

To the Whatcom County Council
December 5, 2017

The Council is, as usual, behind the curve, *and inviting citizens to waste their time on the county's behalf for free.*
On May 20, 2008, The Whatcom County Council adopted a
"Resolution establishing an Energy Resource Scarcity Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding the consequences of potential changes in the supply of energy resources on Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham."

The resolution was a response to concern by members of the community about "Peak Oil".

The task force met for a time and eventually published a report that ran about thirty-six pages. Full of tables, turgid prose, and colorful illustrations. It was full of doom and gloom about the future of "energy resources".

Today, the report might most easily be found as a piece shelf art and we all know what happened to "Peak Oil".

I offered to serve on the task force, but was informed that I would have to confess belief in Peak Oil to do so.

Now, in response to concern by members of the community, the Council is considering the creation of the "Climate Impact Advisory Committee".

This is occurring when, according to satellite data and radio sonde measurements, there has been little or no warming in the upper troposphere and below, the location of the "greenhouse effect", for almost twenty years.

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In addition, we've entered a PDO cool phase, and some experts think that we'll see near-term cooling.

The Council appears to be, once again, behind the curve.

Section 2.126.040 "Membership" would load the committee with members with experience in "climate change, renewable energy development, energy conservation, ... food security, and so on, suggesting a bias in the selection of members to serve.

In addition, the creation of the committee is being promoted by ReSources for Sustainable Communities.

Fortunately for the taxpayers, the members of the committee are to serve without compensation and the committee is to operate without county staffing and resources.

I applaud the efforts of citizens who are willing to devote time to an enterprise of this sort, but I wish that I had more faith in the council's willingness to take care to appoint committee members with more experience in energy production, land development, and traditional science fields at the post-graduate level.

I am not comfortable with the function of the committee to "Make recommendations to the ... Council about policies...encouraging and supporting a predictable shift towards clean energy and low carbon alternatives within the same or similar industry...". I don't think that the shift is predictable and I don't think that support of that kind is the county's business.

That said, I look forward to the creation by the committee of more lovely, useless, shelf art and less intrusion in county policy than I fear will be the case.

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