



c/o City of Edmonton
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Memorandum

January 22, 2019

To: Mayor Iveson and Council
From: Energy Transition Advisory Committee
Subject: E.L. Smith, Solar PV

Council acknowledged the existential threat posed by climate change when it approved Edmonton's Community Energy Transition Strategy, its Sustainable Buildings Policy, its Civic Operations Greenhouse Gas Management plan; established the Energy Transition Advisory Committee; and signed the 2018 Edmonton Declaration. These measures demonstrate leadership and offer encouragement that the necessary action to reduce emissions will be taken. The recent report from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change shows clearly that we have around a decade to dramatically reduce emissions if we are to have any hope of maintaining a stable climate.

As such, ETAC supports the proposed E.L. Smith Solar Project. The project would contribute to a number of Edmonton's Energy Transition Goals including:

- Generating 10% of Edmonton's electricity locally by 2035,
- Accelerate the greening of Alberta's electricity grid,
- Increasing the uptake of distributed energy generation, and
- Ensuring Edmonton is an energy resilient City.

For example, E.L. Smith Solar Project offers a meaningful contribution to Edmonton's goal of generating 10% of electricity locally from renewable sources by 2035. As of November 2018, 0.08% of Edmonton's electricity was generated locally from renewable sources. This project would more than quadruple that number adding an additional 0.28% of renewable, local generation. Such a contribution is likely necessary to reach the Energy Transition goals.

Further, the commitment by Natural Resources Canada and Alberta Innovates to provide a combined \$12.6 million in funding for battery storage provides an innovative opportunity to leverage outside funds to add resiliency to Alberta's energy and water treatment systems.

The committee recognizes that there can be land-use trade-offs when developing renewable energy projects. While the land is not ideally located, the proposed project site is logically

situated next to the water treatment site which will utilize a portion of the electricity produced (increasing resiliency) and represents already disturbed and industrially zoned land.

E.L. Smith Solar Project's strong alignment with the City's Energy Transition Strategy and committed funds from the Federal and Provincial governments provides an essential opportunity to enable investment that that will contribute to Edmonton's goal of becoming a low carbon and energy sustainable city, aligned with the Paris 2°C goals.

Yours truly,

Energy Transition Advisory Committee

Cc:

City Council

Linda Cochrane

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Mark Brostrom

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ETAC Members