

NEWS RELEASE

New Study Questions Cost, Feasibility of City of Vancouver's Energy Plan

VANCOUVER, September 19, 2017. Today Resource Works, with support from the BC Restaurant and Food Services Association, released a study evaluating the City of Vancouver's prescriptive energy plan and raising concerns about affordability implications for residents, civic institutions and businesses.

[DOWNLOAD THE REPORT HERE](#)

The study finds that, taken together, the Renewable City Strategy, the Zero Emissions Building Plan and the Green Buildings Policy for Rezoning (including the Bylaw) do mean a *de facto* ban on natural gas in pursuit of the City's 100% renewable energy target by 2050. Insufficient renewable natural gas is expected to be available to replace conventional natural gas in the time frame under discussion.

The study also raises concerns that the focus on the renewable energy target could blunt the greenhouse gas reduction benefit by disregarding other non-emitting energy sources and stifling new technology deployment.

"While the rest of the world is rushing to embrace natural gas and its positive climate attributes, the City of Vancouver is sowing confusion and moving us backward on climate," said Stewart Muir, Executive Director of Resource Works.

"Planned constraints on energy sources, without new technology or sufficient alternatives, means not only that costs will go up, but that they will be disproportionately passed along to those who in some cases can least afford them," said Muir

The City's strategy raises a number of questions that have yet to be adequately answered. Higher costs for households, civic institutions like hospitals and community centres, and businesses of all sizes seem inevitable and could result in declining affordability and competitiveness.

"What are the opportunity costs of channelling scarce resources to meeting an unrealistic energy target?" asked Muir. "These might include fewer school seismic upgrades, curtailed service offerings, and higher user fees. These are not considered in the City's plans."

Ian Tostenson, President and CEO of the BC Restaurant and Food Services Association stated "The City's natural gas phase-out will be very challenging for the 1,100 members of the BCRFA who operate in Vancouver. Energy costs for the average restaurant are 2% of operating revenue, or \$14,000, while profits are only 4%. So if energy costs go up, that puts a number of family-owned businesses at risk."

Vancouver is a major service centre for British Columbia's robust natural gas production and processing industry in the northeast of the province. The city supports the warehousing and distribution activities that make this industry possible. Metro Vancouver is home to related industries such as the largest manufacturing hub of fireplaces and grills in the world. The province's natural gas industry underpins employment in the northeast, and exports are good news for global climate change efforts because they displace less desirable fuels.



About Resource Works:

Resource Works communicates with British Columbians about the importance of the province's resource sectors for their personal well-being. It demonstrates how responsible development of British Columbia's resources creates jobs and incomes throughout the province, both directly and indirectly, while maintaining a clean and healthy environment.

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About BC Restaurant and Food Services Association

As the voice of BC restaurants, we are dedicated to meeting the diverse needs of our unique industry partners and restaurant members, providing valuable information and exclusive opportunities. Together, we help to improve business and achieve success. With more than 40 years experience, and with over 3,000 members, we continue to be the foremost resource for our industry.

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