



? | Why we did this audit

On April 24, 2019, City Council declared a “climate emergency” for the purposes of deepening the City of Ottawa’s (the City) commitment to protecting the economy, ecosystems, and community from climate change. This led to the development of the Climate Change Master Plan which outlines how it will achieve its long-term goals of net zero by 2050.

As it has been five years since the declaration of the climate emergency, it is imperative that the City can demonstrate that its efforts and investments are leading to its long-term commitment.

Q | What we found

It is well known that the City is behind on its climate change priorities and targets. The audit found that the City has reached a “crossroads” whereby decisions have to be made that will impact the direction, priorities and resources related to this portfolio. More specifically, the audit noted that there is a need for realignment of the Climate Change Master Plan priorities with the current strategic direction to maximize the limited resources available.

Furthermore, with a resiliency strategy about to be released, a realistic prioritization for both mitigation and resiliency efforts is required to support the City in meeting its climate change goals, balanced with other City priorities. This includes defining how they will each be resourced and funded.

Our audit also identified opportunities to strengthen and formalize accountabilities across the organization for the climate change outcomes committed to by the City, and to establish performance indicators and metrics to measure progress in a meaningful way.

💡 | We made seven recommendations to ensure that:

- The role of the City in catalyzing community action is clarified, and is in alignment with Council’s strategic direction and the priorities of the City;
- Mitigation and adaptation projects are prioritized holistically to achieve the City’s climate change goals;
- An accountability framework for the climate change portfolio is developed with formalized roles and responsibilities;
- The role of the Tiger Team is revisited to provide timely strategic advice and decision making;
- A permanent resourcing and funding strategy is explored that aligns with the role and structure of the Climate Change & Resiliency team; and
- Quantitative metrics are defined, outside of the established greenhouse gas reduction targets, to demonstrate progress across the portfolio.

For more details on this report please visit our [website](#).

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