

**OTTAWA
2022-2026**

**Environment and Climate Justice
Term of Council
Priorities**

Recommendations



CAFES Ottawa
Community Associations for
Environmental Sustainability

February 8, 2023

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CAFES Recommendations for City of Ottawa Environment & Climate Justice – Term of Council Priorities 2022-26

Purpose of this Document

The goal of this CAFES term of council priorities document is to provide a structured outline of our recommendations for the key issues in the area of environment and climate justice, based on substantive analysis by informed citizens. This document contains achievable proposals that residents can use to set their expectations and to message their local government over the 2022-2026 term of council. The priorities have been compiled by a group of CAFES volunteer contributors and reviewed by the CAFES network and board.

We work to engage a wide audience of interested and active citizens, community leaders and media. We hope that you too benefit from our document. We also hope to stimulate and engage public interest in environment and climate justice issues, and encourage you to hold your elected leaders to account on these issues. Find out where they stand and why.

The Ottawa 2022 municipal election has brought new local leaders to our City Council. It is an exciting time for residents and an opportunity for new perspectives, new initiatives, new projects, and new collaborations. We are keen to start the discussion of the environmental and climate justice agenda. You can reach us at info@cafesottawa.ca.

The Ambition We Seek

We are living at a critical juncture in history. We are facing a climate emergency, a housing crisis, and a homelessness crisis. Just as we have set targets for our greenhouse gas emissions and ecological protection, we can set targets for livability, affordability and social protection.

We want to build and grow Ottawa, using good urban design and livability principles that allow all of our residents and businesses to prosper and thrive. We also want to build in a way that strengthens our health, strengthens our social foundations and strengthens our care economy. We seek to build and grow in ways that do not waste or pollute, and ensure an ecological heritage for our kids and grandkids.

The incoming city council will be responsible for enhancing the resilience of our city to the local and global impacts of the climate emergency, including extreme weather impacts and economic and social pressures. We need to ensure that the costs and benefits of this adaptation are fairly shared, that the needs of marginalized communities are met, and that climate justice is prioritized. Our built and natural environments shape how we live. Let's get them right.

Given recent passage of Ontario bills 23 and 39, it is very important that the City Council be committed to proper, transparent and participatory planning. Future planning must be done in a manner that recognizes the threats posed by climate change, and must foster a more equitable city.

Environment and Climate Justice Priorities

**OTTAWA
2022-2026**

Governance



We seek a city council where the mayor and councillors collaborate and cooperate to find solutions and pathways forward. We need leadership that heals and repairs divisions, rather than reinforcing divisions as a manipulation to govern. We would like a city hall that listens to neighbourhood voices, works in the public interest, and undertakes meaningful, timely public consultation processes that present options and evidence.

Governance

Reconciliation

Commitment to listen actively to the representatives of the Anishinaabe Algonquin host nation at Council, heeding civic and cultural protocols, respecting elders and knowledge holders, setting milestones for consultations, and aiming for a future ecological protocol that respects water, air, land and our fellow creatures.

Collegial Collaborative Governance

Peer commitment on council to a collegial and collaborative style of governance.

Accountability

All decisions guided by agreed Term of Council Priorities, results and risk-based management, tracking and reporting. Climate and equity lenses applied to all council decisions to take into account both the climate and housing affordability emergencies; and senior staff performance reviews to include climate and equity metrics. Results should be reported at city, ward and neighbourhood (community) levels.

A senior general manager should be mandated with intersectional responsibility to deliver on the city's climate change and environmental goals, and a senior general manager should be mandated to deliver on social and equity goals.

Standing Committees

Proposal for mid-term governance review: The Planning and Housing Committee and Agricultural & Rural Affairs Committee are devolved into three regional panels along

the lines of the three panels of the Committee of Adjustment. Each panel consists of three Councillors from the respective region, plus one Councillor from each of the other regions;

All Standing Committees should balance gender, rural, suburban and urban representation.

Feasible Alternatives

Reports to Committees and Council should offer feasible alternatives, and their arguments' pros and cons, not just a recommended option.

Transparency

Comprehensive reporting on term of council strategic priorities including a roadmap and key indicators. A commitment to inclusive deliberation and transparency of decision making, including timely availability of documents, and consultation that goes beyond show-and-tell. More meaningful information in the Lobby Register. Strengthened conflict of interest policy. Planning and economic development responsibilities should be separated.

Consultation

The City of Ottawa implements a consultation policy. Citizens should be consulted early, and with sufficient notice to ensure broad participation. Process is updated to increase the accessibility of public consultations to allow for participation and meaningful dialogue. This could involve offering virtual sessions as well as hybrid consultations.

Participation

Restoration of resourced Citizens' Advisory Committees with a mandate to advise staff, committees and council in a timely manner. The City should engage the Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee (ESAC) or its successor early on in policy, programming and budgetary matters so they can offer meaningful input rather than pro-forma consultations.

Evidence and Data

Data and consultant reports are shared with the public. Updated data governance plan and an accessible open data portal.

Local Works Process

Affected communities (not just people within 100 metres of proposed construction and developments) are notified by the city.

Green Procurement

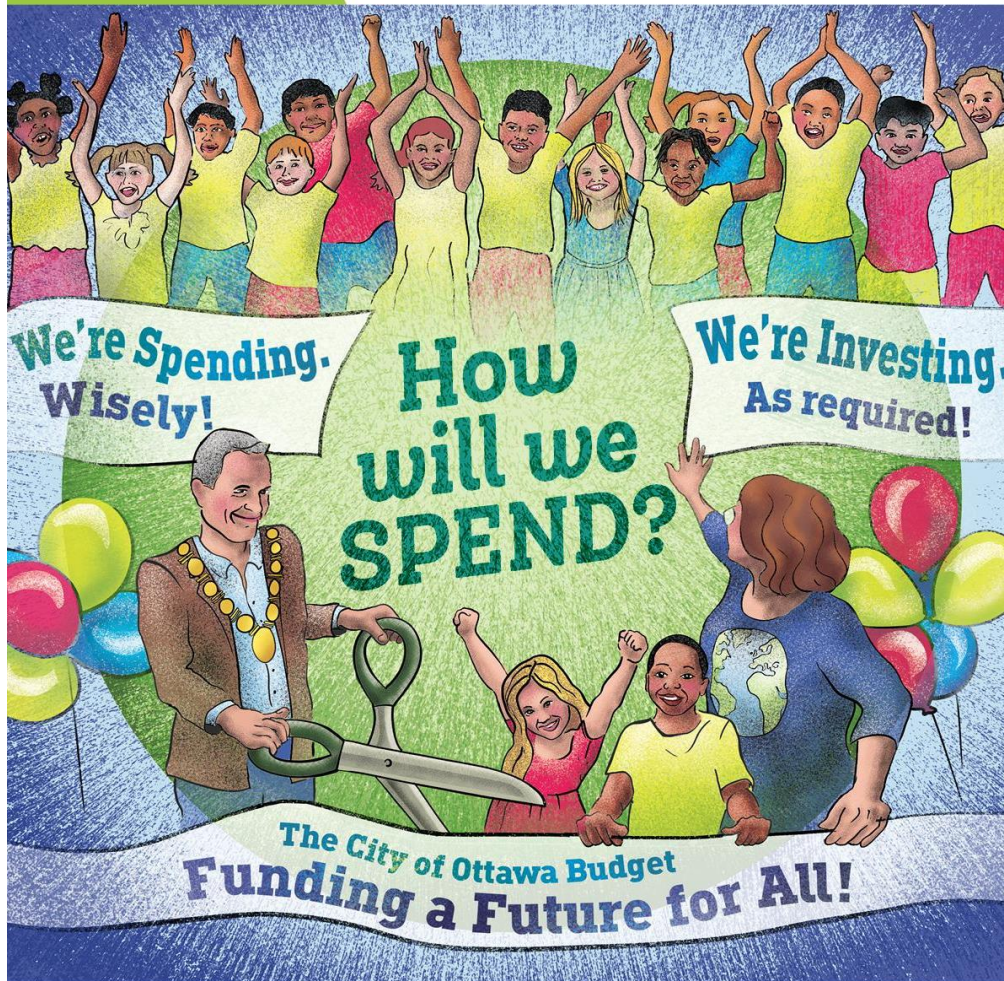
Use of life-cycle costing and accounting for social and environmental externalities (carbon lens) in comparing the public benefits of different procurement choices.



