



CAFES Ottawa

Community Associations for
Environmental Sustainability

Climate and Municipal Budget 2025

Environment and Climate Committee
City of Ottawa
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About CAFES

- Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES) was founded in 2010 and is a **network of local and neighbourhood environmental leaders and community builders**
- Our members include representatives from urban, sub-urban and rural communities.
- The network includes over 200 individual and organizational representatives from all wards and over 50 neighbourhoods.




Overview of Presentation

1. Budget Context: Accountability and Evidence
2. Do we need budget to finish the job of CCMP 2020-2025?
3. Do we have resources to plan CCMP 2026-2030?
4. Climate and Livability -- Budget Issues
5. Summary - Recommendations

1. Budget Context: Accountability & Evidence

- ▶ The Climate Change Master Plan (CCMP) is for 2020 to 2025. Budget year 2025 will be the last year.
 - ▶ Are the projects completed? - no need for more budget
 - ▶ Have they been abandoned? - no need for more budget
 - ▶ Are we struggling for completion - need boost in budget
 - ▶ What are the priorities - how much resources needed?
- ▶ Council is to receive annual updates on CCMP. The last one was in April 2023.
- ▶ Ottawa has targets for our fair share of emissions reductions. Council is to receive annual emissions inventory reports. The last one was with the 2021 update reporting on 2020 emissions.
- ▶ **Recommendation:** The Committee should call for a December 2024 meeting of the ECCC with a CCMP Progress Report and Emissions Inventory on the agenda.



2. Do we need budget to finish the job of CCMP 2020-2025?

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CCMP PROGRAM	Questions	Needs Budget? Yes/No?
Energy Retrofitting		
Better Homes Loan Program	Is it self-financing?	
Better Building Program (formerly Commercial Building Retrofit Accelerator)	Are we handing this over to Hydro for implementation?	
Municipal Buildings		
Municipal Buildings Renewal and Retrofit Program	Is this the same as BEEM? (capital budget \$2,850,00) Are the energy savings from these investments put in a separate revolving fund?	
Community Building Heating Strategy	Status?	
Municipal Green Building Policy Update	Status?	
3 Municipal roofs solar install	Project complete?	
Distributed Energy Resources framework	Report available?	

2. Do we need budget to finish the job of CCMP 2020-2025? (continued)

CCMP PROGRAM	Questions	Needs Budget? Yes/No?
Transportation Electrification		
Personal Vehicles Electrification Strategy	Status?	
Municipal Green Fleet Strategy	Status? Are departments working together on this?	
Zero emission Commercial Vehicles strategy	Status?	
Organic Waste		
Organics Resource Recovery Strategy	Is this part of CCMP or Solid Waste Management Master Plan?	

3. Do we have resources to plan Climate Change Master Plan 2026-2030?

- ▶ This work needs to be done in 2025
- ▶ Are we giving the new General Manager and incoming new Director a chance to succeed?
- ▶ Recommendation: Earmark one or more FTE to plan CCMP 2026-2030

4. Climate and Livability - Budget Issues

4.1 Trees

- ▶ \$500M earmark for tree replacements
- ▶ But: budget 2025 plans to reduce the number of trees the city plants annually from 125K to 75-100K. Are we cool with that?
- ▶ Mayor: 250K trees per year



4. Climate and Livability - Budget Issues

4.2 Heat (kills)

- ▶ Better Homes program (is great but) needs an extension
 - ▶ Heat pumps for buildings with no aircon
 - ▶ Heat pump program for tenants



4. Climate and Livability - Budget Issues

4.3 Keeping the Lights On (energy resiliency)

- ▶ Toronto Hydro has a 5 year \$5.1Billion investment plan for grid modernization, operations and decarbonization. Approved by Ontario Energy Board on Nov 12 2024 with the support of City of Toronto.
- ▶ The city of Ottawa has a lot of role in planning and zoning for utilities, battery energy storage systems and renewable energy systems. Planner working on this is over a year behind schedule.
- ▶ The Draft Climate Resiliency Strategy has very little to say about energy resiliency
- ▶ Does City of Ottawa have the technical capacity to understand and support the energy transition in Ottawa? Do we have the requisite expertise? Even to supervise consultants? Even to support Hydro Ottawa rate application due spring 2025?
- ▶ Recommendation: this critical area needs (budgeted) (human) resource(s)



4. Climate and Livability - Budget Issues

4.4 How We Build in Ottawa

- ▶ **Needed: Strategic Initiative for better, lower operating cost, more affordable homes**
 - Other Ontario cities have green building standards
 - Raising building standards, especially energy efficiency standards, may raise home prices. However, it is understood that operating costs of energy efficient homes are lower over the lifecycle of the house.
 - Solution: A motion was put in place by ECCC (Hill) to investigate how this agency and financial intermediation problem can be solved. This work was started; consultation with financial sector started; Status?
 - Council approved a way forward where there would be incentives for builders to build to Tier 2 or higher of the green building standard.
- ▶ **Recommendation: Let's put some money on finding these triple win solutions**



4. Climate and Livability - Budget Issues

4.5 Residential Basement Flooding

- ▶ The average cost of a home basement flooding event is \$40K for the homeowner.
- ▶ There have been thousands of basement home flooding events in past years, especially August 2023. This problem is expected to get worse with climate changing towards more intense rains
- ▶ The draft budget 2025 allocates an increase of only \$150K for the Residential Protective Plumbing Program. The Climate Resiliency Strategy is stalled (for now). Is more comprehensive action on preventing residential flooding warranted?



4. Climate and Livability - Budget Issues


4.6 Organic Waste

- ▶ Are we allocating priority resources to the diversion of organic waste? This is the third largest source of emissions (organics in landfill emit methane)
- ▶ We are running out of landfill space
- ▶ **Are we budgeting this under Solid Waste Master Plan (broke, solid waste reserve in deficit) or practical win-win for CCMP?**





5. Summary and Recommendations

- ▶ **Recommendation:** The Committee should call for a December 2024 meeting of the ECCC with a CCMP Progress Report and Emissions Inventory on the agenda. We are in the dark.
 - ▶ **Recommendation:** Earmark one or more temporary FTE in budget 2025 to plan CCMP 2026-2030 (and set a deadline)
 - ▶ **Recommendation:** Going forward for budget 2026, budget for pragmatic climate actions that Ottawa residents can relate to:
 - ▶ Plant 250K Trees
 - ▶ Prevent heat deaths
 - ▶ Invest in Keeping the Lights on in all parts of Ottawa
 - ▶ Incentives for building better affordable homes
 - ▶ Prevent basement flooding
 - ▶ Divert organic waste from landfill
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Thank you for your
consideration

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