

Final

Appendix A: Action Plan

Ottawa Centre EcoDistrict

Ottawa, Canada

SEPTEMBER 24, 2015



www.ottawaecodistrict.org

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Overview

Introduction

The Ottawa Centre EcoDistrict (OCED) has produced a Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) for downtown Ottawa. The SNAP and the process used to develop it are described in detail in the document entitled *Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan*. This document is an appendix to that report.

The OCED has completed an 18 month project that has focused on the development of a plan to implement neighbourhood sustainability using the EcoDistrict Protocol as the core methodology for development. In doing so, the OCED has become Canada's first EcoDistrict.

The development of the plan, referred to as the SNAP, was informed by three main inputs: 1) baseline research; 2) engagement of the community and stakeholders; and 3) pilot testing of potential approaches to program delivery.

Description

This document is the action plan component of the SNAP. It includes:

- **EcoDistrict Roadmap** that provides a snapshot of proposed actions; and
- **Action Details** which provide a basic description of each proposed action including supporting events, potential partners, the status quo including costing details and proposed targets.

The actions are grouped using the EcoDistricts protocol and address six priority areas.

- Livability and Place
- Prosperity
- Health and Wellness Mobility & Connectivity
- Ecosystem Function
- Resource Efficiency

Next Steps

This action plan provides direction regarding where the OCED should focus over the next ten years and it notes where project or program specific funds will be needed. It provides future program partners with a clear understanding of the overall framework for implementing neighbourhood sustainability in downtown Ottawa and the value of collaborating. The plan for each proposed action will be considered and finalized by future partners closer to the start of the action.

The actions identified in the SNAP will require additional resources to implement. Nothing in this report obligates any of the current partner organizations (i.e. the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the City of Ottawa, and other private organizations) to contribute financially or otherwise to these initiatives, and it is recognized that internal organizational budget approval processes will be required to secure additional funds from current and future partners.

Action Plan Components

EcoDistrict Roadmap

The Action Plan has been summarized into one document known as the Roadmap. Using the EcoDistricts USA Framework, the OCED team has mapped out proposed programs and projects for the OCED over the next 10 years. The Roadmap is included as **Appendix B**.

Each proposed action is explained in detail in the six sections that follow – one for each priority area.

Priority Areas

This section of the action plan provides a basic description of each proposed action including supporting events, potential partners, the status quo including costing details and proposed targets. The six priority areas are:

- Livability;
- Prosperity;
- Health and Wellness;
- Mobility and Connectivity;
- Ecosystem Stewardship; and
- Climate Protection and Resource Efficiency.

Livability Actions

Definition

Housing and places that promote inclusiveness, identity, empowerment, and culture

OCED Livability Objectives

Engagement

- Facilitate ongoing engagement with employees, residents and community members.
- Mobilize community members to lead and complete actions for positive change.

Housing

- Support the integration of accessible, affordable, and adaptable housing for people of all abilities, incomes and ages in and around the OCED.

Culture and Identity

- Interpret and celebrate places of cultural and historical significance.
- Support events that enhance social vibrancy.

Place

- Create distinct places that are accessible, active, safe, comfortable and socially vibrant.
- Promote multi-modal connectivity between places.

Completed and Ongoing

These are programs, projects and actions that have been initiated and are either complete or ongoing.

Host Community Engagement

In 2015 the OCED hosted a large scale, meaningful community engagement program that was broken into two parts: 1) an in person event at City Hall attended by over 150 people; and 2) an online campaign open to the public for 30 days to allow additional feedback and interaction.

The results of this engagement have been described in the SNAP report.

Events: Community Engagement at Jean Pigott Place, Ottawa City Hall, February 19, 2015; Online Engagement from March 2-25, 2015

Partners: OCED volunteers, community groups.

Status: This pilot session was very successful and it will be transformed into the a new concept called the Better Ottawa engagements.

Target: 150 event participants (achieved); 400 online participants (achieved).

Promote and Green Local Events

In order to promote social vibrancy and to support the mobilization of community members to affect positive change, the OCED regularly promotes events within and around the EcoDistrict. This includes:

- Promotion through social media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram);
- Promotion on OCED web site and through OCED newsletters (Inspiring Ideas and Friends Newsletter); and
- Direct mail out in some cases.

In addition to promotion, the OCED also helps events to reduce their ecological footprint by:

- Providing interactive maps of the downtown that note available bicycle parking and recommended routes to cycle in to events; and
- Sharing information on waste management best practices.

Events: In 2015 the OCED provided these services to Latin Sparks, Buskerfest and Ribfest.

Partners: Latin Sparks, Sparks Street BIA, University of Ottawa Environmental Sustainability Students.

Status: Any costs associated with this service will be passed onto the event. The OCED will continue to offer this service to events in the future.

Targets: # of events; # of event participants.

Run Local Beer Friendlies

A 'Local Beer Friendly' is a celebration of local craft beer with a focus on sustainability.

Local craft beer doesn't just taste great, it's also great for the environment and the economy. The OCED hosts Local Beer Friendlies (LBFs) to:

- Promote local brewers as businesses with a strong focus on triple bottom line sustainability;
- enhance the social vibrancy of the EcoDistrict; and
- Engage people in meaningful conversations about improving Ottawa and building the city of the future.

Events: Three LBFs have been hosted, one in 2014 and two in 2015.

