

## **Greening the Capital**

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **OTTAWA RIVER ACTION PLAN**

The City has already made significant investments and to protect our environment and waterways through the Ottawa River Action Plan. In collaboration with the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada, the City has invested over \$232 million in the design and construction of the Combined Sewage and Storage Tunnel (CSST), a key project of the Ottawa River Action Plan aimed at drastically reducing the discharge of combined sewer and wastewater into the Ottawa River. With the construction of the CSST well underway, the City anticipates a reduction of more than 80% in the discharge of waste into the Ottawa River, once the system is operational in 2020.

#### **ENERGY RETROFITS**

Jim Watson will bring forward a motion to Council to invest \$3 million per year towards energy retrofits to City facilities. This will help ensure that retrofit projects are focused on City assets that are high-energy users in need of improvements. This could include projects like boiler replacements in recreation facilities, lighting upgrades and HVAC improvements that will lead to operational savings through energy efficiency measures. This initiative will be funded by debt and will be paid back over a seven to ten-year period through energy savings.

Jim Watson will also ask staff to find other energy savings opportunities with a high yield and a short payback period. These projects will have to be fully funded through cost savings generated over a seven to ten-year period.

## **URBAN TREES**

Maintaining the urban forest is key to fighting climate change. If he is re-elected, Mayor Watson will look for partnership opportunities to enhance the size and protection of Ottawa's urban tree canopy. He would seek to implement clear guidelines and programs that will prioritize and target planting locations, improve public education, and get residents involved through local stewardship. This will see an additional 500,000 trees planted over the next term of Council.

Jim Watson will also target City parks for tree planting efforts, in order to provide much needed shade and help mitigate the effects of rising temperatures for families and children enjoying our parks. The initial focus will be on areas impacted by the recent tornadoes.

## **GREEN PARTNERSHIPS**

Jim Watson will work to expand the mandate of Hydro Ottawa, through its subsidiary Energy Ottawa, to deliver energy efficiency projects to the City and to collaborate with not-for-profit social housing providers to facilitate energy retrofits. These new partnerships will enable investments from Hydro Ottawa to retrofit City facilities or to undertake energy retrofits of aging social housing units. This will not only have immediate environmental impacts; it will also lead to significant recurring operational savings through energy efficiency initiatives.

Similar to the LED streetlight conversion model, which will save the City approximately \$6 million per year in electricity costs, Hydro Ottawa would provide the upfront funding for these projects. The City and qualified not-for-profit social housing providers would then pay back this investment through reduced operational costs and energy savings generated over time. As an example, once approved by Council, the City could convert the City's decorative and park lighting to energy efficient LED lighting, for savings of more than \$2 million annually.

## **GREEN INNOVATION**

The City has a role to play in the advancement of technologies that promise to offer significant environmental and safety improvements. The greening of the City's fleet will reduce diesel fuel costs as well as decrease harmful emissions. For this reason, Jim Watson will ask staff to bring forward to Council a business case for an electric bus pilot project in the next term of Council.

In December 2017, Council approved Phase 1 of Energy Evolution, which strengthened innovative partnerships with stakeholders towards shared environmental goals. Phase 1 delivered a baseline inventory and analysis of Ottawa's current energy consumption and assessed opportunities for renewable energy generation. It also identified more than 30 short-term actions for the next three years.

To date, more than \$5.5 million have been committed to support Energy Evolution, including:

- \$800,000 to fund community-led projects
- \$633,000 from the Hydro Ottawa dividend surplus to fund eight energy-efficiency projects, including a 150-kilowatt fast-charging station for electric vehicles and a biogas optimization study
- \$87,450 from the Municipal Energy Plan Program to cover consulting costs to develop Phase 2 of Energy Evolution
- More than \$4 million from the Municipal GHG Challenge Fund to repurpose Albert and Slater streets after light-rail transit is operational, and to increase energy efficiency at four City facilities; and
- \$30,000 from Enbridge Gas Distribution and Hydro Ottawa to support development of Energy Evolution Phase 2 and undertake technical analyses

Jim Watson will support base funding for Phase 2 of Energy Evolution, which is expected to be completed in 2019. This next phase will identify actions related to energy efficiency and conservation in the infrastructure and transportation sectors, as well as examine energy generated from waste and energy storage.

## **INNOVATION IN WASTE**

Jim Watson would like to make Ottawa a leader in the management of solid waste, in order to reduce the long-term impact on the environment and to preserve our landfill capacity.

We need to increase the proportion of residents participating in waste reduction initiatives. The City has a crucial role to play in raising awareness of the importance of recycling and composting. For example, the diversion rate in multi-residential buildings is only 17 percent, compared to a residential curbside diversion rate of 49%. Although the City currently promotes the use of the green bin to these residents, it is clear that more needs to be done.

More than 533,000 tonnes of organic waste has been diverted from the landfill since the start of the green bin program, and the City is currently piloting co-located garbage and recycling facilities in 50 parks to determine the best way to implement this on a wider scale. Towards this end, Jim Watson will seek to expand waste diversion facilities to 100 high-use City parks to include recycling, organics and pet waste collection.

Jim Watson will also ask staff to assess market opportunities to consider waste as an energy source. Not only is this good environmental policy; it is also an economic development opportunity. Mayor Watson will also seek opportunities to capture gases produced at the City's waste and wastewater treatment plants to generate electricity, which will result in ongoing operational savings and an estimated 6,000 tonnes of GHG reductions.

Jim Watson will also work with Ottawa Community Housing, which is wholly owned by the City of Ottawa, to introduce a green bin pilot project in a high-density affordable housing neighbourhood. He will also seek improvements to the diversion rate in multi-residential buildings as part of the the comprehensive solid waste review, with a focused effort on improving public outreach efforts to increase diversion rates.

## **RECENT ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS**

- 1.** Jim Watson was recognized as a Water Leader by the Ottawa Riverkeeper, a grassroots charity that brings together volunteers, communities, businesses and all levels of government to find solutions to the problems that threaten the health of our rivers.
  
- 2.** For the last two years, Ottawa was recognized as one of Canada's Greenest Employers based on an evaluation of its workplace environmental programs, according to a special feature published in The Globe and Mail.
  
- 3.** In 2018, Ottawa won an award from the Canadian Institute of Planners in the Sustainable Mobility Transportation and Infrastructure category.
  
- 4.** In 2016, Ottawa Community Housing received Canadian Housing Renewal Association's national Sustainability Award for positive impact on their community, operations and the environment.
  
- 5.** In 2018, Tree Canada and CN awarded the City a grant to support tree relocation activities.
  
- 6.** The Lansdowne Redevelopment Project, a partnership between the City and the Ottawa and Sports and Entertainment Group (OSEG), was recognized in 2018 as an innovative example of the City's sustainable building practices. It is the first project in Canada to receive full LEED for Neighbourhood Development Stage 3 Built Project Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.