

envirocentre

2014 annual report

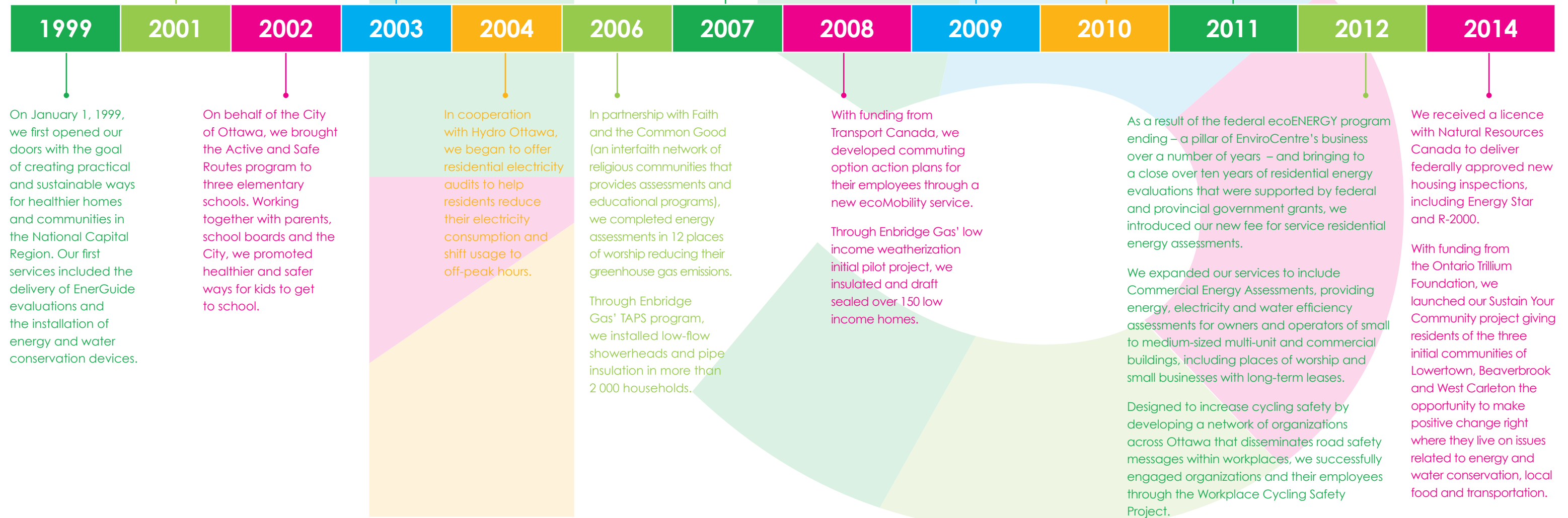


YEARS



envirocentre

15 YEARS
ANS



15th anniversary celebrations

ENVIROBOUTIQUE LAUNCH – MAY 13, 2014



After renovations and a new range of environmentally-friendly products available, the improved boutique was re-opened to the community with Councillors Chernushenko, Fleury and Wilkinson in attendance to assist in cutting the ribbon.

RIGHTBIKE STAND INSTALLATION – SEPTEMBER 11, 2014



Sponsoring a RightBike hub was a natural fit for us given our work promoting sustainable transportation! With approximately four bikes in front of our office, we provided access to the bikes, route maps, resources and answers to getting around the city safely.

CONSERVATION RETROFIT TO THE KILLALOE AND DISTRICTS SENIORS CITIZENS FRIENDSHIP CLUB – DECEMBER 2, 2014



The Friendship Club, a non-profit that acts as a meeting place for seniors in the community, was searching for funding opportunities for insulation upgrades. Clearly in need, we selected them to receive our pro bono services of a free conservation retrofit to their space, providing them with attic and wall insulation, as well as comprehensive air sealing.

STAFF VOLUNTEERING – THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Our staff got out into the community! We volunteered our time at various organizations ranging from a public school to a women's shelter to another local environmental organization.

FREE ENERGY ASSESSMENTS – THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



Through various event draws during the year, we completed free energy assessments to ten lucky winners' homes.

Client Testimonial Diane received a free home energy assessment and participated in our Green Homes Tour.

"Thanks so much for the energy assessment... I am so excited to have won this energy audit - and am keen to see what the new report says....I try to be a thoughtful and informed home-owner with an environmentally conscious lifestyle. EnviroCentre with its information, store and services has played a big role in reducing my environmental and carbon footprints. Thank you!!!"

MURAL UNVEILING – SEPTEMBER 24, 2014



Created as a lasting way to commemorate our 15th year as an organization and made possible through Crime Prevention Ottawa's Paint It Up! Youth Engagement Mural Program, in partnership with the City of Ottawa, the mural was truly a community effort. We worked with MASC, their mural artist Dominique Boisvenue and the students at École Secondaire De La Salle and their supervising art teacher, Grant Alexander Holmes to beautify our building, Rideau Street and deter graffiti!

Respecting our Past. Leading our Future

When our doors first opened in 1999, we had the goal of creating practical and sustainable ways for healthier homes and communities in the National Capital Region.