Partners: Participating breweries and sponsor organizations include:

- Ottawa Renewable Energy Co-Op
- Bullfrog Power
- Brew Donkey
- Beau's Brewing Co.
- Beyond The Pale Brewing Co.
- Bicycle Brewing Co. Broadhead Brewing
- Clocktower Brewpub
- Dominion Brewery
- Kichissippi Brewery
- Big Rig Brewery

Status: LBFs are run on a break even basis. The OCED will run two LBFs per year, each time with a new assortment of partners.

Targets: Minimum two events per year; 250 event participants; minimum of 10 sustainable local breweries.

Immediate to Mid 2016

These are programs, projects and actions that will be initiated by January 2016 and substantially completed by July 2016. They may also become ongoing programs.

Host Better Ottawa Community Forum

In 2016 the OCED will host its second large scale, meaningful community engagement program. Our goal is to have another two stage session that allows for face-to-face conversations and extended outreach via social media and the online discussion tool.

The working title is **Better Ottawa** because in our first consultation we found that over 50 percent of responses were ideas that could be applied anywhere in Ottawa. We want to use the EcoDistrict as a catalyst and location for testing city innovations that can be rolled out anywhere. This ties into the Invest Ottawa innovation agenda and helps to attract new businesses to downtown.

Schedule: Better Ottawa to be hosted in April or May 2016.

Partners: EnviroCentre, Ottawa Chamber of Commerce, City of Ottawa, Invest Ottawa, OC Transpo, Bank Street BIA, Sparks Street BIA.

Status: Core funding is in place for 2016.

Targets: 150 of event participants; 300 ideas generated; 100 percent of ideas managed effectively using C2A model.

Launch OCED Scavenger Hunt

As a part of our proposal to host an updated and improved Environment Week event, the OCED will coordinate a scavenger hunt event held within the boundaries of the EcoDistrict. It will increase brand recognition, raise awareness of local sustainability issues and increase social vibrancy.

Every clue station will be supported by a partner. For example Ecology Ottawa would host a clue station and would plan the interaction with the competitors. They would select the awareness focus, for instance reducing GHGs, and would manage the site.

Competitors will be teams of up to 6 people each with one team for every clue. Like a shotgun start in golf each team will start at 3:00 PM at a different clue. We anticipate having up to 15 teams and will market this opportunity to EcoDistrict Champions and Ambassadors first. There will be a team entry fee.

Events: The first EcoDistrict Scavenger Hunt is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 8 at 3:00 PM.

Partners: There will be a signature sponsor and at least one partner per clue. We will also partner with a local restaurant.

Status: This event will be run on a break even basis. The OCED plans to host this event in the future if it is successful.

Targets: 100 event participants; 80 percent satisfaction rating amongst participants (survey); two media stories.

Short Term 2016 and 2017

These are programs, projects and actions that will be initiated substantially completed between July 2016 and December 2017. They may also become ongoing programs.

Improve the Quality of Downtown Greenspace

There are almost 17 hectares of greenspace downtown but many residents and employees have ideas for how to improve what we have. In 2016 the OCED will work with other partners to look for quick wins that can be implemented for Ottawa 2017. Any ideas that cannot be completed in time will be included for consideration in 2018.

We will also work to promote changes and improvements made to downtown greenspace:

- through social media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram); and
- on the OCED web site and through OCED newsletters (Inspiring Ideas and Friends Newsletter).

Schedule: To be determined.

Partners: NCC, City of Ottawa, Bank Street BIA, Sparks Street BIA.

Status: Any specific projects that are identified will require funding.

Targets: Documented condition of existing greenspace with simple ranking and recommendations.

Mid Term 2018 and 2020

These are programs, projects and actions that will be initiated by January 2016 and substantially completed by July 2016. They may also become ongoing programs.

Create Positive Reputation

One of the main goals of the OCED is to create a reputation for the EcoDistrict as a cool, trendy, desirable place to work and live. All of the programs and projects that will be undertaken should contribute to this transformation.

There will be a need to attempt to measure the feeling of employees, residents and visitors towards the downtown. The best method will be to complete a survey and release the results to the media.

Schedule: To be determined.

Partners: Ottawa Tourism, Ottawa Chamber of Commerce, Invest Ottawa, Hub Ottawa, EcoDistrict Network.

Status: The best option would be to complete a brand name poll (e.g. Nanos, Decima). The secondary option would be an in-house survey. Choice of methods will depend on sponsorship and/or partnering.

Target: 10 percent increase in brand awareness; 10 percent increase in positive responses annually.

Host Better Ottawa Community Forum

In 2018 the OCED will host its third large scale, meaningful community engagement program. Our goal is to have another two stage session that allows for face-to-face conversations and extended outreach via social media and the online discussion tool.

The timing would be post Ottawa 2017 and would follow the launch of LRT Stage 1. The goal would be to celebrate accomplishments and identify future direction.

Schedule: Better Ottawa to be hosted in April or May 2018.

Partners: EnviroCentre, Ottawa Chamber of Commerce, City of Ottawa, Invest Ottawa, OC Transpo, Bank Street BIA, Sparks Street BIA.

Status: This item would be completed with core funding.

Targets: 150 of event participants; 300 ideas generated; 100 percent of ideas managed effectively using C2A model.

Long Term 2021 and 2026

These are programs, projects and actions that will be initiated by January 2021 and substantially completed by December 2026. They may also become ongoing programs.

The Downtown is Known as the EcoDistrict

One of the main goals of the OCED is to have the downtown core rebranded as the EcoDistrict. All of the programs and projects that will be undertaken should contribute to this transformation.

