

# **Environmental Policy and Programs**

## **2017 Budget Briefing Note**

### **Description**

The Environmental Policy and Programs Unit, Environmental Business Services Branch, PWESD, provides the City with the policy framework, programs, and outreach needed to foster environmental sustainability corporately and amongst Ottawa's residents, businesses, and institutions. Primary areas of responsibility are the following: solid waste, drinking water, wastewater, surface water management, energy management, climate change, and environmental stewardship.

The Environmental Policy and Programs Unit has the following responsibilities:

- Undertake environmental research and policy projects to inform a wide range of operational, departmental and corporate activities and strategies
- Coordinate the delivery of environmental grant programs namely: Rural Clean Water, High Volume User, Community Environmental Grants
- Work with internal and external stakeholders on implementation of corporate policies and other environmental initiatives
- Plan and coordinate outreach, education, and awareness events and programs
- Support stakeholder engagement initiatives within the department
- Monitor and report on progress towards Council-approved environmental objectives and initiatives

### **Programs/Services Offered**

Specific programs/services of the Environmental Policy and Programs Unit include:

- Conduct environmental scans, feasibility studies and develop plans for operational groups

- Manage cross-departmental program and policy development initiatives
- Review current operations, by-laws and related matters to identify opportunities for improvement
- Develop Ottawa's Renewable Energy Strategy aka Energy Evolution (term of Council priority)
- Implement the Air Quality and Climate Change Management Plan (term of Council priority)
- Finalize Ottawa's 30-year Waste Plan
- Update the City's Environmental Strategy
- Facilitate implementation of the Water Environment Strategy
- Promote and administer three municipal environmental grants programs
- Reduce negative impacts on city infrastructure and operations through outreach activities, and promotional / educational materials
- Build environmental awareness and stewardship through outreach activities, and promotional / educational materials
- Facilitate information sharing and best practices amongst community partners through the Institutional Working Group, which comprises representatives from local hospitals, universities, school boards, amongst others.
- Liaise with households, neighbourhoods and the broader community on operational and policy matters
- Regularly update the Take It Back directory, the Environmental Grants directory, and other relevant resources
- Financial Resources Management