




# Pathways to Poverty

A CRITIQUE OF THE CALGARY  
CLIMATE STRATEGY –  
“PATHWAYS TO 2050” © 2022


# David Suzuki Foundation is pushing Calgarians to Support Calgary's "Pathways to 2050" Plan



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## Ask city council to support Calgary's climate strategy

Ask city council to support Calgary's climate strategy

On July 5, 2022, Calgary council will vote on a proposed climate strategy that will help the city reach its goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. It's a promising pathway to a sustainable, resilient future for the city.

Mayor Jyoti Gondek and many city councillors are serving their first terms, and they need to know your climate concerns. The more they hear from residents who want strong climate action, the more likely they'll be to pass the strategy and then champion climate-friendly initiatives that will make Calgary a more prosperous, sustainable and healthy place to live.

[Email council and the mayor now.](#)

Goal: 400

133 SIGNATURES OF 400 SIGNATURES

To:

- Mayor Jyoti Gondek
- Calgary City Clerk
- Calgary city council

Your letter \*

Dear [recipient name and position will go here],

If the City of Calgary passes the Calgary Climate Strategy, it will be committing to climate action and a goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. As a resident and constituent, I think this is commendable: a prosperous, livable, equitable city is important to me. I'm excited to see the city leading on climate.

On July 5, please show leadership and vote for the climate strategy.

First name \*      Last name \*

Email address \*      Postal Code \*

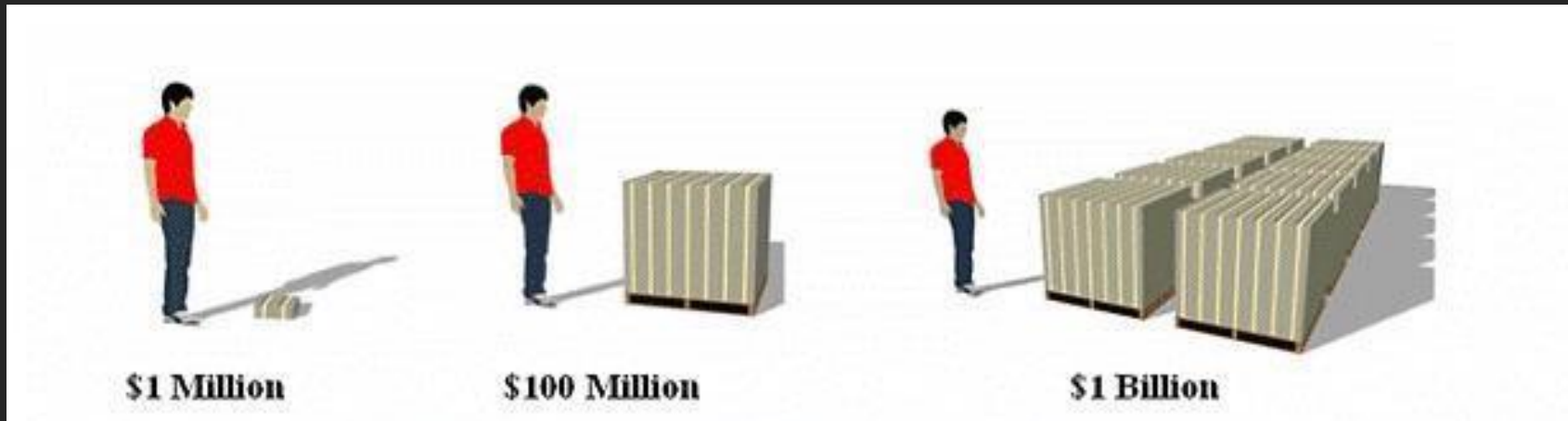
# Familiar Climate Alarmist Phrases Are Used

- committing to climate action and a goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 ...
- the city leading on climate ...
- we need bold climate action ...
- we can't afford not to act ...
- unprecedented opportunity to be a world leader



# Can we afford it, Calgary?

- \$87 billion



Representation is based on \$100 bills in packs of \$10,000 – extrapolated. Source: Page Tutor

