

End-of-Term Report 2019-2022

Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee (ESAC)

20 October 2022

BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 12 September 2012, City Council approved a new structure for its Advisory Committees to ensure that the work of these committees align with the Term of Council Priorities.

In order to determine the advisory committees' work plans for the current Term, departmental staff provided information with respect to the applicable Term of Council Priorities, approved by Council on 11 December 2019, and departmental work plan(s) and identified areas in which the Advisory Committees could best provide support and advice.

The Office of the City Clerk worked with department staff to standardize work plan documents across Advisory Committees. This implemented the standard set by Council as part of the 2014-2018 Mid-Term Governance Review report, at its meeting on 9 November 2016.

At its meeting on 24 September 2020, the Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee (ESAC) approved, in principle, a recommendation asking the Standing Committee on Environmental Protection, Water and Waste Management (SCEPWWM) and City Council to approve the proposed ESAC 2020-2022 Workplan. The SCEPWWM carried the recommendation at its meeting on 20 October 2020, and City Council carried the recommendation at its meeting on 28 October 2020.

The mandate of the Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee is to advise City Council on policy, programs, and service delivery in the area of environmental stewardship.

With this mandate in mind, the members of the ESAC selected the following goals as part of their 2020-2022 work plan:

1. Help with the management of solid waste and reduce its long-term impact on the environment through a Sustainable Way Forward - Solid Waste Strategic Plan;
2. Help to implement protective measures to maintain the quality of Ottawa's drinking water sources at the provincially mandated standard;
3. Help to implement the Council approved Climate Change Master Plan (CCMP) to take unprecedented, collective action to transition Ottawa into a clean, renewable and resilient City by 2050;

4. Help implement the City of Ottawa Declaration of Climate Emergency report recommendations as adopted by the Standing Committee on Environmental Protection, Water and Waste Management;
5. Support the implementation of the recommendations outlined in the Council approved Urban Forest Management Plan
6. Help to reduce the overall carbon footprint of the City through our Smart Energy (Ph. 2) efforts to reduce energy consumption, reduce the amount spent on utilities and reduce the amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) the City creates;
7. Support efforts to invest in recreation infrastructure and improve selected parks and facilities across all City wards;
8. Help support Light Rail Transit to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

DISCUSSION

A summary of the ESAC 2020-2022 work plan is attached to this report as Document 1 (Work Plan for 2022). The 'Status' column remains unfilled for the time-being, subject to further Committee discussions and/or staff input.

A summary of staff consultations with the ESAC over their 2019-2022 term is included in Document 2 (Summary of Staff Consultations for 2018-2022).

Additionally, the ESAC submitted comments on the draft budgets for the 2019 and 2022 fiscal years, providing comment to SCEPWWM, and on the Draft Official Plan, providing comment to the Joint Agriculture and Rural Affairs and Planning Committees.

Document 1 – Work Plan for 2022

The following activities were undertaken by the ESAC during the 2018-2022 Term, as part of its Council-approved work plan goals.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2020–2022 WORK PLAN

The mandate of the Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee (ESAC) is to advise Ottawa City Council on policy, programs and service delivery in the area of environmental stewardship.

TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITY – ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
“To grow and protect a healthy, beautiful and vibrant City that can adapt to change.”

PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Goal 1: Help with the management of solid waste and reduce its long-term impact on the environment through a Sustainable Way Forward - Solid Waste Strategic Plan					
Activity 1	Responsibility:	Timelines:	Strategic Objective	Status	Lead Dept. / Ctee.
<i>Help to continue the management of solid waste and reduce its long-term impact on the environment</i>	Entire Committee or smaller Working Group ESAC Lead(s): • <i>K. van der Pas-Norenius</i>	2020-22 / Ongoing	To ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the City is a leader in energy management and in conserving, recycling and reusing resources • the City’s long term plan for solid waste includes more diversion from landfills 		PWES / SCEPWWM

