

Subject: Sartorius Project

From: David Gurk
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:26 AM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
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Dear Planning Commissioners,

I understand that the second phase of the large research and industrial building proposed for Research Park Drive by Sartorius will be up for approval at Tuesday's Planning Commission meeting. As I understand, the plan is to have gas heating for the building. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage the Commission to not approve the project with gas heating as part of the plan.

You may remember my name from previous letters on similar issues. You may remember the comments I made in person at the meeting in September where the Village of Ann Arbor project was under consideration. If you recall, I suggested that everyone's thinking must now change given the extraordinary global heat records that were set in the summer of 2023 and the extreme weather events that accompanied them: the Maui fires, the Canadian wildfires, and the deadly flooding in Libya. As I hope is obvious, those comments still stand, and they apply to the Sartorius project as well as they did the Village project. Only one thing has changed: since that meeting, the September global heat data has been released. I used the words "demolished" and "obliterated" to describe the degree to which the summer months surpassed the previous heat records. We're going to have to invent a new word for the differential between September's heat and the previous record for the month. Berkeley climate scientist Zeke Hausfather tried to capture it by saying that September's new heat record was "gobsmackingly bananas". I hope that provides a clear picture of what is going on. Language is starting to fail us.

The point remains the same for this project as it does for all new projects. All decisions we make must be now made in the context of what is happening to the planet, our only home. The notion that we would continue to allow new construction projects to incorporate fossil fuel heating is literally unthinkable. Business as usual is no longer an option. As you know, good alternatives are available. Please incorporate an understanding of what is happening to our planet in your thinking and your decision-making. Please do not approve the Sartorius project until they remove gas heating from their plans.

Thank you,
David Gurk
Chair, Washtenaw Climate Reality