

Environmental sustainability ottawa

The City's Surface Water Quality program works in partnership with environmental ...

The City of Ottawa develops and implements a range of strategies, ...

Adopt-a-Park and Adopt-a-Road is a city-wide program that encourages ...

How land is used and how development is managed and serviced in urban areas are of huge significance in the pursuit of environmental sustainability. It is still a common perception that environmental protection or restoration comes at the expense of economic health. But based on a growing wealth of experience, decisions that reduce human impact on the environment very often make sense from economic and social perspectives as well.

Waste management, provision of tap water, and treatment of wastewater (sewage) are three core "environmental services" provided by the City. How the City organizes and delivers these services and how residents use them, can significantly influence their environmental impact.

Current transportation systems consume huge amounts of land and resources, fragment habitats, and release pollutants. The transportation sector is Canada's second largest source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, after oil and gas. In cities, the environmental impacts of transportation are largely defined by how residents commute to work, and how they access services and amenities. These are, in turn, influenced by land use planning and transportation infrastructure.

Energy use is the key driver of climate change. Containing the scope and pace of climate change requires major shifts at all levels in how we power our economies, our cities, our transportation systems and our homes. As change is already underway, adaptations to minimize risks to safety, health and infrastructure are also critical.

The City of Ottawa develops and implements a range of strategies, policies and programs to protect ecosystems and reduce pollution, resource use, and energy consumption. Links to this information on Ottawa.ca are provided below.

The updated Site Alteration By-law was approved by Ottawa City Council on October 16, 2024, in order to regulate site alteration activities such as placing or dumping fill, removing topsoil, clearing or stripping vegetation, and altering the grade of land. In general, all lands within the City of Ottawa are subject to the by-law, except for lands that are already regulated by a Conservation Authority (e.g., floodplains, rivers and creeks, or in and around wetlands).



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In most cases, residents do not need the City's approval before beginning site alteration, but they must follow the rules in the by-law. Ottawa's basic rules for site alteration can be summarised as follows:

Rules 1, 2 and 3 apply to everyone. There are exceptions to several of the other rules for yard maintenance, landscaping, farming, woodlot management, and approved developments. Additional information is provided below to help residents understand how the by-law affects them.

Please call or click before you dig! Contact Ontario One Call at 1-800-400-2255 or Home - Ontario One Call to find out where underground utilities such as water or sewer pipes, gas or power lines, and communications cables are on your property. It's free, and could save you from costly or dangerous mistakes.

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