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From: Clark County <webmaster@clark.wa.gov>
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Clark County

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Subject

Climate Change and Resiliency Element Public Participation Plan

Date of Hearing

Tue, 12/05/2023

Comment

Regarding the Growth Management Act and Affordable Housing: In 1975, your permitting department changed my life and the lives of many of my students. I was building my house at the time and asked your permitting dept, how do I know what size of furnace to install in my house?

They said, I needed 1 watt for every square foot of insulated surface, and 20 watts for each square foot of single pane window. Until then, I had no idea how bad glass was at keeping in heat. I immediately changed my blue-prints to specify smaller windows.

I taught those concepts to probably 3000 math and science students and had them apply it to a simple set of blue-prints.

I also installed a central heat pump system in my house at the same time. Our heat pump system has been our sole source of heat for 47 years, and it saves us money.

It may have been 20 years before Washington State adopted any energy performance standards for new construction.

As a consequence, we continually have to help low-income people with their heating bills.

One week ago, the Washington State Building Code Council voted to adopt one of the best energy performance standards in the nation.

This code will save about \$1,000 per year in heating bills per housing unit.

Regarding pollution and incentives: All gas boilers pollute the air with nitrogen dioxide which causes health problems. The boiler also produces climate pollution. The Climate Commitment Act which passed about 2 years ago, makes polluters pay for the pollution they produce. The revenue generated from those fees will come back to the people in the form of grants for heat pumps and solar panels. The pollution fee is designed to rise gradually over time.

The most cost-effective time to replace your gas boilers with a heat pump is whenever one of your gas boilers ages out.

Regarding Transportation systems, EVs are absolutely essential to help avert the worst of Climate Change. Fortunately, Nissan and Tesla led the way, and now the rest of the world is trying to catch up. In Clark County, a year ago, sales of EVs averaged 155 per month, but for the most recent five months, sales increased to 275 per month. The demand for Chevy Bolts was so high, that dealers were tacking on a \$5000 market adjustment, but still the sales increased.

The next big thing will be electric delivery vans and buses.