



CAFES Impact Report 2022



CAFES Ottawa
Community Associations for
Environmental Sustainability

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ABOUT CAFES

Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES) is a network of residents and citizens' associations in the City of Ottawa, established in 2010 and active on unceded Algonquin territory.

Members of CAFES are community association environment committee chairs or green point persons in citizens' associations. We also have individual members who are citizens active in their communities and concerned with living in ecological balance.

In 2022 there were over 200 Ottawa residents in our network, from 43 different community associations and 6 citizens' organizations. Our members include representatives from urban, suburban and rural communities in the municipality of Ottawa.

CAFES has embarked on an organizational development journey. In 2021, CAFES became a federally incorporated non-profit, is governed by a member-elected board and managed by its executive director. CAFES has been successful in pursuing some small grant funding to begin to build a base of organizational capacity.

CAFES plans to move to a paid membership model in 2023, welcoming both individual and organizational members.

What we do

OUR MISSION & VISION

Our mission is to advocate for environmental sustainability and to promote climate action and leadership in Ottawa's neighbourhoods through a membership-based network of residents' associations, key stakeholders, and community groups.

Our vision is a city of Ottawa that is environmentally sustainable, and where residents live together in neighbourhoods that are healthy, inclusive, and livable for all.

OUR MANDATE

CAFES' mandate and organizational purpose is three-fold:

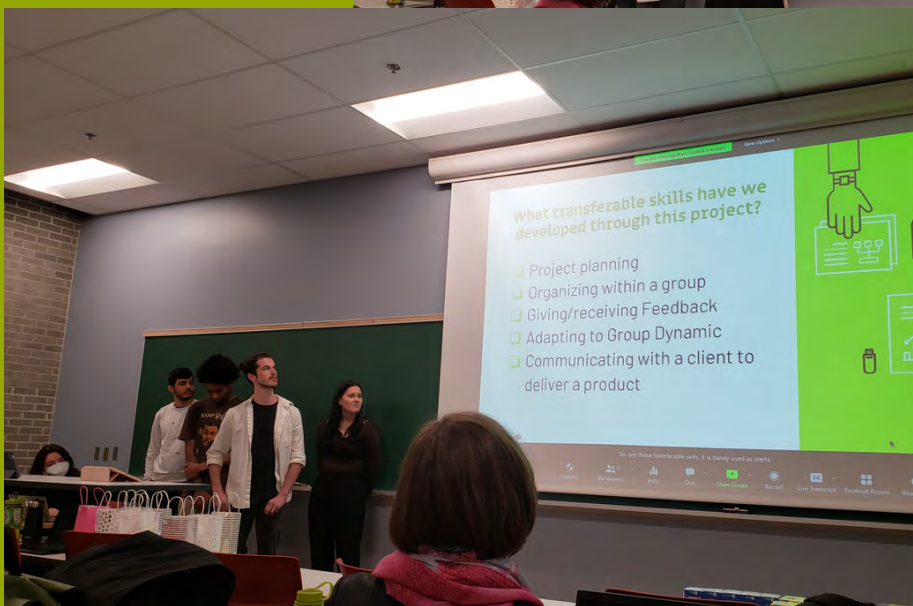
1. CAFES seeks to promote local and neighbourhood actions and initiatives to create healthier, greener and more participatory communities.
2. CAFES strives to be an effective advocacy network of organizations and individuals with representation/reach into rural, suburban and urban wards of Ottawa encouraging responsive municipal political leadership and respect for the Algonquin Anishinaabe host nation. We monitor and hold to account the policies and environmental performance of the City of Ottawa and where applicable, other levels of government and businesses and residents.
3. CAFES builds community by connecting like-minded individuals to work together on local issues, fostering discussion, problem solving, collective action and sharing best practices.

LOCAL INITIATIVES
ADVOCACY
COMMUNITY
BUILDING

PROJECTS

CARLETON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

CAFES partnered with The Carleton University undergraduate class *Foundations in Community Engagement*, taught by Professor Deborah Conners. Through this project, groups of students assisted Dalhousie Community Association (CA), Hunt Club CA, Kanata Greenspace Protection Coalition, Centretown CA and Glebe CA to create communications materials to promote local projects. The products included social media content, press releases, videos, posters, and news articles. The students presented their products and reflections on the learning experience at an event on December 8th at Carleton University. This was an opportunity for post-secondary students to learn about community associations, for community associations and students to learn from one another through their collaboration, and for the CAs to receive support on promoting their environment and climate efforts.