There will be a need to attempt to measure the feeling of employees, residents and visitors towards the downtown. The best method will be to complete a survey and release the results to the media.

Schedule: To be determined.

Partners: Ottawa Tourism, Ottawa Chamber of Commerce, Invest Ottawa, Hub Ottawa, EcoDistrict Network.

Status: The best option would be to complete a brand name poll (e.g. Nanos, Decima). The secondary option would be an in-house survey. Choice of methods will depend on sponsorship and/or partnering.

Target: 10 percent increase in brand awareness; 10 percent increase in positive responses annually.

Prosperity Actions

Definition

Education and economic opportunities that build prosperity and innovation

OCED Prosperity Objectives

Education

- Enhance opportunities for lifelong learning
- Support the use of the OCED as a living laboratory by local universities and colleges

Employment

- Generate diverse employment opportunities that meet district needs
- Ensure that economic development investments provide direct benefits to the district through job creation and economic revitalization

Innovation

- Empower entrepreneurs in emerging sectors toward growth and job creation
- Leverage competitive advantages to attract economic, physical and networking assets

Completed and Ongoing

These are programs, projects and actions that have been initiated and are either complete or ongoing.

Increase Visitors to OCED

In 2014 and 2015 the OCED hosted several events on a pilot basis designed to bring people to the EcoDistrict and to raise awareness about specific programs. This included: two EV Days; three Local Beer Friendlies and the first Community Engagement. In addition the OCED helped several events to attract cyclists (see Promote and Green Local Events under Livability) and regularly promoted events hosted by partners (see list below).

All of these activities are designed to bring additional visitors to the EcoDistrict and to raise awareness about the many great activities, sights, restaurants and activities that are taking place downtown.

Events: EV Day in 2014 and 2015; LBF in 2014 and 2015; Community Engagement in 2015; event promotion for Latin Sparks, Buskerfest and Ribfest.

Partners: Hub Ottawa, Enviro Centre, Ecology Ottawa, Apt. 613, Windmill Development Corp, Ottawa Tool Library, Ontario Renewable Energy Coop (OREC), Sparks Street BIA, Bank Street BIA, and many Champions and Ambassadors.

Status: This is part of core funding.

Target: Two percent increase in visitors annually to EcoDistrict partner events (pending).

Participate in Ottawa Business Promotion

The OCED participated in efforts to promote Ottawa as a destination for businesses, and in programs to improve the sustainability performance of existing businesses.

Events: Ottawa Day 2015 at Queens Park, assessments of select Ottawa based businesses and organizations.

Partners: Invest Ottawa.

Status: This is part of core funding.

Target: Five participants in sustainable business assessments by January 1, 2016 (pending); participation in business outreach (achieved)

Immediate to Mid 2016

These are programs, projects and actions that will be initiated by January 2016 and substantially completed by July 2016. They may also become ongoing programs.

Support Sharing Economy Discussion

In 2015 the report 'Back to the Future – The Sharing Economy' was released and several high prominent sharing economy companies garnered a significant amount of press, especially Uber. The OCED recognizes that the sharing economy will have a significant impact on future prosperity. As a result we hope to work with other interested parties to host discussions and consider implications on Ottawa.

Schedule: Participate in meetings up to June 2016 and share results with members of the EcoDistrict Network.

Partners: Hub Ottawa, Young Environmental Professionals of Ottawa.

Status: This is part of core funding.

Target: Host one pilot event with minimum 50 participants.

Pilot Future City Festival

Over 80 percent of Canadians live in cities and this number is growing not just here but around the world. We face major challenges on energy, water, food, density, housing, transportation and affordability. We are also positioned at the brink of major innovation including smart grids, the internet of things, driverless cars, renewable energy, urban gardening and the sharing economy.

Many groups are interested in discussing future cities in an Ottawa context. This conversation also resonates with our four post-secondary institutes. For the OCED it allows us have significant conversations about reducing the ecological footprint of work, urban living, zero waste and a low carbon future.

The pilot Future City Festival will act as a launching pad for the development of a major conference in 2017. Working with Hub Ottawa and other interested parties we will harvest the learning of past efforts to establish themes, activities and sessions.

Events: The pilot would be launched in December 2015 or January 2016.

Partners: Hub Ottawa

Status: This event will be run on a break even basis.

Target: Host one pilot event with minimum 100 participants.

Short Term 2016 and 2017

These are programs, projects and actions that will be initiated substantially completed between July 2016 and December 2017. They may also become ongoing programs.

Include OCED in Why Ottawa Campaign

To fulfill their mission to make Ottawa the best place in Canada to start and grow a business, Invest Ottawa has created its highly successful 'Why Ottawa' campaign. The

OCED will work with Invest Ottawa to include information and data about the EcoDistrict in its campaign.

Schedule: Finalize participation in late 2015 or early 2016 and start in July 2016.

Partners: Invest Ottawa.

Status: This is part of core funding.

Target: EcoDistrict data included in Why Ottawa in late 2016 or early 2017.

Co-Host Major Future City Festival

The Pilot Future City Festival will be designed to attract partners and participants with the promise of a larger event to be held in 2017.

Schedule: The festival program will be curated in 2016 and the festival will happen in 2017.

Partners: Hub Ottawa and other partners to be determined.

Status: This event will be run on a break even basis.

Target: Minimum 100 participants; five media stories; minimum \$10,000 in sponsorship.