# Calgary's Population is 1.6 million people



X 87

# Calgary City Council Must Explain:

- **Timing of the Climate Emergency Declaration:**
  - Even though they were silent about climate issues during the 2021 municipal election campaign, on November 9, 2021, just three weeks after getting voted into office, Mayor Gondek, with Councillors Carra, Dhaliwal, Mian, Penner, Spencer, and Walcott, prepared and sponsored the motion at Council (Attachment 2, page 88).
  - The timing of the declaration suggests that some of the sponsors, likely with the help of sympathetic members of City Administration, were quietly working on this declaration before the election.
  - **If it is so important, why did they not campaign on the issue, or was it because it was recognized as a vote-losing proposition?**
-

# Calgary City Council Must Explain:

- **Duration of the Climate Emergency:**
  - Normally, emergencies require urgent and immediate action to avert imminent danger or harm and, once that has passed, life returns to normal, such as when the federal government invoked the Emergencies Act last winter.
  - In this case is the “emergency” supposed to continue indefinitely, like a permanent Covid lockdown?
  - Even the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) doesn’t claim there’s a climate emergency.
  - In the latest IPCC Assessment (AR6) the only references to “climate crisis” or “climate emergency” appear in the WG1 report, Section 1.2.3.4 (Media Coverage of Climate Change). The claimed climate “crisis” or “emergency” is a media and social phenomenon, not a scientific one.
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# Calgary City Council Must Explain:

- **Reasons for the Declaration:**
  - Among the reasons given for the Declaration (Appendix 2, page 88) is a statement that Calgary and Alberta suffered six out the ten costliest Canadian natural disasters on record, with no details provided.
  - If this refers to wildfire damages (e.g., Slave Lake in 2011 and Fort McMurray in 2016) the reasons for the massive damage were poor forest management and insufficient setback between buildings and the edges of the forests.
  - The Calgary flood of 2013 was a weather event, exacerbated by poor management of water flows in the rivers prior to the event.
  - Calgary's downtown is built on a floodplain, so floods are a constant hazard. Mitigation measures like the Springbank dry dam will protect against future flooding at far less cost than spending billions to achieve net zero.
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# Calgary City Council Must Explain:

- **Cost of the Mitigation Plan to Reduce GHG Emissions:**
  - The plan has an estimated cumulative capital cost of \$87 billion by 2050, or \$3.1 billion/year (Agenda, page 3). Since Calgary's net expenditures for 2022 are \$4.5 billion, the mitigation cost alone would represent 69% of all current municipal services.
  - Even the most ardent climate activists on Council must realize that such an increase in City-financed expenditures for the next three decades won't fly with the electorate.
  - Appendix 4, page 4 of the Strategy, lists funding sources (federal, provincial, property taxes, municipal climate tax, off-set levies, franchise fees and user/service fees) with no indication what proportion of the \$87 billion would come from non-municipal sources.
-

# Calgary City Council Must Explain:

- **Net Zero Retrofits**
  - Attachment 2, page 25 states that by 2030, 3% or 19,000 dwellings annually, are to be converted to net zero emissions, with all converted by 2050.
  - Page 32 notes that retrofits “can be more expensive and complicated than simply building new buildings to a net zero emissions standard are construction.”
  - Does this mean that City bureaucrats will have coercive power to order homeowners/condo boards/rental owners to vacate their dwellings for months during the retrofitting? (The same paragraph on page 32 contains the words “eventually through regulation.”)
  - How much will the owners be expected to pay for what, in most cases, will be more than the value of their existing buildings?
-

# Calgary City Council Must Explain:

- Who are the beneficiaries of this plan?
  - Attachment 3, page 15 lists participating organizations for the Calgary Climate Panel. Many of them (3DphC, Avalon Master Builder, BILD Calgary Region, BOMA, Brookfield Residential, Built Green Canada, Canada Green Building Council, Siemens Canada, Solar Homes Inc., Urban Systems, WSP Canada and Zs2 Technologies) have obvious commercial interests in the Climate Strategy.
  - With \$3.1 billion/year to be spent over the next three decades, these organizations stand to do well by “doing good.”
-

# Calgary City Council Must Explain:

- Will City Hall Bureaucracy be expanded?
  - Moreover, managing \$3.1 billion/year is going to require an expansion of the City Hall bureaucracy. Besides being well compensated at above-market rates, thanks to their unions and sympathetic Council members, the bureaucrats would enjoy guaranteed employment for decades and enhanced control over citizen's lives.
  - What of the additional long-term burden of pensions?
-

