

From: [Carmen Fuchs](#)
To: [City Council and Mayor](#)
Subject: Ames Climate Action Plan feedback from a concerned citizen
Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 4:12:58 PM

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Haila and Ames City Council members,

There is a huge effort for this new climate change action plan for the little community of Ames which is spending tax payer funds for an effort that is nearly futile, IMO.

How about the city invest time in cleaning up the CITY, rather than making such an effort for a huge misnomer that any impact that we could have would have very little effect on our environment. Granted, I am all for conserving where possible, but consultants, 250 page documents, time and money on this effort?

Meanwhile, our properties are full of garbage from renters, apartments, and communities that have NO desire to keep their properties tidy and free of litter and outright nasty trash. Case in point, Aurora Heights is located in South Ames in the growing ISU Research Park area. We live directly EAST of this complex. If their garbage doesn't go in the pond, then it goes right on our property. We literally pick up around six huge garbage bags of trash every spring, and that is not counting the junk we pick up around here all year around. There seems to be no maintenance on this property and the city seems to ignore the area entirely. Where is the concern about these behemoth complexes that do not care for the properties. Calling the managers of the complexes has been futile. The dog owners are not held to account for not picking up after their animals. The garbage collection bins are constantly open, overflowing and garbage is everywhere.

I am concerned for our environment with the respect to how much trash our poor waterfowl, frogs, muskrats and water loving creatures have to contend with. Has anyone from the city taken a look at the ponds they require around these apartments? They are loaded with filth that no one cleans up. This year, my husband and I also cleaned up the water drain access so that the pond water could actually get to the outlet.

I would much rather see the City of Ames taking care of our land and hold property owners to account for their immediate environment. This would be a much better use of time, energy and our taxes, and it would have an immediate benefit that can be seen.

Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,
Carmen Fuchs
3411 University Blvd., Ames

From: [Caitlyn Lien](#)
To: [City Council and Mayor](#)
Subject: Additional comments of support for the CAP
Date: Monday, May 15, 2023 6:38:22 PM

[External Email]

Hello Mayor and Councilpersons (again).

I apologize, I had sent my more in-depth comments to the sustainability e-mail at the city and did not cc the correct e-mail. Please see my comments below:

Hello,

I wanted to share some thoughts I had while reviewing the Ames CAP.

Firstly, I hope that the city will do better to ensure misleading comments are not incorporated into any public communications regarding the CAP in the future. The introductory paragraph misleads the public into thinking that SSG's original cost estimation of 2.4B was incredibly off-target, suggesting the cost is actually 3.2B. The truth is, the SSG's analysis included both of these numbers, the first with a 3% discount rate, and the latter without. SSG never revised their findings, it just appears that the city chose to tout these numbers out of context. This statement not only sabotages the pursuit toward climate action by emphasizing expense, it reflects poorly on our government and stokes questions of the credibility of SSG and the hard work that they put into their assessment.

Secondly, for the city to reach its climate goals, it needs to separate its municipal utility from the waste stream. While the city's waste-to-energy system was innovative and "green" at its inception in the 1970s, much has changed. Human waste has changed, the world's climate has changed, and keeping up with the old is going to cost us more long-term than the new. I encourage the city to emphasize a focus on an alternative waste system when considering action steps and implementation; one that works to reduce waste and seeks to divert materials from landfills that can be re-used and recycled. Given the community's success with such events as rummage rampage and repair cafe, it is not unrealistic to think that city government could easily find use of waste that is diverted from landfills for re-use. For example, a facility that breaks down mattresses and furniture and recycles their materials, and a robust plastic recycling program like the successful one we have seen with glass recycling around the city. Plastic recycling would create a return within parks and rec by way of outdoor benches, tables, and playground equipment.

Lastly, and tied to the first item, the city should be mindful of the narrative it presents. Previous information released from the city regarding the 8 criteria of focus for the seven actions didn't incorporate any benefits of adapting a CAP. None. The city should work to strike a better balance because as it stands, it overwhelmingly appears to be looking pessimistically and strictly fiscally at CAP implementation.

I would implore the city to reach out to the Ames Climate Action Team if there is continued misunderstanding of CAP costs and numbers. ACAT members are a varied bunch with a wide

intellectual lens and would like to support the city in this pursuit.

Thank you again for your time.

--

Caitlyn Lien, LMSW (she/her)

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world" -Anne Frank

From: [Caitlyn Lien](#)
To: [City Council and Mayor](#)
Subject: Support for the CAP
Date: Friday, May 12, 2023 9:52:50 PM

[External Email]

Hello Mayor and Councilpersons,

I am writing in support of the Ames Climate Action Plan. I understand that the city has concerns over the costs of implementation and an emphasis on fiscality, however, climate change is real and carries real costs. We don't talk a lot about these future costs of inaction and are instead focused on the costs of intervention. Our community has experienced costly flooding and derechos which will continue to be exacerbated by climate change. Ames would be wise to act on the CAP sooner than later. An investment now equates to future cost savings.

Thank you,

--

Caitlyn Lien (she/her)

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world" -Anne Frank

CAP Comments on Facebook

May 24, 2023

Mark Dobbe

I have serious issues with this plan it is very expensive with a net zero effectiveness to do anything that will improve life in Ames, such as EV touted as clean is a absolute lie. It's designed to control everything you use for no other reason than to promote the failed climate change agenda to limit your freedoms .

Karen Evans

I find it funny that the City thinks that a couple hundred responses to their draft is something to be celebrated. Just putting some info at the library or on fb or the city page where most citizens don't see it is inadequate for such a huge transitional change to our city. You should be making sure that close to every citizen is aware of what this proposed action plan is comprised of and how it will impact our way of life. If you're not looking for this info you most likely are not aware. A few hundred people is not anywhere near a good representation of how the people of Ames want the city to move forward. But then I'm sure you're okay with that. This proposed plan is overreach in my opinion and will hurt many families in several ways.

