



Office of Mayor Kelli Linville
City of Bellingham

September 3, 2019

Jacquelyn Styrna

Government Affairs Director
Building Industry Association of Whatcom County

Alyn Spector

Manager, Energy Efficiency Policy
Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (CNGC)

R. Perry Eskridge

Exec. Officer/Gov't Affairs Dir.
Whatcom County Association of REALTORS®

Jacquelyn Styrna Alyn Spector R. Perry Eskridge
Dear Ms. Styrna, Mr. Spector, and Mr. Eskridge:

Thank you for your August 15, 2019 letter. I welcome comments and feedback from all residents and interested organizations regarding the work of the Climate Action Plan Task Force. I would like to clarify the role and expectations of the Task Force, and where the Task Force fits into the larger legislative process.

As you noted in your letter the Climate Action Plan Task Force was created by Bellingham City Council via Resolution 2018-06 on May 7, 2018; therefore, the Task Force is advisory to the City Council. The Task Force is a technical committee comprised of nine community members with relevant expertise. One seat represents the utilities including Cascade Natural Gas and PSE.

Council's Resolution identifies three goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions:

1. 100% renewable energy for municipal facilities and transportation by 2030
2. 100% renewable energy for the community energy supply by 2030
3. 100% renewable energy for community heating and transportation by 2035

These are very aggressive Council goals which demand that the Task Force develop equally aggressive recommendations. The Task Force is comprised of three Workgroups: Buildings, Transportation and Energy Supply. The workgroups meet outside regular Task Force meetings to develop ideas in support of the above goals and then report out during Task Force meetings by providing an overview of their progress. The recommendations from each Workgroup will be vetted by the full Task Force whose role is to provide final recommendations to the City Council for their consideration.

The Task Force is in the middle stages of developing their ideas and no formal recommendations have been made to City Council. I anticipate their formal recommendations near the end of 2019. The City Council will likely provide multiple opportunities for public input as they determine next steps. Any action by City Council to adopt the recommendations from the Task Force would follow the normal legislative process you are all familiar with.

All Task Force meetings are open to the public and have a public comment period at the end of each meeting. The public can also submit comments via the City's extensive Task Force webpage (<https://www.cob.org/gov/public/bc/climate>). The webpage also has presentations given at Task Force meetings, meeting summaries and supporting documents.

Until the final recommendations to Council are adopted, I would encourage you to participate in the public comment period at the Task Force meetings and/or continue to provide written comments. I and my staff are available to hear any concerns you have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kelli Linville', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left and bottom.

Mayor Kelli Linville