Climate Resilience

IS OUR COMMUNITY READY FOR INCREASED HEAT AND STORM EVENTS?

JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL PANEL DISCUSSION ON NOVEMBER 17TH FROM 7-9PM

Jointly hosted by the Centretown and Glebe Community Associations

CENTRETOWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION **GLEBE** COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

PROJECTS

OTTAWA GREEN BIN GROUP OF 7



CAFES joined a collective led by *Gentle Ways for our Planet* striving to boost the adoption of green bins and green bin use in multi-unit residential buildings (MURBs). The aim of this collective is to help divert organic waste from landfill as past studies have shown that up to 50% of garbage going to landfill in Ottawa is organic waste. This project led to the creation of a Green Bin Implementation Kit to assist Ottawa residents in getting the Green Bin Program implemented in their multi-unit residential building and/ or increase the participation of building residents in the organic waste program.

NEIGHBOURHOOD CANOPY REGENERATION PROJECT

Work continued in several neighbourhoods across Ottawa on the Neighbourhood Canopy Regeneration Project in 2022. This project has been working to build the capacity of community associations in Ottawa to engage with their residents and to contribute to regenerating the urban tree canopy in their own community. Eight community associations have been part of this project and have organized various projects including:

- Purchasing and planting trees
- Hosting tree giveaways
- Conducting tree inventories
- Planting trees
- Walkabouts with city foresters
- Providing information to residents on City of Ottawa tree programs and resources

PROJECTS

CLIMATE ACTION SURVEY

This autumn CAFES developed a Climate Action Survey with the help of a Carleton practicum student in order to gain insight into what Ottawa residents think and know about climate actions at the individual and city level. The survey was launched in December 2022 and the results will be used to inform future messaging and climate campaigns. Findings are posted on the CAFES website [here](#).



COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CALENDAR

In December 2022, CAFES launched the Community Environment & Climate Calendar to promote events happening across the city. Initiated by Veronika Kratz and the Carleton Climate Commons, we began hosting the calendar on the CAFES website and shared it as a collaborative project, inviting organizations to become regular contributors and anyone to share events to add to the calendar.

February 2023						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
		Owls Rendez-Vous @ Museum of Nature	Owls Rendez-Vous @ Museum of Nature	Owls Rendez-Vous @ Museum of Nature	Owls Rendez-Vous @ Museum of Nature	Owls Rendez-Vous @ Museum of Nature
		Dark Ice @ Ottawa Art Gallery	Dark Ice @ Ottawa Art Gallery	Dark Ice @ Ottawa Art Gallery	Dark Ice @ Ottawa Art Gallery	Dark Ice @ Ottawa Art Gallery
		Climate Cafe	CAFES Climate Caucus	DiscoverEE Webinar: IESO Save On Energy Programs First Nations Communities		Valentine's Wormy Pop-Up Market
		The UPTick project: Information about the project and other tick-related research studies in Ottawa neighbourhoods	Noons for Now: Carbon and the City with Mike Fletcher			Climate and justice Cafe
		How to Recruit and Engage Youth in Your Nature Organization				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Owls Rendez-Vous @ Museum of Nature	Owls Rendez-Vous @ Museum of Nature	Owls Rendez-Vous @ Museum of Nature	Owls Rendez-Vous @ Museum of Nature	Owls Rendez-Vous @ Museum of Nature	Owls Rendez-Vous @ Museum of Nature	Owls Rendez-Vous @ Museum of Nature

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

CAFES has helped with communications and outreach for citizens to signal their care and concern for environmental and climate issues at various events.