From: [Schildroth, Deb](#)
To: [Hall, Renee](#)
Subject: FW: climate action plan
Date: Monday, May 15, 2023 4:58:57 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)



Deb Schildroth
Assistant City Manager

515.239.5202 *direct* | 515.239.5142 *fax*

deb.schildroth@cityofames.org | City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue | Ames, IA 50010

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From: Clarke Pasley <clarkepasley@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 29, 2023 8:33 AM
To: sustainability <sustainability@cityofames.org>
Subject: climate action plan

[External Email]

the "6 big moves" require a great deal of money to achieve. however, this is a time to "think big" and i support them.

but i also suggest that the city add a 7th category containing proposals costing little if any money and which would demonstrate the city's willingness to explore all options to achieve it's goals.

this category could include such modest but power saving proposals as:

the city promoting, and practicing, a "no mow may" and similar;

the city simply turning off some of it's less than necessary street lights [for example, a few of those on the 13th street extension from stange to ontario].

thanks for considering my input.

clarke pasley

2227 hamilton dr
ames

From: [David Martin](#)
To: [City Council and Mayor](#); [sustainability](#)
Cc: [Schainker, Steve](#)
Subject: Climate Action Plan suggestions
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 8:24:51 PM

[External Email]

Dear Mayor, Council, and CAP Team,

I'm very glad to see the progress made on the Climate Action Plan. Although I don't know how much back-and-forth is going on behind the scenes, it appears that SSG has delivered a high quality CAP draft.

I also have some suggestions:

1. What does it mean to "adopt" the CAP? I strongly suggest that you draft a section to go in the Executive Summary or earlier stating this clearly. In it, I would emphasize that Council adopting or receiving the plan does NOT mean that Council has voted to implement all or any of the actions, but rather, that Council understands that this plan represents the best pathway the CAP Team can currently envision to approach the climate targets that were asked for. Adopting or receiving the plan itself is not an appropriation of anything. ALL climate moves that the Council takes will be in agenda items separate from the plan itself. This has been Council's understanding from day one, but I don't think you should expect the general public to understand it. This point needs to be repeatedly made, and again I strongly think you should put it in the CAP document itself very near the beginning. Otherwise, people will point to the plan itself and say "Council has committed to do all of these things and they are insane and authoritarian." Of course they might do that anyway, but at least you can gently point people to the new section I'm talking about.
2. There were a lot of great clarification questions during your recent CAP workshop. SSG should be asked to update the document to include most of the answers to those questions.
3. Also, there were a few zingers during the workshop that show the enormity of some of the assumptions in the plan. I love that SSG happily and frankly discusses them when asked directly, but I would err on the side of pointing them out in the document itself rather than leaving it apparent only to people who are inclined to do napkin calculations. (E.g., how credible is it that Ames interests would receive 0.2% of the total \$391 billion that IRA designates for "energy and climate change"? https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inflation_Reduction_Act. Or that the community would dedicate 20% of Ames's footprint for solar panels? 100% electric CyRide fleet? Magical neighborhood corporation offering retrofit loans at 0% interest?)
4. On the "4.1 Economic Benefits", page 69 of the CAP, the explanation says that "negative numbers are savings", but then some of the columns include the word "savings" with positive numbers. That's very confusing.

I'll send along any further comments that come to mind. But I confess that I haven't dug in as much as I have on some previous drafts from consultants :-)

Best,
David

From: [Schildroth, Deb](#)
To: [Hall, Renee](#)
Subject: FW: Ames Home Builders Meeting Follow Up
Date: Friday, May 26, 2023 4:41:51 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Please include with CAP input.



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Assistant City Manager

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From: Doug Ragaller <dragaller@nw.bank>
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2023 4:52 PM
To: sustainability <sustainability@cityofames.org>
Subject: Ames Home Builders Meeting Follow Up

[External Email]

Good Afternoon:

I attended the Ames Home Builders lunch and learn and I've loosely followed the process as it's unfolded. I appreciate the work that's been done, but I've got a myriad of concerns and questions regarding the costs of implementing what's been outlined in the Six Big Moves document.

I'll limit this email to one question I've got. Has there been any analysis or work done to understand what the cost of all of this could do to property values in general? I don't mean assessed values.

One of the funding sources for "Big Move 1" involved a 26% increase in property taxes which would greatly impact all nongovernmental property owners. I'll focus this question on leased commercial space or residential units. A main driver of the value of those properties is the net operating income those properties generate. That net operating income is also what repays debt owed. It seems to me that one of two things will happen. Either rents will go up for tenants in order to offset the higher property taxes or value of the property itself will be driven lower by the reduced net operating income....which might occur anyway if the market determines the cost of doing business in Ames has simply become too high when compared to other communities.

Thanks:



Doug Ragaller
Regional Bank President

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From: [Justin Dodge](#)
To: [City Council and Mayor](#)
Subject: Re: City of Ames Climate Action Plan DRAFT
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 7:45:43 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image.png](#)

[External Email]

Good morning Mayor Haila and Council members,

Here are comments from a review of Ames' Climate Action Plan that were assembled by Staff of the National Association of Homebuilders in Washington DC. These comments are being shared to address the Mayor's question about the costs cited in my earlier email.

