**Additional Information**
**November 20, 2024, Regular Council Meeting**
**Regarding Item 4b**

**From:** [redacted]
**To:** Mayor Swain; Councillor Jones; Councillor Lerner; Councillor Mundell; Councillor Savage
**Cc:** District
**Subject:** Nov 20 Council Mt"g Agenda Item 4b Zero Carbon Step Code
**Date:** Monday, November 18, 2024 11:09:11 AM
**Attachments:** image002.png

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

Hello Mayor Swain and Councillors,

You will be receiving a presentation by Fortis BC on November 20th on the Zero Carbon Step Code. Here's a bit of information for you to use in fact checking Fortis:

**I have a heat pump, and it's great:** I live in North Vancouver, BC. In early 2021 my husband and I installed a heat pump in our very old house to reduce our natural gas consumption, as well as our heating bills. Our heat pump is also a wonderful air conditioner. We are delighted with our decision. But this retrofit was very expensive for us even with rebates, so we urge you to be sure your new houses are built right the first time.

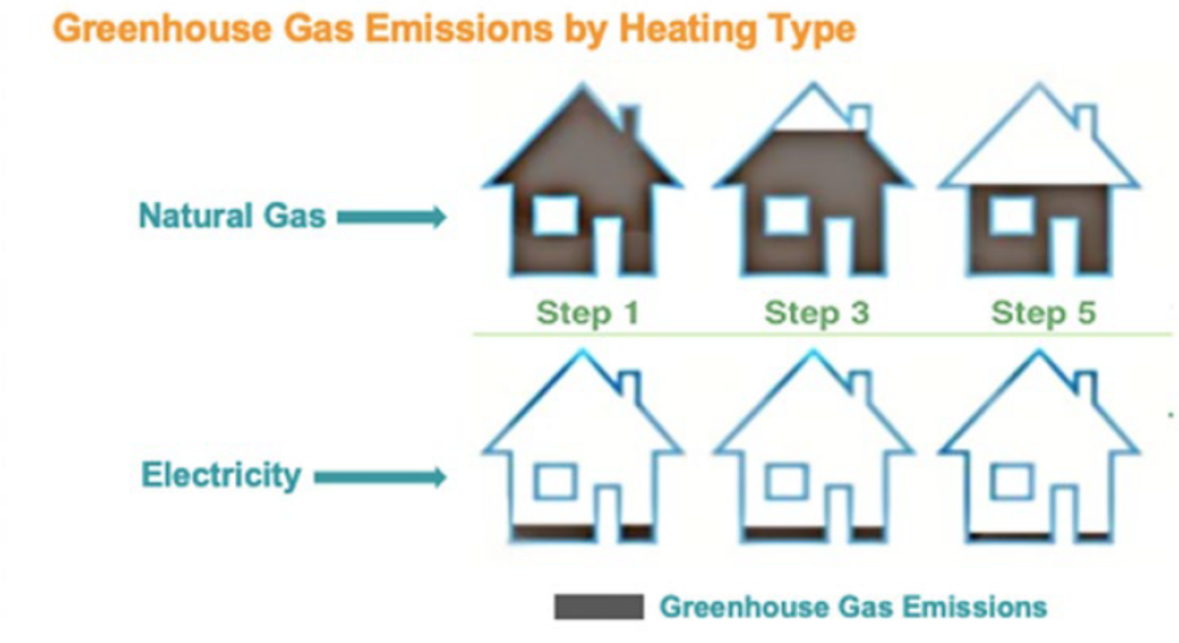
**Heat pumps use electricity to move warmth from outside air into a house**. This works well, even in the winter. My heat pump is built to heat my house to as cold as -26C outside. I feel very safe without a backup gas furnace. And if there's a power outage, neither a gas furnace, in floor heating, nor a heat pump would continue to work.

**Heat pumps use energy very efficiently.** They use 3-5x less energy than gas boilers/gas furnaces/baseboard heaters.

**Natural gas prices will rise** once LNG Canada exports natural gas (LNG), because there will be less natural gas available for BC homes. This already happened in Australia and the US.

**Electrified homes are cheaper to build:** Builders Bruce Murdoch (K Country Homes, Cranbrook) and Bryn Davidson (Lanefab, Vancouver) agree that it's less expensive to build all electric – many builders have been doing this for over 10 years. There are lots of resources available to learn how to do this. We need to train builders, not delay.

**Energy Step Code (ESC) vs Zero Carbon Step Code (ZCSC):** The ESC is important, but electric heat results in far less emissions at any ESC Step. And renewable natural gas produces the same emissions as regular natural gas:



For our kids, please join other rural local governments (CVRD, Saanich, Central Saanich) who have adopted the ZCSC at EL-4, and do your part to keep our weather stable.  Heat pumps save vulnerable people's lives.

I'd be very happy to answer questions about the contents of this email.  I've spent the last few years learning about this.

Best regards,

[redacted]