

## **Roundtable discussion with Sadaf Ghalib, Stratford's new Manager of Climate Programs, at the December 7, 2022 meeting of the Perth County Sustainability Hub**

Moderator: Sharon Collingwood

**Sadaf:** It's so nice to meet all of you. For those with whom I've not had a chance to meet and talk about all things climate... I do see so many new faces...my name is Sadaf, and I've recently joined the City of Stratford as manager of climate change programmes.

I have moved across the country from British Columbia, where I was working for the City of New Westminster as senior climate action planner. I am very excited to lead Stratford's response to climate change and support the community as we transition to a net-zero future.

We do have a timeline for that, as all of us are aware, we do have a very strict timeline and we need to adhere to that timeline.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for inviting me to your roundtable discussion, and providing me the opportunity to talk about my role.

I'd like to take it slower, just because Sharon mentioned that— I would like to start with my educational background so my educational background and work experience is in architecture project management as well as sustainability and climate policy. I have worked in several countries over the past ten years and over this period have had great opportunities to be a part of many remarkable projects. I've led diverse teams and I've developed community-centric policies that advanced climate action. Also in Canada, I did that in New Westminster so we developed the community energy and admissions plan as well as the e-mobility strategy also did substantial amount of work for the corporation as a whole

So I'm excited to bring all my learning from new Westminster from my previous role to this new city. There is a lot of work to be done as you know, we have to start from somewhere and this is a great place to start. So I would also like to point out that although the task ahead—It does seem overwhelming— it's something that other cities around the world and around Canada have been doing consistently over the past few years, taking the lead on all things climate and showing the ways how things can be done in order to achieve our targets and there are several expectable pathways to get to a net-zero world.

So as we get into it, a large part of my role is to be a main contact for the city and lead our strategy to advance towards climate change and, because we have our targets we have those to account to I will also be working alongside city staff as well as the community to develop different corporate-focused and community-focused long-term planning strategies as well as frameworks to support both our ambitious reduction targets, so our targets are basically the same for now for the corporation as well as the community so we know where to start.

Also I would also be engaging with a number of stakeholders including yourselves. I have had a chance to meet Sheila in person. I've had a chance to meet with Energy and Environment Committee members during all our meetings with the ICI waste reduction group, so I'm hoping to take all the context that I may be getting from understanding different groups viewpoints as well as all the great work that different community members have been doing so far and taking it forward and I look forward to working with all of you on all the different programs that I envision would come into play early next year, so early next year is when I imagine my short medium and long-term work plan will be brought to council.

So I am very excited about that, and on December 12, which is the coming Monday, I will be presenting to Council two of my reports so one is the green recognition program and the other one is just summarizing all the recent climate change initiatives and all the work that has been done in the city thus far.

If you have any questions. I'd be happy to answer them and if you have any specific questions regarding my role, I'd be happy to get into that as well.

**Sharon:** Well, I have a question. You're talking about how you have community-centric projects. And and I'm wondering because I'm I'm thinking of you as sort of a technical person, **how do you consider the community** when you're planning a project that it's got to be community-centric? How do you draw people in?

**Sadaf:** Well to answer your first question guess I am the technical person for this role as well and I have been providing technical input into the city's projects and programs and understanding what opportunities we can tap into and maximizing such opportunities for innovation and understanding where our carbon deduction needs can be met. Similarly, I plan to start with a community emissions plan for the city as well

And for that, I believe I would have to speak with a large number of stakeholders; be it the energy environment committee, the waste reduction group carbon reduction group as well, and a large part of the engagement strategy would actually be having public consultations. So when we have such a plan in place if we do have like a plan for the community plan, I believe, we would be having a separate stages for a community engagement within that timeline. As it is with other plans that are developed by the city and they move forward from conceptual stages to actually getting a consultant and support getting all the support from a consultant as well. So we have different phases and there are plugs where community input is gathered and based on the input we have that's how we will gather your insights and use it to inform our decisions for the plan.

**Sharon:** **So would you be using the Engage Stratford website?**

**Sadaf:** Yes, I believe so, that is the City's official path to have community engagement. I also would be happy to bring up such like plans and all the different initiatives we have to the Energy and Environment Committee, my director takes it to the ITS Committee for input from different members as well as Council from there and I also imagine such engagement would be available for the community to participate in through the different social media channels we have and as well. As I understand, the town crier will also have something related to the community plan for input

**Sharon:** And **will there be public meetings?**

At this point I'm not sure if there are public meetings however. I've would have more information to provide once we really start with the plan and initiating the entire timeline for the plan. So I will be able to provide information at a later date as you know, currently. I have been with the city for two months and I'm still absorbing a lot of information on a daily basis and based on all the chats that I have with community members, based on my understanding of our key priorities, that's what I'm focusing on and I do imagine I will be reaching out to different groups of stakeholders and sort of developing a timeline that we can all adhere to it.