OTTAWA CLIMATE STRIKE SEPTEMBER 2022



RESISTING BILL 23 WITH THE PEOPLES OFFICIAL PLAN COALITION



Peoples' Official Plan coalition -- 2022 11 15
Stand with City of Ottawa against Bill 23 Rally



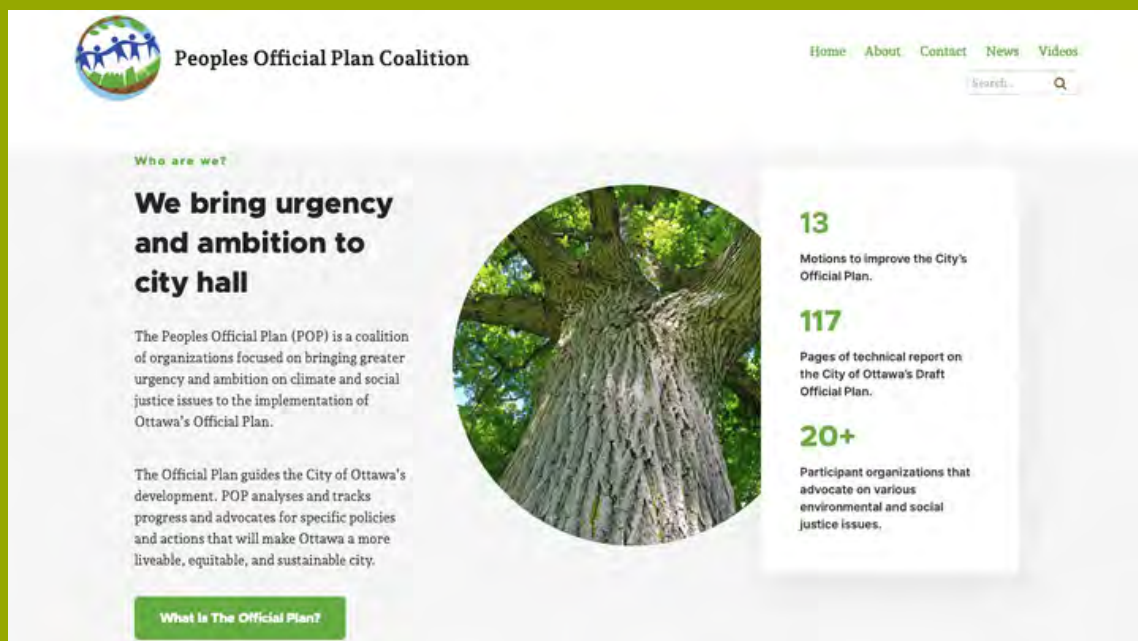
COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

CLIMATE & TREE CAUCUSES

CAFES' two caucuses met several times in 2022 engaging community environmental leaders. These caucuses aim to create collective space for consultation, sharing experiences, concerns, deliberation on advocacy and action across the community. CAFES caucuses also serve as a sounding board for CAFES advocacy positions in our continuing monitoring and watch-dog role of the municipality on environmental issues. In 2022 the Climate caucus discussed the city's High Performance Development Standard as well as climate resilience. The Tree caucus discussed the ongoing neighbourhood canopy regeneration project, allowing residents active in tree projects in their communities to share and learn from others. The Tree caucus also presented an opportunity to share best practices for controlling/managing spongy moth infestations and invasive plant removal.

