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January 26th, 2022

The Hon. David Piccini
Minister of the Environment, Conservation & Parks
College Park 777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
minister.mecp@ontario.ca

RE: Support for Ottawa Energy Evolution Strategy

Dear Minister Piccini,

Climate change is the biggest threat facing our generation, and ambitious action to fight it presents significant economic opportunities for all Canadians. The urgency of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and implementing climate adaptation measures is well-understood scientifically and documented by the 2021 International Panel on Climate Change “Code Red” report. The latest science shows—and our residents are demanding—that we do more to fight climate change and protect their health, and on a faster timeline.

Municipalities realize the importance of their position to catalyze climate action. In October 2020, Ottawa City Council unanimously approved the Energy Evolution Strategy, an ambitious plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Ottawa to zero by 2050. Reaching this target will require unprecedented action and investment. It also estimates a yield of \$12 billion in net returns to the community over the life of the investments, along with health and resiliency benefits. This colossal work cannot be done without support from senior governments.

The City of Ottawa urges the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks to:

- **Implement an effective ban on organics for ICI waste by 2024; and**
- **Support the development of a gasification demonstration project for forestry, leaf, yard waste, and other relevant organic waste.**

The waste sector accounted for 9% of Ottawa’s community-wide greenhouse gas emissions in 2020. The City of Ottawa manages residential waste closely but the waste from the institutional, commercial, and industrial (ICI) sector is managed by the province. The Energy Evolution Strategy identifies the need to ensure 100% separation of organic waste, including paper, from the ICI sector is achieved by 2024. This organic waste can then be used as a low carbon energy source primarily through anaerobic digestion. This is something that is outside of the authority and capital resources of the City of Ottawa currently.



By providing this policy leadership, the Ministry of Energy can help municipalities catalyze GHG reductions in their communities while ensuring efficient use of public funds.

Steve Willis, General Manager for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development, would be pleased to meet with your Deputy Minister to discuss more thoroughly how we can work together to achieve our shared goals of a healthy future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Watson', written over a white background.

Jim Watson

Mayor

City of Ottawa

CC : Atif Durrani, Manager, Environment, Conservation & Parks

Carol Saab, Chief Executive Officer at FCM

Michael Savage, Mayor of Halifax and Chair of BCMC

Jamie McGarvey, Mayor of Parry Sound and President of AMO

Stephen Willis, General Manager, Planning, Corporate Real Estate and Economic Development, City of Ottawa