

From: [Devon Kellogg](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Fwd: Public Hearing on 2023-28 Capital Investment Program - Request to Support Electrification
Date: Tuesday, July 5, 2022 3:02:07 PM

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Correction to email subject, this is a written comment for the **2023-28 Capital Investment Program Public Hearing**.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Devon Kellogg** <devonkellogg@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Jul 5, 2022 at 2:05 PM
Subject: Public Hearing on 2023-24 Budget - Request to Support Electrification
To: City Clerk <cityclerk@redmond.gov>

Greetings Redmond Council Members and Mayor Birney,

I would like to start off by thanking you for your acknowledgement of the climate emergency we are in and for your efforts to address this urgent matter. A lot of great work has been done to investigate greenhouse gas reduction and climate mitigation strategies in Redmond and to begin implementation of our Environmental Sustainability Action Plan (ESAP). **To reach our goals, we must continue such efforts with added urgency namely by promoting the electrification and efficiency of buildings and transportation in our codes updates and supporting this effort in our budget.**

Since the ESAP was created in 2020, new awareness about the harmful impacts of methane gas production and use (aka "natural" gas) has come to light. In November 2021, the countries gathered at COP 26 in Glasgow (including the USA) launched the Global Methane Pledge, an agreement that **aims to reduce methane emissions at least 30 percent from 2020 levels by 2030**. The latest Supreme Court decision in WV v. EPA makes it clear that this goal will need to be met primarily by actions at the local and regional level.

We have already been experiencing the increasing impacts of our warming climate. Last summer's record heat waves and the increasing variability of weather and precipitation offer just a few examples. These impacts in turn affect our everyday lives. Heat waves, fire risks, and pollution effect our health and safety. Heavy precipitation and snowfall isolates communities, slows distribution of goods and services, and destroys crops, property, infrastructure, and lives, our basic food, water, and air are now all at risk. **These climate changes will increasingly challenge our government's ability to ensure basic needs and services are met.**

On the other hand, electrification of buildings and transportation systems not only provide mitigation solutions (like heat pumps which offer efficient heating **and** cooling, and solar and bi-directional EVs which offer a cost-effective solution for grid stability, efficiency, and resiliency under pressure), these strategies are also a critical piece of the climate solutions in

that they significantly reduce the overall greenhouse gas emissions driving climate change! Washington's states [2021 State Energy Strategy](#) found that electrifying buildings will be the lowest-cost pathway to economy-wide 95% carbon reductions by 2050.

While we can't solve this emergency alone, Redmond is uniquely positioned to lead in these efforts. During this budgeting cycle, **I would urge you to consider how we can support this necessary and urgent transition to electrification in our building and transportation sectors by supporting and funding climate-friendly code expertise during the code rewrites, and providing incentives to builders, businesses, and homeowners to make necessary electrification upgrades to existing gas-powered vehicles and appliances.**

Thank you for your time and attention towards this critical matter,
Devon Kellogg and Family

Cities can play a huge role in curbing climate change. But the window for solving climate problems is closing. Everyday decisions can be part of the solution. As Redmond considers its **budget priorities**, [please consider these five questions](#):

1. What are the options for cleaner transportation?

[While Lime scooters and bikes](#) are already part of Redmond's vision, Redmond could pay more attention to [incorporating equity into transportation planning](#)—and giving local communities a seat at the decision-making tables. When **equity** is integrated into city **infrastructure**, improvements that benefit the environment—like making neighborhoods more accessible by foot or bike—can bring economic, transit, and public health opportunities to residents who have historically been left out of large investments in their communities.

2. Can we handle extreme weather?

Prevention of and resiliency to disastrous weather are important. [Green infrastructure](#) like ground cover plants and rain gardens absorb water that may flood drainage and sewer systems. Green roofs capture rainwater, and cool buildings and streets. Planting trees and sidewalk gardens prevent polluted runoff from entering water systems, improve air quality, and reduce smog. Green areas provide shade and absorb pollutants like CO₂. Cooler and cleaner air can reduce [heat-related illnesses](#). Many Americans live in hot places, putting them at risk for heat exhaustion and heatstroke.

3. What are we doing to encourage energy efficiency?

More than 50% of U.S. energy is consumed by buildings. Many city governments are working to pass regulations for energy efficiency in existing buildings. Building owners should calculate energy consumption to improve efficiency. Residents can help by turning off lights, air conditioners, appliances, and computers, which drain energy even in idle or “sleep” mode.

Old heating systems, faucets, refrigerators, drafty windows, and incandescent [light bulbs](#) create huge utility bills. Heating and cooling account for almost half of the energy use in a typical US home. [Upgrading homes and reducing energy bills for residents of affordable housing](#) is critical.

4. Do we have enough access to locally grown food? Are we reducing our food waste?

Growing your own food lessens demand for, and pollution from, big corporate agriculture. Community gardens and farmers' markets are part of a healthy urban ecosystem and bring communities together. Please support these efforts.

Many cities are creating and expanding composting programs. Composting keeps discarded food out of the landfill, where it generates methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Up to **30% of Redmond's [multifamily and commercial](#) landfilled garbage is compostable**. [Seattle's law](#) requires that **all residents and businesses do not put compostables or recyclables in their garbage**. **So should Redmond law**.

5. Are we working to protect every resident?

A beautifully sustainable city that is the playground of the rich doesn't work. Lower-income residents breathe more polluted air and reside in older buildings with leaky windows and inefficient appliances and systems. This wastes energy and causes these residents to suffer disproportionately from the negative health effects of pollution, like asthma.

Please budget for supporting climate justice initiatives, like **increasing green spaces** and [community solar projects](#).