Environment and Climate Justice Priorities

**OTTAWA
2022-2026**

Budget



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Environmental Sustainability

Any organization's annual budget is the purest, most fundamental expression of its purpose, priorities, and intentions. No organization can meet the targets it refuses to fund and staff, or that it underfunds and understaffs. Priorities are made real through financing. The budget must reflect the city addressing the balance of challenges and emergencies of our times.

Budget

Clear Language and Budget Structure

The City's budget needs to be presented in plain, forthright language, so that both citizens and councillors can understand in detail where the tax money is going and how capital costs are being financed. Budget includes, for each proposed line of business, brief reports on previous accomplishments, including quantitative data, and trend data covering the previous five years. Budget categories should make intuitive sense.

Climate and Equity Lenses

Budget allocations and capital asset management planning and decisions use climate and equity lenses, in order to ensure that public spending:

- Addresses inequality or at least does not increase inequality across neighbourhoods;
- Does not allow investments that lock in fossil fuel infrastructure and resulting greenhouse gas emissions;
- Actively supports the city's climate emergency and net-zero commitments by prioritizing programs, investments, and community initiatives that drive rapid decarbonization.
- Ensures that vulnerable and low-income communities are protected from climate risks and share in the benefits of climate mitigation programs.
- Ensure that vulnerable and low-income communities have equitable access to essential needs such as food and housing.

A Long-range Climate Financial Plan

Climate change is a core consideration of all financial and regulatory decisions for the city. A long-range climate financial plan serves to:

- Orient funding shares for federal, provincial and municipal levels of government for climate investments
- Multi-year financial plans and clear budget lines for the funding of the implementation of the Energy Evolution Plan and the Climate Resilience Strategy.
- Segregated green bond financing for capital assets that are net zero or low carbon.

Costing of Climate Risks Using Recognized Methodologies

Costing of climate risks using the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures methodology should be conducted and disclosed, in order to make rational investments to harden critical infrastructures and save lives (from heat and other emergencies).

Municipal Climate Fund

A segregated municipal climate revolving fund is created, building on the methodology developed for the Zero Emissions Bus Program Reserve Account. Returns from climate investments and energy savings are deposited back into climate finance.

Green Infrastructure

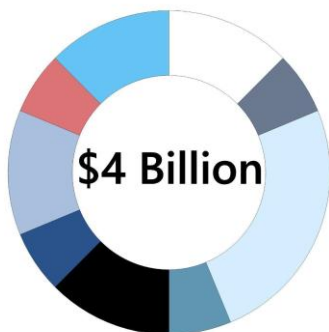
Clear and separate allocations for green infrastructure (including maintenance and expansion of the urban canopy) alongside grey infrastructure in the City's Capital Asset Management plans.

Ottawa Land Trust

Budget for land acquisition by the Ottawa Land Trust, in order to meet the climate and housing emergencies. Provide for additions to urban parkland, as density increases with increasing heights. City sets ambitious minimum greenspace requirements per 1,000 units of housing.

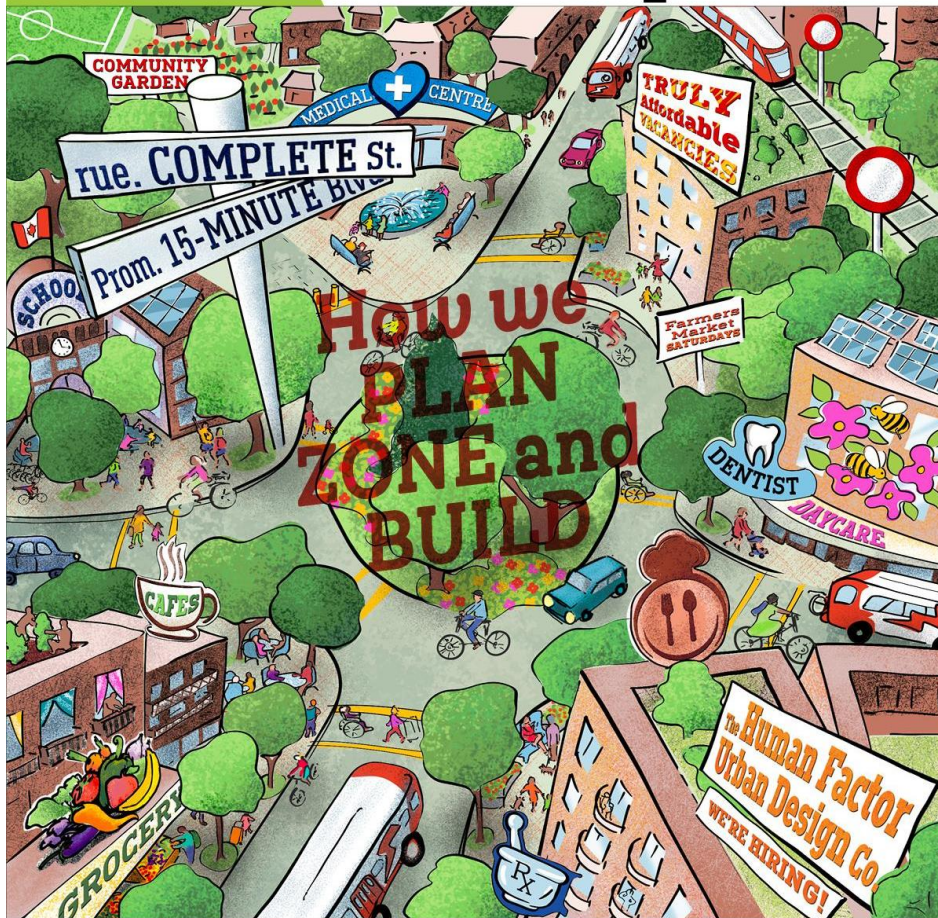
Track Ottawa's Carbon Emissions Budget

In parallel to the "dollars budget", calculate and publish annual tracking of Ottawa's year-by-year carbon emissions budget to stay on track to meet our 2030, 2040 and 2050 emissions targets.