# Calgary City Council Must Reject the Climate Strategy

- In view of the foregoing, implementing the proposed Climate Strategy would make Calgary less prosperous, because of all the money being diverted to activities that would make no measurable improvement to air quality or health.
  - In fact many of the 19,000 households/year being evicted while their dwellings undergo expensive retrofitting would suffer mental health impacts.
  - The only beneficiaries from the Strategy would be rent seekers with commercial interests and bureaucrats.
  - Council should reject the Climate Strategy and get back to fundamental purpose of local government — providing daily municipal services to citizens.
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# Calgary's 2020 Climate Plan Did Not Succeed



**CALGARY 2020**  
THE CITY OF CALGARY'S 10-YEAR PLAN TOWARDS imagineCALGARY

**GOAL:**  
**Prosperous Economy**

A FOCUS ON BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE | A FOCUS ON PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY | A CITY THAT ATTRACTS, DEVELOPS AND RETAINS.

Calgary is the undisputed choice for people and business, with a vibrant, resilient, environmentally sound and sustainable local economy that fosters opportunity for all to achieve individual economic well-being.

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CITY OF CALGARY

Calgary

## There's an additional 311,000 square feet of empty office space in downtown Calgary



4 downtown buildings and 2 in the Beltline totally vacant as downturn lingers

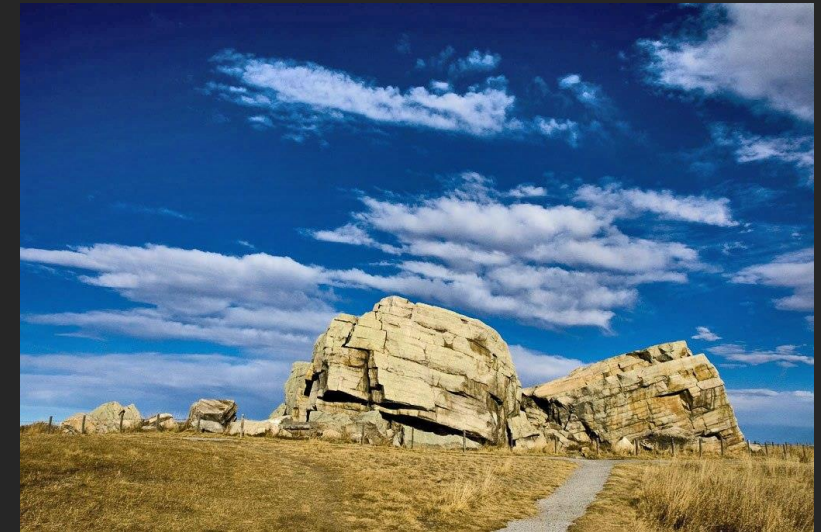
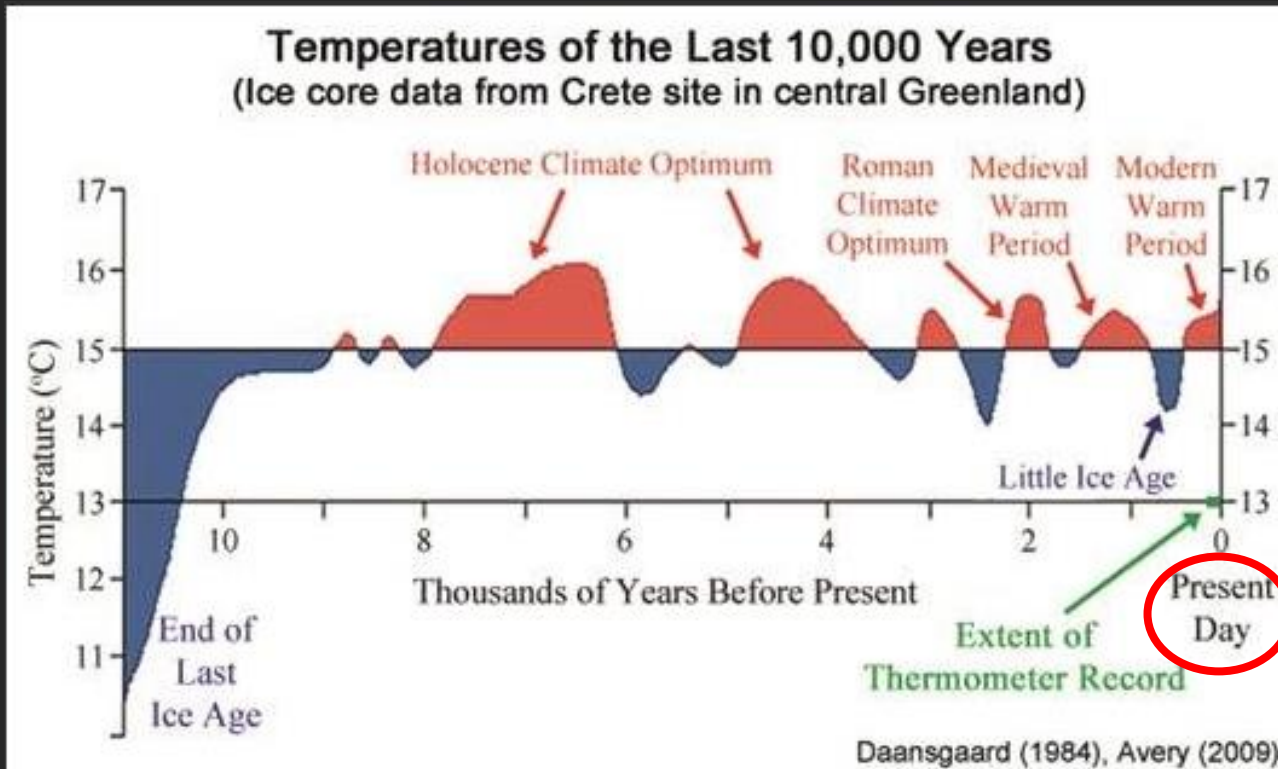
CBC News - Posted: Oct 16, 2020 12:40 PM MT | Last Updated: October 16, 2020



