



Ecology Ottawa

**Biennial
Report**

**2018
2019**

**ECOLOGY
OTTAWA**



**ÉCOLOGIE
OTTAWA**



Ecology Ottawa

helping make Ottawa the green capital of Canada

How do we do this?

- By collaborating with like-minded people and groups who share a green vision for the city
- By supporting community-led and community-based action on environmental issues
- By engaging with all levels of government to ensure the environment and the impact of climate change are on everyone's agenda
- By building a movement of engaged volunteers and supporters who share common values around protecting the natural environment and promoting sustainability in our built environment.



“*More than anything, Ecology Ottawa is a reflection of the spirit of our city — our drive as a community to take climate action while protecting the places we love for future generations. We are a dynamic, growing movement, and we are made stronger by your ideas, your energy and your support. Thank you for powering the work to make Ottawa the green capital of Canada!*”

Robb Barnes, Ecology Ottawa Executive Director

**Find
Us**



www.ecologyottawa.ca



[@ecologyottawa](https://twitter.com/ecologyottawa)



**Build the
Vision**

Volunteer: ecoott.ca/volunteer

Be a donor: ecoott.ca/donate

Join our mailing list: ecoott.ca/consent

Our supporters 2018-19

Ecology Ottawa's work is driven and inspired by the **99,000 supporters, 2,100 volunteers and 8,450 donors and 295 members of our Protectors' Circle** who share our environmental vision for this city.

We also thank the following institutional donors for their support in 2018-19:

Canada-Ontario Job Grant, Community Foundation of Ottawa, Echo Foundation, Employment and Social Services Canada (Canada Summer Jobs Program), Envirocentre, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Climate Action Fund), Environmental Defence, Just Change Ottawa, MakerHouse, McLean Foundation, Nature Canada, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Ottawa Community Foundation, Ottawa Sustainability Fund, Park People, Patagonia, Project Tree Learning Canada, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Trottier Foundation, United Nations Association in Canada, World Wildlife Fund.

To the partner organizations who shared in campaigns and activities, and the individuals who contributed resources to our events, our sincere thanks and appreciation.

Our supporters 2018-19

Our activities and events were made possible through much appreciated contributions from the local business community:

Angela's Bed & Breakfast Ottawa, Baccanelle, Bill McBurney, Bodies By Phil, Bridgehead Coffee, Bullfrog Power, Bushtukah, Café Bean Fair Coffee, Camino, Canadian Museum Of History, Canadian War Museum, Capital Bees, Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est, Eco Parent Magazine, Ecobee, Elevate Yoga, Forest Therapy Ottawa, Galina Ponomarenko, Glebe BIA, Holtz Spa, Indigenous Clean Energy, iSolara, Life Without Plastic, Lightenco, Lumos Energy, Lunapads, Maitland Massage Therapy, Maker House Co, Marshall's Integrated Fitness, Maya Hum, Michel Gauthier, My Freedom Beauty Box, New Leaf Publication Design, Nu Grocery Store, Obasan,

Olga Radushkevich, Oresta Organic Skin Care, Ottawa Organics, Ottawa's Ashtanga Yoga Studio, Panago Pizza, Planet Botanix, Pure Kitchen, Rama Lotus, Re4M, Rovell, Smarter Shift, SmartNET Alliance, Smoke's Poutinerie Ottawa, Steppingstone Coaching Ottawa, Studio - Jerome Photographer, Ten Thousand Villages Ottawa, terra20, TerraVelta, The Box Of Life, The Green Door Restaurant, The Happiness Coach, The Haunted Walk, The Papery, The Table Vegetarian Team, Third World Bazaar, Uniting for Children and Youth, Wilderness Tours Adventure Resort, Workshop Studio & Boutique, Your Credit Union, Yuk Yuks Ottawa.



Ecology Ottawa at work in 2018-19

Our Three Pillars

Ecology Ottawa frames its work around the three following pillars. While the programs within these pillars can change or evolve, the pillars themselves reflect the issues of interest to the volunteers, community groups, partner organizations and engaged individuals who are core to the success of our work. *Some highlights of both new and old programs follow.*



Living City



Active City



Renewable City

Living City



Our Living City program looks at the environmental, social, health and political aspects of maintaining and improving a healthy tree canopy, water sources, water management practices, parks and common lands for the benefit of the entire community.