**Sharon:** So do you find — you're here from New Westminster, the big city, right? **Do you think there's going to be a problem with accepting new things here in Stratford?**

Well your question is very I guess it's packed I would say yes new Westminster is geographically different it has a different demographic it has around 18,000 people as a 20-21 census and Stratford is I believe 33,000 as per the 20 21 census there is a different demographic here, there is a different geography here as well so new Westminster has a lot of hills it has different priorities and concerns for citizens and Stratford has a different climate, so that's, Something to consider for the city as well, so I would say. There is a lot of opportunity we could tap into with Stratford as you know, we are not we're not reinventing the wheel, this is nothing radical that we're planning or I'm proposing it's it's nothing of that sort as I mentioned a lot of cities around the world as well as throughout Canada have been successful in implementing such plans, not doing anything radical but actually helping supporting the community in understanding what needs to be done in order to achieve any sort of ambition reduction opportunities, so I would — I guess I would disagree with you in that way, we are not doing anything radical we are not trying to reinvent the wheel it is something that has been done we have so many examples from so many different places that we can tailor specifically to Stratford and all the opportunity it has.

For example, although Stratford has like 33,000 residents according to the census, there is a substantial amount of tourists like a large number of tourists do visit each year, and I've had a chat with Destination Stratford and they provided me the numbers — so 1.5 million tourists actually visit Stratford each year so that is something that also needs to be accounted for. I wouldn't compare that to any other city. However, I would like to understand the entire context behind having this influx of people who come in each year, or at least six months and also account for those emissions.

So I know it seems like a tougher challenge. I understand the community might be resistant to change but change management is also a piece of this puzzle, it also needs to be accounted for and with all the great individuals we have in this group and I'm sure we have many such groups, I'm sure we can find an equitable way to reach our targets and it doesn't just depend on the city developing a plan and expecting the community to just follow it. It also means that the city —and my position, of course is always there to provide support and help out, and make people understand what needs to be done.

I hope that answers your question

**Sharon:** Yes. We've actually got two more questions for you; we've got one from Alan who said (and I see you too Mike, and I see Geoff) but Alan says **"do you see community engagement as more than gathering input will the community be included in actual real decision-making?"** Good question

Sadaf: Great question, thank you Alan! Maybe you can also advise just for my understanding and clarification what you mean by actual real decision-making so I can provide you further input.

Alan Kaspersky: When I refer to real decision-making — will decisions only be made at council or will you have the community involved in making decisions, will you put referenda out to people will you let people choose, in the community, what goals what climate programs they feel are the most relevant or the most acceptable, if you like, for this in this particular community. I mean, too often we leave decisions to 11 people rather than the 33, you know thousand people that live in the city and they pay the bills in this city.

Sadaf: Thank you for clarifying that. I do understand your point. It totally makes sense like real decision making includes the people and as for my understanding and for I believe I would say programs that come under my purview, we would be starting with a participation — some sort of strategy with the community — and I from the information that I've gathered from the greenhouse gas reduction plan, which is actually the first plan that I've reviewed as I started this position, was understanding where our community admissions are coming from and, based on those numbers — so building emissions as you know are 49 - 47 percent and transportation emissions are 39 percent so based on those numbers and definitely it's open to participation from the community as well, — sorry. I got distracted from you know, message — definitely we will be whenever we will be bringing out programs, we would appreciate community participation as I mentioned. I do plan to bring my programs to the Energy & Environment committee as well as there will be social media channels also identifying the programs and asking for input whenever that is necessary and also Engage Stratford.

So I do understand your point. But because I have reviewed and I've had a lot of conversations with several individuals, I believe the best opportunities to reduce our emissions is to rely on the data we already have and based on that we need to focus on buildings and transportation and all the programs that come under building and transportation or any source of admission reduction opportunities. If there are any programs that come out from them in the short medium and long term, we would definitely have public participation. But I would be able to advise you about those when the programs actually are in place for such participation from the public.

**Mike Sullivan:** My question had to do with public consultation. I'm not very happy with the city of Stratford's reliance on social media as how to contact 32,000 people. There are lots of people in this town that don't use Facebook. There's lots of people in this town that have no access to the internet. And the city seems to not want to directly contact people there. I've been here two years, others have been here lots longer— there's never been a piece of mail coming from the city unless it's my tax bill. **Is there a way that you can convince the City to be more direct with their outreach?**

**Sadaf:** Well, thanks for a question, Mike. I understand we've had a similar discussion last week, but maybe I can make it clearer as of now we do have the Engage Stratford platform. I understand it's online and I can bring this up with the decision makers which is not just myself, so maybe the leadership and council can actually think about more a more inclusive approach to involving the community and, maybe understanding what are the other ways how we can tap into all these great ideas as well as concerns the end thoughts that the community really wants staff and counsel to know. So at this point Mike I'm sorry, I cannot promise that this will go ahead but I can ask and take it forward to all the meetings I'm in and hopefully we can find a solution to this in the long term. So thanks for your input on that.