Mid Term 2018 and 2020

These are programs, projects and actions that will be initiated by January 2016 and substantially completed by July 2016. They may also become ongoing programs.

Complete Building Transition

The goal of the OCED is to work with all stakeholders to discuss the fate of downtown buildings vacated (or soon to be vacated) by the Government of Canada (GOC). This transition represents a significant opportunity as the GOC continues to support green building in Ottawa by requiring LEED Gold space. By leaving underperforming space that is generally energy intensive to operate it creates the opportunity to reinvent this space and upgrade its energy and environmental performance. This may even include changes of use, as we are seeing in a few cases in 2015, from office or hotel to residential space.

Many stakeholders are involved including the City of Ottawa when it loses tax revenue from vacant buildings. Our goal is to promote solutions that work for multiple partners.

Schedule: Groundwork can begin in 2016 with substantial work to occur in 2018 after the Ottawa 2017 celebrations.

Partners: City of Ottawa, Ottawa Chamber of Commerce, Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA), Canada Green Building Council, the Property Champions of the EcoDistrict Network and others.

Status: The best options would include open dialogue between all stakeholders including space users with an emphasis on incenting a transition to greener, more versatile buildings.

Target: Major event (e.g. forum) or participation in major event (e.g. Real Property Institute of Canada Annual Conference; assessment of the inventory of space that considers best future use.

Measure and Analyze Increase in Jobs Downtown

Working with the City of Ottawa as it produces future Employment Surveys to

Schedule: Better Ottawa to be hosted in April or May 2018.

Partners: EnviroCentre, Ottawa Chamber of Commerce, City of Ottawa, Invest Ottawa, OC Transpo, Bank Street BIA, Sparks Street BIA.

Status: This item would be completed with core funding.

Target: Two percent increase year over year.

Long Term 2021 and 2026

These are programs, projects and actions that will be initiated by January 2021 and substantially completed by December 2026. They may also become ongoing programs.

Recognition as the Most Sustainable Downtown in Canada

The development of Zibi and the efforts to re-shape the downtown core into an EcoDistrict has the potential to make Ottawa the most sustainable downtown in Canada. If we begin to position ourselves with this as our goal and we frame our discussions with this in mind we can make this our future.

Schedule: To be determined.

Partners: Windmill Development Group, Ottawa Tourism, Ottawa Chamber of Commerce, Invest Ottawa, Hub Ottawa, EcoDistrict Network, the NCC and the City of Ottawa

Status: We should target specific business publications and rating systems for recognition.

Target: External verification through academia, media or tourism trade publications.

Health and Wellness Actions

Definition

Improved quality of life for all through better health and wellness

OCED Prosperity Objectives

Active Living

- Support active lifestyles for all ages including walking, bicycling, and active recreation opportunities
- Promote built environments that enable aging-in-place

Wellness

- Build partnerships that foster public safety and support at-risk citizens

Food Systems

- Provide access to healthy, affordable, fresh food
- Encourage fresh food production in the district

Completed and Ongoing

These are programs, projects and actions that have been initiated and are either complete or ongoing.

Increase Bike Parking Downtown

In 2014 an OCED audit of surface level bicycle parking revealed that even though there are over 2,000 surface level bicycle parking spots downtown the bike parking in most locations is full by 10:00 AM leaving few options for shoppers, visitors or employees who start work later. This is also a problem for the Sparks Street BIA and others running events during the workday.

In 2015 the OCED worked with the City of Ottawa to locate more velocity racks and more post and ring racks downtown using the audit data as a starting point.

Events: 2014 Bike Parking Audit; various trips outdoors in 2015 to find locations.

Partners: City of Ottawa, Sparks Street BIA, Bank Street BIA.

Status: This is part of core funding. This is an ongoing program that will continue into 2016 and beyond.

Target: Work with partners to increase # of spots two percent in 2015 (Exceeded, 62 spots or 3 percent increase in 2015); five percent in 2016.

Promote Cycling and Other Healthy Activities

The OCED promotes cycling and other healthy activities like walking, yoga and running within and around the EcoDistrict. This includes:

- Promotion through social media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram);
- Promotion on OCED web site and through OCED newsletters (Inspiring Ideas and Friends Newsletter); and
- Direct mail out in some cases.

In 2015 the OCED promoted Complete Streets, Bike to Work Month, Cycle In, Yoga on the Hill, Walk Ottawa, Ottawa DeTours.

Events: Regular promotion through Twitter and the OCED website plus support of partner initiatives.

Partners: EnviroCentre, Ecology Ottawa, City of Ottawa.

Status: This is part of core funding. This is an ongoing program that will continue into 2016 and beyond.

Target: Minimum of 10 partner tweets and one partner blog article per month (achieved – 2015).

Immediate to Mid 2016

These are programs, projects and actions that will be initiated by January 2016 and substantially completed by July 2016. They may also become ongoing programs.

Promote Bike-Ride-Walk

The Ottawa Cycling Plan 2013 targets the development of infrastructure and policies to improve the viability and acceptance of the Bike-Ride-Walk (BRW) mixed-mode model. Given the coming transition of Ottawa's downtown transit service to LRT promotion of the BRW model has both health benefits and mobility benefits.

Furthermore the OCED supports *OCP Recommendation 4.3* and will help to promote it. The recommendation states “The Bike-Ride-Walk option shall be promoted as part of the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programming and be included in further updates to the TDM Plan implementation.”