Programs

- **Green Infrastructure**
- **Greenspace Protection**
- **Healthy Watersheds**
- **Les Amis des Parcs**
- **Tree Distribution**
- **Make Room for Nature**

SPOTLIGHT 2018

Parks/greenspaces offered Ecology Ottawa a popular framework for community outreach, action and collaboration in 2018 around the importance and use of these spaces in the city—the second annual *Ottawa Park Summit*, co-hosted in April with groups like Toronto-based Park People and Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital ... the successful *Les amis des parcs*, initiated with Park People, to engage local Franco Ontarians ... and with Nature Canada, *Park Month* in June to highlight the value of local parks in our communities.





SPOTLIGHT 2019

Tree distribution remains one of Ecology Ottawa's most enduring visible engagement initiatives with the community at large. Initially conceived as Tree Ottawa in 2013 **"to protect, plant, promote"** as a way to combat the impact of the Emerald Ash Borer on our urban canopy through targeted community-led tree planting initiatives at schools, other community buildings and in parks. As the program developed, tree planting in previously paved areas had the added benefit of promoting **green infrastructure** in institutions like schools and churches with footprints larger than just a building. By 2016 a significant number of trees were being given away at events across the city; and beginning in 2017, tree giveaways have anchored our annual **Great Glebe GREEN Garage Sale**—Ecology Ottawa's largest single-day public education and outreach event for more than a dozen years.

In 2019, Ecology Ottawa volunteers attended more than 100 events and 12,000 tree saplings were distributed in the community, representing an increase of 3,000 saplings over 2018. The program proved so popular, we ran out of trees in September.

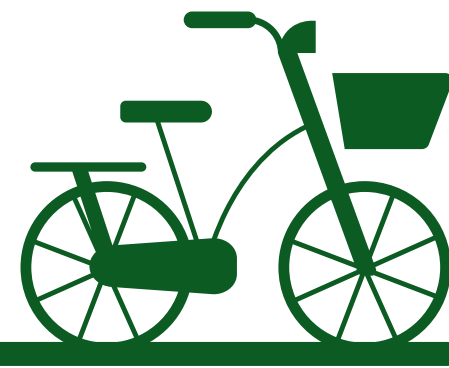
Programs

- **Green Infrastructure**
- **Greenspace Protection**
- **Healthy Watersheds**
- **Les Amis des Parcs**
- **Tree Distribution**
- **Make Room for Nature**



*Tabling at the 2019 Great Glebe GREEN Garage Sale, where over 2,000 trees were given out.
[Photo: Maker House Company]*