Goal 2: Help to implement protective measures to maintain the quality of Ottawa's drinking water sources at the provincially mandated standard					
Activity 1	Responsibility:	Timelines:	Strategic Objective	Status	Lead Dept. / Ctee.
<i>Help maintain the quality of Ottawa's drinking water sources</i>	Entire Committee or smaller Working Group ESAC Lead(s): • <i>M. Watchorn</i>	2020-22 / Ongoing	To ensure that Ottawa's excellent water quality index rating is maintained.		PWES / SCEPWWM

PLANNING, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Goal 3: Help to implement the Council approved <i>Climate Change Master Plan (CCMP)</i> to take unprecedented, collective action to transition Ottawa into a clean, renewable and resilient City by 2050					
Activity 1	Responsibility:	Timelines:	Strategic Objective	Status	Lead Dept. / Ctee.
<i>Help to implement Climate Change Master Plan (CCMP)</i>	Entire Committee or smaller Working Group	2020-22 / Ongoing	To ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City reduces its greenhouse gas output and climate change considerations are embedded across all elements of operations. 		PIED / SCEPWWM

	<p><i>ESAC Lead(s):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>S. Pacin</i> • <i>P. Pisarek</i> • <i>K. Nanda</i> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ottawa's natural environmental landscape is protected and enhanced • The City has climate change mitigation and resiliency plans in place • Ottawa's biodiversity is maintained despite population growth and climate change • The City is a leader in energy management and in conserving, recycling and reusing resources 		
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Goal 4: Help implement the City of Ottawa Declaration of Climate Emergency report recommendations as adopted by the Standing Committee on Environmental Protection, Water and Waste Management

Activity 1	Responsibility:	Timelines:	Strategic Objective	Status	Lead Dept. / Ctee.
<i>Help implement the City of Ottawa Declaration of Climate Emergency report recommendations</i>	<p>Entire Committee or smaller Working Group</p> <p><i>ESAC Lead(s):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>S. Pacin</i> 	2020-22 / Ongoing	<p>To ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City reduces its greenhouse gas output and climate change considerations are embedded across all elements of operations. • The City has climate change mitigation and resiliency plans in place • The City is a leader in energy management and in conserving, recycling and reusing resources <p>Co-benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ottawa's natural environmental landscape is protected and enhanced • Ottawa's biodiversity is maintained despite population growth and climate change 		PIED / SCEPWWM

Goal 5: Support the implementation of the recommendations outlined in the Council approved Urban Forest Management Plan					
Activities:	Responsibility:	Timelines:	Strategic Objective	Status	Lead Dept. / Ctee.
Activity 1: <i>Support the recommendations included in the Urban Forest Management Plan</i>	Entire Committee or smaller Working Group ESAC Lead(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B. Innes • C. Peabody 	2020-22 / Ongoing	To ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ottawa's Urban Forest Management Plan is implemented over time • Ottawa's urban forest is protected and enhanced • Ottawa's biodiversity is maintained 		PIED / SCEPWWM

RECREATION AND CULTURAL FACILITIES SERVICES

Goal 6: Help to reduce the overall carbon footprint of the City through our Smart Energy (Ph. 2) efforts to reduce energy consumption, reduce the amount spent on utilities and reduce the amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) the City creates					
Activity 1	Responsibility:	Timelines:	Strategic Objective	Status	Lead Dept. / Ctee.
<i>Help to continue to reduce the City's overall carbon</i>	Entire Committee or smaller Working Group	2020-22 / Ongoing	To ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City reduces its greenhouse gas output and climate change 		RCFS / SCEPWWM

footprint, energy consumption, the amount spent on utilities and the amount of GHGs	<p>ESAC Lead(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B. Innes 		<p>considerations are embedded across all elements of operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City is a leader in energy management and in conserving, recycling and reusing resources • The City reduces its green house gas output 		
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Goal 7: Support efforts to invest in recreation infrastructure and improve selected parks and facilities across all City wards

