

July 17, 2024

**Subject:** Beyond a Number: Making Grand Rapids a Climate Justice Leader

Mayor Bliss and City Commissioners,

I am writing to encourage you and your colleagues in City Hall to take concrete actions to help achieve the City of Grand Rapids' community-wide emissions reduction goals of 62.8% per capita by 2030 and 100% by 2050.

Without meaningful policy implementation and adequate funding, goals remain goals. I want Grand Rapids to be a national leader in municipal climate action. And I want my 23 and 21 year old children to see that their elders care about their future.

We raised our children here and invested so much in them; they have both moved away to cities (Washington DC and Portland OR) that prioritize public transportation, walkability, and bikeability.

PLEASE, prioritize and honor our city's stated goals by increasing investment in public transit, walkability, and bikeability here, especially in Black and Brown neighborhoods historically impacted by environmental injustices.

I would love to see you show commitment to climate action goals by ensuring that the city's Office of Sustainability has more funds and staff to carry out their work as well as create a public dashboard to ensure transparency and accountability.

Finally, please *\*publicly\** acknowledge that the goals you have set are a floor, not a ceiling. Take every opportunity for additional support or funding that will help us reach our emissions reduction goals sooner than planned.

In the midst of an undeniable climate crisis, our community is counting on you to provide ambitious leadership. Our children reap what we sow.

Counting on you, Sara

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