**OTTAWA
2022-2026**

Urban Development



How we grow and build determines the affordability and livability of our city. Urban planning shapes this process, and zoning sets the ground rules. We want to shift from a pattern of financially and environmentally unsustainable sprawl, to building more complete, livable and affordable communities. We want the new zoning by-law determination process to be a positive process that we can buy into. We understand that increasing density will bring social and economic benefits which need to be shared through inclusion. We understand that poverty is expensive for everyone.

Urban Development

Financially Sustainable Growth Management

Development charges and a long-term financial plan underpin our growth management, so that our transition from a car-dependent model to an active complete community and public-transit based compact city is affordable and financially sustainable.

Ottawa ensures balanced growth, such that:

- the location of new housing construction is based on accurate data that shows the true cost of providing municipal infrastructure based on where development occurs (i.e. greenfields, built-up area).
- planning seeks to minimize unnecessary costs to residents arising from premature or unnecessary expansion;
- budgeting does not allocate funds for infrastructure on lands where zoning and relevant approvals are not complete;
- budgeting does not reallocate funds otherwise required to support other municipally funded programs to make up for any development charge revenue shortfalls resulting from the implementation of Bill 23

Ottawa studies the merits of establishing area specific development charges separately for built-up areas, greenfield areas, expansion areas and special expansion areas with particular ecological and geophysical characteristics, so as to better reflect the actual costs associated with each type of development.

Community Livability

A community development process towards achieving complete and walkable 15-minute

neighbourhoods. Intensification in the existing built-up area is coupled with public investment and policies for 15-minute neighbourhoods. Residents and community associations are invited to engage in constructive multi-stakeholder conversations on what growth can look like in their locality. Complete communities in hubs, neighbourhoods, suburbs and villages. Mixed use zoning stimulates new vibrancy, and small business development.

Housing Supply

The move to form-based zoning permits gentle density in all former R1 zones (end exclusionary single-family zoning). Transit oriented development encourages height and density near rapid transit corridors. Development around transit stations, but also elsewhere in line with secondary plans.

Housing Deep Affordability

Meeting deep affordability needs and a rights-based approach to housing is integrated into Ottawa's growth strategy. A target of eliminating chronic homelessness by 2030, reducing housing stress by 50% by 2030, and a 2046 goal of adequate housing for all. Find avenues to increase the supply of affordable housing despite Bill 23 capping required inclusionary zoning units to 5%.

Build Better

Build better rather than retrofit later. An Ottawa Green Development Standard that is as good as or better than Toronto's Green Standard and future rapid step-codes to move all new buildings to net zero, and all new green-field development to electric and/or district energy (i.e. no new fossil fuel

infrastructure).

Increased affordability through energy and carbon efficiency resulting in predictable and low utility bills.

Green building step code moves to building deconstructability for circularity and minimizes demolition waste.

Bill 23 has constrained the reach of the High Performance Development Standard (HPDS). Hence it is doubly important that the City will provide incentives to builders to meet the HPDS for all new buildings (not just where site plan applies).

Parkland Policy

The city actively plans for and implements a provision level for active parkland of 2 Ha per 1,000 people. 'Cash In Lieu of Parkland' is replaced with a more ecologically sound policy. In light of Bill 23 restricting the amount of park land that developers have to give the City in new developments, the city must find other mechanisms to protect and create parkland.

Zoning and Tree Placement

Set-back requirements are sufficient to allow planting of canopy trees on street fronts. City's development standard for site plan

applications has a metric requiring a number of trees proportional to the size of a property. A Green Development Standard requires trees on all public and private parking lots above a certain size to mitigate heat island effects.

Stormwater Management

An Integrated storm water by-law would protect residents from climate-risk overland flash flooding. It would also mandate local mapping and permeability requirements.

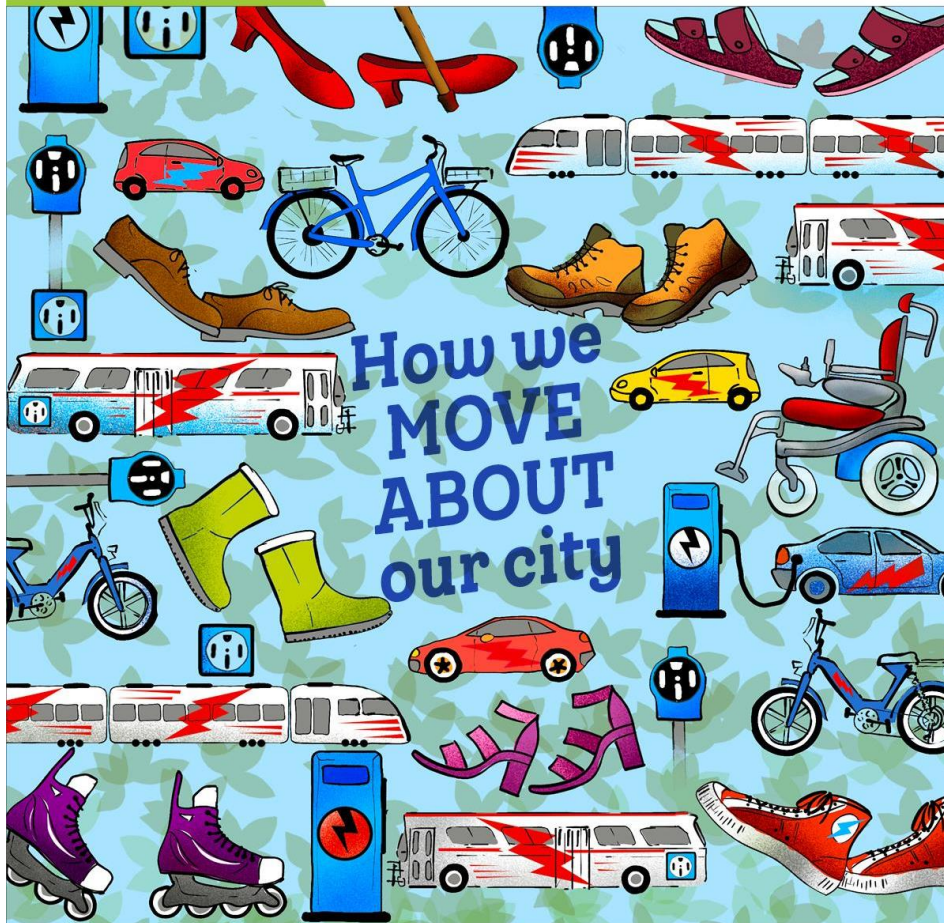
Stopping Sprawl

Bill 23 and the forced urban boundary expansion notwithstanding, the municipal government need not fund urban sprawl. Sprawl requires significant planning work on the part of the municipality and taxpayer dollars. These resources would be best used to implement Ottawa's intensification plans and the city can choose this path instead.