Please let me know if you have any questions

Thanks

Justin

Cost of Net Zero New Construction

- Glaringly missing within Big Move 2 is any indication of cost. While presumably the staff was looking at costs to the city, it cannot completely discount the costs to others. And, indeed, the costs of net-zero new construction can be significant.
 - Iowa is currently using an amended 2012 IECC, which, according to DOE, is 7.7% less efficient than the 2012 IECC. To reach the 2021 IECC Zero Energy Appendix, builders would have to install:
 - ✓ Energy Star windows (U-0.28 or better)
 - ✓ R60 ceiling
 - ✓ R20+5 or R20+7.5 walls
 - ✓ R19 basement walls
 - ✓ Less than 2.0 ACH50
 - ✓ ERV/HRV
 - ✓ 18/10 HSPF Cold Climate Heat Pump and 65-80 gallon heat pump water heater (3.25 UEF)
 - ✓ 10-13 kW PV rooftop solar (presumably could hold off on this during the net-zero ready phase)
 - While we do not have a cost estimate relative to the 2012 IECC, we know that the increased costs from going from the 2018 IECC to the 2021 EICC ZNE Appendix is approximately \$60-85,000 per home (including solar PV) (see chart on last page). Obviously, the costs will be even higher to go from the modified 2012 IECC that the State is currently using. Hiring qualified workers for these projects who are familiar with the

advanced building techniques and technologies required may also cost more, and there are also costs associated with third party inspections and verification, if required, that must be considered and factored into the equation. Clearly, advancing from where the codes are now to a net zero ready is a significant undertaking.

- o Not only are the costs daunting, but most energy codes have long passed the point of cost effectiveness – meaning that the easier and cheaper “low hanging fruit” that yield the biggest energy reductions have already been employed and implementing the remaining products or technologies to get a smidgeon of efficiency tend to be extremely costly. Hence, the payback periods to get those minimal benefits can be in the decades. Most buyers want to see some kind of return on their investment within a timeline that makes sense. Unfortunately, that is not yet the case with zero net energy.

- o Finally, and importantly, this Big Move is the one that is most directly impacted and directed by consumer choice. A buyer must want and be willing to pay for the features of the new construction – be it a home or a commercial building, for the city to realize the benefits of this Move. By mandating zero net ready for new construction, the city is disallowing the market to function properly, removing consumer choice, and foisting a \$60 – 85,000+ bill on those wishing to purchase a new home.

- o As per the staff report, “there are no new homes constructed at a price point that is considered affordable to low-income households.” With an estimated median new home price in the Ames MSA of \$426,010 in 2022, that statement holds true for middle incomes, as well. Adding \$60 – 85,000 to that price point will make new homes unaffordable to most within the MSA. It is unlikely that the city would support such an outcome and we would suggest it shouldn't.

Iowa: Energy Measures and Incremental Construction Cost to Consumers				
Adjusted ZNE Design	Climate Zone 5A		Climate Zone 6A	
Baseline 2021 IECC: same for CZ 5&6	ZNE Design - Gas	ZNE Design - Elec	ZNE Design - Gas	ZNE Design - Elec
U-0.30 windows	U-0.28	U-0.28	U-0.28	U-0.28
R-60 ceiling	same	same	same	same
R-20+5 walls	same	same	R-20+7.5 (20+5 \$0.13)	R-20+5
R-19 basement walls	same	same	same	same
R-10 slab-on-grade, 4-ft.depth	R-15 (R-10 for \$0.13 rate)	R-10	NA	NA
3 ACH50	2 (3 for \$0.13 rate)	2 ACH50	2 (3 for \$0.13 rate)	2 ACH50
80 AFUE GF gas; 15/8.8 HSPF HP elec	95 AFUE GF	18/10 cold climate HP	95 AFUE GF	18/10 cold climate HP
14 SEER AC; 15 SEER/8.8 HP	16 SEER AC	"	16 SEER AC	"
50g WH, UEF: 0.58 gas; 0.93 elec	0.93 tankless WH	3.25 UEF heat pump WH	0.93 tankless WH	3.25 UEF heat pump WH
WHMV: Bath exhaust fan	same	same	same	same
PV, facing south: NA for baseline	10.0-12.0 kW	9.5-11.5 kW	12.0-12.5 kW	13.0-13.5 kW
Cost for Adjusted ZNE Design, PV facing South				
Low, PV \$2.71/w	\$40,576	\$43,413	\$55,618	\$64,360
High, PV \$2.71/w	\$49,321	\$53,452	\$56,397	\$64,360
Low, PV \$3.60/w	\$52,347	\$54,415	\$71,738	\$82,015
High, PV \$3.60/w	\$63,906	\$67,525	\$72,773	\$82,015
2021 IECC Cost Study (baseline 2018)				
Without additional efficiency packages	\$8,695	\$8,695	\$3,685	\$3,685
Potential additional costs	\$2,152-\$4,164	\$2,152-\$4,165	\$2,152-\$4,166	\$2,152-\$4,167
Cost of Adjusted ZNE Design plus 2021 IECC cost (v 2018) without additional efficiency packages, and excluding potential additional costs				
Low, PV \$2.71/w	\$49,271	\$52,108	\$59,303	\$68,045
High, PV \$2.71/w	\$58,016	\$62,147	\$60,082	\$68,045
Low, PV \$3.60/w	\$61,042	\$63,110	\$75,423	\$85,700
High, PV \$3.60/w	\$72,601	\$76,220	\$76,458	\$85,700
Adder for Design with PV facing west, est.				
Low, PV \$2.71/w	\$779	\$2,337	\$0	(\$779)
High, PV \$2.71/w	\$3,896	\$3,896	\$0	(\$779)
Low, PV \$3.60/w	\$1,035	\$3,105	\$0	(\$1,035)
High, PV \$3.60/w	\$5,175	\$5,175	\$0	(\$1,035)

Table A: Energy Upgrades Needed from Baseline of 2018 IECC to Meet Net Zero Energy and Incremental Construction Costs: Iowa/Climate Zones 5A and 6A

On Mon, Apr 17, 2023 at 5:29 PM Haila, John <john.haila@cityofames.org> wrote:

Justin,

Thanks for input. VERY IMPORTANT to hear from as many folks as possible on potential impacts.

