

**REPORT 19
27 OCTOBER 2021**

**EXTRACT OF DRAFT STANDING
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION,
WATER AND WASTE MANAGEMENT
MINUTES 19
19 OCTOBER 2021**

**EXTRAIT DE L'ÉBAUCHE DU
PROCÈS-VERBAL 19 DU COMITÉ
PERMANENT DE LA PROTECTION
DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT, DE L'EAU
ET DE LA GESTION DES DÉCHETS
LE 19 OCTOBRE 2021**

**RELEASE OF THE BETTER BUILDINGS OTTAWA STRATEGY
AND LAUNCH OF THE BENCHMARKING AND AUDITING PROGRAM**

ACS2021-PIE-EDP-0037

CITY WIDE

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Standing Committee on Environmental Protection, Water and Waste Management recommend that Council:

- 1. Approve the Better Buildings Ottawa Strategy attached as Document 1 and summarized in this report;**
- 2. Approve and direct staff to launch the Benchmarking and Auditing Program, attached as Document 2 and summarized in this report;**
- 3. Direct the Council Sponsors Group to work with the Mayor to request the Government of Ontario to:**
 - a) Amend the province's Reporting of Energy Consumption and Water Use (O.Reg. 506/18) regulation to mandate industrial, commercial, institutional and multi-unit residential buildings of 1,850 m² (approximately 20,000 ft²) or larger and other building types to report their energy consumption and water use, and to expand the scope of the regulation to include energy, water and greenhouse gas emissions disclosure at the address level;**
 - b) Implement a net zero retrofit code;**

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- c) **Provide authority for municipalities to mandate energy and emissions performance standards should the Government of Ontario not amend its Energy Consumption and Water Use regulation;**
 - d) **Create grant and/or rebate programs to improve the business case for deep retrofits with longer paybacks for all building types; and**
 - e) **Demonstrate leadership through deep carbon retrofits in provincially-owned or leased buildings in Ottawa.**
- 4. **Direct staff to report back to Council on the City's legislative authority and implementation plan to require the following for existing commercial, institutional and multi-unit residential buildings of 1,850 m² (approximately 20,000 ft²) or larger should the Government of Ontario not amend its Energy Consumption and Water Use regulation:**
 - a) **Mandatory annual energy, water, and greenhouse gas emission benchmarking and disclosure;**
 - b) **Mandatory energy and emissions audits and/or recommissioning reports, and retrofit plans; and**
 - c) **Mandatory emissions or energy performance targets.**
- 5. **Direct the Council Sponsors Group to work with the Mayor to request the Government of Ontario to direct the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) and Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) to:**

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**RAPPORT 19
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- a) **Implement rate structure changes that favour electrification and fuel switching away from natural gas;**
 - b) **Fund electrical service upgrades that are required for Green House Gas (GHG) reduction purposes through the rate base;**
 - c) **Develop utility mechanisms to help support and invest in deep emissions retrofits; and**
 - d) **Continue retrofit cost reduction measures, such as performance-based rebates for improved energy and emission performance.**
- 6. Direct the Council Sponsors Group to work with the Mayor to request the Government of Canada to:**
- a) **Release a model retrofit code that aligns with the targets set in the Paris Agreement;**
 - b) **Set standards for low embodied carbon materials including concrete and steel and low global warming potential refrigerants;**
 - c) **Continue its commitment to carbon pricing via the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*;**
 - d) **Create/expand grant programs and tax incentives to improve the business case for deep retrofits with long payback periods;**

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- e) Work with municipalities to ensure rebates and financing for deep emissions retrofits include providing a loan backstop for municipal retrofit financing programs for private buildings;**
 - f) Continue the enhancement of deep retrofit financing in collaboration with municipalities through the Canadian Infrastructure Bank; and**
 - g) Support the manufacturing and supply chains to increase availability of low embodied carbon materials for the building industry.**

At the outset, the Committee received a slide presentation overview of the report from Ms Janice Ashworth, Project Manager, Environmental Programs, Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Department. A copy of this presentation is held on file with the Office of the City Clerk.

The Committee then heard from the following public delegations, in support of the report and/or offering suggestions for improvement:

- Ms Willow English⁺, Safe Wings Ottawa
- Ms Angela Keller-Herzog, Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES)

Correspondence was also received from Mr. John Dickie*, Eastern Ontario Landlord Association (EOLO).

[+ Slide presentation, held on file with the Office of the City Clerk]

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*[* Individuals / groups marked with an asterisk above either provided comments in writing or by e-mail; all submissions and presentations are held on file with the Office of the City Clerk.]*

The Committee's questions to the speakers and to staff touched upon the points addressed in the presentation and those raised by the presenters which included, but were not necessarily limited to: the need to include considerations of biodiversity and risk mitigation for birds; discussions around grants, incentives and low-cost financing mechanisms; benchmarking and measurement; entering into dialogue with the Federal Government to learn about shared experiences; the need for all to do their part, and; next steps.

Discussions having concluded, the report recommendations were put before the Committee and were 'CARRIED', as presented, along with the following Direction from Councillor McKenney:

DIRECTION TO STAFF

That staff be directed to study how the City's Bird-Safe Design Guidelines and related bird collision mitigation measures can be integrated with the Better Buildings Strategy and financial support framework. There is significant overlap between energy efficiency retrofits and bird-safe design changes, such as replacing existing windows/glass surfaces and lighting upgrades. There are financial, environmental and wildlife conservation benefits and efficiencies achieved by integrating bird-safe design measures into a building retrofit.