**OTTAWA
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Mobility



In a large and growing city like Ottawa, mobility and transportation is extremely important. The public needs affordable, reliable and convenient transit. Large cities cannot function without light rail or subway systems. Planning for the future means improving public transit, strengthening neighbourhood connectivity and active transportation investments, requiring EV readiness and installing electric charging stations. We need to reduce air pollution, reduce fossil fuel consumption, and make the city of Ottawa more walkable.

Mobility

Active & Safe Transportation

Prioritize separated bike lanes and multi-use paths. Create an integrated network of alternative transportation options across the city, not just headed to downtown. Prioritize efficiency, affordability and safety. Reconfigure the 29 high-volume intersections, and work towards Vision Zero. Include an X design in walkways, so people can cross to opposite corners faster and more safely. Invest in a city bike share program.

Conversion to Electric Vehicles

Conversion of all public vehicle fleets (buses, service, police, ambulance, waste and heavy trucks, etc) into electric at speed of lifecycle replacement, i.e. the city will not refurbish or purchase internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles. City creates infrastructure for public electric vehicles and public use EV plug-in stations including at park & rides. Multi-unit residential buildings must be built EV ready by 2025.

Complete Streets

Increase the number of Complete Streets in Ottawa. Complete streets are designed to be safe, convenient, accessible, and comfortable.

Public Transit that Works

“Better transit” means reliable, convenient, affordable and safe public transit. Public transit includes para-transit.

Identify metrics and track performance to ensure public transit is serving riders on these criteria and improving over time.

Public transit needs to become cost-and-time-competitive with the private car so that car owners choose to take transit regularly. Experiment with low fares, high occupancy vehicle lanes, raised parking fees, free transit Sundays, etc..

Overhaul the post-COVID OC Transpo network with a focus on connectivity of networks and enabling all types of transport destinations (working across the city, groceries, school and day care, medical appointments, and leisure).

Serve the mobility needs of seniors, including in rural areas.

Update Anti-Idling Measures and Raise Awareness

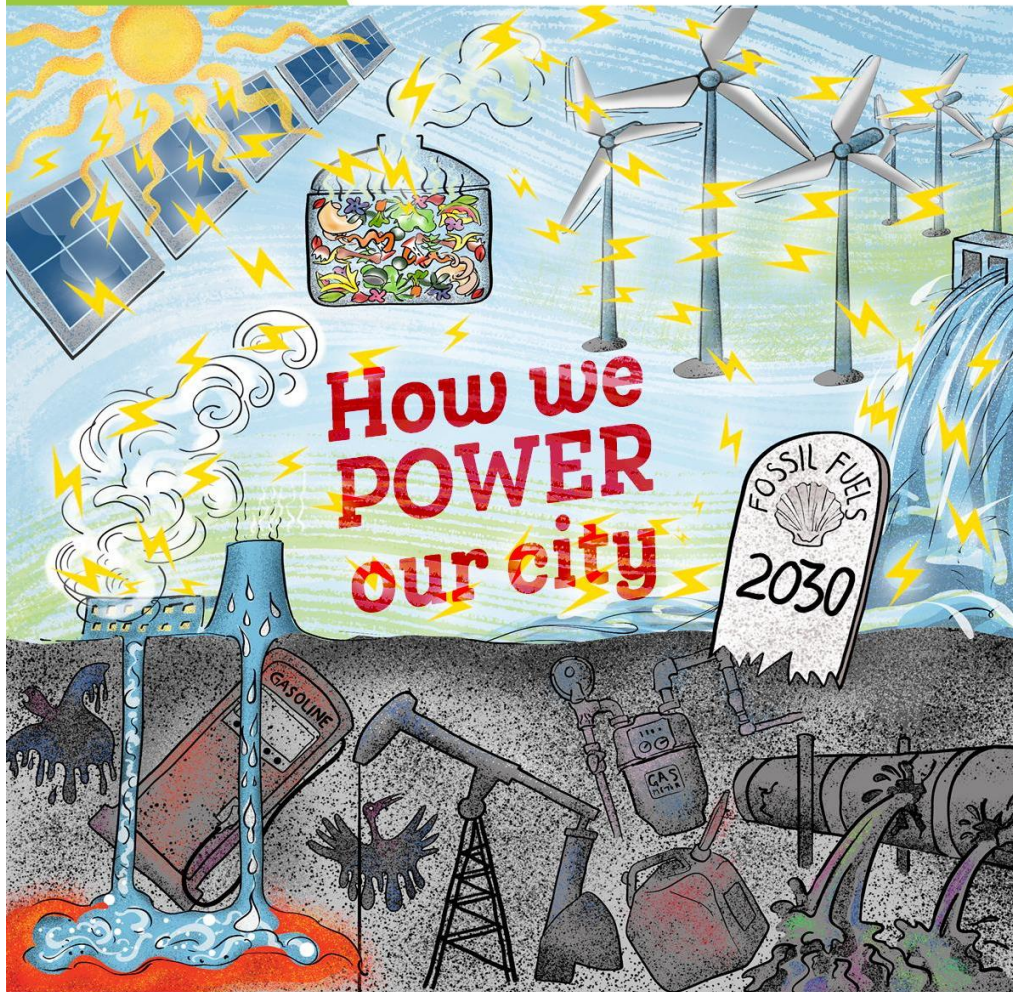
Conduct a formal review and update of the City’s Idling Control (By-law No. 2007-266) to reflect the climate emergency declaration, and the health implications of air pollution. (Refer to the [June 2022 presentations](#) to the Standing Committee on Environmental Protection, Water and Waste Management done by several community associations, which proposed measures to strengthen the bylaw and increase engagement.) Raise awareness of the issue among municipal vehicle drivers and residents.



Environment and Climate Justice Priorities

**OTTAWA
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Energy Transition



Energy use must transition away from fossil fuels. We have a huge opportunity and an immediate challenge to drastically improve energy efficiency, boost local renewable generation and energy storage. Energy resilience will involve increasing local control over energy production and storage to keep people and the local economy safer in the next local climate emergency.

Energy Transition

Prioritize Energy Efficiency

Investments in energy efficiency, and attendant workforce training, is the cornerstone strategy on which the rest of the energy transition depends.

