

From: David Gurk <dgurk@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 5, 2022 12:57 AM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
Subject: The Village of Ann Arbor project

Dear Planning Commissioners,

As I understand, the final vote on the "Village of Ann Arbor" project off Dhu Varren Road is scheduled for the upcoming meeting this Wednesday. As I also understand, the developer has agreed to make the single family homes in the project all-electric with heat pumps but is sticking with natural gas for heating the apartments.

It is very gratifying to hear that the developer has decided to make the separate homes all-electric. We commend the developer for making that change in their plans. It shows a responsiveness on their part as well as a sense of responsibility. But why stop there? Why not go all-electric for the entire project, with a community-wide geo-thermal heating system?

Buildings are one of the greatest consumers of energy. We've got to do all we can to both minimize the use of energy in our buildings and make sure that all the energy used is green energy, not fossil fuel based energy. It will be relatively difficult to retrofit all existing buildings to use only green energy, but it is relatively simple to design clean energy systems into new projects. Why pass up the opportunity to do so here?

We've all seen the effects of climate change this year: The record-smashing heat waves in Europe, the increasingly severe droughts in the southwest U.S., and the cataclysmic flooding in Pakistan. We must understand that climate change is right here, right now, and the solutions must be adopted and implemented immediately. Most of us understand the need to fight climate change but that understanding must be more than abstract. This fight must take concrete form. Ensuring that all new buildings will be free of fossil fuel based energy is absolutely crucial to this fight. This is not the time for half-measures. Please do everything you can to persuade the developer to make the entire project an all-electric one.

Thank you,
David Gurk
Chair, Washtenaw Climate Reality