

Madalyn Letellier

From: Corey Donahue [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2023 1:40 PM
To: City Clerk Contact; strezoatlarge@gmail.com; Willie Burnley, Jr.; Charlotte Kelly; Jake Wilson; Mayor; JT Scott
Subject: Reducing Carbon Emissions in Somerville Buildings

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Dear City Councilors and Mayor Ballantyne,

I am writing because I strongly believe that in order for Somerville to do its part in limiting the effects of climate change, the City needs to do more to prompt the reduction of carbon emissions from Somerville buildings.

The City's upcoming Climate Forward plan will include a carbon-negative target by 2050. In order to reach this audacious goal without relying on carbon offsets, the City must take seriously efforts to reduce the emissions of buildings. The first step is for the City Council to pass and the City's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (Housing Department) to enforce a Rental Registry and Energy Disclosure Ordinance. This will help tenants and prospective buyers to properly value the energy efficiency of homes, thus incentivizing retrofitting and decarbonization.

The City Council must also pass an ordinance that, over the course of the next 27 years, requires property owners to incrementally reduce emissions of their buildings, similar to ordinances passed in Boston and Cambridge. These requirements can include exceptions for those experiencing financial hardship. With the significant rebates and interest-free loans that the state (through Mass Save) can offer, it's time to force the issue. These efforts are the highest-leverage way that Somerville can reach its Climate Forward carbon emission goals by 2050 and I urge you to take a strong stance in combating climate change.

Thank you,
Corey Donahue
[REDACTED], Somerville, Ward 2