PEOPLES OFFICIAL PLAN (POP) COALITION

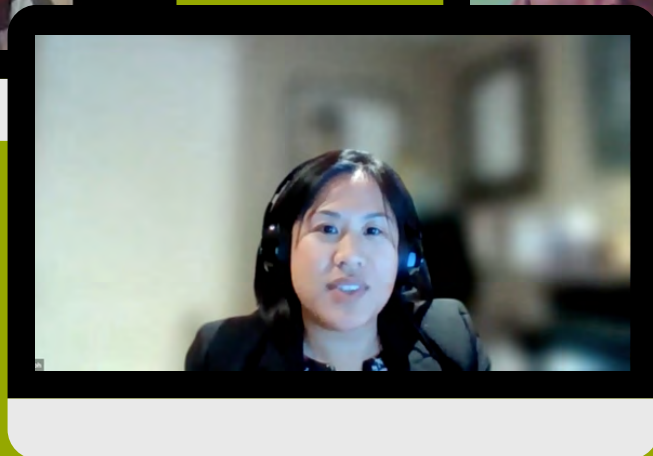
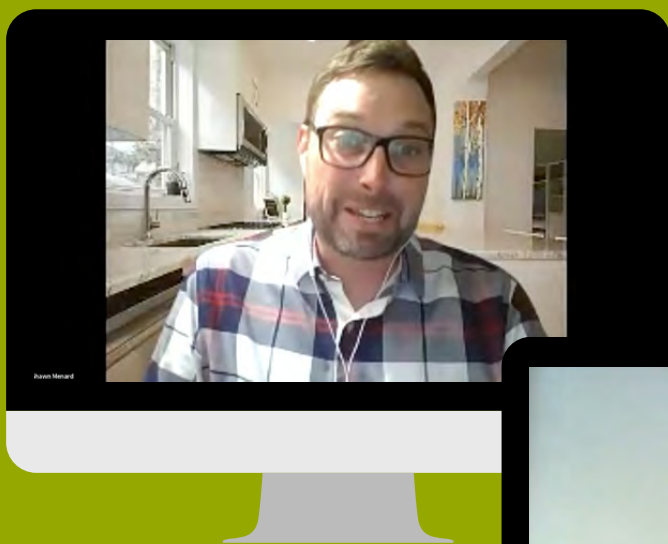
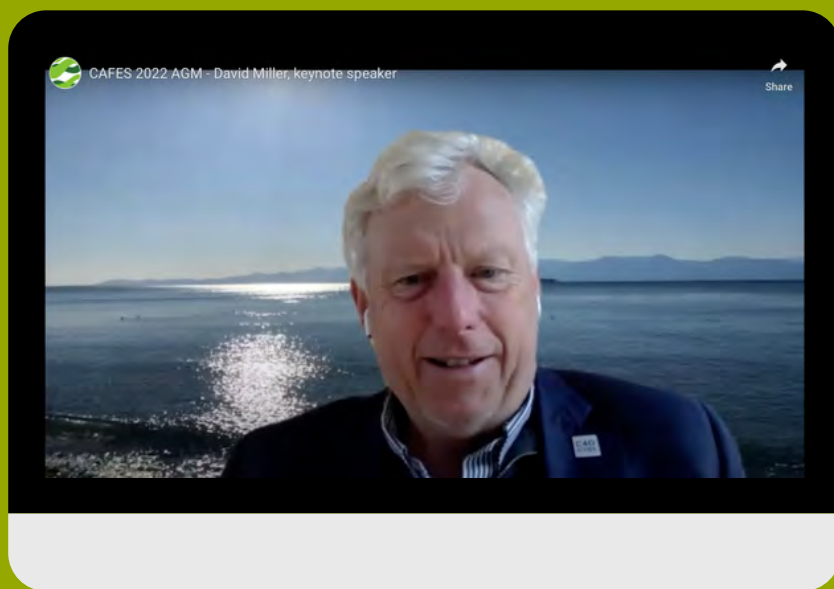
CAFES continued to organize with the Peoples Official Plan (POP) Coalition, taking a lead on communications. In the lead-up to the municipal election, CAFES led the organization and coordination of POP's Mayoral Eco-debates. In fall 2022, CAFES developed a [new website](#) for POP. CAFES also contributed to an open letter in response to the Ontario government's Bill 23 and helped organize a rally opposing this piece of legislation.



EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On March 21st 2022 CAFES hosted its AGM via Zoom as an educational event. We were fortunate to have David Miller, former Mayor of Toronto and current Managing Director of C40 Centre for City Climate Policy and Economy as our inspiring keynote speaker. This was followed by a panel with Councillors Moffatt and Menard, Chair and Vice-Chair of the City of Ottawa's Standing Environment Committee, moderated by Gillian Koh from the Hintonburg Community Association.



