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Federal Election Survey 2021

Ecology Ottawa is a non-partisan, grassroots environmental organization with more than 100,000 supporters from across the city. We have prepared this survey for all candidates in the federal election in order to help our supporters and the general public better understand where the candidates and parties stand. The survey covers each of Ecology Ottawa's program areas:

- Living City – focused on trees, greenspace and water;
- Active City – focused on sustainable transportation such as walking, cycling and transit; and
- Renewable City – focused on climate change and the energy transition.

We are asking all registered candidates running in Ottawa-area ridings to answer each of the questions via Google Forms. Responses will be posted on our website at ecologyottawa.ca as they become available. Candidates are welcome to revise their answers at any time. Ecology Ottawa is happy to provide additional information if candidates need more context before answering a question.

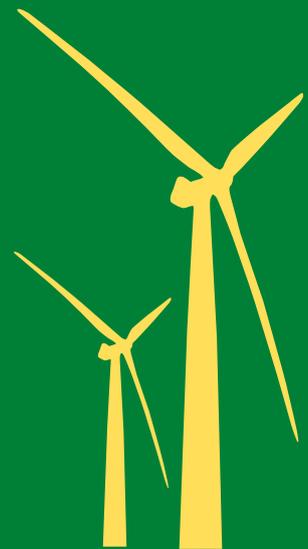
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Renewable City

Climate change is an international problem, but the causes, impacts and solutions are often local. If we want Canada to do its fair share on climate change, cities like Ottawa can and must lead the way. At the same time, we know that the climate crisis presents an opportunity to transform our city for the better while creating great jobs. Ecology Ottawa's Renewable City program aims to transition our city in response to the challenge of a changing climate. We know that 100% renewable energy is 100% possible, we say "no" to new fossil fuel infrastructure, and we focus on creating clean energy jobs.



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1 Ottawa was on the front lines of the proposed Energy East pipeline, a massive pipeline infrastructure project that was slated to bring over a million barrels of tar sands oil a day through our city. This particular project threatened Ottawa's suburban communities and water supply. While Energy East was stopped due to grassroots opposition, other pipeline infrastructure projects continue to threaten Canadian communities. Meanwhile, Canada continues to invest in fossil fuel infrastructure and gives billions of dollars in handouts to coal, oil and gas companies.

As MP, how will you act to phase out fossil fuel infrastructure and fossil fuel subsidies?

2 In August 2021, The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a stark report on the state of global climate change. The report calls for unprecedented action to avoid climate catastrophe. This includes a call for a 45% emissions cut by 2030, and full net-zero emissions by 2050. Cities – especially large cities in developed countries like Ottawa – are critical to global success in the fight against climate change. And while emissions cuts are essential, we also know that the transition to a green economy can bring a host of opportunities and benefits.

As MP, what are some key areas of opportunity and action on climate for Ottawa to join the ranks of outstanding climate-friendly capital cities; and what would you do as MP to support those?



- 3** 45% of Ottawa’s emissions stem from how we heat, cool and electrify our homes, offices and other buildings. In 2021, the federal government launched a \$2.6 billion home retrofit program, which provides grants of up to \$5,000 for energy efficiency retrofits. While this is a good start, the scope and scale of local retrofit requirements is immense. Ottawa will need to retrofit 327,000 single family units and 104,000 units in multi-residential buildings by 2040 to achieve net zero emissions in line with the city’s climate plan.

As MP, what is your plan for accelerating the pace and scale of retrofits in our community?

- 4** Land use planning and transportation play a major role in the twin crises of climate and housing affordability. Ottawa’s new Official Plan and Energy Evolution climate strategy call for the majority of new development to be in denser, walkable 15-minute neighbourhoods – which is projected to cut driving in half. Housing affordability is a key driver of suburban sprawl and many people ‘drive until they qualify” for a mortgage. But savings in housing costs can be offset by transportation costs which can be more than twice as high in more distant, car-oriented locations that require higher levels of car ownership and driving.

As MP, how will you integrate federal policies and spending on housing, climate, and transportation to address both the housing and climate crises by advancing affordable, travel-efficient neighbourhoods?