Ironically, according to the CAP report, it is stated that \$0 cost increase occurs to include net zero ready in new construction.

Can you “simplistically” identify where added costs are coming from so your comment is not taken as an unsubstantiated emotional response?

Thank you.

John A. Haila, Mayor
City of Ames

From: Justin Dodge <justin.dodge@hunziker.com>

Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 10:14:34 AM

To: City Council and Mayor <mayorcouncil@amescitycouncil.org>

Subject: Fwd: City of Ames Climate Action Plan DRAFT

[External Email]

Good morning Mayor Haila and Council members -

Below is an email I sent to City Staff last month in response to the draft Climate Action Plan. As you are reviewing the document tomorrow, I wanted to resend it to you.

Please let me know if you have any questions

Thank you,
Justin

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

From: Justin Dodge <justin.dodge@hunziker.com>

Date: Fri, Mar 10, 2023 at 9:52 AM

Subject: Re: City of Ames Climate Action Plan DRAFT

To: Schildroth, Deb <deb.schildroth@cityofames.org>

Cc: Gwiasda, Susan <susan.gwiasda@cityofames.org>, Rankin, Merry L [FPM]

<mrankin@iastate.edu>, Kom, Don <donald.kom@cityofames.org>

Good afternoon Deb, Susan, Merry and Don -

In reviewing the document, one concept continues to haunt me - requiring net zero new construction through rezoning/annexation. It comes across as 100% stick and 0% carrot. I see where it says you would create a tax abatement program, but if someone doesn't qualify for the incentives, it wouldn't matter because the City would require the efficiency goals the City wants through the requirement.

If we require this, it would add significant costs to every home. Homebuyers are already struggling to afford homes. We are currently operating under a modified version of the 2012 energy code; if we were operating on the 2018 energy code and made this jump, it was estimated to add another \$60k to \$85k to every home. This is really scary and I believe there wouldn't be a market in Ames anymore. I believe the demand for our lots in Ames would disappear.

Gilbert, Nevada, Huxley and Ankeny would benefit significantly from this policy. Then we have another unintended consequence, those people who didn't build in Ames, yet work here will be driving here every day to work.

I would plead with you and the City to remove this requirement through annexation/rezoning as a recommendation

Thank you for your time working on this project and your consideration to this topic,
Justin

On Tue, Feb 28, 2023 at 7:15 PM Schildroth, Deb <deb.schildroth@cityofames.org> wrote:

Dear Supplemental Input Committee Members,

We are at the stage in the Climate Action Plan process where your review and comments are requested on the CAP plan draft document. The draft plan is concurrently being reviewed by the Project Team (Susan Gwiasda, Don Kom, Merry Rankin, and me) as well as the City's Technical Team (which includes our Utilities, Public Works, and other subject matter experts).

The CAP draft will be emailed to you via SharePoint. **As a Supplemental Input Committee member, it is for your review only.** While nearly all documents generated by the City of Ames are public record, and we are very transparent with information, draft reports and works in progress are exempt from public record law. However, the final product will be widely distributed, and we hope reviewed by many!

Once you open the email, click on the document and you will be asked to accept a code. The code will be emailed to you immediately and once you enter it, you will have access to the document. In the upper right-hand corner, click on "Editing" and select "Review" and begin making comments and suggestions. Your changes are automatically saved, so there's no need to save the document separately.

We need your comments and suggestions by Monday, March 13th. In addition to the comments and suggestions collected from Input Committee members and CAP Project and Technical Teams, public input will be collected after the April 18 City Council Workshop and before the final adoption of the CAP. Given the broad collection of information, we anticipate common themes across comments and suggestions. While we will do our best to capture and include these themes in the process, specific comments and suggestions may or may not be reflected in the final plan.

Please contact me if you have any questions or experience problems accessing the document.



Deb Schildroth
Assistant City Manager

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From: [John Wilson](#)
To: [City Council and Mayor](#)
Cc: [Mary Wilson](#); [Doreen Berg](#); [Mary Richards](#); [Jan L. Flora](#); [Flora, Cornelia B](#); [Francis Todey](#); [Chuck Glatz](#); [Kirschenmann, Frederick L \[PH RS\]](#); [Lee Anne Willson](#); <rick@brimeyerllc.com>; [Crawford, Theresa R](#); [Elizabeth B.](#); [Lisa Magner](#); sueosweiler@gmail.com; [Jody Melcher](#); [Clare Heinrich](#)
Subject: Urging City Council to approve initial implementation of Community Climate Action Plan
Date: Friday, May 5, 2023 12:20:32 PM

[External Email]

Dear Mayor and City Council,

As citizens of Ames we believe implementing an incremental Community Climate Action Plan (CAP) for the city of Ames is both beneficial for our geographic community and doable during the timeline of the Plan. We urge the entire City Council to vote "Yes" to the proposed Climate Action Plan.

Since coming to Ames seven years ago, we have tried to be informed, contributing members of the local community. We are glad to see the development of the draft Action Plan for reduction of Greenhouse Gases in Ames sets specific (but flexible) goals for 2035 and 2050; the goals are ambitious, but achievable with community support. The CAP prioritizes city and community efforts to reduce consumption of Greenhouse Gases. Indeed, city staff comments on the Plan outline many specific strategies for implementation of the Plan. One specified strategy, for example, is for the city to hire additional 1.5 full time staff to assist the community transition "through education and awareness".