Active City



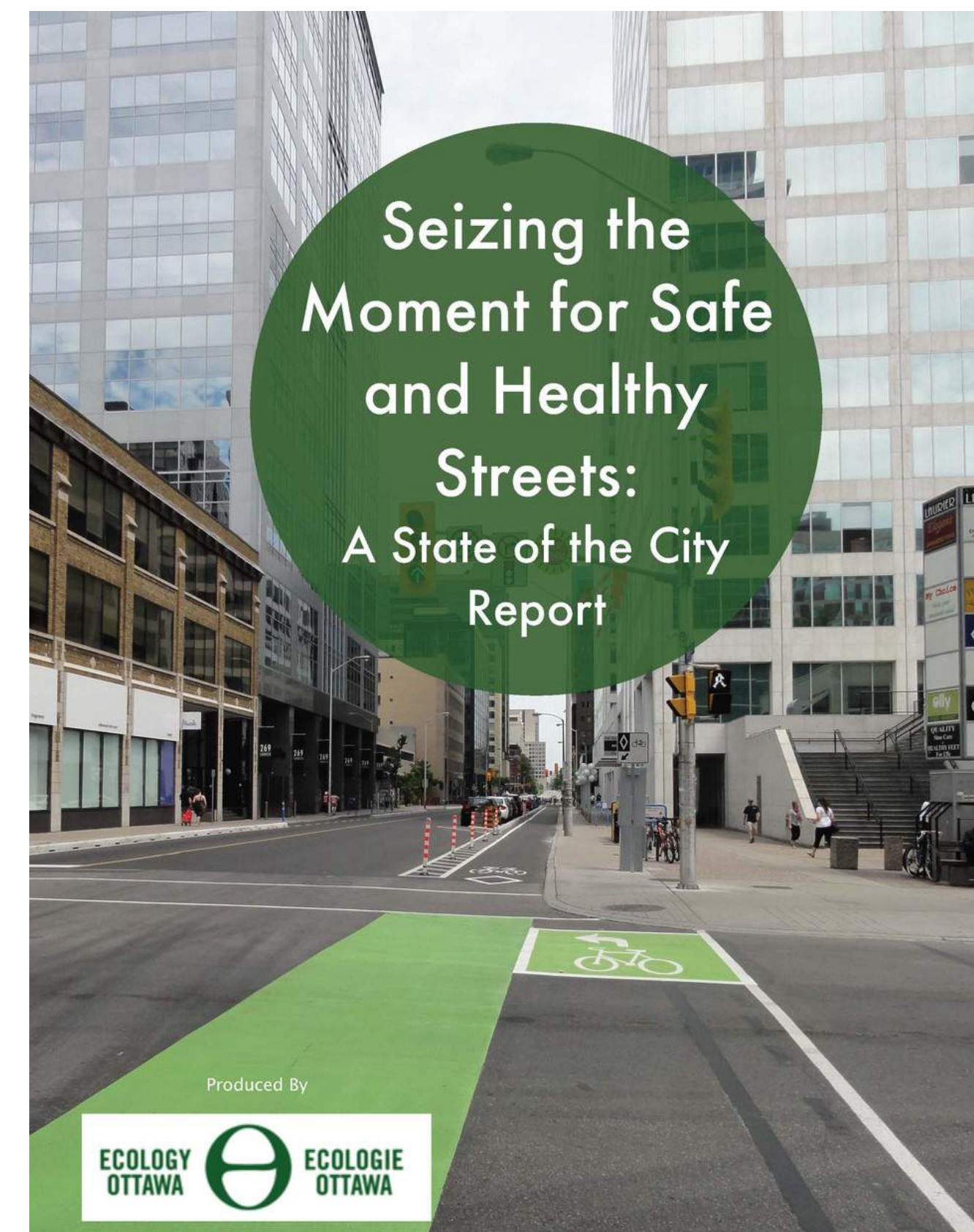
With an overarching theme of active transportation in 2018–2019, our Active City program included initiatives that would help make streets, sidewalks and pathways safe and accessible for all—pedestrians, cyclists, transit users and motorists.

Programs

- **Complete Streets**
- **Light Rail**
- **Vision Zero**

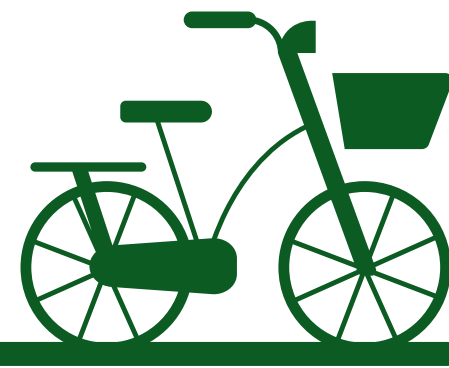
SPOTLIGHT 2018

Ecology Ottawa's **state of the city research report**, highlighting progress and key opportunities for improving pedestrian, cycling and transit infrastructure, was launched in May 2018. In a parallel initiative, a **survey** was sent to Ottawa community associations, business improvement areas (BIA) and community health centres (CHC) **to explore active transportation** opportunities, challenges and solutions; 35 community associations, 11 BIAs and 7 CHCs across urban, suburban and rural Ottawa responded. Inadequate and poorly maintained infrastructure for walking, cycling and access to public transit was identified as a common barrier.



"Seizing the Moment" was launched at the Active Transportation Summit on 16 May 2018 for discussion by over 100 Ottawa residents and representatives of community associations, advocacy groups and the City of Ottawa.

