



June 14, 2021

Dear Mayor Tarter and Members of the City Council,

On behalf of the Citizens for a Better City Executive Committee, I am writing to express our strong support for the May 14, 2021 letter to you from the Village Preservation and Improvement Society (VPIS) calling for strengthening our efforts to meet established climate change goals.

Results from recent greenhouse gas inventories performed by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments indicate our City needs to accelerate its efforts to reduce emissions, if it is to achieve the goal of reducing emissions 80% below 2005 levels by 2050. The Executive Committee supports the actions outlined in the VPIS letter, as well as those contained in the City's recent Comprehensive Plan update. We particularly support those actions that have important co-benefits for City residents, such as preserving and expanding mature tree canopy, adopting urban designs that give priority to safe walking and biking, and transitioning the City's vehicle fleet and school buses to electric alternatives.

At the same time, we think it is important to acknowledge the difficulty facing you as elected representatives in accomplishing this task. Greenhouse gas emissions are an invisible pollutant and reducing them will benefit future residents, most of whom we will not know. We also recognize the implicit challenges in the nature of the problems we face in what is truly a global crisis; indeed, even if our City could reduce its emissions to zero it would have no impact on arresting climate change. Still, if we don't act we will be abdicating our responsibility – a result at odds with our City's ethic and CBC's long-standing principles of responsive and responsible government..

Respectfully,

Tim Stevens, for

Harold (Hal) Lippman,  
President, CBC