There are many additional benefits for the Council approval of the proposed implementation of the CAP, including the City possibly having more access to federal incentives and community residents being more likely to apply for Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) rebates and/or other newly available incentives, (for example purchase of more fuel efficient cars). Besides material benefits, Ames is commonly known for it's forward thinking on environmental conservation expressed through education, organizational work, volunteer groups, church green teams and care for creation teams, and young students urgently concerned about the environment and the future. We really want the City Council to know many people will be positively directed by the unanimous approval of the proposed Climate Action Plan.

Ames has been provided with a road map for moving into a modern era of more sustainable use of our resources. Considerations about financial cost are important in every household, business office, governmental body, and city community overall. However, the final approval of implementation of the Climate Action Plan is the long term ethical one for the good of this city. The priority for the future is not one of economic costs and benefits alone. We urge all Council members to approve the Plan and prioritize initial implementation steps.

Sincerely,

John and Mary Wilson
1506 Stone Brooke Rd.
Ames, Iowa 50010
(515) 232-1087

From: [Schildroth, Deb](#)
To: [Hall, Renee](#)
Subject: FW: Comments
Date: Friday, May 26, 2023 3:26:41 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Renee,
Here is another email with comments on the CAP.

Thank you



Deb Schildroth
Assistant City Manager

515.239.5202 *direct* | 515.239.5142 *fax*

deb.schildroth@cityofames.org | City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue | Ames, IA 50010

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From: James Johnson <dagwoodbumstead@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2023 12:34 PM
To: sustainability <sustainability@cityofames.org>
Subject: Comments

[External Email]

In the US, and particularly in Iowa, we don't have the localized climate issue that plagued places like Southern California and high density population area in the 70's. Technical advancements in our lifetime have lowered emissions drastically...now it's time to let the rest of the world catch up.

No one is as blatantly ignorant about taking care of our local community as was common in the 70s and 80s. People aren't dumping used oil on their gravel roads (largely recovered and recycled), Diesel trucks have had massive improvements in this time. The general population has taken much better care of their locale, and are much more considerate than in decades past (you just don't see garbage piling up along the road as in the past.

We're living in great times, but more focus should be given to other priorities. Priorities like expanding our city, creating opportunities for more life impacting daily existence...we are one of the top 10 largest cities in Iowa and we have no Burger Kings, KFC's, convenient or efficient traffic flow

in and through or around town. Everyone says "oh, we just go to Ankeny for that stuff"...why, why can't we have nice things here.

We are slipping behind, no matter what study or survey is proclaimed to give us a best in Iowa, the Nation title or status etc. Travel the country and we are behind, way behind, other towns in growth and opportunities. Considering our average income in this city to others, we should have much more available to our citizens (and no it doesn't need to be provided by government).

I know it takes private funding for that. But who is stepping up, or more important why aren't they?

In the end, this city needs vision...we are lacking big time regarding ideas about what we can become here. We need more for our city than a climate plan which will do absolutely nothing on a global level.

From: [Schildroth, Deb](#)
To: [Hall, Renee](#)
Subject: FW: Response to ISU Daily Reporting
Date: Monday, May 15, 2023 4:58:47 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Renee,
Here is CAP input.



Deb Schildroth
Assistant City Manager

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From: Shahan, Jaiden C <jshahan@iastate.edu>
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 5:32 PM
To: sustainability <sustainability@cityofames.org>
Subject: Response to ISU Daily Reporting

[External Email]

Dear City of Ames,

Hello, I am Jaiden Shahan, a junior in agricultural studies at ISU. I am responding to comments reported by the ISU Daily in this [article](#). I have not read through the full draft yet, but plan to at least do one pass-through.

I have been living in Ames since the fall of 2021, going to ISU and working the summer in Ames. I will be remaining this summer as well. I come from a small town in Iowa of under 2k people and thought moving to Ames would be terrible. It certainly felt like that at first, but I have come to love Ames. I plan to stay here after graduation if I can find a job with some organizations I am looking at. One of the huge reasons I plan to stay in Ames is the CAP. I am part of the student organization Climate Reality and on the student government sustainability committee. I know I care more about the environment than most. However, according to this [article](#) from the Daily, a large majority of current students are concerned about sustainability.

Some members expressed concern about Ames losing residents due to the CAP. I disagree that this is a major concern of the CAP for two reasons. One, as said previously, the youth are concerned about climate and the environment, much more than older generations. If Ames wishes to keep or attract graduating students like me, they need to wow us and show us a world where a city government takes the environment seriously. If I do not settle in Ames, it'll only be to run for local office in a small town and promote sustainability there. Two, to promote cheaper housing, relying on fossil fuels is the wrong way to do it. Ames should focus on building a more liveable city with businesses decentralized, allowing people to just walk to get groceries. Ames should promote denser populations, forgoing expanding to more suburbs for more multi-family housing and apartments instead.

America is the largest contributor to climate change. Climate change continues to kill people and cause a multitude of severe problems globally. Ames can not simply stand idly by and do the bare minimum like other cities. Ames must show environmental justice means the more well-off places of the world, like Ames, will do what they can to alleviate the world of this phenomenon that disproportionately affects and kills the poor in the world.

Iowa State will also need to have a large role in reducing Ames' emissions. My groups have advocated for a more sustainable ISU and talked to the BoR as well as officials at ISU. Climate Reality will continue to recruit new students and continue to ask ISU for more sustainable change. As we students do what we can to improve ISU, I ask y'all do what you can in your positions to improve Ames.