**Sharon:** So just a little thing. I'd like to add on to that and Engage Stratford website that they're talking about using. I take Mike's point that not everybody's on the web, but even when you're on the web, there are tools in there that will permit discussion more than just a one-way feeding into the system. There are a lot of different tools. So there might be a way of adapting that website to be more collaborative and community friendly — just a just a thought. Anyway, Geoff had a question.

**Geoff Love:** Yeah, I just thought I'd echo Allen and and Mike's comment about the importance to meet — what you're going to achieve is much better engagement because I've been here for ten years. I do work a lot of municipalities; this is not a city which normally engages with its citizens well and I think it's challenge so I just want to reinforce that.

I have three specific questions. I think one of the challenges you have is that and I'm glad we have a new Council. *There's a sense, I think, from the old Council that ... "well, it's a big issue ,we get the issue, but we really don't have much of a role in it,," —so I'm interested in how you're going to make sure the City sees they have a central role in dealing with the issue.*

The second question is that I'm not just asking whether or not you've done a critical review of existing plan and program because you know this business well, and I'm interested to hear whether or not part of your mandate is to say — I'm not challenging the target, I'm not challenging anything — *I'm just wondering whether or not, because you're so experienced the area, whether you've actually looked at comments on the plan that that might change as a result of your experience*

The last question is whether or not — again, from my perspective, both Enbridge and Festival Hydro are very passive as energy suppliers in the city — they're not really as active as some other local utilities are — *I'm wondering whether or not you have a plan for engaging the utilities in the work you're going to do.*

**Sadaf:** Thank you Jeff your questions are great, however I have forgotten about the first one, so if you can just repeat the first one I'll have an answer your question,

**Geoff:** Okay, my first one was just the whole issue — I'm talking with the old council so I'm gonna cut the new council some new new slack here — but *I never got a sense the council saw that greenhouse gas emission management is really a priority municipal issue it's much more for the federal government venture government and local citizens There's a cultural issue to me in terms of how much responsible leadership the city can provide in addressing the issue.* That's my question

**Sadaf:** Yes great question, and I am actually I'm really grateful because at this opportunity at this point in time I've just stepped into the role and I'm glad that new council has also stepped into the role, so I am really positive and I look forward to making them understand that our targets are although they're citywide, they're aligned with other cities targets and cities are getting there. It is actually — municipalities are at the crux of climate action, and there's so much that municipalities can do. There is funding available and I'm not sure how much support we could get from the province but there is a substantial amount of support available in terms of funding and dollars from the federal government so having that financial piece in addition to our target is very important so as I mentioned one of my reports that is going to Council on December 12th actually talks about the recent climate change initiatives and it is actually something that I would like the new council to read about everything that has been done until now —they must also know about our targets, so those are like I want to mention here because I think somebody asked the chat so our

targets are to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent from the 2017 baseline by the year 2030, which is in seven years and to also achieve an aim for net zero by 2050.

So making the Council understand these facts and also providing some sort of information on how we can get there how city other cities are getting there because I've done something similar for new Westminster and I believe it can be done if it can be done in British Columbia, why cannot it be done here so I am coming up with a lot of optimism and positivity that I hope to pass on to New Council along with a lot of educational resources and awareness and information. So please don't think that only the new council will be taking making all these decisions that we have to adhere to those it's nothing like that, it's all about community participation and rest assured the community's input is valued based on based on the data we have as well as community input that's how I imagine I would be bringing similar reports to council in the future

So please look forward to the agenda package, it will be released, I believe. By Friday, I'm not really sure but Friday is the day when that report would be released for public viewing as well as to all the council members. Because this council is new and there are six new council members, I am very positive and now I am happy to like provide support in terms of their understanding of our targets and how we can reach them.

Because as you know, Jeff and we discussed this previously, it's not just about making plans we can make the best plans but it's more about implementation, so once we have council buy-in —and we can see that we do have community buy-in — so that's that's great — if the implementation plan is as important or even more important than the planning phases or the conceptual phases, so I would I would maybe go to the second question now which is about our plan.

So the plan I have revealed the greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan as well as the 2017 baseline that I believe one of the climate change coordinators for both county developed for the city of Stratford as well as the county of Perth as well, so based on my understanding — I believe there are some data gaps that can be targeted now that I am bringing the implementation piece into play.