Schedule: Promotion of Bike-Ride-Walk can begin in 2016 and can ramp up once LRT is in place.

Partners: Rail Implementation Office (RIO) at City of Ottawa, OC Transpo.

Status: This is part of core funding.

Target: In 2016: one expert editorial; one media piece; two blog posts; 15 Tweets.

Short Term 2016 and 2017

These are programs, projects and actions that will be initiated substantially completed between July 2016 and December 2017. They may also become ongoing programs.

Assume Responsibility for Queen Street Planters

In support of the first phase of LRT, the City of Ottawa is completing a comprehensive streetscape renewal of the Queen Street surface infrastructure from Bronson Avenue to Elgin Street. The City is considering the installation of planters for street greening as long as maintenance is managed by a third party.

The OCED has expressed an interest in entering into an Operation and Maintenance Agreement to maintain the planting material within the beds constructed as part of the Queen Street renewal project. This will involve organizing gardening volunteers and securing some basic assistance from property owners and businesses along Queen Street.

Schedule: July 2017 is the estimated start date.

Partners: Property Champions from the EcoDistrict Network.

Status: This is part of core funding.

Target: Recruit 40 part-time volunteer gardeners; recruit a ‘captain’ to assign planters and shifts; achieve 90 percent satisfaction level with service.

Connect Urban Gardeners with Downtown Gardens

The Queen Street planters will be the first gardening project that will become the responsibility of the OCED. Using this installation as a pilot project, the OCED will build a downtown gardening program.

Schedule: Organize in 2017 and launch in 2018.

Partners: Property Champions from the EcoDistrict Network, other partners to be recruited.

Status: The OCED will seek a small amount of program funding to launch and promote this program.

Target: Recruit a total of 50 part-time volunteer gardeners; recruit two 'captains' to assign planters and shifts; achieve 90 percent satisfaction level with service.

Mid Term 2018 and 2020

These are programs, projects and actions that will be initiated by January 2018 and substantially completed by December 2020. They may also become ongoing programs.

Address Remaining Gaps in Downtown Food System

There is considerable interest in improving the downtown food system. This includes a focus on signature local restaurants like Beckta, farmer's markets, grocery stores, local food, affordable food and urban gardens. There will be considerable activity leading up to the Ottawa 2017 celebration and 2018 is a good time to convene a community meeting and focus on how to fill any remaining gaps in the downtown food system.

Schedule: First steps will take place in 2018.

Partners: To be determined.

Status: This program is currently in the planning phase and no budget has been established.

Target: Community meeting is held; 100 percent of recommendations are communicated to key stakeholders; plans for follow up meeting are establish.

Long Term 2021 and 2026

These are programs, projects and actions that will be initiated by January 2021 and substantially completed by December 2026. They may also become ongoing programs.

Build Urban Gardens

Study, design and implement urban gardens (vertical, rooftop, small space) as a part of a consortium of interested parties.

Schedule: To be determined.

Partners: University of Ottawa, Carleton University, Algonquin College, the City of Ottawa, NCC and the Property Champions from the EcoDistrict Network.

Status: This program is currently in the planning phase and no budget has been established.

Target: Install at least two urban gardens inside the EcoDistrict.

Mobility and Connectivity Actions

Definition

Physical and virtual networks between people and places that are efficient, equitable, affordable and sustainable.

OCED Mobility and Connectivity Objectives

Transportation

- Create streets that are accessible and equitable for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders and motorist;
- Make streets, sidewalks and multi-use pathways safe for all users;
- Develop complete connections for cyclists with an emphasis on segregated lanes; and
- Expand the LRT and transit networks to allow easy travel to and from the OCED.

Information Networks

- Support the expansion of wireless connectivity; and
- Encourage universal access to the internet.

Completed and Ongoing

These are programs, projects and actions that have been initiated and are either complete or ongoing.

Launch Cycle In and Make Recommendations

One of our top community priorities is improving cycling connections to and from the downtown core. Cycle In is a campaign to work with residents to identify the routes that they want to take downtown and to note what works well and what could be improved.

The first Cycle-In ride was launched on September 14, 2015 when 50 volunteers rode into City Hall from 12 different City wards. This group then worked to recognize good infrastructure and to provide recommendations for improvements to the City and the National Capital Commission.

Events: 2015 Desire Lines meeting, 2015 inaugural Cycle-In ride, presentation of recommendations to the City in December 2015.

Partners: Parsons, Citizens for Safe Cycling, EnviroCentre, Ecology Ottawa and VeloGo.

Status: This is part of core funding. This is an ongoing program that will continue into 2016 and beyond.

Target: Host 1 rider per ward minimum; develop balanced recommendations (positive and instructive comments); present to City staff and NCC by January 1, 2016.

Support Safer Roads

The Safer Roads Ottawa (SRO) Program is committed to preventing or eliminating road deaths and serious injuries for all people in the City of Ottawa, through culture change, community engagement and the development of a sustainable safe transportation environment. The OCED is working with SRO by participating in public meetings and by supporting outreach efforts.

Events: Regular promotion through Twitter and the OCED website plus participation in public meetings where asked.

Partners: City of Ottawa.

Status: This is part of core funding. This is an ongoing program that will continue into 2016 and beyond.

Target: Participate in at least one event (e.g. town hall, presentation)

Support Complete Streets

The City notes that complete streets are streets built for everyone and that as Ottawa grows and develops, the City is ensuring our streets are designed to meet the needs of all people whether they choose to walk, bike, drive or take public transit (*Complete Streets at a Glance*, 2013). In 2015 complete streets were added to the Term of Council Priorities.