Renewable Energy Generation

Support for local renewable energy generation, including updating bylaws, prioritizing grid updates to accommodate more capacity, facilitating/encouraging local energy investments in solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal. Development of a local economic benefits strategy centred on renewable energy, local energy jobs and resilience for the entire local economy. More grants for homeowners to install energy and climate friendly technology.

Grid Modernization

Grid modernization and emergency preparedness require systematic upgrades of the grid, and measures to enable discounted service upgrades to buildings at the same time.

Energy Storage

Build energy storage capacity both as an energy transition measure in concert with variable generation capacity of renewables, and as a resilience investment, especially in cooling capacity during heat waves, and emergency power during grid collapse.

Electrification

Incentivize electrification including heat pumps, water heaters, electric stoves and

dryers. Disincentivize gas powered devices especially two stroke engines. Incentivize EV charging retrofits for existing buildings. Phase out gas power in Ottawa. Require gas providers to align with Energy Evolution and prioritize conservation and efficiency over new, renewed, or expanded gas infrastructure.

New greenfield developments must be required to use district and electric energy (no gas infrastructure).

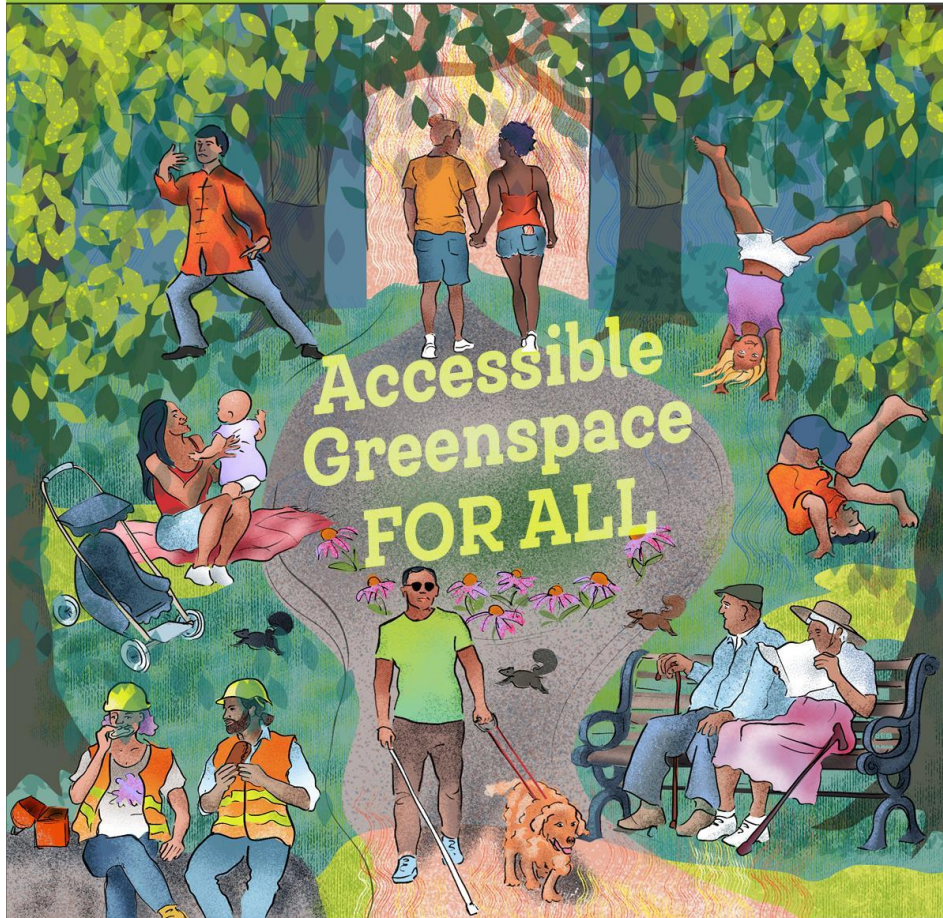
Explore adding ground source heating on a neighbourhood by neighbourhood basis. Our city has many fields near schools and community centres where ground source heating coils could be laid underground, allowing fields to continue to be used for sports and other activities. Pilot projects could be initiated to establish the feasibility and costs of such projects. The ground source heating would provide carbon free heating to the school or centre, as well as nearby homes if those residents chose to participate.

Home Energy Labelling

Introduce home energy labelling system at point of sale, and enable residents to upload home energy audit data to a public city website.



Trees and Greenspace



Trees and greenspace are essential to the well-being of the people of Ottawa. Trees and greenspace improve our health, safety and quality of life, while also supporting biodiversity and the local ecosystem functions that we need to thrive. We must ensure that trees and greenspace are equally accessible to all urban, suburban and rural residents, especially children. Canopy trees are the most cost-effective investment to combat urban heat islands.

Trees and Greenspace

Implement 40% Tree Canopy Target

Develop tactics and plans for all neighbourhoods to grow to 40% tree canopy, the target set by the new Official Plan for the city as a whole. Prioritize expanding tree canopy in neighbourhoods that are currently deficient and in more vulnerable, lower income communities.

Ensure sufficient soil volume needed for full-size, canopy trees in individual developments and for city-owned street trees.

Require large-scale residential developers to preserve 40% of their lands as woodlands or greenspace. Require that existing commercial and industrial areas larger than 1 ha convert a minimum of 20% of their site to trees and/or greenspace.

Fund, leverage and work in partnership with federal Billion Tree Program, National Capital Commission, local delivery partners such as Ferguson Forest Centre, Forêt Capitale Forest and community groups to afforest larger spaces.

Double or better annual tree planting by City Forestry (historically 125,000 trees/year, not audited). Double or better survival rate of city-planted trees (no data). There needs to be sufficient funds in the budget to maintain trees once planted (and ensure the right type of trees are planted -- ideally native to Ottawa and not a monoculture).

Require, with few exceptions, use of native and near native plant species in urban landscapes.

Tree Canopy and Inventory Monitoring

Conduct and maintain an inventory of tree canopy species composition, size and health. Ensure regular inspections for structural integrity of urban trees. Ensure public access to complete, current records including lost trees.

Report periodically on trees planted and trees removed, over 20cm in diameter, on all city property, private property, as part of any residential, institutional, industrial or commercial development.

Consult with neighbourhoods and communities regularly to find tree planting spaces through land acquisition and repurposing of underutilized spaces (road allowances, medians, parks, etc.).

Encourage community initiatives that rehabilitate degraded or underperforming landscapes with Miyawaki micro-forests, pollinator gardens, food forests and other afforestation efforts.