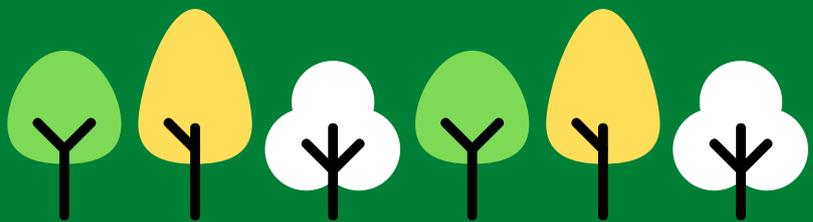
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Living City

Ottawa is composed of much more than buildings, roads and other grey infrastructure. Our city is also made up of greenspace, animals, trees and waterways. Ecology Ottawa's Living City program aims to breathe life into our built spaces and to protect the greenspaces and waterways that define our city. We seek to integrate nature into the very fabric of urban planning, to defend the natural world, and to solve urban challenges by working with – not against – nature.



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1 Canada is a signatory to the global Convention on Biological Diversity, which seeks to address global biodiversity loss. Cities are particularly important for nature protection due to high levels of human impact on ecosystems. Ottawa in particular requires strong federal leadership, due to cross-jurisdictional ecosystems (e.g., the Ottawa River watershed) and large tracts of land managed by the National Capital Commission.

As MP, what are your plans to protect nature in Ottawa?

2 Much of Ottawa's land – including all land under the management of the National Capital Commission – is under federal control. For example, the federal government has jurisdiction over large parts of the Experimental Farm, the Arboretum and Tunney's Pasture, as well as land owned by the Ottawa International Airport Authority. When the site selection process for the new Civic Hospital got underway, Ecology Ottawa favoured Tunney's Pasture as the target site, as it was highly transit-accessible featured already-developed land. The new Civic Hospital is now slated for construction at the Sir John Carling site, which sits on Experimental Farm and Arboretum land. The current hospital design – featuring large areas dedicated to surface parking – threatens to eliminate over 500 trees. Meanwhile, we are seeing other threats on federal land such as the Hunt Club Forest BMW parking lot expansion and the proposed Embassy Row development in Mechanicsville.

As MP, what are your plans to protect trees and greenspace on federally-owned land?

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Active City

Transportation decisions are critical to the health, vitality and viability of our communities and environment. For decades, North American streets – and by extension, our communities – were designed around the car. This over-emphasis can create isolated communities, dangerous streets, a loss of precious greenspace, congestion, air pollution and severe funding challenges for public transportation. It has also contributed to the climate crisis by privileging car transportation as the primary transportation option in Ottawa.

Ecology Ottawa has a vision of an alternative way forward. Ottawa can become an Active City – a place where bustling, livable neighbourhoods are connected by world-class public transit; where city streets are open to people of all ages, users and abilities; and where our transportation network accommodates the needs of people – and not just cars – to move about safely and efficiently.



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- 1** The City of Ottawa's climate plan, Energy Evolution, outlines a pathway to net zero community-level emissions by 2050. A key part of this plan involves the widespread and rapid adoption of electric vehicles by private citizens. Canada has stated that it will ban the sale of fuel-burning new cars and light-duty trucks by 2035. However, it is widely acknowledged that additional steps will be needed to meet this target, possibly including policies aimed at incentives, education, supply and infrastructure around electric vehicles.

As MP, what are your plans to accelerate the transition to electric vehicles in Ottawa?

- 2** In 2021, the federal government announced Canada's first-ever strategy and fund dedicated to building active transportation trails and pathways. This is a positive step forward. However, Ottawa still has a long way to go. Currently, transportation emissions make up around 44% of community-wide emissions. In 2016, less than 10% of Ottawans used active transportation (i.e., walking and cycling) to get to work.

As MP, what are your plans to accelerate active transportation in our city?

- 3** Currently, Ottawa's 932-bus OC Transpo fleet runs mostly on diesel, which has negative impacts on climate change, air pollution and respiratory health. Due to a 2021 federal funding commitment of \$2.75 billion (Canada-wide) for zero-emission public transit and school buses, OC Transpo has announced that it can now move toward a zero-emission fleet by 2036.

As MP, how will you assist Ottawa's transition to a zero-emission bus fleet?