Active City



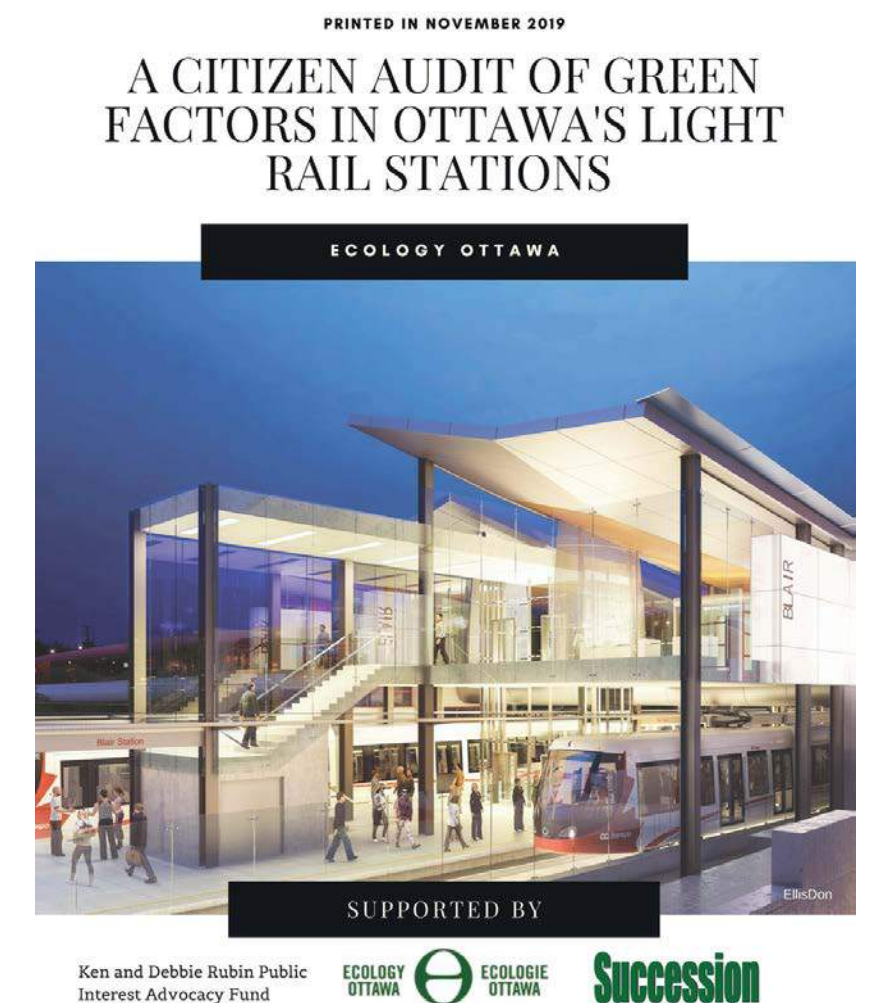
SPOTLIGHT 2019

With the launch of the **light rail**, the role LRT could play in increasing connectivity and the efficiency of the overall transit system became a focus for Ecology Ottawa in 2019. Following on the findings of the *Active Transportation Survey 2018*, we focused on **monitoring connectivity issues** for suburban Blair and Baseline stations. This included two station-specific online surveys engaging 33,000 individuals; interviews with community associations; review of city reports; and four on-site audits (by foot and by bike at each station). Findings from this early summer work were discussed at a report launch event in November.

A **second audit** process took place assessing how light rail stations in the downtown core—Parliament and Rideau—performed across a range of **social and sustainability-related concerns** (e.g. air quality, bike- and wheelchair-friendly ramps); about 9,000 individuals were reached through this audit at the two stations. The findings were released in a report, *A Citizen Audit of Green Factors in Ottawa's Light Rail Stations*.

Programs

- Complete Streets
- Light Rail
- Vision Zero



Ecology Ottawa staff and volunteers auditing then newly-built Parliament station in the fall of 2019

Renewable City



Our Renewable City program promotes increased renewable and clean energy options and actions. It is the program whose initiatives most directly focus on what is needed to address climate change, and which brings municipal, provincial, federal and even international-level policies/positions into our scope of work.

Programs

- **Federal Climate Action**
- **Hold the Line**
- **Provincial Climate Action**
- **Youth Climate Ambassadors**

SPOTLIGHT 2018

The Ontario **provincial election** in June 2018 gave Ecology Ottawa an opportunity to use a climate change lens in considering the positions of candidates on environmental issues, which was a good exercise in informing public awareness of the link between political positions and the potential impact on climate change. Unfortunately, the new provincial government's rejection of GreenOn and cap-and-trade removed existing initiatives that helped homeowners and local green businesses refit buildings to save on energy, and eliminated revenues that our city could use to invest in measures to create, for example, more energy efficient hospitals and schools.