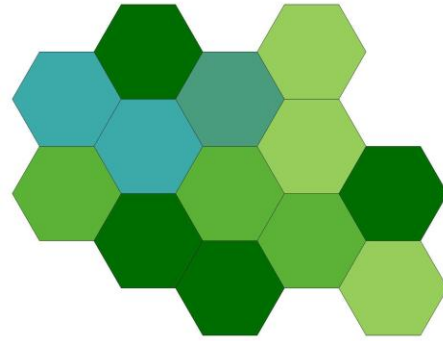
No Net-loss Policy

Implement through City Forestry a No Net-loss Policy, which would replace trees lost as a result of storm damage, infestations, and residential development, by making effective use of public lands throughout the urban and rural area. The policy should require planting the largest possible new

native trees, with a minimum DBH of 5 cm, for any trees lost as a result of storm damage, infestations, construction, etc.

Tree Protection

Enforce tree-protection by-law. Expand protection of trees of 30 cm diameter at breast height to communities outside the Greenbelt. Increase fines for cutting down/dismembering trees.



Stewardship and Naturalized Greenspace

Promote stewardship of the urban forest canopy by engaging residents, neighbourhoods, community groups and landowners to look after and enhance the trees and forests on their properties.

Support the naturalization of greenspaces including replacing lawns with native plants. Encourage the benefits of roof gardens/ green roofs, enable boulevard and right-of-way gardens.

When cutting city trees, follow a policy that, when safe, leaves standing trunks and fallen trees as habitat/food sources for flora and fauna.

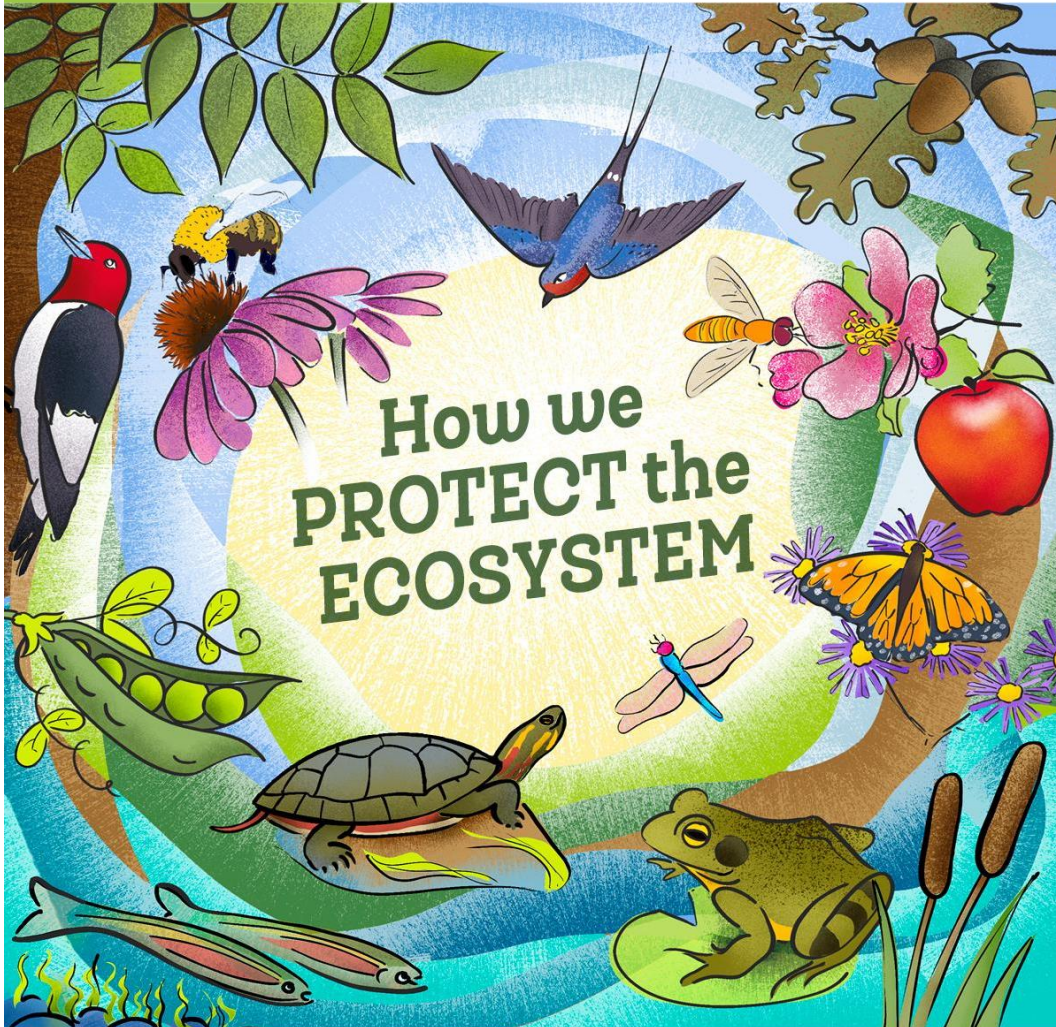
Local Food Security

Support farmers' markets, expand community gardens, foster community composting programs, and enable community food forests and food sharing. Support initiatives like Hidden Harvest and encourage planting of food producing trees.

Environment and Climate Justice Priorities

**OTTAWA
2022-2026**

Stewardship of Nature



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Environmental Sustainability

Science tells us that we are experiencing massive extinctions of species. This extinction event is undermining the ecological base and balances that human life depends on. We must steward the land, water and air.

Stewardship of Nature

Indigenous Knowledge and Wisdom

Engage with Indigenous elders and communities to learn about and implement environmentally sustainable ways to manage natural areas, in order to enhance biodiversity. Consider ecological protocols and covenants.

Greenspace Master Plan

Ensure that the new Greenspace Master Plan (supporting the Official Plan):

- contains mapping of all existing and critical greenspace within the city boundary.
- undertakes a valuation of all greenspaces in terms of functions and benefits e.g. flora and fauna habitat, human health and recreation, stormwater management and flood control, etc.
- provides mapping of applicable land protection tools for each area/zone.
- maps ecological restoration and the protection work that is required.
- feeds into the City Capital Asset Management Planning Process.

Land and Water Protection

Ensure enforcement and complementary application of all existing land protection tools stemming from different levels of

government including indigenous, federal, provincial, municipal and conservation authorities.

Educate residents about understanding, respecting, protecting and restoring our local ecology. Enable and support community literacy and awareness of existing land and water legal protections – as well as gaps.

Prioritize and strengthen protection for

- land and waters that have special cultural values and significance for indigenous communities.
- agricultural lands and soil, including in contexts including roads and urban development; food security and regional climate resilience; pollution and soil contamination; carbon storage.
- bogs and wetlands, including creeks, ponds and shorelines.
- Ottawa's Greenbelt and the Experimental Farm.
- woodlot preservation.
- ecological health of all waterways, including the Rideau Canal.
- guarding against upstream pollution including nuclear and radioactive threats from Chalk River.

Special resources and consideration must be given to protecting wetlands as Bill 23 has made changes to the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System (OWES) that threaten to unravel the protection of our wetlands.