Activity 1	Responsibility:	Timelines:	Strategic Objective	Status	Lead Dept. / Ctee.
<p>Support the improvement in selected parks and public spaces, in harmony with the recommendations included in the Urban Forest Management Plan.</p>	<p>Entire Committee or smaller Working Group</p> <p>ESAC Lead(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B. Innes 	<p>2020-22 / Ongoing</p>	<p>To ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities have access to affordable recreation facilities and programs, and attractive signature public spaces, in-line with Ottawa's Urban Forest Management Plan. 		<p>RCFS / SCEPWWM</p>

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Goal 8: Help support <i>Light Rail Transit</i> to reduce greenhouse gas emissions					
Activities:	Responsibility:	Timelines:	Strategic Objective	Status	Lead Dept. / Ctee.
<p>Activity 1:</p> <p><i>Support City and OC Transpo fleet, including Light Rail Transit, in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.</i></p> <p>Activity 2:</p> <p><i>Support other activities that encourage residents to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions from transportation.</i></p>	<p>Entire Committee or smaller Working Group</p> <p>ESAC Lead(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P. Pisarek • B. Innes <p>• K. Nanda</p>	2020-22 / Ongoing	<p>To ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City has climate change mitigation and resiliency plans in place • The City reduces its greenhouse gas output and climate change considerations are embedded across all elements of operations. 		TSD / PWES / TTC

Document 2 – Summary of Staff Consultations for 2019-2022

The ESAC was consulted by staff on the following matters:

FSD = Finance Services Department

ICS = Innovative Client Services

IWS = Infrastructure and Water Services (formerly part of PWES)

PIED = Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development

PRED = Planning, Real Estate and Economic Development (formerly PIED)

PWD = Public Works Department (formerly part of PWES)

PWES = Public Works and Environmental Services

TSD = Transportation Services Department

Matter:	Consulted by:	Presentation(s) to ESAC	Feedback provided by ESAC
Solid Waste Master Plan Roadmap	PWES	27 June 2019	Motion to support the directions being taken, and recommendation that the response to the Direction to Staff provided at the SCEPWWM meeting of 25 June 2019 include a <i>detailed</i> analysis of the organic material being produced at the Renewi organic waste processing facility.
Overview of the Official Plan – City-Wide	PIED	27 June 2019	Committee questioned whether work being undertaken on the OP was concurrent with work on the Greenspace Master Plan, and whether Transportation and Transit issues were also being taken into consideration.

Update on Air Quality and Climate Change Management Plan (AQCCMP)	PIED	27 June 2019	Committee questioned whether Environmental Assessments (EAs) were being undertaken with a climate lens / carbon budgeting being applied to planning matters for infrastructure and transportation and transit projects, taking health, social and economic impacts into account, with a view to reducing GHG levels. Members also asked for a future follow-up to include information on a full-scope vulnerability assessment in terms of the effects of invasive species advancing north, due to climate change
Update on Energy Evolution	PIED	27 June 2019	Questions related to the magnitude of change required; energy efficiency / energy waste matters related to demolition and reconstruction of existing buildings; why the City should be undertaking GHG reduction initiatives when other jurisdictions were not, and; opportunities to increase energy efficiencies while reducing GHG emissions.
City of Ottawa Declaration of Climate Emergency	ESAC Motion	27 June 2019	Motion: That staff be requested to provide additional details on the immediate actions that the City of Ottawa will be taking to raise the awareness of actions by Ottawa residents on this emergency.

Term of Council Priorities 2019-2022 – Joint Presentation	PIED / PWES / ICS	24 October 2019	Discussions touched upon the sustainability of economic growth versus 'green growth', improved targeting for GHG reduction, making the Ottawa River a priority, tracking outcomes through regular reporting, and the requirement for cooperation between different levels of government
Overview of New Official Plan Policy Direction 4 - Related to Natural Heritage Systems / Greenspace Master Plan (Items Considered Jointly)	PIED	24 October 2019	Discussions touched upon the public engagement process, tornado damage mitigation, criteria used in tree health management, mitigating the effects of urban 'heat islands', analysis methodology, partnering with other levels of government, employing a climate lens in formulating policy and educating staff and property owners on the importance and value of maintaining trees throughout various development processes and stages, and fines for non-compliance
Overview of Energy Evolution	PIED	24 October 2019	Discussions included best practices and benchmarking / peer review, ensuring that air quality considerations are taken into account to maintain resiliency and health when planning for a decrease in the size of building envelopes, Building Code considerations, shifting thinking in terms of 'payback' (i.e., environmental versus financial), transportation aspects and