Avison Young's third-quarter office market report for 2020 says Calgary's downtown office vacancy rate is 25.7 per cent. (John Gibson/CBC)

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/office-vacancy-empty-buildings-avison-young-report-calgary-downtown-1.5765214>

# How would \$87 BILLION stop Mother Nature?



Okotoks "Big Rock" 16,500-tonne (18,200-ton) glacial erratic was pushed from Jasper to south of Calgary by glacial activity.  
*Coaxial at English Wikipedia, CC BY 3.0*  
<<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>>, via *Wikimedia Commons*

VOTE NO!

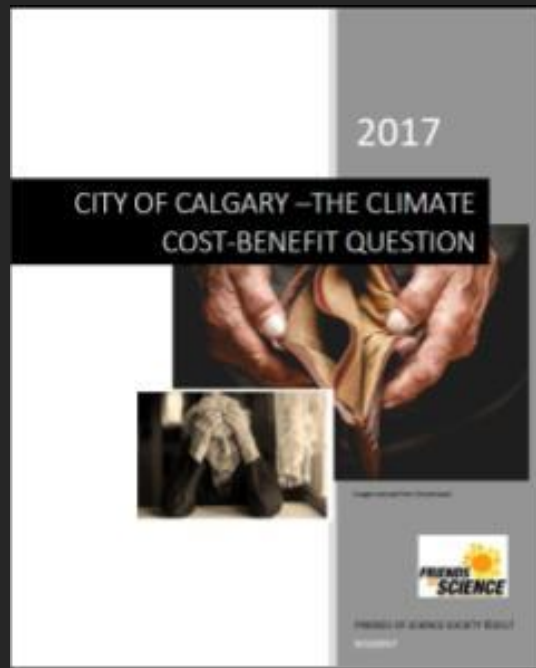


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# Read our Reports – For background on Climate Activism at Calgary City Hall: /2



***“By the fifth century, men were ready to abandon civilization itself in order to escape the fearful load of taxes.”***

