

Declaration on Climate Solutions and Ottawa's Official Plan

Humanity is facing a climate emergency. Following the lead of international organizations and other governments at all levels, the City of Ottawa has officially recognized this fact. Over the timespan covered by the new Official Plan, we, collectively, must take dramatic, unprecedented measures to lower the concentration of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere and protect ourselves from the worst effects of climate change.

In the development of the new Official Plan, the city must make many choices about land use and supporting infrastructure. The measures selected must be the ones that result in the lowest levels of greenhouse gas emissions and the highest levels of 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 of 2019, neighbourhood groups and community-based organizations have sought consensus on priority climate solutions we want to see embedded in Ottawa's new Official Plan, related Master Plans, Programs and community-based initiatives that affect land use in Ottawa. On November 15 and 16 some 100 people gathered for a day and a half at Bayview Yards in Ottawa to define priorities. 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 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.

Second, **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.

There are many elements in the staff report on "Five Big Moves" for Ottawa's Official Plan and in early versions of the Climate Change Master Plan that are consistent with the vision we hold of a sustainable city that is also caring and creatively engaged in a prosperous future for Ottawa. Details of that vision are in an Executive Summary of the workshop findings and related documents.

For more information contact Daniel Buckles and Paul Johanis (contact@greenspace-alliance.ca).