved areas of the city.

- **Administration's Carbon Accounting Framework initiative is crucial but not ambitious enough in its timeframes.** (page 26, "Revising Edmonton's Community Energy Transition Strategy").
 - An initial funding for carbon accounting should be included in this year's budget deliberations for post COVID recovery in 2021-2023.
 - The rollout timeline should be cut from two years to one year. A pilot Carbon Accounting Framework must be ready for implementation in Fall 2021. Similar to retirement or education savings, starting early in small amounts is less noticeable to a household's bottom line than having to catch up on savings in a short period of time later. We need a carbon accounting tool implemented immediately to ensure all decisions are held accountable to the carbon budget's bottom line.
- Council should direct administration to create a list of inexpensive and/or money-saving accelerated actions for release in early 2021 alongside the final revised Community Energy Transition Strategy. Examples on this list could include:
 - **Enable separate titles for net-zero garden suites by June 2021.** This would stimulate the economy, increase a climate-friendly housing type, increase the supply of more affordable housing, accelerate progress towards our density targets, and increase the tax base.
 - **Reimagine Saskatchewan Drive** - Re-allocating a car lane to a multi-use path as suggested by Paths for People would save money on the Duggan Bridge renewal and increase bike and walk trips (thereby reducing CO2 emissions).
 - **Dedicated Bus Lanes for the April 2021 Bus Network Redevelopment** - A reallocation of space on 2-3 priority bus routes would significantly increase ridership for a relatively minor investment.

There has never been more support for or awareness of the need for climate action in Edmonton. We urge you to show courage in moving our city boldly forward as part of the solution to our era's most urgent crisis.

Sincerely,

Conrad Nobert
President, Tomorrow Foundation for a Sustainable Future

In Closing

A full report of the #Yes2ClimateYEG campaign will be presented to Edmonton City Council during next month's budget deliberations.

We urge Executive Committee to consider requests made in our letter by fully putting into action all of November 9th's proposed accelerated actions, asking administration to include an additional list of low-cost accelerated actions for early 2021, to minimize delay of the final Community Energy Transition Strategy and implementing a carbon framework within a year including partial funding through the 2021-2023 budget discussions.

We thank you for taking the climate reality seriously and look forward to working together to make a just and equitable energy transition happen for Edmonton.