The OCED supports complete street design downtown in accordance with the City's *Downtown Moves* study and in all parts of the City of Ottawa where appropriate. Our view is that this will facilitate greater modal share for cycling to and from downtown as well as 'Bike, Ride, Walk' trips where residents cycle to LRT and then come into the downtown core.

Events: The OCED participated in complete street discussions for O'Connor and Queen streets, participated in forums hosted by Ecology Ottawa and regularly promoted complete streets through Twitter and the OCED website.

Partners: EnviroCentre, Ecology Ottawa, City of Ottawa.

Status: This is part of core funding. This is an ongoing program that will continue into 2016 and beyond.

Target: One presentation to City Councillors; one blog post; 10 Tweets.

Immediate to Mid 2016

These are programs, projects and actions that will be initiated by January 2016 and substantially completed by July 2016. They may also become ongoing programs.

Host Design Charrette for Albert and Slater Streets

In *Downtown Moves*, (2013) the City of Ottawa notes that following the launch of the Confederation Line, bus volume on Albert Street, Slater Street, and the Mackenzie King Bridge will be significantly reduced. This provides the City with an opportunity to revive Albert and Slater Streets as “complete streets” upon the commencement of the Confederation Line service, in contrast to their existing functions mainly as utilitarian corridors for bus and vehicle movement.

Specific City identified opportunities include:

- active uses for the ground floor of existing buildings with a direct connection to the sidewalk (Albert)
- dedicated bike facility in at least one direction the entire length of the street (both)
- extra wide sidewalks (Albert),
- mountable curbs (Albert),
- temporary sidewalk extensions into parking spots to provide a wider sidewalk during summer months (both),
- Beautifying the streetscape by providing for tree planting on both sides of the streets, and applying sidewalk paving materials that add character (both); and
- Creating high quality bus stops where required (both).

The OCED hopes to work with the City of Ottawa to host a design charrette.

Schedule: May to August 2016.

Partners: Property owners on Albert and Slater, Algonquin College, City of Ottawa

Status: This would be a student project run by Algonquin College run in coordination with the City and property owners and the OCED.

Target: Co-host one charrette.

Short Term 2016 and 2017

These are programs, projects and actions that will be initiated substantially completed between July 2016 and December 2017. They may also become ongoing programs.

Improve bike connections to and through the OCED

One of our top community priorities is improving cycling connections to and from the downtown core. Cycle In (mentioned above) is a campaign to identify the routes that residents want to take downtown and to note what works well and what could be improved.

We also feel that we should be able to Cycle In to anywhere including schools, grocery stores, festivals and restaurants. It is our hope that Cycle In will become a movement of people demanding better infrastructure, street parking and other amenities to support our desire to be a truly bike-friendly city.

The OCED will work with the City and the National Capital Commission to develop routes and with the City and private landlords to improve street parking and other amenities. We will also work with Ottawa Tourism and cycling companies to address the concerns of visitors who want to cycle.

Schedule: The OCED will identify timeframes around Cycle-In options in partnership with the City and the NCC and will work to implementing action in 2016 and 2017.

Partners: Parsons, Citizens for Safe Cycling, EnviroCentre, Ecology Ottawa, VeloGo and Ottawa Tourism.

Status: This is part of core funding.

Target: Acknowledgement of recommendations in at least one planning document.

Mid Term 2018 and 2020

These are programs, projects and actions that will be initiated by January 2016 and substantially completed by July 2016. They may also become ongoing programs.

Assist in Planning of Albert and Slater Transformations

Stakeholder consultation and public engagement for the transformation of Albert and Slater streets will be ongoing. The OCED will participate in all sessions and is uniquely positioned to provide the City with assistance in consultation and facilitation.

Schedule: To be determined.

Partners: City of Ottawa.

Status: Participation is part of core funding and the provision of value added services would require a contract or a sponsorship.

Target: Meaningful participation by the OCED in consultation sessions.

Long Term 2021 and 2026

These are programs, projects and actions that will be initiated by January 2021 and substantially completed by December 2026. They may also become ongoing programs.

Participate in LRT Phase 2 Design

The City of Ottawa has launched Stage 2 of LRT and has invited the OCED to be a part of the project by following the project's progress, sharing ideas and supporting the transformation public transit. The OCED has become an LRT Stage 2 Champion and will be participating in future stakeholder consultations.

Schedule: To be determined.

Partners: City of Ottawa, OC Transpo.

Status: This is part of core funding.

Target: Meaningful participation by the OCED in consultation sessions.

Ecosystem Stewardship Actions

Definition

Regenerated natural ecosystems functioning at their full potential

OCED Ecosystem Stewardship Objectives

Water, Air and Land Quality

- Protect air quality from pollutant emissions using best-available control technologies
- Protect and conserve soil from contamination, instability, and erosion

Habitat Health

- Protect and restore wetlands, water bodies, and buffer areas
- Promote pollinator plants throughout landscapes, and control invasive plants

Connection with Nature

- Integrate open spaces with the built environment
- Activate open spaces as resources for water and habitat management, passive recreation and ecosystem education

Completed and Ongoing

These are programs, projects and actions that have been initiated and are either complete or ongoing.

Support Care for Injured Birds

The Fatal Light Awareness Program or (FLAP) is focused on reducing the hazard that buildings pose for migrating birds. They run an emergency rescue program and over 80% of the injured birds rescued by FLAP volunteers are rehabilitated and released back into the wild.