EVENTS



Susie Fairbrother- Protect More



Valérie Chartrand-Web of Life



Angela Keller-Herzog presents for CAFES at Dalhousie CA AGM



CAFES pollinator plant sale at Great Glebe Garage Sale May 2022



Sharing experience: Miyawaki forest and pollinator garden project at Champlain Park



Building tree-protection cages for Glebe Collegiate schoolyard tree planting project



CAFES - Foret Capital Forest - Ecology Ottawa end-of-season sapling rescue



CAFES info table at SMARTNet Alliance Sustainability Fair

EVENTS

MAYORAL DEBATES ON CLIMATE & THE ENVIRONMENT

CAFES took a lead on organizing four mayoral eco-debates with the Peoples Official Plan Coalition. The debates were held in: Barrhaven, Kanata, Orleans, Centretown



Photo: Magdalene Carson



Photo: Feliks Welfeld



Photo: Magdalene Carson



Photo: SAIRYO



Photo: SAIRYO

The debates were a huge success, bringing out over 2000 people to learn what ideas aspiring mayoral candidates had to address environmental issues at the municipal level. The debates elevated the environment and climate change as a core issue in the 2022 municipal election. After the final debate in Centretown, CAFES worked with SAIRYO, a music label and digital platform to create a shorter 12 minute highlight reel.

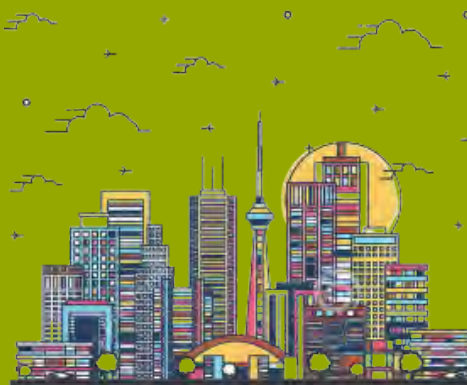
CITY ENGAGEMENT

HIGH PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT STANDARD

A big area of advocacy for CAFES in 2022 was around the City's development of a green building standard, the High Performance Development Standard. CAFES kept track of the city's process developing the standard, got staff to agree to hold public information sessions in January 2022, and analyzed the draft standard. CAFES members met with city staff and city councillors and made public delegations to the city Planning Committee to advocate for it to be made more effective and ambitious. CAFES also released a report detailing a comparison between Toronto's more comprehensive Green Standard and Ottawa's High Performance Development Standard.



OTTAWA



TORONTO

[you can find the comparison study here](#)

CLIMATE LENS ON THE CAPITAL BUDGET

For several years, CAFES has been an outspoken advocate in favour of the City providing a climate lens analysis for Council decisions, policies and capital asset management. This advocacy bore fruit in that the draft Budget 2023 includes a climate lens on each capital project in the capital budget.

