

Climate Solutions and Ottawa's Official Plan

Workshop Executive Summary November 15 and 16, 2019, Bayview Yards, Ottawa



Since April of 2019, neighbourhood groups and community-based organizations have sought consensus on priority actions we want to see embedded in the Official Plan and related Master Plans, Programs and community-based initiatives that affect land use in Ottawa. We have met periodically under the title “A People’s Plan for Ottawa’s Climate Emergency”. On November 15 and 16 some 100 people gathered for a day and a half at Bayview Yards in Ottawa to discuss the climate crisis and define priority actions. Our overarching and specific priorities are:

- **Protect** the rural lands and greenspaces that provide us with the ecosystem services that make life in the Ottawa region possible. To accomplish this, permit no expansion of the current urban boundary, or boundaries of the villages located in Rural Ottawa. Hold the line(s) needed to build a future city that is cleaner, safer and healthier.
- **Support** urban intensification that results in relatively dense, multi-use and socially integrated communities that are walkable, connected and green. When doing so, accommodate projected population growth fairly and sensibly across all planning contexts (villages, outer urban, inner urban and downtown core) and along both minor and major transportation corridors.

Protect and Enhance the Nature-based Services that Sustain Us

1. **Coordinate** across jurisdictions on greenspace targets and metrics that pay close attention to biodiversity and nature-based services in the context of the broader Ottawa-Gatineau bioregion. Metrics must include total greenspace, access to greenspace, canopy cover and the extent of permeable surfaces in built-up areas.
2. **Protect and Reclaim land** for nature-based services and food production through designation, public acquisition and the effective use of semi-public lands (hydro corridors, Right of Way, Storm Water Ponds). Establish partnerships and innovative financing for private properties that do or can provide essential nature-based services such as storm water capture, carbon sinks and carbon capture.

Foster Rural and Urban Food Producing Communities

3. **Cultivate** complete rural villages and agricultural communities built on land tenure models that work for farm families today and in the future (by monitoring absentee ownership). Provide

meaningful compensation for ecosystem services. Twin urban and rural neighbourhoods in partnerships around mutual understanding and support.

4. **Innovate** in the use of land designation and zoning to create multi-functional edible landscapes throughout the city and rural areas. Fully integrate land use with economic opportunities to grow, transform, store and offer food and materials where needed.

Require Sustainable Buildings and Related Infrastructure

5. **Create** higher efficiency standards for retrofitting buildings in existing neighbourhoods and for all new buildings in built up areas and greenfields. Make low-rise multi-unit buildings more economically appealing than very large single homes. Foster emerging district energy systems that make use of technologies, incentives and financing models based on Green House Gas emission targets.
6. **Require** waste reduction through a combination of disincentives for creating waste, incentives for good behaviour, and decentralizing waste management (including composting). Do not allow the development of new landfill sites at taxpayer expense.
7. **Foster** 15-Minutes Neighbourhoods that combine housing and places of work with access to services, greenspace, food production, community centres, multi-generational and fair housing, electric car charging options, and district energy options. Support shared governance by linking the municipality with strong neighbourhood associations.

Create a Healthy Transportation Network for All

8. **Transform** LRT and Bus Stations into Community Hubs, through designation and community land trusts that establish community centres and integrate mixed and deeply affordable housing near public transit. Divert a reasonable portion of land value increases near public transit to these ends.
9. **Build** accessible and clean-energy transit that is regional in scope and addresses rural-urban linkages (bus-only corridors, park-and-rides, etc.). Improve transportation affordability, efficiency and accessibility in ways that decarbonize how people of all abilities move around in their daily lives.
10. **Reduce** Car (bon) Use by making streets healthier and safer places to get around. Increase user-pay fees (for parking and congestion) and redirect package and cargo delivery to off-peak hours.

Improve Governance for Shared Responsibility

11. **Change** our governance and accountability culture to model shared responsibility where residents and governments co-develop, prioritize and monitor collective responses to the Climate Emergency.

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