

Good evening, Mayor Mays and city councilors.

My name is Eric Strid. I'm a retired high-tech CEO, now working for our children to slow climate change while also saving money.

Last year in the first trial seeking climate damages from oil companies, Chevron, Exxon, and three other oil companies shifted from denying climate change or denying that humans are responsible for it, to agreeing with climate scientists about fossil fuel effects on our climate.

Then they blamed customers for using their product! If that sounds like tobacco companies blaming people for choosing to smoke, that's because they're using the same legal tactics and even the same PR firms. Yes, our largest polluters now claim that you're the problem, not them. It's not their fault that their product is grossly defective and dangerous, or that they've lied to us for decades.

Climate change is undeniable now. International scientific organizations recently warned that we have only about a decade to drastically reduce our emissions from fossil fuels and other sources--or risk mass extinctions and even the end of organized civilization.

Those politicians who are beholden to fossil fuel dark money have now retreated to their last resort--claiming that the clean energy revolution is not affordable. But nothing could be further from the truth.

Two years ago, I led a small team that inventoried the energy usage of Hood River County for their energy plan. We found that 2/3 of the money spent on energy goes to gasoline and diesel fuel, the rest mostly to electricity and some natural gas. After all the vehicles in the county are electric, the county will be spending half as much on energy—that's saving \$40 million on fuel annually (>\$1600 per person just from transportation fuels).

I state this with certainty because electric vehicles are growing exponentially—and that's because they're four times as efficient and cost 1/3 as much to fuel. Why did Amazon recently order 100,000 electric delivery vans? I believe their earnings per share mattered far more than looking green.

So what is an appropriate response of a small jurisdiction to the climate emergency? I'm biased, but I think the Hood River County Energy Plan has done a great job of prioritizing the right goals and strategies. Its first overall goal is to dramatically cut fossil fuel usage, thus saving many millions while cutting toxic pollution, increasing resilience, and keeping energy spending in the region, if not the county. That also cuts the climate pollution, but the pragmatic effect of cutting fossil fuel usage is that the savings will snowball as we adopt the new technologies.

The Dalles and Wasco County should be racing Hood River on most of the metrics in the plan. Who doesn't want to save money for residents and businesses, make the mid-day air smell like pre-dawn air, increase local energy resilience, and support local businesses?

I'm available to help. I'm currently working with the Hood River County Energy Council and the Oregon Electric Vehicle Collaborative, both on accelerating electric vehicle adoptions.

Thank you for considering this critical topic.