*Decadent Societies, by historian Robert Adams*

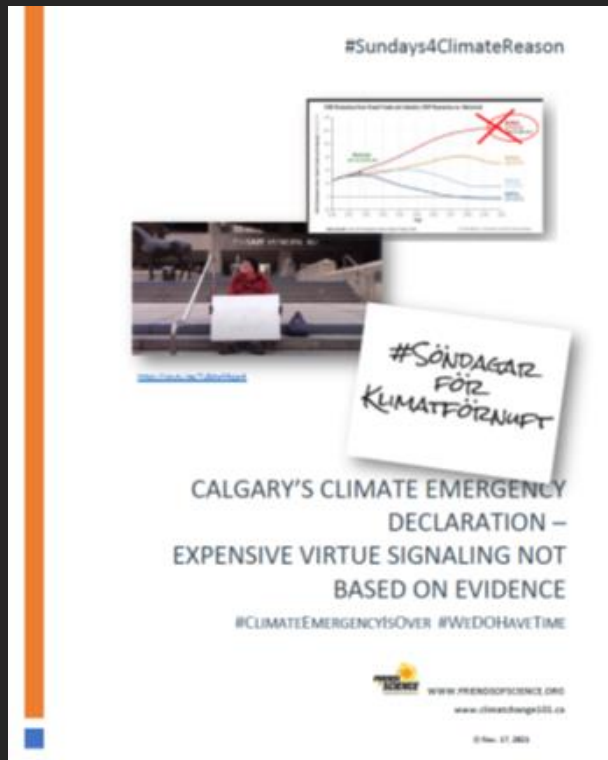
Read our City of Calgary Reports.

<http://blog.friendsofscience.org/2017/09/13/the-cost-benefit-question-on-city-of-calgary-climate-change-plans/>

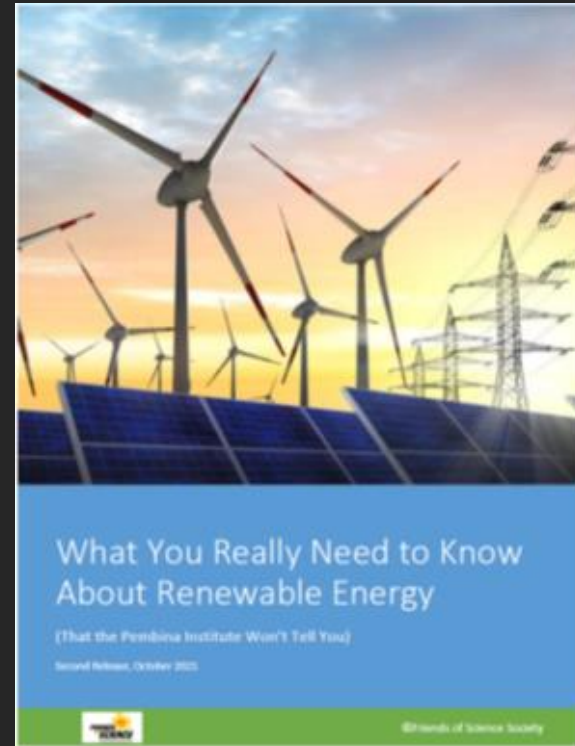


<https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2017/09/13/the-cost-benefit-question-on-city-of-calgary-climate-change-plans/>

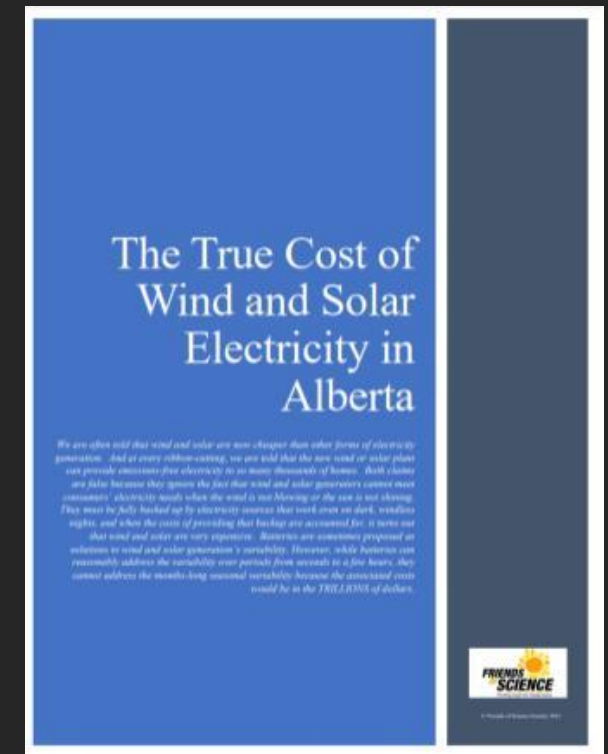
# /2 Read about the REAL Costs of Climate Emergency 'Solutions' /3



