

Candidate: Jeffery Simpson

Riding: White Rock

- 1. Many communities don't know how much climate change is costing them at present, and will cost in the future. Will you commit to putting systems in place to identify and track those costs?**

My platform is both environmental (I'm also calling for a ban on single-use plastic bags in White Rock) and focused on providing increased information to the voters through more open and accountable government and data.

- 2. Will you work to develop and implement climate adaptation plans to reduce the harm that climate change causes in your community? How will you fund climate adaptation?**

Yes. There is funding at the federal level for some of this, available to cities. It is also a better use of the Community Amenities Contributions than the current city council in White Rock is putting them to (capital projects of questionable need)..

- 3. Will you commit to protecting taxpayers by seeking to recover a fair share of climate costs from the fossil fuel companies who profit from selling products that result in greenhouse gases? Specifically, if elected, would you ask your Council to:**

- a. Send Climate Accountability letters from your community to major fossil fuel producers demanding that they pay their fair share of local climate costs caused by their activities and products?**

I am for doing this, though I do not believe that it's possible to shame fossil fuel producers into coughing up money and I do not know how much control any single municipality has over them (especially a small one like White Rock).

However, I am willing to do anything in this area that could help.

- b. Press the province of BC to enact Liability for Climate-related Harms laws to give municipalities and others greater legal certainty, lower costs and timely resolutions if they sue to recover climate damages from fossil fuel companies?**

Absolutely. The provincial, and federal, governments have much more influence over the fossil fuel industry than a single city. I am eager to have White Rock push for more accountability from both higher levels of government.

- c. Explore legal action against fossil fuel companies to recover a share of local climate costs?**

There are several areas where White Rock will be facing increased costs due to climate change, particularly around the rising levels of the ocean on our waterfront. I believe it is only right that fossil fuel companies help with those costs.

4. In your view, why is it important (or not) to hold fossil fuel companies accountable for your community's climate costs?

The fact is that we don't really know how much adapting to a warming globe and rising sea levels is going to cost, particularly for an oceanfront city like White Rock. Local governments are going to be pressed for large-scale costs in adapting to protect property, citizens and more. If we are able to recoup some of those costs from the companies that most benefited from the causes of climate change - then we should try to.