Not only are these prospective losses in natural ecosystems irreparable, but they will be extremely costly for the municipality if human-made concrete storm-water infrastructures are to compensate in an era of increasing risk of high intensity precipitation and storm events.

Species and Habitat Protection

Implement funded no-exceptions policy and measures to protect habitats of endangered species of fauna and flora from urban development and road infrastructure. Funding for measures including road diversions, land-swaps, corridors, legal costs.

Plant 80% or more native tree species. Increase diversity of tree species available/procured including fruit/nut and indigenous species.

Experts state that while landscapers often claim that they are providing locally-sourced native trees there is no way of verifying this. One solution would be for developers to provide securities to the city, and get their money back once the city ensures the work meets the criteria.

Prioritize regenerative ecosystem management practices.

Consider measures for rewilding urban spaces including traffic circles and on/off ramps.

Actively manage invasive species on city property/along roads targeting at first areas at close proximity to ecologically sensitive areas, and not only focussing on invasives that affect human health. Welcome, support, provide insurance, and promote community participation in management of invasive species in city parks and hydro corridors. Community engagement can be encouraged through programs such as "invasive species clearance days."

Build a system of greenspace linkages to natural areas, including wetlands, ponds and other bodies of water to improve accessibility for both residents and wildlife, and mitigate extreme climate events.

Access and Connection to Nature

Ecological protection needs human residents to both be better connected and have access to nature, as well as nature being protected from excessive human use and degradation. Stewardship of Ottawa's nature therefore must include careful planning of access, including

- a right to roam doctrine and an Indigenous trails protocol (Kitigan Zibi Trails).
- ensuring controlled access to natural areas for all residents to improve community health and well-being.
- access to waterfront, including ponds and creeks.

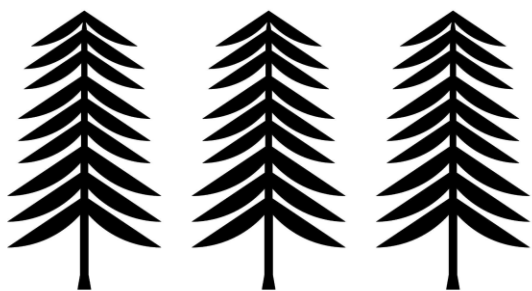
Repeal Bill 23

Bill 23 damages conservation in Ontario and undermines the ecological base we depend on. The omnibus bill is complex and Councillors need to be educated in its

implications, including ecological and environmental impacts and harms that are irreversible. Staff need to be directed to value nature-based solutions and mitigate adverse impacts of Bill 23. Short of the repeal of Bill 23, the municipality needs to step up and find municipal tools and additional resources to safeguard our natural heritage for current and future generations.

Ensure the work of Conservation Authorities is fulfilled

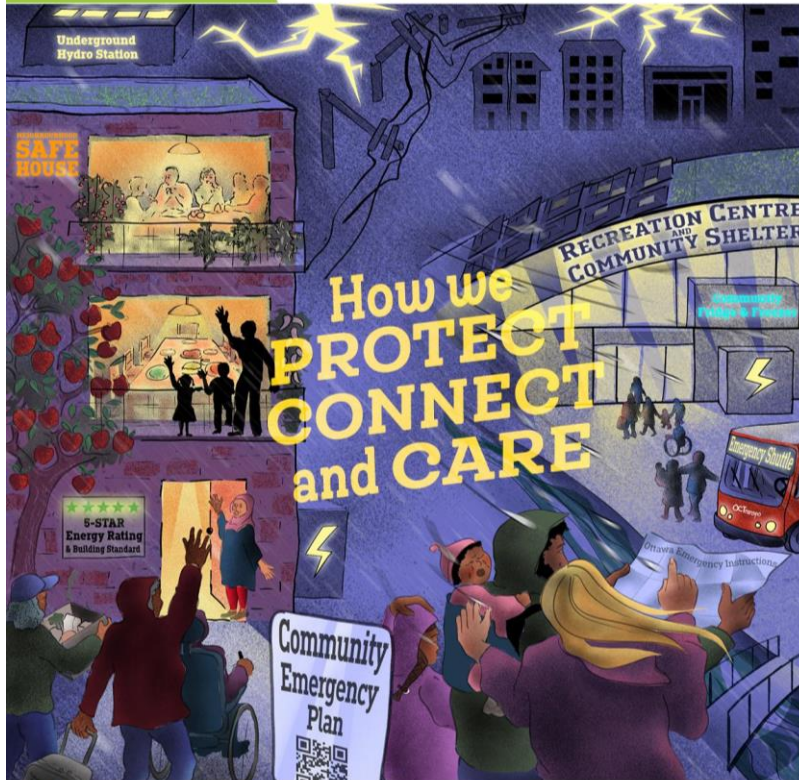
Bill 23 removes the licence of Conservation Authorities to perform critical functions in the development review process and conservation of our natural heritage. This has left a vacuum. The city must find ways to ensure that these functions will still be fulfilled, such as through passing policies, guidelines and by-laws and ensuring that the municipality has staff capacity and expertise to evaluate and protect ecological functions and natural assets.



Environment and Climate Justice Priorities

**OTTAWA
2022-2026**

Resilience and Wellness



Resilient cities have the ability to absorb and recover from future shocks because they are prepared. Climate impacts in Ottawa are now unavoidable and are becoming worse. Climate impacts will trigger massive shocks not just to the environment but also to our economy, people's health, buildings, infrastructure, vulnerable people and our institutions. To make Ottawa resilient to future climate shocks and protect the most vulnerable, we must seriously prepare and invest, starting now. Delayed investment will cost the city and residents multiple times the costs of investing now. Most residents and businesses are unaware of the risks, their responsibilities and the actions they can do ahead of time to protect themselves and their assets.

Resilience and Wellness

Resilience Strategy and Action Plan

To protect prosperity and wellbeing, the city must act on the 2022 findings of the Climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment's identified 40 high risks requiring action in 1-3 years.

Critical infrastructures must be hardened. Funding from other levels of government must be leveraged to contribute.

Adaptation

Finding equitable ways to mitigate climate risks must be a cross-cutting priority in all planning, budgeting and asset management decisions. All City master plans, urban designs, zoning, by-laws and other plans and regulations must be adapted to our new normal - of inevitable and worsening extreme weather impacts.

The City needs to have both emergency and longer term resiliency plans regarding:

- Water supply
- Food supply
- Energy supply
- Emergency Shelter and Transportation
- Integrated sewer-stormwater management

Financial and Risk Analysis

The costs of prevention, preparedness and infrastructure hardening against a more violent variable climate need to be

compared to costs of climate disasters. We need to look up and do the math.

The city of Ottawa should create policy decision trees and scenario planning that is designed to help prepare for different climate impact scenarios (e.g. 2 degrees, 3-4 degrees). The policy trees would have a range of policy options.