911022	2023 Climate Change Master Plan		Class of Estimate:	Not Applicable																							
Dept:	Planning, Real Estate, & Economic Development	Category: Service Enhancements	Ward CW	Year of Completion: 2023																							
Reduces greenhouse gases?		Yes - Major Contribution		2023 Request	5,000																						
Builds climate resiliency?		Yes - Major Contribution		Projected Yearend Unspent Bal.																							
The Climate Change Master Plan is the overarching framework for how the City of Ottawa will reduce emissions (climate mitigation) and build climate resiliency to current and future climate conditions (climate adaptation) in Ottawa. It includes eight priorities including Energy Evolution: Ottawa's Community Energy Transition Strategy and the Climate Resiliency Strategy. Energy Evolution is the framework for how Ottawa can achieve its greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and it identified 20 priority projects to accelerate action and investment. The Climate Resiliency Strategy will build on the Climate Projections for the National Capital Region report and the Climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment and will identify actions to mitigate the greatest risks. Funding for this initiative will be used to implement the Climate Change Master Plan.		Revenues		0	Debt																						
		Tax Supported/ Dedicated		5,000	Tax Supported/ Dedicated Debt	0																					
		Rate Supported		0	Rate Supported Debt	0																					
		Develop. Charges		0	Develop. Charges Debt	0																					
		Gas Tax		0	Gas Tax Debt	0																					
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		Authority	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000																					
Spending Plan	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000																							
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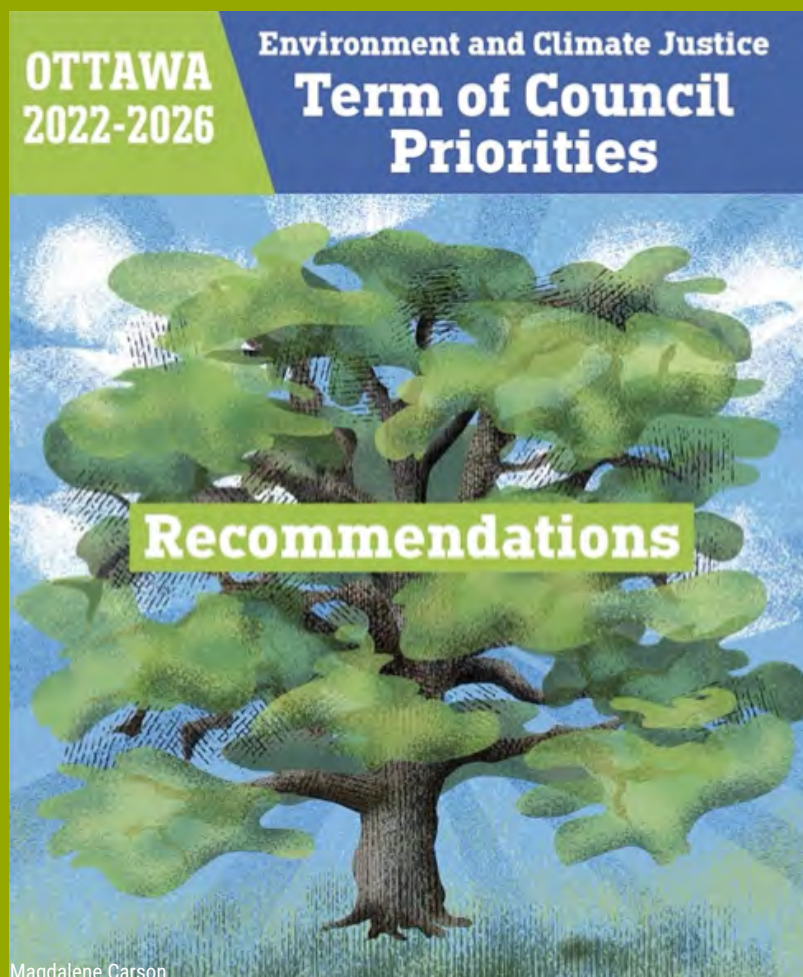
CITY ENGAGEMENT

NEW COUNCILLORS' ECO-BRIEFING

In November 2022 CAFES convened an eco-briefing for newly elected city councillors and joined with Ecology Ottawa, Greenspace Alliance, Waste Watch Ottawa and Ottawa Riverkeeper to brief them on the local environment and climate context in Ottawa. CAFES emphasized the need to implement the Energy Evolution Plan among other issues.



ELECTION TASK FORCE/ TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES 2022-2026



Looking forward to the 2022-26 term of this Council, CAFES has presented a set of recommendations for setting Term of Council Priorities. The [document](#) is the result of several months of work by a team more than a dozen strong, and was consulted in the CAFES network in fall 2022. It includes nine chapters on a range of themes from governance to protection of ecosystems.

The recommendations are being presented to City Councillors and the Mayor's Roundtable on the Environment.

ADVOCACY

PUBLIC DELEGATIONS TO CITY COMMITTEES

CAFES made numerous pertinent and informed public delegation presentations to City of Ottawa Planning Committee and Standing Committee on Environmental Protection, Water and Waste Management on a variety of topics including:

- The need for long term climate finance
- Creating an ambitious High Performance Development Standard
- How prepared is Ottawa for climate change? (Climate resiliency)
- Improving composting rates in Ottawa
- Volunteer stewardship of community spaces
- Implementing a stronger anti-idling by-law
- Improving the tree protection bylaw
- Supporting a land-first Parkland policy
- Opposing zoning changes for the Tweddle 1015/ 1009 Trim road development on a Provincially Significant Wetland



CAFES public delegation presentations are available on our website [here](#)

CAPACITY BUILDING

In 2022, CAFES continued to build as an advocacy organization in Ottawa’s environmental landscape, allowing us to grow our network. This involved internal capacity building, improving our communications and website and employing two interns.

