

Not according to one eco-group's report, which flunks most members of council

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Ottawa Sun

Ottawa's mayor and the majority of city councillors have scored failing grades on environmental issues, according to a report card from a coalition of eco-friendly lobby groups.

The report card, issued by the Sierra Club of Canada, Greenspace Alliance and Coalition for a Healthy Ottawa, gives only five councillors an

"A" or "B" based on their voting on 19 council issues over the past three years on zoning issues for wetlands, funding of tree planting, cosmetic use of pesticides and other environmental issues.

The report card places Coun. Alex Cullen at the top of the class, earning the council's only "A+" with councillors Clive Doucet and Diane Holmes scoring a "A" for supporting public transit, cutting back garbage collection and financing the Metrol

Bird Care Centre.

Mayor Bob Chiarelli earned a "D" grade — "a bare pass" according to the report, citing his voting record on environmentally sensitive lands and desire for balanced budgets.

'Good communities'

One of the report's authors said most councillors don't think of their constituents' health when they vote on environmental issues.

"Good environmental

votes make good communities," said Meg Sears, of the Coalition for a Healthy Ottawa.

Two councillors who flunked say the report has serious flaws, cherry-picking its criteria to fit a "social engineering" agenda.

"It's blatantly politically motivated and designed to get some big spenders on council," said Baseline Coun. Rick Chiarelli, who earned an "F-" on the report card. "I'm dinged for not supporting

'Queen of garbage'

She also railed at how the survey ignored her support of technology to process garbage into a synthetic gas that can be converted to electric power.

Coun. Jan Harder, who also earned an "F-," said she doesn't support initiatives that the majority of her constituents don't want.

'Queen of garbage'

Later this month, the coalition plans to release the results of a survey ranking the mayor and city councillor

"I am the queen of garbage," Harder said.

Chiarelli also criticized the report's focus on three zoning decisions out of the thousands made by council over the past three years.

He also lambasted the survey's "arbitrary" selection of green issues, including his vote against a \$82,000 full-time "forestry doctor" to check on the city's 11,000 hectares of community forest.

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GRADING

The Sierra Club graded council members on their environmental record:

- Bob Chiarelli — D
- Georges Bedard — C
- Michel Bellemare — C-



CHIARELLI
Flunked

- Rainer Bloess — D
- Glenn Brooks — F-
- Rick Chiarelli — F-
- Alex Cullen — A+

- Diane Deans — D
- Clive Doucet — A
- Eli El-Chantiry — F-
- Peggy Feltmate — C



HOLMES
Gets an 'A'

- Jan Harder — F-
- Diane Holmes — A
- Peter Hume — F-
- Gord Hunter — F-

- Rob Jellett — F-
- Jacques Legendre — B+
- Shawn Little — F-
- Maria McRae — F
- Janet Stavinga — B
- Doug Thompson — F-
- Herb Kreling/Bob Monette — D

candidates on environmental issues for next month's municipal election.

The coalition's report card can be viewed online at www.ottawaenvironmentalvotes.org.

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Ottawa Votes

VOTER NOTICES

All households on the voters list should soon get a voter notice. This notice lists all eligible voters at the address and informs them of when and where they can

vote since the last municipal election, and voting places may also have changed.

Residents who have not received the notice by Oct. 23 should call the city's elections office at 613-580-2650.

Not enough members of Ottawa City Council go into the chambers thinking about environmental issues and their constituents' health, says an eco-group's report.

Green room?