Thank you,
Jaiden Shahan



[Survey finds students want ISU to emphasize sustainability](#)

Iowa State students expressed their interest in the university establishing itself as a leader in sustainability, according to a report put together by the Sustainability in Curriculum-Change (SiC-CHANGE) team. The report surveyed a total of

iowastatedaily.com



[Ames Climate Action Plan draft unveiled](#)

The Ames City Council was presented a draft of a Climate Action Plan from which outlined expenditures from 2023 to 2050 for the \$3.2 billion plan, and estimated Ames could receive \$770 million from the Inflation Reduction Act. The draft was

iowastatedaily.com

From: [Ken Birt](#)
To: [City Council and Mayor](#)
Subject: Climate Action Plan
Date: Thursday, June 1, 2023 10:05:35 AM

[External Email]

Mayor Haila and City Council,

I appreciate your work on the Climate Action Plan. This is a complicated undertaking and I am not familiar with the details. I support this action and favor spending money now to invest in the future for the City of Ames.

Ken Birt
303 Hickory Dr
Ames Iowa 50014
Ken.birt.118@gmail.com
515-238-1699

From: [Schildroth, Deb](#)
To: [Hall, Renee](#)
Subject: Fwd: Climate Action Plan comments
Date: Saturday, May 27, 2023 9:43:39 AM

Hi Renee
Forwarding more comments.

Thanks
Deb

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lee Anne Willson <lee.anne.willson@gmail.com>
Date: May 26, 2023 at 7:49:46 PM CDT
To: sustainability <sustainability@cityofames.org>
Subject: Climate Action Plan comments

[External Email]

The CAP as drafted is an excellent map to where we need to go. It tells us what is possible, and what it will take to do the journey in the time we have. As with any journey, we will probably take a different path at times as conditions change, but at least actions can be compared with the plan and evaluated according to whether they will help or hinder progress on the CAP.

The color bands on figure 9 are hard to match to the labels - why is there a purple stripe at the bottom? - and the colors are not sufficiently different that we can do it without the stripes and labels being in the same order. They mostly are, but not all, so that is confusing.

The introductory material is confusing, and some of the propagates into the report. The earlier drafts used just the 3% discount rate, but then somehow zero discount crept into the discussion and people are getting confused by that. It is my understanding that the SSG estimates did not change, but that the calculation was carried out without discounting for some reason and this is now mixed in through the report. I encourage you to put it back into just the standard form. There could be a footnote about this: This is standard. If we don't discount, then future costs and future savings both increase. Because more of the savings happen later, the difference between these is smaller in the undercounted case. However, the discounted case is closer to what is likely to happen.”

Overall: I'm encouraged by what this shows, and urge the City Council to accept it. This will be very helpful in keeping the city focused on those actions that will reduce our risks from climate change.

Lee Anne Willson

From: [Lee Anne Willson](#)
To: [City Council and Mayor](#); [sustainability](#)
Subject: Blog post addressing the cost of climate action
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 10:44:25 AM

[External Email]

My latest blog post addresses the thorny issue of paying for the CAP. I've based my analysis on the draft 2023-24 budget and the City report on the CAP from November. (See <https://www.amesclimateaction.org/post/the-budget-and-the-climate-action-plan>)

I've heard a number of statements of concern about the numbers provided by SSG. While the Climate Action Plan will definitely require the City to find money to invest in infrastructure and programming, much of the \$2.4B investment cited by SSG is money spent in the community, and only a fraction of this is obtained and spent by the City.

If you see or hear a comment that the cost exceeds the city budget for the next 27 years it's important to realize that this would be a reasonable comparison if the City was paying for all of this – but it isn't. What fraction is the city paying? That is not pre-determined: For example, replacement of internal combustion cars in Ames with EVs could take place with minimal city intervention/cost, or the city could encourage this by installing chargers and providing cash incentives.

In the blog post I argue that the \$2.4B is more accurately represented as a fraction of the Ames GDP — between 1% and 3% — depending on how one extrapolates the GDP to 2050. That's not tiny, but it is something one can imagine happening. That's the up-front investment; the net cost may yet become negative (net gain). Similarly, the city's net cost comes out to a small fraction of the City's budget.

The challenge is not the net cost, but the fact that the investment occurs soon, and the return takes time. Thus, the job of city staff and council is to find ways to invest now for future benefit. This may mean postponing large purchases, such as a proposed new WTE incinerator that may ultimately not be needed and would, if purchased, also lock in incineration for disposal of our waste.

Lee Anne Willson

5326 Springbrook Drive
Ames resident since 1973

Member of the Ames Climate Action Team but this note is not a group response

From: [Schildroth, Deb](#)
To: [Hall, Renee](#)
Subject: FW: Climate action plan comments
Date: Monday, May 15, 2023 4:57:37 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)



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From: Lori Biederman <loriannbiederman@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 6, 2023 4:48 PM
To: sustainability <sustainability@cityofames.org>
Subject: Climate action plan comments

[External Email]

I have read through the climate action plan and I am impressed with the thoughtfulness that went into it. I applaud the City of Ames for their effort to tackle climate change and I am excited to contribute to this change
Thank you for your efforts
Lori Biederman

From: [leopold ecology](#)
To: [City Council and Mayor](#)
Subject: Support for CAP action and waste management changes
Date: Sunday, May 28, 2023 12:43:12 PM

[External Email]

Greetings ~

THANK YOU all for your continued commitment to both enacting a climate action plan for Ames, and for your current engagement in taking a hard look at making some very important and much needed changes in our waste management priorities, processes and goals.

That's it — just a big thanks for your efforts. By the way, I know there are a lot of folks in town who are supportive and interested, even if you aren't hearing from them. (I hear from a few!)

~ respectfully~

Jeri Neal
916 Ridgewood Ave
Ames, IA 50010

From: [Lisa Kuehl](#)
To: [City Council and Mayor](#)
Subject: Ames" Climate Plan thoughts...
Date: Monday, June 5, 2023 11:01:55 AM

[External Email]

Good morning, everyone!

