

**From:** Rahul Mehta [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** April 22, 2021 8:45 AM  
**To:** Jones, Jill <[jill.jones@peelregion.ca](mailto:jill.jones@peelregion.ca)>  
**Cc:** Gill, Harjit <[Harjit.Gill@peelregion.ca](mailto:Harjit.Gill@peelregion.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Deputation on 10.1 at Regional Council

REFERRAL TO \_\_\_\_\_  
RECOMMENDED \_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTION REQUIRED \_\_\_\_\_  
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED  \_\_\_\_\_

Good morning Jill,

I would appreciate forwarding my below email comments to Council for their consideration.

Dear Members of Regional Council,

Today is Earth Day. An opportunity to reflect, restore and renew efforts to tackle the greatest crisis humanity has ever faced, and which we have imposed onto millions of species without a voice - climate change. We face a crisis with parallels right now, too - COVID-19 which, sadly, has become more devastating than ever, during this third wave. The parallels are both in the actions we have taken, the solutions we know, and the dramatic and repeated ways in which we have failed.

We know what to do, we just keep failing to do it.

Today is Earth Day. Today, Regional Council receives the [2020-2030 Climate Change Master Plan: 2020 Annual Progress Report](#), where they will be shown areas of progress, stagnation and significant failure - "The Region is making progress but needs to accelerate action".

In my brief comments here, I wish to reflect on this report and recommend some next steps, both as a resident, long-time engaged citizen (you don't make it easy for young, BIPOC individuals, but I am engaged nonetheless) in public consultations, a citizen researcher and the founder of a small advocacy group, known as Sustainable Mississauga. Below, I have outlined some thematic areas with questions/comments for the Regional Council to consider.

Accountability:

- With the most recent data available, the Region is not only failing to meet GHG reduction targets but is going in the opposite direction.
- What were the planned areas of GHG reduction each year, how and where are they being directly measured as "Action A translates into reduction B" and why did these actions/reductions not take place? The report cards do not provide these explanations in numbers for what actions must be taken to change course right now.
- Who is responsible for actions not taken or incomplete, and what will be done to ensure we get back on track in the future - who is held accountable?
- Is Council prepared to challenge themselves, and forego a Regional salary until annual targets in the CCMP are met? If not, why not? How will Council face their privilege and their inability to meet their own targets. How will they hold themselves accountable for the climate harm caused broadly for every target we miss?

Transparency:

- Why was there no "annual climate-related finance disclosure report" this year (action under "Monitor and Report") and why has no explanation been given?
- What efforts has the Region made to make all data available in regards to our climate planning, evaluation and implementation easily accessible to the public, such as in an open data portal?
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Equity:

- There is no mention - why not?

Justice:

- There is no mention - why not?

Investment:

- No clear plan has been provided on how the existing and future necessary (including new actions, see "Reality" below) will be funded. There does not appear to be any immediate plan to actually allocate the minimum funding (measured in 100s of millions of dollars) to complete the actions in this 10-year plan. So, when will we make a concrete plan, how will we fund it, and where will new revenues come necessary to balance the budget? This isn't a question of "if" but "how" and with what ambition? Massive savings are clearly understood to come from broad climate actions as well as small improvements, retrofits and upgrades in how we power, design, consume and waste in our different sectors. We need to make the costs and benefits clear to the public, now.

Low-hanging fruit:

- Electrification of transit, cheap and simple BRT on all Regional Roads, Compost stations in every government building, repair hubs in every Community Centre and Library, dense affordable housing at every transit station, an e-bike rebate program for Regional residents, a region-wide bikeshare program, a green and solar roof mandate for every government property, urban farming corridors and rooftops across the Region, geothermal heating and Lake Ontario district cooling for entire neighbourhoods - these are all VERY cheap and VERY doable actions, today. None are proposed within this ten year plan, even though they pay for themselves. Why?

Reality:

- We are in a climate emergency and, as someone who spends far too much time researching the costs, benefits, impacts and solutions to climate change, the writing is nearly on the wall. The present situation, and the trends, far exceed (far, exceed) any measure we have noted for what we anticipate future climate impacts to be. If 2020 is any indication, we are not only completely unprepared for disaster and concerted individual and collective government action, but we are unaware of just how much work needs to be done. Even a global pandemic, shutting down industry and some of the biggest polluters all over the world, barely made a dent in global emissions. Climate change raged on, especially in the Arctic, breaking more records and leaving more people stressed, displaced and their lives in ruin than any model could predict. The rate of

warming and extreme events, in addition to their cost, has exceeded all forecasts, yet here we are. When are we going to treat this issue like the emergency it is.

- Our ambition needs to be increased - it needs to be doubled. Reflect on recent achievements in the UK and US, and their new ambitions, and step up to the plate..

I appreciate your consideration of my comments... I urge you to reflect, restore and renew efforts to tackle the greatest crisis humanity has ever faced. This is not our crisis alone, but it is up to us to show the greatest leadership possible, living at a crossroads, and with enormous privilege. Your actions and inactions carry an enormous burden or relief on many generations to come, and I will make sure that the public is well aware of just how seriously you treat this issue, for which most of you will bear a minimal impact. We are not here to make friends and play nice - we are here to solve climate change and build a more just and sustainable world. If anyone on this Council is unwilling to treat this as the emergency it is, they need to make space for someone who will.

Sincerely,

Rahul Mehta