<https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2021/11/17/calgarys-climate-emergency-declaration-virtue-signaling-as-energy-crisis-brewn/>

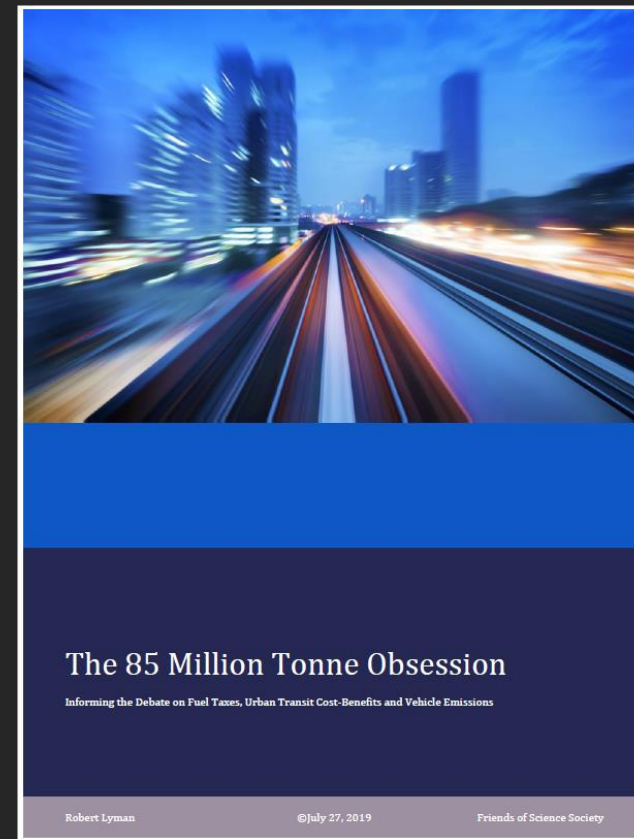
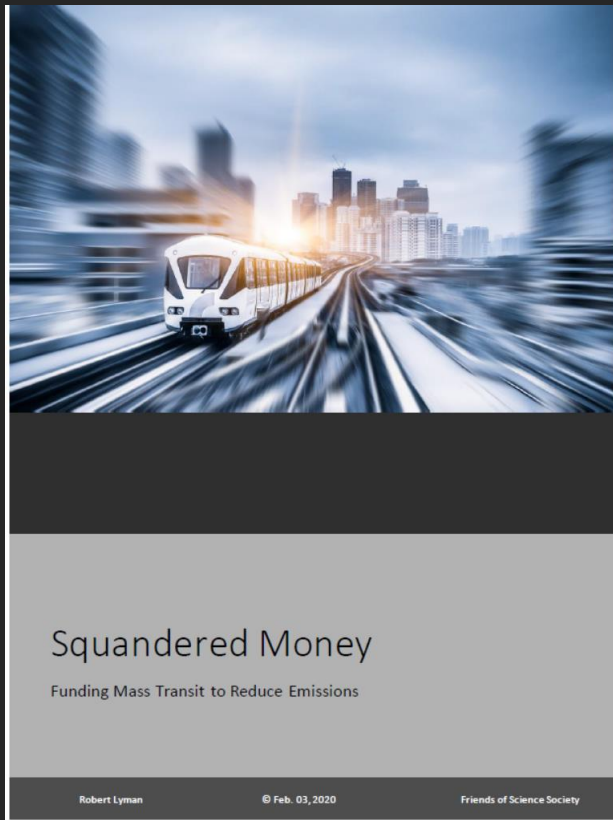


<https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2021/10/20/what-you-really-need-to-know-about-renewable-energy-that-the-pembina-institute-wont-tell-you-parts-a-and-b/>



<https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2021/04/25/the-true-cost-of-wind-and-solar-electricity-in-alberta/>

