



## Joint comments on the City of Ottawa's Official Plan discussion papers

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the discussion papers published on the City website concerning various aspects of the new Official Plan. We have taken this opportunity to consult within the community of environmental organizations in Ottawa on what it might mean to build the official plan with climate change as a central unifying theme. You will find the results in the attached comments.

The attached was inspired by discussions at a May 15 meeting convened by the signatories to this letter, with contributions from the Healthy Transportation Coalition, Bike Ottawa, the Ottawa Renewable Energy Cooperative, the Ottawa Stewardship Council, the Carleton Landowners Association and others. We will be seeking their explicit endorsement and will continue engaging with them and the broader community throughout the development of the new Official Plan.

Our intention is to keep building support for the view espoused in this commentary, which is that the climate emergency must be a central unifying theme of the new Official Plan. We believe that this approach can result in an Official Plan we can all be proud of, which achieves the right built form, the right amount, types and tenure of housing, the right mix of infrastructure, all the while achieving the required reductions in GHG emissions, increases in carbon capture and sequestration, and adaptation to the effects of climate change, which are already being keenly felt.

The discussion papers were very helpful in helping us organize our thoughts, and you will see that they are commented on and referenced to throughout our text. But our commentary is on all of the papers collectively, how they can all be brought together, with some missing pieces, in

a way that underlines the centrality of the climate emergency, without detracting from the other goals and preoccupations of the Official Plan.

We hope that this marks the beginning of a dialogue that will continue throughout the development of the Official Plan, opening up a new stream of self-organized public engagement with a community that is keen to work toward making Ottawa a healthy and liveable city for all.



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