

<p><b>4. OTTAWA CENTRE ECODISTRICT SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN</b></p> <p><b>PLAN D'ACTION POUR DES VOISINAGES DURABLES POUR L'ÉCOQUARTIER D'OTTAWA-CENTRE</b></p>
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**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Council:

1. **Adopt the Ottawa Centre EcoDistrict *Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan*, as described in this report, and;**
2. **Issue a letter to Invest Ottawa and its partners in support of its Completion Report for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Building Fund, as described in this report.**

**RECOMMANDATIONS DU COMITÉ**

Que le Conseil :

1. **Adopte le *Plan d'action pour des voisinages durables* pour l'écoquartier d'Ottawa-Centre, et ;**
2. **Envoi une lettre à Investir Ottawa et à ses partenaires en appui à son rapport d'achèvement pour le Fonds pour les bâtiments écologiques de la Fédération canadienne des municipalités, comme l'explique le présent rapport.**

**DOCUMENTATION / DOCUMENTATION**

1. Acting Deputy City Manager's report, City Operations, dated 28 September 2015 (ACS2015-COS-ESD-0022).

Rapport de la Directrice municipale adjointe par intérim, Opérations municipales, daté le 28 septembre 2015 (ACS2015-COS-ESD-0022).

**Report to  
Rapport au:**

**Environment Committee  
Comité de l'environnement  
05 Oct 2015 / le 05 oct. 2015**

**and Council  
et au Conseil  
14 October 2015 / 14 octobre 2015**

**Submitted on September 28, 2015  
Soumis le 28 septembre 2015**

**Submitted by  
Soumis par:  
Susan Jones, Acting Deputy City Manager, Directrice municipale adjointe par  
intérim, City Operations / Opérations municipales**

**Contact Person  
Personne ressource:  
Dixon Weir, General Manager/Directeur général, Environmental Services / Service  
environnementaux  
*613-580-2424, x22002, Dixon.Weir@ottawa.ca***

**Ward: SOMERSET (14)**

**File Number: ACS2015-COS-ESD-0022**

**SUBJECT: Ottawa Centre EcoDistrict Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan**

**OBJET: Plan d'action pour des voisinages durables pour l'écoquartier  
d'Ottawa-Centre**

## REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That Environment Committee recommend Council:

1. **Adopt the Ottawa Centre EcoDistrict *Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan*, as described in this report; and**
2. **Issue a letter to Invest Ottawa and its partners in support of its Completion Report for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Building Fund, as described in this report.**

## RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

Que le Comité de l'environnement recommande au Conseil :

1. **d'adopter le *Plan d'action pour des voisinages durables* pour l'écoquartier d'Ottawa-Centre;**
2. **d'envoyer une lettre à Investir Ottawa et à ses partenaires en appui à son rapport d'achèvement pour le Fonds pour les bâtiments écologiques de la Fédération canadienne des municipalités, comme l'explique le présent rapport.**

## BACKGROUND

In October 2013, the City supported a Green Municipal Fund (GMF) application by the Ottawa Centre EcoDistrict (OCED) for a grant towards development of a Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP). The City, as the municipal sponsor of the GMF grant, is required to adopt the [Ottawa Centre EcoDistrict Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan](#) as a condition of the final grant disbursement.

An EcoDistrict is a neighbourhood or district that is focused on implementing sustainability. The EcoDistrict approach allows residents, businesses, and community organizations to collaborate and implement actions that support sustainability on a neighbourhood scale. The Ottawa Centre EcoDistrict is located in the city's core and was established in 2012. Its boundaries are the Ottawa River to the north, the Rideau Canal to the east, Bronson Street to the west and Gloucester Street from Bronson to Metcalfe and Nepean from Metcalfe to Elgin to the south with two expanded areas. The OCED is a provincially incorporated, not-for-profit group that is managed by volunteer representatives from the private sector.