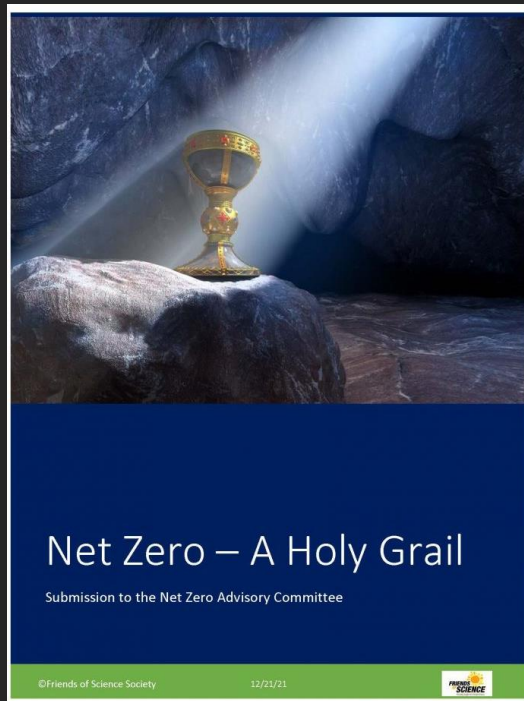
# /3 Reports on Squandered Public Funds/4



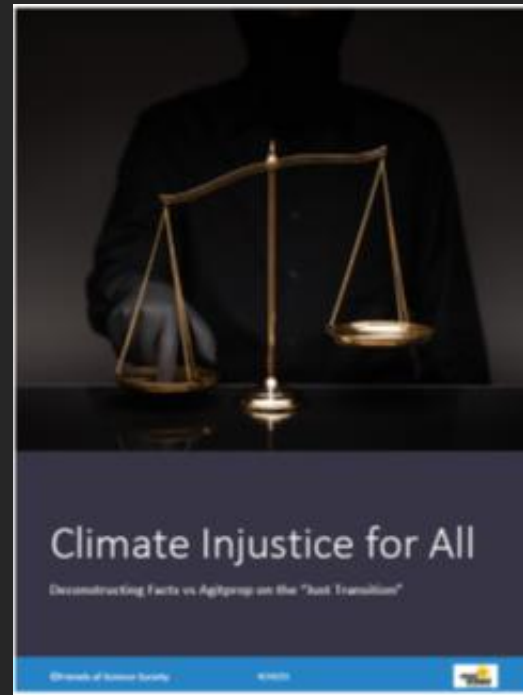
<https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2020/02/03/squandered-money-funding-mass-transit-to-reduce-emissions/>

<https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2019/07/27/the-85-million-tonne-obsession/>

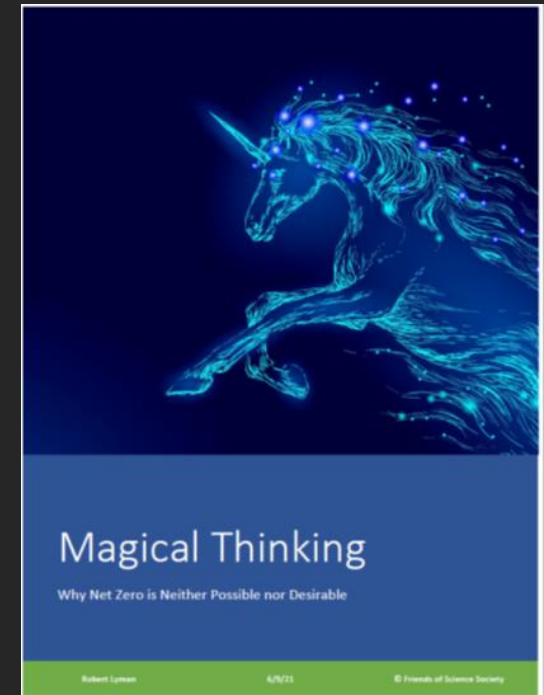
# 4/ Reports on Net Zero



<https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2021/12/22/net-zero-a-holy-grail/>



<https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2022/04/14/climate-injustice-for-all-deconstructing-just-transition/>



<https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2021/06/09/magical-thinking-why-net-zero-is-neither-possible-nor-desirable/>

# About Friends of Science

- Friends of Science Society is an independent group of earth, atmospheric and solar scientists, engineers, and citizens that is celebrating its 20th year of offering climate science insights. After a thorough review of a broad spectrum of literature on climate change, Friends of Science Society has concluded that the sun is the main driver of climate change, not carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

Friends of Science Society

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