Although the plan is great, it has different components like governance, building and land use, transportation, waste and agriculture, I believe we need more of an action plan which is tailored to Stratford, and which takes into account the context behind just city emissions and not take into account the entire emissions of Perth County... Geoff, am I missing out on something please feel free to jump in

**Geoff:** No I just want to make sure that you felt licensed —because you're experienced, Sadaf, you know the space — that you will feel licensed to comment in the plan, change some of the emphasis — I agree with you it's all about implementation. I'm hoping you're not just adapting —my recollection is the very first recommendation to council was they set a target of 10% against what they thought could be done and I remember piping up in that discussion you get 10% by doing nothing — but virtually by the penetration of electric vehicles the county. All I'm seeing reflected to me is a profound misunderstanding of how serious this is and I want to make sure that because your experience, your knowledge, that you're looking at that plan with a critical eye, that's all I'm asking.

**Sadaf:** yes, please be assured I look at all plans with a critical eye and I actually compare it to other plans that I've reviewed in the past. I have developed and the implementation of the community energy

admissions plan for new Westminster I have developed that in the past years, so I have all the expertise that is required for developing plans, as well as implementation of plans so I do have some input and I have a lot of review comments from all the plans that have been developed for the city thus far, so it's not just the 2017 baseline and the 2021 greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan, there have been several other plans, starting from 2008.

So based on that. I do not want to start developing a new plan and waste, I guess I believe, two more years. However, I do want to start with and I intend to start with all the quick wins that we can take as a community, and maybe start with long-term medium term and short-term actions that the city — how the city can support the community to achieve in in in this timeline. So yeah, I hope that answers your question.

**Geoff:** My last question was just about also engaging Festival Hydro and Enbridge because I don't see them so far as being very active partners in in addressing the issue.

**Sadaf:** I believe festival hydro has been collaborating with the city and upgrading the street lights from metal highlights to LEDs. I did have a meeting with Festival Hydro and actually Festival Hydro is also part of the climate change working group that we discussed some issues like all the key priorities and this actually includes, I believe, two members from pesto hydro, but I have not had a chance to contact or work with Enbridge yet, so —and because Jeff I'm I've been here for two months. I would give myself a little bit of time to get more relationships developed with different stakeholders, so yeah.

**Geoff:** Fair enough, thank you.

**Laura Pogson:** You gave us a figure of a million and a half tourists a year, how was that number arrived at?

**Sadaf:** Well that number was —thanks for the question, Laura that number was provided to me by Destination Stratford.

**Laura:** That's what I'm worried about, because I want— I've been trying to find out how on earth they ever came up with that number. So if you find out let us know please, because it's very very doubtful. I wouldn't hang my hat on that. A million and a half? No. The festival only sold sells four hundred thousand seats and and many people go ten times so they're not tourists that are coming to Stratford.

We have a lot out we have a lot of sport events everything from curling to hockey to you know, basketball etc, but those people aren't tourists. They're here specifically for a sporting event. And likewise the patrons that serve the festival are not tourists, we never call them tourists with the Festival because they're patrons of the of the theatre you see, they're not touring. Yes, they use our restaurants and retail but... yeah, it's it's a very strange number that needs to be followed up with.

**Sadaf:** I will follow up, and if there's some sort of error from their end I would be happy to bring it to their attention, thank you.

**Jane Marie Mitchell:** I don't know if you're familiar with the rally that Fridays for the Future put on last weekend? One of the things that they were asking for was whether you have input to all of the departments and access to help in reduction in all of the night or are you just working on certain things?

**Sadaf:** I'm sorry, maybe you can clarify — do mean access to city departments?

**Jane-Marie:** yes you do you oversee what all of those departments are doing, see if you can help them with reduction opposed to being asked. Like, is everything included?

**Sadaf:** that's a great question. I would love to clarify this because I'm sure it's it's not common view, but a large part of my role is actually working with different departments and applying a climate lens to all the different projects programs policies and plans that are currently in place maybe they're being updated maybe we are planning new ones so I am involved in — maybe a different stages for different projects — but I'm actively identifying what emissions reduction opportunities we have.

For example, if we have building retrofits there that are planned for the future or maybe the short term for the six months to one year timeline, I do help staff — I can help staff — because of my technical experience I can help staff identify what opportunities we have and based on that recalculate our emissions reductions. I also mentioned to Mike and Jeff earlier, I believe in in a separate meeting that of all the city policies that we are bringing forward. I'm applying a climate lens to actually make sure that the policies are considered of our climate targets and all the reduction opportunities we can have so I hope that answers your questions so yes, I'm working with all the different staff. I am working with all the different managers as well in order to understand where we are so we have a pathway for where we need to go, not just for the community, but also for the city.

**Jane-Marie:** I was wondering not necessarily about new projects and plans but it's the everyday workings of, say, parks and rec and do you have access to going to help them in their efficiency for the way things are done. Not necessarily new plans.