I have seen some of your plans to make Ames a more climate-friendly community and I love what you are doing. Thank you for all of your forethought and hard work.

As someone who enjoys the opportunity to bike and walk whenever I can to run errands or just for enjoyment, I'd like to briefly share this idea with you as you work through the plan:

Walking and biking in and around our shopping and dining areas is challenging for several reasons - traffic noise, traffic pollution and drivers that drive too fast. As an overall improvement to make Ames more walkable and bikeable, I would love to see more emphasis placed on lowering certain speed limits, enforcing existing speed limits, adding more crosswalks and pedestrian-safety features and creating a public service campaign to encourage Ames drivers to "Drive Clean/Drive Quiet."

Many Ames citizens rely on their cars to perform the most basic of errands. If more of these above measures were in place, Ames could offer a much more pleasant experience on foot or bicycle out on, or adjacent to, our streets and roads.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lisa Kuehl

Lisa K. Kuehl
5225 Cervantes Drive
Ames, IA 50014-6919
(515) 451-1039 cell & text / (515) 450-5551 landline
"FaceTime" me with your Apple device at lkuehl@gmail.com

"You can find excuses...or, you can find a way."

From: [Schildroth, Deb](#)
To: [Hall, Renee](#)
Subject: Fwd: CAP Input
Date: Thursday, May 25, 2023 9:15:29 AM

Hi Renee -
Just forwarding input for the Climate Action Plan.

Susan has input she'll forward from our social media platforms.

Thanks
Deb

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Pat Schlarbaum <pat-schlarbaum@gmail.com>
Date: May 25, 2023 at 7:54:32 AM CDT
To: sustainability <sustainability@cityofames.org>

[External Email]

Thanks for moving forward with climate action planning. Investing in Sustainable Solutions to map out a plan was worth every penny. Your efforts to ensure Ames contributes to a 21st Century economy is assured with your climate action revisions to our community. Thank you

From: slibbey@netins.net
To: [City Council and Mayor](#)
Subject: Climate action(s)
Date: Monday, June 5, 2023 10:38:57 AM

[External Email]

Mayor and Council:

I just want to write briefly to say that I appreciate your on-going work addressing solid waste/recycling/waste to energy issues and climate change discussions.

These are, obviously, inter-related issues and complicated ones to boot. Equally obvious is the fact that we need to be working on them in proactive ways. Not everyone will agree on such things and some will want to ignore them altogether.

So, I just want to express my appreciation for the willingness of Council to recognize the challenges of the future and continue working toward long-term solutions, even when they are difficult and sometimes upsetting.

Thank you,

Steve Libbey

708 Brookridge Ave.

Ames

From: [Tam Lorenz](#)
To: [sustainability](#); [City Council and Mayor](#); [Schainker, Steve](#)
Subject: Climate Action Plan Draft: Comment
Date: Friday, May 5, 2023 4:09:00 PM

[External Email]

Dear Council Members, City Manager, Consultants and Advisory Committee,

I made it to around page 187 of the over 200 page Consultants' report on a Climate Action Plan for Ames. I understood part of it and skimmed part of it. Below are only some of my comments, because I became tired of typing and you will probably tire of reading. I really wonder how many citizens have the time to study and comment on such a massive document, the goal of which is to dramatically change how we all live in Ames and thereby reduce carbon emissions. I tried to keep my comments generic and short. I failed, but remember the document itself is immense and my comments just skim part of the surface.

Municipal Prohibitions, Federal Preemption and Natural Gas:

Before I go into specifics of the Plan, I'd like to draw attention to the following recent legal opinion generated in response to a round-about municipal restriction on natural gas usage.

One day before the Ames City Council met to receive the Consultant's Draft Climate Action Plan, the Federal Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit issued an opinion in a case entitled California Restaurant Association v. City of Berkeley, Docket Number 21-16278, issued April 17, 2023. The opinion can be found by searching the case name on the internet or at 2023 WL 2962921 on WestLaw.

Before the City spends much time considering how to achieve the aspirational goal of reducing or eliminating the use of natural gas by 2030, I hope Council will ask the Ames City Attorney to analyze the cited Ninth Circuit's opinion. His office may have already begun such an analysis of this and related cases, but if not, I offer the following.

At issue was a Berkeley Municipal Building Code provision that prohibited the extension of natural gas supply lines to new construction. The crux of the opinion addresses whether and when the express preemption clauses of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975 preempt state and local action to restrict use of products covered by the Act. See also, 42 USC sections 6292(a)(covered products) and 6297(c)(preemption). The Court found the specific ordinance was preempted, but the discussion and concurrence are also instructive.

I realize the Consultants' report refers to replacing natural gas with renewable natural gas. However, when questioned about the availability of renewable natural gas, during the April 18th Council meeting, I think I heard this was not an abundant or readily available resource. Whether I am remembering correctly or not, I think Ames policy makers should be aware of the Berkeley case.

This is a complex issue and the law as articulated by the Ninth Circuit, which is arguably the most progressive federal circuit, does not bind the rest of the country. However, I think it is

important to be aware of this changing area of law and of its potential for issues related to it to be considered by the U.S. Supreme Court if conflicts between federal circuits arise.

Initial Capital Costs and Crushing Individual Financial Burden:

The Plan's Executive Summary provides, "On a cash basis, total expenditures in the low-carbon scenario are front-loaded between 2023 and 2030 before declining significantly in subsequent decades[.]" Page 22/page 18 print version.