The [OCED Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan \(SNAP\)](#) is the output of a two year initiative of OCED staff working with over 300 residents and almost 100 businesses and organizations. It comprises actions to be carried out over several years through various partnerships and by member organizations. It builds upon existing municipal master plans for land use, economic development, transportation, cycling, forestry, walkability, air quality, and is the natural extension of the work of the City.

## DISCUSSION

Development of the OCED SNAP was made possible through \$60,000 in private sector contributions, a \$20,000 grant from the City of Ottawa through Invest Ottawa, and a \$97,625 grant from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) sponsored by the City of Ottawa. A report on this matter went before Council in October, 2013 ([ACS2013-COS-ESD-0027](#)) that resulted in receipt of the FCM grant.

In preparing the Action Plan, the OCED undertook the following activities:

- Completed baseline research into the number and type of buildings inside the EcoDistrict; examined the feasibility of expanding district energy to the whole EcoDistrict; completed an economic analysis that examined City data from many sources including information on population, economic development, employment, transportation, cycling and light rail; completed an environmental analysis that examined City data on climate change, parklands, greenspace, cycling, pedestrian travel, transportation and waste management; and completed an analysis of electricity use over a three year period with help from Hydro Ottawa.
- Developed a communications strategy that included: development and updating of a [web site](#); use of several social media tools, most notably Twitter (@ott\_ecodistrict.org); and obtaining earned media to raise the organization profile and to support our campaigns.
- Engaged the community by: hosting a major event for residents at Jean Piggott Place on February 19, 2015 which attracted 150 people; hosting an online engagement effort in March 2015 to allow residents to comment on the top 10 ideas; launching specific events like Cycle In that secured participation from over 150 volunteers accounting for over 1,000 hours of support; and securing direct feedback from citizens on specific issues like cycling, waste and electric vehicles.

- Engaged stakeholders including businesses, levels of government and organizations by: securing early letters of support for the original FCM application from over 40 businesses and organizations; securing support from elected representatives at all levels; meeting with City Councillors to share information about the EcoDistrict; inviting the Mayor and Councillors to several high profile events; holding over 100 one on one meetings with stakeholders as well as many group meetings; forming partnerships with many organizations to co-host or co-deliver events and campaigns; working with City of Ottawa staff in eight different areas from safety to cycling to forestry; and forming the EcoDistrict Network of 17 Champions and 21 Ambassadors which participate regularly in events and pay an annual membership fee.

The resulting plan comprises activities to be carried out between now and 2026 ranging from hosting a Sharing Economy Forum to encouraging energy reporting of all commercial buildings in the OCED. By adopting the plan, the City supports the actions outlined in [OCED Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan](#) and will issue a letter of support of the Completion Report to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

There are no financial obligations associated with adoption of the OCED SNAP.

## **RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no rural implications associated with this report.

## **CONSULTATION**

No consultation was carried out in the preparation of this report. However, the Ottawa Centre EcoDistrict carried out comprehensive consultations in order to develop its *Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan* as noted in this report.

## **COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)**

The Councillor strongly supports the recommendation in the report to adopt the Ottawa Centre EcoDistrict Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan.

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE(S) COMMENTS**

No Advisory Committees were consulted on the development of this report.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal impediments to implementing the recommendation in the report.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

No risks were identified that would arise due to adoption of the report recommendations.

## **ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

This report has no impact on City capital assets.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications associated with this report. Actions identified in the [Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan](#) are to be funded through community partners. Any requests for funding from the City of Ottawa will be considered through the annual budgetary process.

## **ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS**

Accessibility will be addressed as part of the implementation of the SNAP.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

The OCED has as one of its three goals “to reduce the ecological footprint of operations” within the EcoDistrict. The SNAP is a key first step to achieving this goal as it represents specific actions community members have identified that they are committed to pursuing.

## **TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no technology implications associated with this report.

## **TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

This report supports Term of Council priority of Environmental Sustainability.

## **DISPOSITION**

Subsequent to Council approval of this report, Environmental Services Department will undertake the letter of support on behalf of the Corporation and Council.