**Sadaf:** Well I am here to apply climate lens to an environmental lens to all things under my purview not everything is aligned with my work but I do help them in understanding and providing support in where we can identify synergies or any emissions reduction opportunities.

**Sharon:** We have a question from Sheila who wants to know where biodiversity is on your radar, it will be wonderful to see longer grass, more native perennials, along with public education.

**Sadaf:** Thanks for your question, Sheila. I also appreciated our short chat. I believe it was last month— thank you for dropping by. So as I mentioned I have reviewed the greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan — it did have, to confirm, it it does have a section on ecosystem biodiversity as well as the environment so it's named natural systems and biodiversity. It does encourage the plantation of native species as compared to exotic species from wherever and also there is a strong focus on reducing invasive species by planting native species.

I believe a great part of this would be also public education because people love their lawns but we do need to make them understand that natives planting native spaces is is actually very climate friendly and it's a quick win that everybody can implement within their yards. I am in the process of drafting something and maybe we can use I know that Sheila has been— I know there there are some articles on our website from Sheila and I'm hoping we can actually use these as information and like the fact sheets that we have



we can also help amplify what we already have in order to make the public understand and help them into choosing native species above other species.

**Sheila Clark:** Certainly public education is a huge part and a very difficult part. You've already answered part of my question by saying that you're working with all of the departments, so that warms my heart. You would then also be meeting with the parks people and all of those involved in different aspects of biodiversity in the city. I'm very grateful for that and welcome.

**Sadaf:** thank you our intention is to find as many native species as possible so if there are any more updates and I hope that there will be in the future maybe quarter one to two 2023. I'm sure there will be some sort of public information and I would be happy to bring it to the energy environment committee for the public

**Sheila:** Wonderful, thank you.

**Sharon:** Is there anyway that the city can be involved with — speaking of invasive species — the fact that our nurseries sell invasive species. Is there any control that you would have like — Japanese Barberry, Periwinkle, you know, those those kinds of plants are for sale in our nurseries — do you have any role in... stopping that?

**Sadaf:** Well, I believe that actually comes under the purview of Parks not directly under my scope, so I would actually encourage you to reach out to our parks department and maybe advocate for this.

**Sheila:** Do you mean our Parks department is selling those?

**Sharon:** No, no, the nurseries sell them.

**Sheila:** You mean in the in the commercial nurseries —that's education. I hope you're all calling nurseries every year saying do you have made a plants.

**Sharon:** They don't have a lot, though, Sheila.

Catherine asks: are our city staff department staff or departments obligated to ensure a reduction in admissions — are they obligated.

**Sadaf:** Well the entire city is obligated to reduce their emissions and because I have just started my role I am I am presently obligated to calculate those emissions and make sure that we are making progress so not just for the corporation also for the city so I would also like to know here that corporate emissions actually account for one to two percent of the total emissions of any city so ninety eight percent of the emissions actually come from the community, so although the city can influence the community but not the hundred percent is the community's role to actually take things forward, although the city is committed to leading and providing all the support we can to reach our targets.

**Sharon:** I think Sheila's got a point with education I think it keeps coming back to education. Teachers do bring it back to education, don't we?

There was a question from Patricia who asks “Is there any chance the city will support a natural lawn program in Stratford?”

And can you — I guess we're all trying to figure out how do you fit into our city system as you probably have noticed there's been a bit of an adversarial atmosphere between some groups and the city and we're trying to figure out how you fit into that, I think.

**Sadaf:** Well I am actually not aware of any because I'm new to Stratford. I would really appreciate if you could bring me up to speed about these groups and the city. I have honestly, I'm not sure but I'd love to answer your question.

**Sharon:** About the lawns?

**Sadaf:** No the other question the one the one you just asked, how my role fits in with the adversary groups and the city so I'm I'm not sure where that means.

**Sharon:** I'm not making it clear enough but yeah, we basically I think a lot of us want to know how we can help you. How can we make this smooth? How can we really get everybody working together? That's what I'm talking about with adversarial. We have people going in different ways —right?

**Sadaf:** Well I'm here to lead the city's response and I would be happy to be a leader for the community as well because definitely my role is not just cities the corporate emissions, my role is also to understand and help reduce the communities emissions so as Sheila keeps mentioning yes education is it does play a huge part in it but another important aspect of it, I would say is making sure that your friends and families are also aware of our targets and a lot of word of mouth goes a long way. So it's not just about targets it's also about making small changes in our daily lives and making all these behavioral changes because guess what, these actually count. If you start taking public transit or using active transportation instead of using a gas powered vehicle for your shorter strips, it really adds up. And based on these small actions we can definitely — if we can take small actions we can definitely achieve bigger targets and have those actions in place where the community as a whole. So I believe how the community and how everybody can help participate and contribute to our emissions reduction targets and all our goals is by taking leadership it's not just me who has to take leadership and leave the city's response but it's actually the community members who have to be bold and take action for all the different programs that I imagine would come into play, soon perhaps maybe in the short term or even a longer term.