Given the number of buildings in the EcoDistrict FLAP is active downtown. In 2015 the OCED worked with its Property Champions in the EcoDistrict Network to find a new temporary space to be used early in the morning for rescued birds.

Events: This was a one-time effort but the OCED would help FLAP again in the future if asked.

Partners: Property Champions in the EcoDistrict Network.

Status: This is part of core funding.

Target: Space available to FLAP (achieved).

Immediate to Mid 2016

These are programs, projects and actions that will be initiated by January 2016 and substantially completed by July 2016. They may also become ongoing programs.

Reimagine and Relaunch Environment Week

Canadian Environment Week is organized by Environment Canada around three important days: World Environment Day; Clean Air Day; and World Oceans Day. It is promoted as a time for grassroots action to help preserve, protect and restore our environment.

Every year the Government of Canada and other private sector organizations celebrate Environment Week in the first week of June. The OCED is planning on working with a wide range of stakeholders to hold an event during the week that will bring together employees from all across the EcoDistrict.

Schedule: Environment Week 2016 in early June.

Partners: EnviroCentre, Ecology Ottawa, Sparks Street BIA, and many environmental groups.

Status: This event will be run on a break even basis.

Target: 20 booth participants; 2000 participants; 10 sponsors.

Short Term 2016 and 2017

These are programs, projects and actions that will be initiated substantially completed between July 2016 and December 2017. They may also become ongoing programs.

Discuss Naturalization Options with Stakeholders

The community identified a range of options for creating small pockets of natural space within the EcoDistricts from planting native trees to creating small gardens to creating pocket parks. In addition options were discussed to make the area more bird-friendly and more attractive to pollinators.

The OCED will work with other partners to plan a discussion about naturalization options in the downtown and around Parliament Hill.

Schedule: 2017

Partners: Ecology Ottawa, City of Ottawa and organizations dedicated to protecting nature.

Status: This is part of core funding.

Target: Community meeting is held; 100 percent of recommendations are communicated to key stakeholders; plans for follow up meeting are establish.

Mid Term 2018 and 2020

These are programs, projects and actions that will be initiated by January 2016 and substantially completed by July 2016. They may also become ongoing programs.

Develop Stormwater Design Options

The aquatic habitat of the Ottawa River is adversely affected by uncontrolled stormwater runoff because it degrades water quality. Stormwater management retrofitting and stream rehabilitation projects reduce the impacts of uncontrolled stormwater runoff on fish habitat.

As part of the Ottawa River Action Plan, the City of Ottawa is planning to promote and implement Low Impact Development Practices such as permeable pavement and bio swales. It is also focused on stormwater management retrofitting which refers to the addition of measures into established older neighbourhoods to properly manage stormwater.

The OCED plans on working with the Ottawa Riverkeeper, the City of Ottawa and other interested parties to identify design options for stormwater management retrofitting in the EcoDistrict.

Schedule: The project will be scoped out in 2016 and launched in 2018.

Partners: Ottawa Riverkeeper, City of Ottawa and other interested parties.

Status: This project will need to be funded or co-managed by partner organizations.

Target: Community meeting is held; 100 percent of recommendations are communicated to key stakeholders; plans for follow up meeting are establish.

Long Term 2021 and 2026

These are programs, projects and actions that will be initiated by January 2021 and substantially completed by December 2026. They may also become ongoing programs.

Improve Greenspace

A number of community members indicated a high interest in improving the quality of greenspace in the downtown core. A number of improvements and upgrades will take place in the next few years. However after 2020 there will be a need to audit greenspace, create action list and improve it.

Schedule: To be determined.

Partners: To be determined.

Status: This project will need to be funded or co-managed by partner organizations.

Target: Community meeting is held; 100 percent of recommendations are communicated to key stakeholders; plans for follow up meeting are establish.

Climate Protection and Resource Efficiency Actions

Definition

Climate protection and efficient use of resources

OCED Climate Protection and Resource Efficiency Objectives

Climate Protection and Energy Efficiency

- Design and operate buildings, transportation systems, and infrastructure to achieve best-in-class energy efficiency ratings
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from energy use in the district
- Reduce outdoor ambient temperatures that create heat island effects
- Encourage the use of locally-manufactured products and materials
- Provide cost effective options for local business owners, homeowners and renters to retrofit their business or home

Water Efficiency

- Design and operate buildings and infrastructure to achieve best-in-class water efficiency ratings
- Reuse greywater and treated wastewater to replace potable water supplies

Solid Waste Management

- Design and operate solid waste programs to maximize diversion
- Capture the residual value of organic wastes through composting

Completed and Ongoing

These are programs, projects and actions that have been initiated and are either complete or ongoing.

Host EV Day and Promote EV Use

The OCED is sharing the benefits of driving electric to help reduce fuel dependency for transportation. This includes hosting an annual EV Day on Sparks Street that includes test drives for the public; proposing options for downtown EV charging station; and promoting the use of EVs as a viable mode of transportation option in the city.

We are working closely with to make EVs a common sight on our downtown streets.

Events: EV Day 2014, EV Day 2015, meetings with stakeholders.

Partners: WWF – Canada, City of Ottawa, Hydro Ottawa, Plug ‘N Drive Ontario and the Electric Vehicle Council of Ottawa (EVCO).

Status: Sponsors are secured to ensure that this activity operates on a break even basis.