TECHNOLOGICAL CAPACITY

We worked to improve our website, including streamlining our process to sign up as a member and using our CRM software to enable bulk messages such as our bulletins to be sent out to a large audience in segments. We also began the migration of our Google group of several hundred users to our new forum.

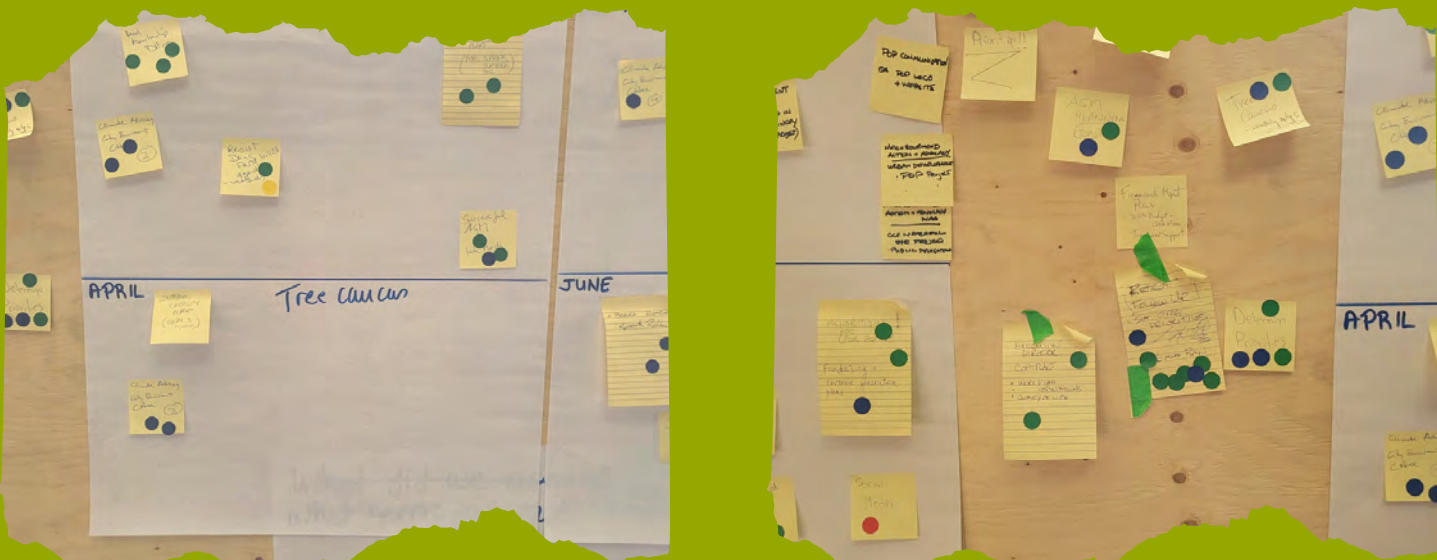
INTERNSHIPS

CAFES hired two interns through the Capacity Building Institute Internship Training Program:

- Brien Watson- Project Manager
- Mary Stuart- Climate & Environment Coordinator

CAFES STRATEGIC RETREAT

In December, CAFES held a strategic retreat for its board of directors and ED to discuss CAFES’ achievements, strengths, challenges and to chart a path forward for 2023 and beyond.



WHO WE ARE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022

Barbara Ramsay, Chair & Treasurer
Joan Freeman, Vice-Chair,
Liz Bernstein,
Dinah Robinson,
Gerry Churchill,
Mary Hegan,
Akil Mesiwala,
John Milton

STAFF

Angela Keller-Herzog, Executive Director
Laura French, Administrator
Brien Watson, Project Manager,
Mary Stuart, Climate & Environment
Coordinator

WITH SUPPORT FROM

- Capacity Building Foundation
- Alterna Savings
- TD Friends of the Environment
- Ottawa Community Foundation
- Electricity HR
- Succession
- Peace & Environment Resource Centre

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT AND ENGAGEMENT!

Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability
cafesottawa.ca
info@cafesottawa.ca