I would appreciate participation from the City, participation from the different community members if there's different supports, or if there's some educational piece that needs to be provided, we would be happy to provide information or awareness sessions.

I'm hoping we could use the E&E as a sound board and maybe have some workshops, if they are needed. At this point again, I cannot promise that this will definitely happen but this is something that we were doing at New Westminster for community engagement we used to have different online sessions just to make sure because of Covid we couldn't meet in person so this was definitely something on our radar and I do hope to use all my learning from there and use it here at the City of Stratford as well.

**Sharon:** Okay, I've got a really practical question here at the bottom. "Simple community project: garbage pickup once a week in residential neighbourhood involves a trucks going down the streets twice, once east and once west a plan for the west place. Perhaps it the western people put their refuse across the street on the east side and have one trip down the street. Makes sense to me. I mean did I say that right? You know, everybody put their garbage cans on one side of the street — I could do that. I guess that's a response to what you're saying that the citizens can come up with a response to problems.

**Sadaf:** There are simple aspects that have a simple solution. This is a great example for that, and I also want to mention that garbage disposal is not under my purview it's actually under public works and maybe maybe it's not public news yet but we did have a waste reduction coordinator with the city. Kate Simpson, she has moved on to another role with the city of Toronto, so we do not have anyone in her place at this point. I believe there will be someone who will step into the role maybe perhaps in the next month or so, so until that happens. I'm not sure who can take charge of the recycling questions or ideas, but I would encourage you to get in touch with public works maybe in the next month or so and ensure that this reaches the right individual who can actually take action

**Sharon:** So just to clarify: you're the climate manager. And you see that the garbage people — if they put in that little plan to move all the garbage cans on to one side of the street would save — I don't know — a ton of carbon, whatever. You see this. Can you then go to the garbage people and say "Garbage people here's a plan that will save emissions. Can you tell them to do that — can you encourage them to do it? I mean, do you just have to encourage or can you tell them — basically my question is: that's just a simple practical point, right? How would you deal with it?

**Sadaf:** I can get in touch with the manager of public works and bring forward this concern.

**Sharon:** yeah, so do you have to work that into some project or report that you're working on to justify it to the City?

**Sadaf:** I'm not sure if that will be required if it's something as simple as having us one side pickup, okay, maybe I can explore how this could be done without the need for a longer report or a lot of I'm not sure at this point, what it requires. I definitely I would like to understand how it doesn't seem like a difficult task honestly, but I would like to understand what is the correct protocol for going through although I can speak with the director of public works because this actually comes under him like I can definitely encourage that this would help reduce our emissions yeah. I would probably note this down, thank you for a great question

**Sharon:** Well another practical question for me would be — there is a plan in the city to remove one of our sidewalks and just have one sidewalk on our streets instead of two side walks. Apparently that's going to go on in my street and I would just like to know —like is that an environmental thing? Like, are cities doing this? Is this the new way we run cities, with one sidewalk? Because I just think that the the ability people might have a little problem with that

**Sheila:** Are they putting bike paths, Sharon?

**Sharon:** I am not sure but I know we're losing a sidewalk it's going to be like Brunswick (Ballantyne) Street, you know, they just take away one sidewalk and so I was wondering if that was a climate thing or if that had to do with with what Sadaf is working on.

**Sadaf:** I am not sure if that's a climate thing and I'm actually not sure what this entails what this plan entails. So if you put maybe in the chat box provided link to this information. I'd be happy to take a look because. It's it's not a climate thing. I mean, we are actually trying to find ways to encourage active transportation and this does not seem to align with that vision of ours

**Jane-Marie:** Wanted to make a few comments. Denis: that was a great idea that you had about one side. I've always encouraged one of my neighbour on either side of me we can put it together, so there's one stop as opposed to two, but that's even better so I like that.

Sharon, for the planning: my street was done in '67. We used to have a boulevard on either side and now one side has a boulevard the other like with grass and the other side doesn't, now, like when they were doing Ballantine, it was like one side of the street can have a sidewalk and the other can't and I think we're trying to utilize, especially when the roads were narrower make them wider. I think that's part of what they're trying to do. I don't know about that.

