

Rhonda West

From: Rhonda West
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:22 PM
To: Rhonda West
Subject: FW: [External] Online Form Submittal: Mayor and Council

From: noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:58:41 PM
To: Alan Harrison <aharrison@salmonarm.ca>; David Gonella <dgonella@salmonarm.ca>; Debbie Cannon <dcannon@salmonarm.ca>; Kevin Flynn <kflynn@salmonarm.ca>; Louise Wallace-Richmond <lwallacerichmond@salmonarm.ca>; Sylvia Lindgren <slindgren@salmonarm.ca>; Tim Lavery <tlavery@salmonarm.ca>; Erin Jackson <ejackson@salmonarm.ca>
Subject: [External] Online Form Submittal: Mayor and Council

Mayor and Council

First Name Edgar
Last Name Dearden
Address: 206-1420 Alpha Lake Rd
Return email address: eddie@gnarinc.com
Subject: Fossil gas terminology to enhance climate change communication and action

Body To the Mayor and Council,

A decade ago, the looming threat of climate change compelled me to transition from a career in fossil chemical engineering to sustainable architecture. My dedication to climate-friendly practices has been unwavering, albeit underpinned by a belief that we had ample time to mitigate the unfolding crisis. The harrowing heat dome of 2021 drastically altered my perspective.

In its terrifying wake, I adopted a staunch position against any of our clients heating their homes with fossil fuel. So I told them what I thought I was supposed to say: "Don't use natural gas."

Despite discouraging use of "natural gas" and explaining its detrimental environmental impact, our clients' responses varied from perceiving it as "green" to valuing its "natural" origin. In late 2021, three of those clients installed fossil gas heating

against our advice, and a fourth fired us outright for merely suggesting that her "natural gas" fireplace was detrimental.

In pursuit of more effective communication, I discovered the term "fossil gas," which we used from 2022 onwards. This term is semantically accurate, as "fossil" denotes carbon sequestered underground from previous geological eras. It is the reintroduction of this sequestered fossil carbon to the atmosphere through burning that primarily contributes to the ongoing planetary heating.

Employing fossil gas terminology catalyzed a notable shift. The majority of our clients in 2022 opted against fossil fuel heating in their homes. Buoyed by this success, I embarked on a citizen science experiment to demonstrate public misunderstanding of "natural gas". I asked 10 strangers in public spaces, "Do you know what natural gas is?", and produced transcripts of the 6 respondents who were unable to accurately define "natural gas" nor link it to fossil fuels.

My request is simple: I am urging governments at all levels to adopt fossil gas terminology. Optimally, this initiative would be led by the provincial government, and I have therefore penned a letter to the Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

A simple action you could take to assist would be advocating to the provincial government to adopt this initiative.

A more ambitious action would be a motion to adopt fossil gas terminology in Municipal communication. Such a move would demonstrate leadership to the provincial government. Should they decide to adopt fossil gas terminology, you would benefit from a head start in updating documents. In the meantime, you would be providing a clear and undistorted message to residents and industries alike.

Even in the absence of municipal action, I encourage you personally to integrate fossil gas terminology into your own vernacular. We are fortunate to live in a free country and there is no obligation to label refined fossil fuel products as "natural." By consciously adopting the accurate term "fossil gas" you will exhibit enlightened leadership and foster an informed, conscious citizenry.

Words can indeed be a potent catalyst for change, especially where governmental authority is currently limited, such as in renovations and the elimination of fossil gas from existing

buildings.

I extend these requests with profound respect and gratitude. Thank you for your anticipated efforts in advocating for a future that remains habitable for all of us and subsequent generations.

Kind Regards,
Eddie Dearden

Would you like a response:

Yes

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