Nature Based Solutions

Investing in nature and soft infrastructure to absorb excess heat, river flooding and excess water from intense storms is much cheaper and more effective than costly hard infrastructure for stormwater, flood protection and heat shading.

Public Awareness of Climate Risks

Information about riverine and overland flood risk needs to be communicated to property owners, developers and real estate agents (i.e. 350 year flood line not 100 year). Public health messages and warnings are needed for heat – which can kill. The public needs to be made aware of risks and actions we can do to make us and our neighbourhoods more resilient.

Community Emergency Preparedness

When widespread outages and damage happens, residents may need to be self-reliant for days if not weeks. Communities need to pool resources (like generators, phones, internet fridges/freezers for food)

and help each other. The City has to help individuals and communities prepare ahead of time. The city needs to communicate and coordinate its services and plans effectively during emergencies.

Community Self Sufficiency

To handle more heat, ice, precipitation and severe storms, residents, businesses and neighbourhoods need: local and/or backup power sources; buried power lines; cooler surfaces (green or white roofs, permeable pavement); trees, urban forests and greenspace, shade structures and shaded bike/walking paths; breezeways, passages and ventilation between buildings; pools, fountains and cooling areas; gardening, growing and local food sources; swales, berms and ponds/runoff areas; non-slip materials on sidewalks and roadways; systems for sharing items and knowledge among neighbours (recreation gear, tools, skills); benches, picnic tables, spaces for socializing; and ways for neighbours to communicate and look out for one another.

Equity and Vulnerability

Vulnerable populations need to be identified and protections devised. Climate impacts

will be specific – such as a heat wave claiming lives, but also general – such as rising costs of food and energy. Climate justice and community wellness-based approaches need to ensure that the risks and costs of climate breakdown do not fall on those least ready to protect themselves.

Eco-Anxiety and Community Action

Mental health and eco-anxiety, especially in youth, is a key point of vulnerability.

Resilience, in this dimension of the climate fight, means opening pathways for positive solutions, community climate action and engagement. We need to connect so that groups of people can work with their councillors and the city to improve our neighbourhoods, reduce our emissions and prepare for extreme weather.





The move to a circular and zero waste economy is the solution to the environmental challenges posed by finite resources, pollution, and the destabilization of the ecological balance. Within a circular economy, waste is viewed as a resource and is reintegrated into the economy. Such an economy eliminates waste and pollution, circulates products and materials, helps to regenerate nature and generates employment. This paradigm applies widely, from removing methane-producing organic waste from landfills, to reducing single-use plastics and microplastic pollution. Driving factors are the redesign of products and processes, alongside policies and regulations to support this change. Ottawa is surprisingly well-positioned to take steps towards a local circular economy.

Resource Management and Waste

Support Circular Economy and Zero Waste Vision

Ongoing work on Ottawa's 30 year long-range Solid Waste Master Plan has guiding principles of circularity and zero waste. Ensure that opportunities to implement these agreed high-level directions and principles are realized and not missed.

Innovation and Re-design

Partner with a wide range of stakeholders, including Ottawa's universities, colleges, industry and community associations to actualize the circular economy and zero waste vision, to extend the life-cycle of goods, reduce resource inputs, reduce energy inputs, reduce packaging and reduce waste. Offer programs to incentivize local innovation, change producer and consumer behaviours and make a path to a circular economy.

Organic and Food Waste

Reduce harmful GHG methane emissions from landfills by dramatically improving organics (green bin) collection and also consider bio-gas options. In keeping with Council's 2022 decision, aggressively implement and fund recycling and organics collection in all multi-residential properties as a condition of city garbage collection.

Support community food recovery programs and strengthen communication and education on reduction and rescue of food

waste with particular attention to food banks.

Support practices that encourage circular soil management and quality compost, including community composting. Inventory, monitor and reduce soil contamination sources stemming from municipal solid waste management including landfill leachate.

Rethink a new financially and environmentally sustainable circular and zero waste management of dog waste in Ottawa (home to approximately 500K dogs and cats). Provide special dog waste collection in parks and other open spaces- there are special purpose in ground bins available.

Learn from other municipalities.

Remove the option of using plastic liners in the green bin program. Because the plastics cannot all be removed in the composting process, compost quality is very poor and is unsuitable for agricultural use.

Make Trail Road Landfill Sustainable

Manage and use of the Trail road landfill as an "evergreen" facility for the 30 year time period of the Solid Waste Master Plan and for the long-term as THE priority objective.

Maintaining Trail Road for the long term avoids the need for either a new landfill or a new incinerator. Any proprietary waste management systems should be independently reviewed before being considered. All lobbying efforts in favour of

incineration and all proprietary technologies should be recorded in the lobby register, including the search word 'incineration'.

Work towards at least 70% waste diversion comparable to leading Ontario municipalities (Ottawa's 2020 diversion rate from landfill disposal was only 45%) including through:

- Adopting a user pay system for garbage collection
- Reducing the allowable waste for curbside pickup
- Restricting collection of problematic wastes such as electronics and mattresses
- Targeting some wastes such as textiles for special/ depot collection
- Increasing spending on promotion and education by 4 times to match spending by other municipalities

Minimize GHG emissions from waste management activities. Establish a waste reduction green procurement guideline for all City purchases and contracts, and encouraging innovation and the reduction of GHG emissions.

Crack down on Single Use Plastic and Packaging

Complement federal government moves to reduce and ban single use plastic with bold local plastic bag reduction strategy, including banning the purchase by the City of all single use packaging. In support of the elimination of SUPs and plastics waste reduction, explore regulatory tools under municipal jurisdiction. Ally with, and learn from other municipalities across Ontario.

Study options for reducing exposure to microplastics pollution including through Ottawa's drinking water.

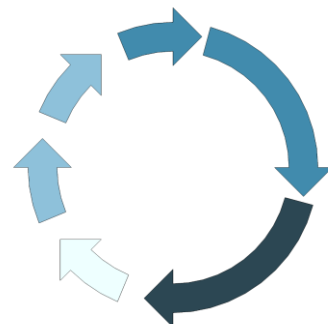
Circular Construction

Develop tools supporting low carbon development, including mandating circular construction, in order to encourage reuse and recycling of construction waste materials and demolition waste materials. Reduce % of construction waste going to landfill by restricting non-residential waste access to the Trail Road landfill site. Provide incentives for builders to divert waste from landfill by penalizing those who do.

Require that as a condition of award that all municipal construction, renovation, and demolition contracts prepare a construction waste management plan and establish requirements for levels of diversion of recyclable materials like cardboard.

Community Sharing Economy

Strengthening the community sharing economy includes promoting innovation, experimentation and partnerships with circular initiatives, opportunities in the salvage and upcycle economy, and supporting swap, share and repair events and activities.



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