My question was. Um, **When you were working in these other positions were you there for a lot of the implementation part or the planning part? How did the implementation go?**

**Sadaf:** I'd be happy to clarify the implementation of the plans that I developed

**Jane-Marie:** so you developed plans? Were you there for for it to be implemented?

**Sadaf:** yes.

**Jane-Marie:** How did that go? Was it easy, did it need education? Sort of an overview of how.

**Sadaf:** Yes sure thanks for your questions so it definitely it is a challenge because there are so many different conflicting priorities to consider and a lot of different individuals have different concerns so it has been challenging it was challenging and I do envision it to be a challenge in Stratford as well. However because we have the same concern which is emissions reduction and encouraging active transportation reducing our emissions from transportation, for example, when it comes to roads I do see envisioned partnerships with the community and hopefully it would be a smooth transition and it does include a lot of community input which is which is great. I'm taking notes as we speak and a large part of the implementation piece will also come on the community as an onus so the community also needs to understand that maybe not use their trucks for short distances that actually waste a lot of fuel as well as pollute the environment. Does that answer your question?

**Jane-Marie:** yeah when you talk about waste —I commented one time about the Parks Board or some of the trucks for the City seemed to be on all the time and their comment was and I think it was from Eric Krinklaw that in the winter they keep them going to keep warm whether they're in it or not, and and then in the summer to keep them cool. So that was sort of a mandated thing that they do. I just want to comment on that.

The other other thing is for everyone that's here, apparently until next week, there is a survey for the waste development. Or the dump. So if you wanted to make some of your comments— if they don't view the

opportunity just add it something because sometimes they don't ask questions that we want them to ask. That would be a great question for them about the recycling and about the using one side of the street. The recycling part we maybe won't know until the federal government or the provincial government tells us what we're going to be recycling here, so it's going to be a chain there the same with the federal.

**Sharon:** Okay. Well. I'm still a little bit unclear about how we're getting the community involved. I know you took down Mike's point about social media not being the only way that we get news around and I certainly um, certainly subscribe to that. Did anybody else have a question for Sadaf? Said that we need a recycling coordinator.

**Sadaf:** So that position was open since September and it is now December and I'm I'm hopeful that there would be someone in place early next year. And they would be taking the lead on all the different projects. Kate was working on so this would be something for them to start with.

**Sharon:** And the last for me, a practical question, um. The E&E committee — **why doesn't anybody ever go to the E&E committee? Is there way that we can make the E&E committee more interesting for people? To make that a place where people can go and and listen to what said and and really participate.** I don't see a lot of people attending those committee meetings — do you have any ideas?

— for you know, there is social media — I agree with Mike that it's not for everybody — there are meetings, there is the website and there is the E&E but they're just pieces — they're not related to each other.

I don't know maybe they should all wear hats, what do you think?

We have to do something to get more people involved with what's going on. **I just wondered if you had any suggestions or ideas If New Westminister did it better.**

**Sadaf:** Is that a question for me ?

**Sharon:** Yeah, do you have any ideas — did they do something creative in New Westminister?

**Sadaf:** well, I believe we had a different approach at New Westminister. The E&E actually had one counselor and a few representatives from the community as well as city staff so the E&E was actually a sound board for city staff to present their ideas and presentations before before the advisory committee members as well as the couple of council members that I mentioned and based on their input and feedback that maybe for example a draft of a policy would be then taken forward to the mayor's task force on environment and climate, and based on feedback from that group we used to take it to council.

So there was a tiered approach, I would say, and unfortunately I'm not had a chance to attend an Energy and Environment committee meeting at the City of Stratford gets because of the elections all the meetings have been cancelled for the year and I do look forward to meeting the new council for the E&E, I believe I'm not sure who is who would be on the committee but I know that maybe probably Jo-Dee Burbach would be on the committee, so I'm hoping to understand how the committee works here. I know it's a bit different than how it was at New West, so maybe you could highlight how it is different here. Maybe a question for me from me to you

**Sharon:** Well. I think I think if I had a criticism of how it's done here and it's just coming to me actually it's the this fact that like it's all separate things. You can go to the E&E Committee and watch and you can go to the website and you can go and do this and do that but there's no really unified, communal way of communicating with Council. I just think that our communication is off and we should we should find a way to perk it up. Get together and work together — if we don't have communication we're not going to get very far.

**Sadaf:** Definitely um, so I if you would like to get in touch with how so I believe all their email addresses are on the website and you can all also drop into City Hall to meet the different council members whenever they drop by I know mayor Ritsma is there almost every day however as per my understanding the E&E committee is currently it's an online meeting that participants are encouraged to join through Zoom this might change in the future. Considering that we have the elevator it might be repaired sometime in the future as we heard in the council meetings in two weeks ago, so I'm confident that there could be changes in the future however, I'm not sure because of Covid and of all these restrictions as well as the elevator not working so we really have access it with the issues made to consider. So our intention is definitely to get a lot of voices on board so we make informed decisions moving forward, however, I would defer to council me that decision.

