



New Official Plan

Climate Adaptation and Resiliency

Ottawa is experiencing the effects of climate change, with warmer, wetter and more unpredictable weather. Climate projections indicate our weather will continue to become more variable, with higher temperatures, variable precipitation, and extreme weather including heat waves, intense rain, high winds and freezing rain (www.climateatlas.ca).

Climate change affects our health and safety, infrastructure, the economy and the environment. It touches our day-to-day lives as well as the natural and built systems that support Ottawa's liveability and prosperity.

While parallel efforts are required to curb Ottawa's contribution to climate change by reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. Ottawa must adapt to the changes we're already experiencing and prepare for further change.

Climate resiliency is the ability to adapt and thrive in the face of changing climate conditions. Building climate resiliency involves preparing for extreme events as well as gradual changes in temperature and precipitation.

Building climate resiliency means taking forward-looking decisions that make our communities, infrastructure and environment less vulnerable to future climate conditions and more capable of recovering from extreme events.

Ottawa's next Official Plan must consider changing climate conditions as it guides the city's growth and development. Some planning considerations include:

- Flood protection – safeguarding against future flooding to protect properties and infrastructure, and ensure emergency access.
- Heat mitigation – through trees and vegetation, light-coloured, reflective materials in roofs, parking lots and walkways, and access to cooling centres.
- Infrastructure resilience – ensuring our infrastructure can withstand increased temperatures, high winds, flooding, freeze-thaw cycles and power disruptions.
- Natural resilience – protecting existing trees and natural areas including wetlands, forests and watercourses, and ensuring new trees can thrive.