MP Catherine McKenna and city councillors David Chernushenko and Tobi Nussbaum discuss the links between cities and climate change at the Ecology Ottawa-hosted community townhall, 31 January 2018.

Renewable City



SPOTLIGHT 2019

Ecology Ottawa and local partners launched the **Youth Climate Ambassadors** program in March 2019, a year-long initiative designed to cultivate the next generation of environmental leaders through youth-driven local engagement with the general public on climate change. Training and mentorship were provided in partnership with seven other prominent local environmental groups—Climate Action Network, Just Food, OREC, Greenspace Alliance, Healthy Transportation Coalition, PERC and Sustainable Eastern Ontario.

Divided into **four cohorts** throughout the year, **36 youth** completed the program; each cohort was responsible for planning and executing a major event in the community on a climate-related issue at the end of their mentorship program. For example, in November the third Youth Climate Ambassadors cohort co-hosted a workshop on Climate Solutions and Ottawa's Official Plan attracting over 100 participants from urban and rural wards.

Programs

- Federal Climate Action
- Hold the Line
- Provincial Climate Action
- Youth Climate Ambassadors





From modest beginnings in 2007, this fall gathering of likeminded people has grown into an important annual event in the social calendar of environmental and social justice activists in this region. Eco Gala now offers an evening of conversation, information and celebration through inspiring speakers, booths of local environment groups and businesses, a silent auction featuring local wares and services ... and of course local food, drink, music and (sometimes) dancing.

- Inspiring action by example, the **Eco Gala** in October **2018**—held just prior to the municipal election—featured the insights of local community leaders fighting for a greener Ottawa in the areas of renewable energy (OREC), healthy watersheds (Ottawa Riverkeeper) and food security (Just Food). The "Next Four Years" panel talked about the opportunities and challenges of working with an environmental and climate change agenda municipally and provincially until the next election cycle in 2022. Former Ottawa MP Paul Dewar was also honoured for his leadership on social justice issues and his contribution to the environment in Ottawa.
- **Eco Gala 2019** was held in November following the federal election. This year our guests were informed by an indigenous perspective on Inuit and Climate Change by Natan Obed, President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), the national organization for the 65,000 Inuit living in Canada. Mr. Obed was joined by Annie St. Georges, who performed a land acknowledgement and opening ceremony, along with Mia Beijer and Sophia Sidarous, two youth climate leaders who spoke to the role of the next generation in steering Ottawa towards a greener future.



Elections

Ontario's election cycle in 2018–2019—featuring **provincial, municipal and federal elections** within an 18-month period—provided Ecology Ottawa volunteers with prime opportunities for outreach on the importance of the environment in any political agenda.

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Our **volunteers** engaged enthusiastically in the **2018 municipal and 2019 federal elections**, keeping environmental issues in the minds of the public and candidates. They reached over 14,500 doors through outreach efforts in the communities of Blackburn Hamlet, Orleans and Kanata; helped organize candidate debates city-wide, and in four wards and four ridings; encouraged municipal candidates in 2018 to complete our environment survey—an effort that netted over 70 candidate responses; and, in an era of heightened awareness of the global climate emergency, pushed for all federal parties in 2019 to adopt a strong climate platform.





On 24 April 2019, City Council passed a **resolution** declaring a **climate emergency in Ottawa**, and in doing so joined numerous other Canadian municipalities in committing to climate action that impacts their communities. Ecology Ottawa powered the local movement, organizing the community around this important vote, which gives the City of Ottawa the beginning of a policy framework that can hopefully move to climate action.

Ecology Ottawa feels that containing the urban boundary in the new **City Official Plan** under discussion and development will be an essential component of the toolbox to address Ottawa’s climate emergency. Our **Hold the Line campaign** against urban sprawl garnered 2,900 petition signatures, 2,688 emails to councillors and the mayor, and six meetings with individual councillors. Since April 2019, Ecology Ottawa has also been one of 15 community organizations working together on a parallel plan, the *Peoples Official Plan for Ottawa's Climate Emergency*, to help shape Ottawa’s Official Plan.

