

## **Bellingham City Council Passes Climate Action Plan update**

Excerpt reprinted by permission, Building Industry Association, Linda Twitchell / March 27, 2018

“.....Monday night, the Bellingham City Council passed a Climate Action Plan update, (Agenda Bill 21905), an energy policy advocating serious future limitations on use of fossil fuels, without the associated proposal for a task force to consider the extent to which it's actually *possible* to limit fossil fuel use. Creation of such a task force will be considered later.”

To many this seems backward, and BIAWC's letter of 3/22/18 to City Council may be found in the public record to support the criticism.

“...But, according to Council member Pinky Vargas, speaking at Monday's afternoon Committee of the Whole meeting, people on all sides of this debate misunderstood what she intended. So she offered three options, and Council took door number 2 – pass the Climate Action Plan update (not attached to Monday's agenda) and send the task force proposal back to committee. One of Pinky's main points is that the proposal involves goals, not mandates. Some of us are skeptical about officially stated goals remaining “only goals.” But that's what we now have. To see the Climate Action Plan update, [click here](#).

The proposal that was on the table Monday advocates 100% renewable electricity, transportation and heating by 2035. Local utilities estimate it would cost consumers \$2 billion more than other planned energy investments, create serious reliability issues, and is not technologically achievable. If use of natural gas were prohibited, members have also raised questions about what residents with gas appliances are supposed to do.

We're told that supporters packed the council chambers Monday night with green cards that read 100% clean energy.

**Send your comments to City Council at [ccmail@cob.org](mailto:ccmail@cob.org) .**

Creation of a community task force to “...determine the feasibility, costs and impacts of the 100% energy ambitions,” will be reconsidered **April 23**, according to the Council office) by the Committee of the Whole.....”

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