

Declaration on Climate Solutions and Ottawa's Official Plan

Humanity is facing a climate emergency, and cities are at the centre of the solution—which makes Ottawa's new Official Plan a once-in-a-generation opportunity to point the City toward a carbon-free, climate-safe future.

Ottawa has declared a climate emergency, and from now till 2050 is the time span to translate that commitment into action. That makes the new Official Plan an essential catalyst for dramatic, unprecedented measures to lower the City's greenhouse gas emissions and protect every citizen from the worst effects of climate change.

The new Official Plan will embody many choices about land use and supporting infrastructure that must be consistently selected for their potential to deliver the lowest levels of greenhouse gas emissions and the highest levels of natural carbon capture and storage. ***This outcome must be the central unifying theme of the new Official Plan and the guiding measure of its success.***

Since April 2019, neighbourhood groups and community-based organizations have sought consensus on priority climate solutions that must be embedded in Ottawa's new Official Plan, related Master Plans and programs, and community-based initiatives that affect land use in Ottawa. That work culminated in a priority-setting workshop at Bayview Yards November 15-16. This is our declaration.

We, new and old settlers on Anishinaabe territory, demand that Ottawa's City Council go further and faster with two well-recognized and viable climate solutions.

First, **protect** the rural lands and green spaces that provide us with the ecosystem services that make life in the Ottawa region possible. That means permitting no expansion of the current urban boundary, or boundaries of the villages located in rural Ottawa, but rather holding the line(s) needed to build a future city that is cleaner, safer and healthier.

Second, **support** urban intensification that results in relatively dense, multi-use and socially integrated communities that are walkable, connected and green. The Official Plan must accommodate projected population growth fairly and sensibly across all planning contexts (villages, outer urban, inner urban and downtown core), along both minor and major transportation corridors.

Many elements of the Five Big Moves for Ottawa's Official Plan and early versions of Energy Evolution and the Climate Change Master Plan are consistent with our vision of a sustainable city that is also caring, creatively engaged and prosperous. Details of that vision are in the executive summary of the workshop findings and related documents.

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