I think the chart entitled Economic Prosperity on page 92/page 88 print version encapsulates my concerns about many statements, similar to the one above, that are made throughout the Consultants' report. The chart lists what are identified as co-benefits/co-harms. The following are quotations from the table for your easy reference:

"2.3 Co-benefit: increased long-term affordability: Buildings: Initial capital costs for more energy-efficient buildings are more than offset with the resulting long-term savings in energy costs." Likewise "Transportation: EVs have higher initial capital cost than ICE vehicles; however, in the longer-term, they save the owner more in avoided fuel [.]" And finally "Energy: Initial capital costs to replace high emissions heating and cooling technologies are more than offset with the resulting long-term savings in energy costs." (Emphasis added).

The document recognizes no co-harm that initial capital costs might bring. However, personal indebtedness, acquired to finance initial capital costs, is a co-harm. Yet, the far-reaching financial implications for individuals are not addressed. Describing the quoted text, as a co-benefit only, is premised on the incorrect assumptions that all individual home-owners, drivers or other citizens (a) have the ability to take on enormous debt for the initial capital cost to pay for a new heating system, an EV, solar roof-top panels and/or even new windows (b) have a life span long enough to pay off the debt and (c) have sufficient income so their level of expenditures for other goods and services or charitable donations will remain unchanged and therefore no loss will be experienced by the community.

Many of us, who are considered to be in the economic middle class, may or may not qualify for no or low interest loans. Even if a 74 year old home owner, such as myself, qualified for a no interest loan, it is still an obligation that has to be repaid. Very likely, I do not have 20 years to pay off a loan. I may never sell my house during my lifetime, so recouping upon a sale is unlikely. In other words, the "long term" may not arrive. I don't think I am alone in this situation. According to the 2020 Census, approximately 10 percent of the Ames population is over 65. I truly don't mean to be disrespectful to any reader, but getting old is expensive. One of the primary ways for an older person to keep costs down and stay out of an expensive care facility is to remain in one's own home, with in-home care-givers if necessary. This will become prohibitive if burdened by unforeseen loan debt acquired to comply with the City's Climate Action Plan.

Just One Example:

Less than 3 years ago, I bought a high-efficiency natural gas furnace, for which I received a tax credit. My prior furnace was 25 years old. In 2030, my furnace will be just 10 years old.

Will I be pressured or required to buy a completely new technology to heat my home? Will I be penalized if I don't? I use my own experience and demographic only as an example.

Variations of financial predicaments will be faced by young families or families financing college or trade school tuitions, young workers with student loan debt and many other

scenarios where a family or individual will be called upon to acquire additional Plan-related debt.

So Many Questions:

The portion of the Plan that I could marginally absorb bristles with practical questions and projected expenses that don't seem to be recognized or addressed. Just a few examples:

Page 42/38 print version:

Roof-top solar

2.5 Retrofits of homes built before 1981. The foreseeable added expenses for home owners include payment for the solar equipment, upgrading the home's current wiring in older homes, installation, continuing upkeep more complex than shingle maintenance, repairing weather damage to panels more significant than for a damaged shingle, removal prior to re-roofing and re-installation afterward. These expenses do not seem to be addressed.

Page 44/49 print version:

2.9 Heat pumps in residential retrofits: "Add air-source heat pumps for all buildings by 2040" Again, there is a requirement for a completely new heating technology different from the one that currently exists in many, if not most, Ames buildings. Again, none of the equipment, installation and upkeep expenses for building owners seems to be considered as a meaningful obstacle.

Page 46/42 print version:

4.2 Electrify personal vehicles: "All light- and medium- duty vehicles sold in 2030 are zero-emission vehicles."

Does "all" mean all? Sold where? In Ames? Story County? Who's the seller: Dealerships or individuals? Are existing, functioning gas-fueled cars and trucks to be discarded rather than sold as used vehicles, if the owner wants to buy an EV? How will owners be compensated for this asset loss?

Pages 181-187/pages 177-183 print version:

Inventory of Emissions and Small Moves

The tables in this part of the Report appear to be an inventory of emissions upon which the Report's recommendations were based. I tried to determine whether emissions from gasoline-powered lawn mowers and leaf blowers, as well as outdoor wood-burning fire pits and meat smokers were assessed. Anyone who lives near the latter two is aware of their smokey emissions.

I found what might cover mowers and blowers in section 1.6.1 (p. 181/177) "Emissions from fuel combustion within City boundary". It appears the report did not measure or include emission data because it is of "No relevance or limited activities identified." Considering the number of mowers at work in Ames, the quoted comment is surprising.

The section that I thought might cover fire pits and smokers is III.3 "Incineration and open burning" (p. 185/181). However, that section appears to cover only emissions from solid waste that is treated within the City's boundary, not untreated incinerations. I know the City has an open burning ban, but that does not cover fire pits and smokers. There is a reference to wood on p. 187/183, but I could not decipher its meaning.

If the report does address emissions of items addressed in this section of my email, could

someone please direct me to the information?

My point: Moving away from individual use of gas mowers, blowers, fire pits and smokers, while irksome to their fans, requires more palatable carbon-efficient replacement expenditures than do solar panels, new windows, new heating source equipment or EVs. I realize planning for the reduction or elimination of the items I've described as examples entails small moves.

However, lower cost incremental measures, rather than plans for large initial capital costs for individuals, may result in more readily accepted change by the public.

Keep Public Trust:

I am NOT suggesting Ames should avoid taking steps to reduce its carbon emissions for the benefit of current and future generations. Individual financial debt for initial capital cost is but one of the many practical push-back points an ambitious Climate Action Plan may face from an over-burdened public, regardless of demographic. I want City government and the people of Ames to strive for a better environment, but I urge decision makers to recognize trust in government, even at a local level, is not high. A Plan, that does not truly consider the current realities of citizens' lives and finances, may not gain the support necessary to improve citizens' future realities.

Thank you for your work on this important set of issues.

Tam Lorenz
311 S Maple Ave.

Sent from my iPad