			telecommuting considerations to achieve greater GHG reduction, solar roofing and personal energy systems, and ways of capitalizing on Federal funding programs and sources
Climate Emergency (Verbal Update)	PIED	24 October 2019	Committee asked about work being undertaken by the Council Climate Change Sponsors' Group, and requested updates at future meetings.
2020 Draft Operating and Capital Budgets – Joint Presentation	FSD / PIED / PWES / TSD	14 November 2020	Questions / suggestions included how a Climate Lens could be applied to the City's budget through its various Master Plans; questions regarding various details in the City's Operating and Capital Budgets; increasing operational spending to deal with extreme weather conditions; the City's ability to deal with climate change; the future of Energy Evolution; the urban tree canopy and tree replacement; and, how the LRT could help by reducing GHG emissions and save on road maintenance and the construction of new roads in future, based on a reduced dependence on individual cars.
Transportation Master Plan Update	TSD	14 November 2020	Staff responded to members' questions pertaining to the quantification of GHGs; coordination of data collection; methodologies and modelling; opportunities for public consultation; the concept of induced demand, the

			costs of travel to society; multi-modal approaches to transportation; and the potential for collaboration with the NCC and/or other inter-provincial partners
City of Ottawa Tree Bylaw Review	PIED	14 November 2021	Members discussed initiatives to help preserve the City's existing heritage trees, how a review of the existing By-law would help the future of Ottawa's tree canopy, and how education was important in changing attitudes on the value of trees. Discussions also included questions of community grants and other tree protection strategies and initiatives; land-use mapping; tree canopy cover targets; the development of a new tree planting program, and coping with existing problems to trees such as urban development and Hydro rights-of-way.
Proposed Term of Council Priorities 2019-2022	ESAC (for discussion)	14 November 2021	To have been discussed off-line.
Questions for Energy Evolution Project Team on the Energy Evolution Final Report	PIED	24 September 2020	General questions from Committee in response to a high level overview of the <i>Energy Evolution Final Report</i> . Committee was informed of an upcoming technical briefing on Energy Evolution and that an update on the Climate Change Master Plan would come to SCEPWWM in

			December, to report on the results of the Energy and Emissions Model, and to include a financial analysis.
Regional Climate Projections Update	PIED	22 October 2020	Members questioned how the climate projections could be integrated with the City's Official Plan and various departmental Master Plans and programs, be used to assess vulnerabilities, help support climate adaptation, and develop a Climate Resiliency Strategy.
Solid Waste Master Plan – Project Update Presentation	PWES	22 October 2020	Members discussed waste diversion policies and options, enhanced recycling programs for multi-unit buildings, the potential effect of a Federal ban on single-use plastics, COVID19 waste in the waste stream, and the evolving nature of the Master Planning process to be more adaptive and responsive to an eventual shift to 100% producer responsibility.
2021 Draft Operating and Capital Budgets – Joint Presentation	FSD / PIED / PWES	12 November 2020	ESAC's comments were forwarded to SCEPWWM for consideration prior to its meeting of 17 November 2020. Staff were requested to return to present an overview of rural drinking water systems and subwatershed studies, and to provide water resource policy planning primers, when available and, that where possible, staff consider shifting