Target: 30 local owner EVs; 5 EVs available for testing; six sponsors; two media stories; and 4000 visitors.

Improve Residential Recycling

The City of Ottawa has recently increased its emphasis on waste diversion in multi-residential buildings and there are 25 high rise residential buildings and 21 low rise residential buildings in the EcoDistrict. The OCED has started working with the City and Progressive Waste (the current contract holder) to improve waste diversion.

Events: The pilot project was launched in September with 3 buildings.

Partners: City of Ottawa, Progressive Waste.

Status: Completion of the pilot was part of core funding. Any program expansion will require additional resources.

Target: Run pilot project with two EcoDistrict buildings in 2015; if successful run with five in 2016.

Start EcoDistrict Network

The EcoDistrict Network is comprised of Champions and Ambassadors who are helping to drive the transformation of the downtown core. The Champions are businesses and organizations that use space in the EcoDistrict. Ambassadors include businesses and organizations outside of the EcoDistrict including professionals like engineers, architects, designers and suppliers who will support the EcoDistrict program.

In 2014 and 2015 the program was developed and launched. As of September 2015 there were over 40 participants in the EcoDistrict Network.

Schedule: Launched in January 2015.

Partner: All champions and ambassadors are listed on our web site.

Status: They provide funding through annual fees.

Target: Launch with 30 Champions and Ambassadors combined (achieved).

Support Carbon 613

Carbon 613 is a made-in-Ottawa, target-based sustainability program for businesses focused on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This program is run by EnviroCentre and has been designed to support and build a network of local businesses setting and achieving sustainability goals.

The OCED supports the goals of Carbon 613 and promotes participation in the program to all members of the EcoDistrict Network.

Schedule: Launched in June 2015.

Partner: EnviroCentre.

Status: This is part of core funding.

Target: In 2015, promote using 10 tweets and 1 blog article; in 2016 secure two referrals for program.

Immediate to Mid 2016

These are programs, projects and actions that will be initiated by January 2016 and substantially completed by July 2016. They may also become ongoing programs.

Launch EcoStep

EcoStep is a small business outreach program with a focus on energy conservation, water conservation & waste diversion in small businesses and organizations.

Schedule: Program development will be January to April 2016; Program launch in May 2016.

Partners: Ministry of Energy, Hydro Ottawa, Enbridge, City of Ottawa.

Status: Program delivery is contingent on securing program specific funding.

Target: Reach 600 target clients in 2016; 1200 target clients in 2017.

Short Term 2016 and 2017

These are programs, projects and actions that will be initiated substantially completed between July 2016 and December 2017. They may also become ongoing programs.

Turn OCED into LED zone

The City of Ottawa has committed to converting all street lighting to LEDs by 2020. The NCC has launched an illumination plan for the National Capital Region. Some private

sector landlords have indicated that they would be willing to convert exterior lighting to LEDs as part of an overall campaign.

The OCED is working with the City of Ottawa to get street lighting in the downtown core switched to LEDs in time for Ottawa 2017. With this commitment in place it will work with Property Champions in the EcoDistrict Network to have them switch their lights to LEDs.

Schedule: Initiated in 2015 with uptake anticipated in 2016.

Partners: City of Ottawa, NCC and Property Champions in the EcoDistrict Network.

Status: This is part of core funding.

Target: By January 1, 2017 convert to LED: 50 percent of City of Ottawa street lights; 50 percent of private sector exterior lighting.

Improve Energy Efficiency in Existing Buildings

Hydro Ottawa is promoting energy conservation in existing buildings. While it has had many successes in the EcoDistrict, there is always room for additional improvements.

The OCED plans on working with Hydro Ottawa and other partners to promote building improvements in energy efficiency.

Schedule: 2016

Partners: OCED will work with Hydro Ottawa and its Energy Conservation Team.

Status: This will be run on a break even basis.

Target: Generate two large building referrals for Hydro Ottawa by end of 2016.

Mid Term 2018 and 2020

These are programs, projects and actions that will be initiated by January 2016 and substantially completed by July 2016. They may also become ongoing programs.

Mandatory Energy Reporting for Commercial Buildings

The City of Toronto is committed to an energy reporting and benchmarking requirement for large commercial and multi-residential buildings, as a strategy for achieving the City's energy conservation and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. Many of Ottawa's largest property management firms work in Toronto and would have to comply with these new requirements.

The OCED would like to see this strategy considered for adoption by the City of Ottawa.

Schedule: Discuss in 2016 and 2017 with a final policy coming to City Council no later than 2018.

Partners: Ecology Ottawa, Ottawa Chamber of Commerce, EnviroCentre.

Status: This is part of core funding.

Target: Policy in place by January 2018.

Long Term 2021 and 2026

These are programs, projects and actions that will be initiated by January 2021 and substantially completed by December 2026. They may also become ongoing programs.

District Energy

The Government of Canada (GOC) has a district energy facility (the Cliff Street plant) that supplies approximately 50 percent of government buildings with heating and cooling load in the downtown core. An explosion in 2009 has sparked efforts to plan to move from 1940s technology to a modern system. The GOC is currently looking at options to enter into a public-private partnership to recapitalize and operate the system.

A new system has the potential to provide district heating and cooling to all buildings within the area. The OCED supports efforts to allow private sector buildings to connect to any new district energy system.

Schedule: To be determined.

Partners: Government of Canada.

Status: To be determined.

Target: District energy from Cliff Street Plant is available to private sector by 2022.