**Jane Marie:** Online meetings are good because some include a lot more people as they normally just had a small room really the public wasn't necessarily there and so it's engaging more people so that would be something encouraged to still happen because there's less emissions with people going to a Zoom meeting it's a committee — maybe I mean, they don't have anything to say all they're doing is watching but that would be a good suggestion and maybe even some of the other counts are advisory committees that we know what's going on — good education for us.

**Sharon:** Education —that keeps coming back

**Jane-Marie:** yeah. I'm a teacher too you want to join in you're a teacher too.

**Sharon:** Oh dear well, do we have any more questions?

**Denis Murphy:** Yeah, I have one more go ahead. Yeah, there is a speed limit in town especially during the construction along Highway 7 and 8 and downtown it really slows down the trucks. Anyways on I think it's makes it a little bit more safer but if you take Mornington Street and Waterloo Street the speed limit goes from 30 to 40 to 50. All within a within a 200 yards of the Falstaff school, it's a sort of strange isn't it? I hardly have time to get my bike from a stop to go across the street before another vehicle comes around and just about wipes me out. Because they usually go about 60 actually because they are times go beyond 40 or be or 50. And we have kids crossing all the time. You know, and there's some from from Veterans drive to Ontario Street it's 50 from the in front of the school it's 40 and come around the curb on Mornington. Street it going old highway number 119, it's 30 and you know, it's really confusing.

**Sharon:** Have you spoken to anyone about this, Denis?

**Denis:** I haven't asked anybody I just know that it's very contradictory, you know, and outside the city they have a. They have a experiment with limiting the. Local speeds to a lot of 30 KP hours and it makes it safer

for bikers makes it safer for pedestrians and cause of an off-road less accidents and the police aren't so busy. Hmm it's just a whole concept. Are we so much in a hurry? I mean, I'm retired now. I'm not moving as fast

And that, of course, brings us to the thing that we didn't we didn't bring up as wire what are we going to get bike lanes that are actually set off from the traffic is there any way that we can do that like on Ontario Street it's just you know, a system of bike lanes just never seems to be coming, seems to be coming but it never really gets here.

Yeah. I don't know it's just a lot of questions. Mm-hmm.

**Sheila Clarke:** And I just like to add one thing about any and I know you are aware Sharon, because you use the term, E&E and many others are just advisory committees they often have people coming from the city to present things that are happening in the city and the committee itself can come up with an idea and ask representatives from the city to come and hear it but it's it's not a — it is not a binding committee in any way. It can advise and that's it. If the advice is not taken — so be it

**Sharon:** I wonder if it wouldn't have more influence more people attended, you know I don't see a lot of people in those committee rooms when I go there, you know, It's usually just the committee and dealing with the business from the city or with the things that they have brought up, it would be great for people to perhaps present an idea to the committee or to talk to some of the committee members.

**Sharon** I know. I just find that the interface between the citizen and the city could be could be made a little bit better— just say that. That's not a criticism of any counselor. I mean, it's true you can call your counselor, your favourite counselor, but you know there should be something bigger than that bigger than the one-on-one contacts that you have — anyway, that's me, that's what I think you probably think something different yeah,

So we have made this poor woman talk for an entire hour so unless someone has any — does anyone have a closing question or unless anyone else would like, to add something I would like to thank Sadaf— that was really brave. It was really good of you to come and talk to us cranky people

**Sadaf:** I didn't know what I was signing up for.

**Jo:** Can someone hear me?

**Sharon:** I can hear you, Jo.

**Jo:** Two questions. I we we recently moved to Stratford and I I notice sometimes the air is so stinky. Is can we do something about it?

**Sharon:** Is that because we're agricultural community?

**Sadaf:** So Stratford is within a very rural community that that is agriculture base as Sharon mentioned. so, I'm not sure it's we have anything that I don't know if we can do anything to mitigate that smell. Oh maybe someone else has an option — it's not me.

**Jo:** When you think of it, if I'm a tourist from somewhere else, I wouldn't want to smell that, to be honest.

**Sheila:** Jo, I lived on a farm for 26 years and every time that aroma drifted over the, Countryside my husband would say, that's the smell of liquid gold. I think that we need to be cognizant of the importance of the agricultural industry to our to our area and maybe try to change your interpretation.

**Sharon:** So thank you very much for for talking with us. I'm going to go through this and I'm going to get it up on the website and I'm going to get people to tell people that it's there, and it really is a good start in hopefully an ongoing conversation ongoing back and forth between the community and our climate manager so I thank you very much. I sincerely thank you for putting in all this work.

**Sadaf:** Thanks for having me and I hope I was able to answer your questions. Those I was not able to answer hopefully we will have some answers in the future once I really get into the groove, as they say, and start with other pieces of the climate puzzle.