On 15–16 November 2019, Ecology Ottawa, Greenspace Alliance, Community Association for Environmental Sustainability and our Youth Climate Ambassadors hosted over 100 participants from environmental groups, community associations and the general public from across the city at a **workshop on Climate Solutions and Ottawa’s Official Plan**. Together they developed a climate action message and priorities for action around nature, food, buildings/infrastructure and transportation.



Visual rendition of output from the “Climate Solutions and Ottawa’s Official Plan” workshop, co-hosted by the fall cohort of Youth Climate Ambassadors in November 2019.

Looking Head

“

***Climate change is the defining challenge of our time**, and cities like Ottawa are on the frontlines. Cities are where the vast majority of Canadians live, where we use up the energy and materials that drive our economies, and where we deal with consequences like rising floodwaters, heat waves, droughts and invasive species.*

*But cities are also an essential part of the solution. **We cannot create a greener planet without also learning how to build greener cities**—ones with world-class transit, walkable and bikeable communities, lush and intact greenspaces, and an energy-efficient built environment. If we take ambitious action now, we can fight climate change while building a better and more resilient place to call home.*

”

Robb Barnes, Ecology Ottawa Executive Director



Robb Barnes Speaking at Ecology Ottawa's Climate Emergency Declaration Rally held in front of City Hall in 2019.

Financial Summary

	2019	2018		2019	2018
ASSETS			REVENUES & EXPENDITURES		
CURRENT			REVENUES		
Cash	\$ 316,579	\$ 400,627	Grants	\$ 377,126	\$ 204,135
Accounts receivable	138,231	21,899	Donations	114,694	139,919
Prepaid expenses	6,891	2,103	Contracted works	76,702	800
	\$ 461,701	\$ 424,629	Events	28,134	-
			Other	6,765	1,894
				\$ 603,421	\$ 346,748
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS					
CURRENT LIABILITIES			EXPENDITURES		
Accounts payable & accruals	\$ 20,618	\$ 16,018	Program support	\$ 58,487	\$ 50,838
Deferred contributions	51,760	92,573	Events & action	51,054	43,127
	\$ 72,318	\$ 108,591	Community partnerships	31,139	2,198
			Community outreach	82,724	24,522
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	\$ 389,323	\$ 316,038	Staffing	306,136	203,356
	\$ 461,701	\$ 424,629		\$ 530,136	\$ 324,041

	2019	2018		2019	2018
REVENUES			EXPENDITURES		
Grants	62.6%	58.9%	Program support	11.0%	15.7%
Donations	19.0%	40.3%	Events & actions	9.6%	13.3%
Contracted works	12.7%	0.1%	Community partnerships	5.9%	0.6%
Events	4.7%	0.0%	Community outreach	15.6%	7.6%
Other	1.0%	0.5%	Staffing	57.7%	62.7%



Who We Are

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jen Auten, Elizabeth Bernstein*, Adam Bond, Pam Foster, Katia Gianneschi, Katie Gibbs, Charles Hodgson*, Maureen Hollingworth, Dale Marshall, Stefan Reinecke*, Graham Saul.

*These members also serve on Ecology Ottawa's Board of Directors

STAFF

Jaclyn Adelson, Development Officer

Jomari Arias, Outreach Coordinator

Robb Barnes, Executive Director

Kristin Bowes, Outreach

Vi Bui, Managing Director

Holly Fraser, Outreach Coordinator

Catherine Gagné, Living City Organizer

Anthony Garoufalis-Auger, Clean Energy

Kathleen Godfrey, Living City Organizer

Alison Gu, Elections Organizer

Beatrice Hieblinger-Rempel, Outreach Coordinator

Lauren Latour, Renewable City Organizer

Andrea Lesperance, Outreach

Rebecca Muscant, Outreach Coordinator

Cleo Page, Outreach Coordinator

Erik Pervin, Development Officer; Office Manager

Dana Taylor, Development Officer

Velta Tomsons, Living City Organizer



Ecology Ottawa Steering Committee retreat in 2018.



Ecology Ottawa team retreat on a hot day in summer 2019.

VOLUNTEERS

The too-many-to-name **volunteers** who provide impressive skills and donate innumerable hours in support of Ecology Ottawa's work throughout each year.



**Ecology Ottawa is registered in Ontario,
Canada as a not-for-profit organization,
#1715290**

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