			funding from projects which, by their nature, are not consistent with Climate Change goals (e.g., from new roads to the Active Transportation infrastructure and/or to allow greater impact and activities for programs like Energy Evolution and Urban Tree program).
Status Update on the Tree By-Law	PIED	12 November 2020	Staff responded to members' questions that touched upon changes to the bylaw itself and related processes.
New Natural Heritage Policies	PIED	6 May 2021	Staff responded to questions on ESAC's ability to provide input on the OP.
Proposed Better Homes Loan Program	PIED	6 May 2021	General questions from Committee.
Rain Ready Ottawa Program	PIED	6 May 2021	General questions from Committee.
Tree Planting	PIED	10 June 2021	General questions from Committee and an expression of concern regarding the current <i>Gypsy Moth</i> infestation (Direction to Staff was provided at the SCEPWWM meeting of Tuesday, 29 June 2021 to develop a response plan Re: Concerns over Gypsy Moths).
New City of Ottawa Official Plan - Interim	PIED	10 June 2021	General budget-related questions from Committee.

“As We Heard It” Presentation			Letter from Chair Nanda, on behalf of ESAC, providing comment on Official Plan circulated to staff on 22 July 2021 (copy of letter held on file with the Office of the City Clerk).
Overview of the Solid Waste Master Plan's Engagement Series 2	PWES	7 October 2021	Members questions included both long-term and short-term departmental engagement strategies for both ESAC and the public, and consultation and involvement with community associations and umbrella organizations. Members were encouraged to contact staff directly to provide any additional feedback.
Climate Change Master Plan - Annual Greenhouse Gas Inventories and Status Update	PIED	7 October 2021	Discussions included the application of climate lenses to development applications and capital projects, the development of tools to help staff determine GHG emissions and carbon accounting at the project level, to help inform financial plans and analyses earlier on in project management processes, and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on GHG emissions
New City of Ottawa Official Plan - Supplemental Committee Discussion	ESAC	7 October 2021	Members Peabody and Innes drafted a submission for consideration by the Joint Agriculture and Rural Affairs, and Planning Committees' meeting of 14-15 October, 2021.

Motion – Coordination of Community Engagement	ESAC	7 October 2021	<p>Member B. Innes Motion:</p> <p>That ESAC ask staff to publish a forward calendar of consultations on city policies and plans for the next six months to achieve better engagement and buy in to the City's environmental sustainability efforts.</p> <p>Motion was circulated to staff on 12 May 2022.</p>
2022 Draft Operating and Capital Budgets – Joint Presentation	FSD / PIED / PWES	9 November 2021	<p>General questions from Committee. Discussion included whether there have been noticeable changes to recycling; questions on recycling markets and revenues from waste collection streams; yearly variations to the Forestry Services budget and on various aspects of tree planting and compensation for felled trees.</p>
Update on the Provincial Transition to Individual Producer Responsibility	PWES	9 November 2021	<p>Questions to staff touched upon efforts to improve communication on recycling for items such as batteries; considerations for future policy discussions; questions of enforcement and compliance; benchmarking to provide comparative data; feedback from the Province on IPR initiatives; and whether the City will continue to help residents who may have poor access to typical hazardous waste collection services</p>

Overview of Better Buildings Ottawa Program – Benchmarking and Disclosure Program	PRED	19 May 2022	General questions from Committee.
High Performance Development Standards	PRED	19 May 2022	General questions from Committee.
Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment	PRED	16 June 2022	Questions touched upon parks and tree infrastructure, tree mortality due to extremes in climate, discussions of dedicating budget resources for climate resilience, priorities that may govern future budgets, prioritizing the need for all departments to incorporate considerations of climate change and the need for work on climate-related communications strategies.
Energy Evolution - Update	PRED	16 June 2022	Discussions included: moving towards more sustainable funding models, funding pressures and funding allocation, and trying to ensure that the City provides sustainable funding to implement a funding resilience strategy. Motion: That the ESAC recommend that the City would provide sustainable and stable funding to implement the Climate Change Master Plan.

Solid Waste Master Plan – Update	PWD	16 June 2022	Discussions included comments on community consultation, participation and potential barriers to same; food waste reduction; communications related to community health and nutrition; packaging and hazardous waste reduction.
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