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01 March 2022

via email

Mayor Lehman, [Jeff.Lehman@Barrie.CA](mailto:Jeff.Lehman@Barrie.CA)

Mayor Lehman and Barrie City Council  
70 Collier Street  
Barrie, Ontario.  
L4M 4T5

RE: City of Barrie's Community Energy and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Plan

Dear Mayor Lehman and Barrie City Council,

It has been an honour to have represented Electric Vehicle Society and served on the City of Barrie's Community Energy and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan<sup>1</sup> Stakeholder Advisory Group.

Mayor Lehman and Barrie City Council should be recognised for their vision and foresight to undertake this important initiative. City staff, and consultants from Wood<sup>2</sup>, ICLEI<sup>3</sup>, and LURA<sup>4</sup> oversaw a thorough and public consultation and research initiative that gives a clear and accurate picture of GHG emissions in Barrie and presents a viable GHG reduction strategy comprised of many mitigation options.

I am writing to you today to stress the importance of the findings and recommendations in the report.

Since the Advisory Group last met, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - IPCC, (a global non-governmental organisation comprised of thousands of scientists who study the cause and impact of climate change)<sup>5</sup>, released it's sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) report<sup>6</sup> since it was convened by the UN in 1988. It has identified that impacts of man-made GHG emissions are far worse than previously forecast with many member scientists advising it is "*the bleakest warning yet*". Hans-Otto Pörtner, a co-chair of the IPCC working group implores: "*Any further delay in concerted global action will miss a brief and **rapidly closing window to secure a liveable future.***"

In Canada, GHG emissions from transportation represent roughly one quarter (23%)<sup>7</sup> of total emissions. In Barrie however, transportation emissions are more than double the national average with light and medium duty vehicles contributing fifty four percent (54%) of total GHG emissions<sup>8</sup>.

Simple changes in buying policy and behaviour can immediately reduce the GHG footprint of Barrie's largest GHG source. The shift to electrified transportation not only reduces GHG, but it also reduces air pollution, saves significant money for vehicle owners, and results in local economic benefits.

However, the latest IPCC report makes it clear: now is not the time for more studies, now is not the time to procrastinate on decisive action, now is not the time for short-term fiscal restraint in favour of long-term savings.

The window to implement change that leads to clear and long-lasting health and economic benefits for the citizens of Barrie is rapidly closing.

Now is the time to put words to action. Now is time to act swiftly to implement the recommendations brought forward in Barrie's GHG reduction plan.

Both EV Society and I personally look forward to continuing our collaboration to help Barrie implement these important changes.

Sincerely,



Wilf Steimle, President  
Electric Vehicle Society

CC:

- ♦ Adam McMullin, City of Barrie Manager of Energy, [Adam.McMullin@barrie.ca](mailto:Adam.McMullin@barrie.ca)
- ♦ Susan Hall, LURA Consulting Partner, [SHall@lura.ca](mailto:SHall@lura.ca)
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- ♦ Peter Forint, EV Society GR Committee co-chair, [Peter.Forint@EVSociety.ca](mailto:Peter.Forint@EVSociety.ca)
- ♦ Sebastien Hamel, EV Society GR Committee co-chair, [Sebastien.Hamel@EVSociety.ca](mailto:Sebastien.Hamel@EVSociety.ca)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.buildingbarrie.ca/communityenergy#:~:text=Without%20further%20climate%20action%2C%20Barrie's,become%20net%2Dzero%20by%202050.>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.woodplc.com/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.iclei.org/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://lura.ca/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/about/>

<sup>6</sup> [https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGII\\_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf](https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC_AR6_WGII_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.equiterre.org/sites/fichiers/fmm\\_transportation\\_recs.pdf](https://www.equiterre.org/sites/fichiers/fmm_transportation_recs.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> [https://ehq-production-canada.s3.ca-central-](https://ehq-production-canada.s3.ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/9189317814540c4a3b15797a65f80206fe75d7e5/original/1643810610/c11733c3a36850c927cfaf1ae56coe32_Part_1_Public_Review_v2_1_.pdf?X-Amz-Algorithm=AWS4-HMAC-SHA256&X-Amz-Credential=AKIAIBJCUK4ZO4WUUA%2F20220304%2Fca-central-1%2Fus-east-1%2Faws4_request&X-Amz-Date=20220304T160711Z&X-Amz-Expires=300&X-Amz-SignedHeaders=host&X-Amz-Signature=29c1bd42debfc26781c179815b51325ec24611d27a61c434fe2b3279e3d2dcd1)

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