Today, 15 years later, we have not strayed far from that original goal. We aim to lessen our collective impact, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions through inspired environmental action and positive change. We strive to achieve this by offering individuals, families and organizations in communities across Ottawa and the province practical services, programs and products that conserve energy, and improve environmental health and sustainability.

From our humble beginnings, we have grown into what we are today – we have built relationships, engaged with residents and businesses and delivered countless services and programs. We have learned from each of those past experiences to lead us forward into the next 15 years with increased clarity and focused direction.

With this learned knowledge, we concentrate our efforts together to deliver results in three main areas:

- 1 Building Energy Efficiency** - Improving home and building energy efficiency reduces electricity and natural gas use, generates cost savings, and increases indoor comfort.
- 2 Sustainable Transportation** - Using public transit, biking, walking, carpooling or car sharing saves money, boosts productivity, contributes to cleaner air and has increased health benefits.
- 3 EnviroBoutique** – Selling practical and environmentally-friendly products reduces our overall ecological footprint.

We're pleased to share this year's annual report and highlight the progress we've made in these areas in 2014 and celebrate and share our history over the past 15 years.

Retrofitted over **900*** homes
with a total annual natural gas
savings of
1.1 million cubic meters



*Delivered on behalf of utility-funded weatherization programs

which is the equivalent to a
greenhouse gas reduction of over

**2 000
metric tonnes
of CO₂**

This is the same as taking over
600 passenger vehicles
off the road, or not using over

**900 000
litres of
gasoline**



During Bike to Work* month
in May over **115,000 km**
were cycled by over
1500 participants



*Delivered on behalf of the City of Ottawa

which is the equivalent to a
greenhouse gas reduction of

**41
metric tonnes
of CO₂**

This is the same as saving over
\$23 000 when compared
to driving



In 2014, we:

ENGAGED AND LISTENED

On behalf of the City of Ottawa, we conducted outreach on the new **Laurier and Churchill Cycle Tracks**, engaging directly with cyclists, pedestrians and motorists about the cycle track features, identifying trouble stops and providing the City with recommended solutions, which were subsequently implemented.

Funded by Ontario Trillium Foundation, we are working with residents through our new **Sustain Your Community** project to design and implement sustainability initiatives in three local communities related to energy and water conservation, local food and active transportation.

ASSESSED AND ADVISED

We conducted **more than 25 residential energy assessments** to help homeowners identify ways to make improvements on their homes, saving them money on utility bills and increasing home comfort.

Through a contract with the Ottawa Carleton District School Board, we conducted stakeholder interviews and background research, assisting in the development of guiding principles for a **Green Employer Policy**.

SERVED OUR COMMUNITY

We developed a joint program with the **Peace and Environment Resource Centre** educating and empowering local residents to make changes in their home energy use and help them better understand their energy bills.



We informed over **600 boutique visitors** about green products, electronic waste disposal, biking to work, home energy savings programs and green home renovations.

As an e-waste disposal drop-off centre, we collected **more than 6 metric tonnes of e-waste** diverting it from the landfill.

Through our relationships with Union Gas, Enbridge Gas, Hydro Ottawa, and Ottawa River Power Corporation, we **retrofitted over 1 900 homes** across the province increasing homeowners' or tenant's energy savings and comfort.

CREATED NEW PARTNERSHIPS WHILE VALUING OLD ONES

As part of our low income energy program, we **strengthened our network** of high quality and customer-oriented insulation contractors to better deliver our programs to our clients.



We received a **licence with Natural Resources Canada** to deliver federally approved new housing inspections, including Energy Star and

R-2000, expanding our residential services within the home building industry locally and province-wide.

We became an **Emerging Member of Sustainability Colab** and began the development of our new Carbon 613 program, a target-based sustainability program for businesses.

We signed a Memorandum of Understanding to be a strategic partner with the **Ottawa Sustainability Fund**, an organization which harnesses individual and corporate donations to support environmental projects in the city.

EXPANDED OUR REACH

We coordinated the **fifth annual Bike to Work Month** in May on behalf of the City of Ottawa, delivering more than 20 lunch and learns, engaging over **80 workplace teams** and encouraging over **1 400 residents** (with over 340 being first time bike commuters!) to take up the challenge of commuting to work by bike.

Through our low-income energy programs, we started to work in the communities of **Timmins, Cornwall** and **Sault-Ste. Marie** while continuing our work in communities across southern and eastern Ontario.



In September, we delivered the **City of Ottawa's Commute Smart Challenge**, an initiative that promotes sustainable transportation, getting more than 650 residents to take over

1 500 trips by bicycle, rollerblading and skateboarding, over 680 trips by walking and running and 620 trips by transit.

why we did it



TO MAKE BUSINESSES A PART OF THE GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION SOLUTION

Our human impact on the earth and our role in climate change is no longer something that can be denied. Greenhouse gases have increased from activities we have become used to doing every day, such as driving our vehicles, heating and cooling our homes and buildings or operating our appliances, inadvertently polluting our water and air and warming our planet.

Businesses can play a vital role in being part of the greenhouse gas reduction solution, understanding that the economy, the environment and the larger global community are intricately connected and are not distinct and isolated from each other.

Carbon 613, our target-based sustainability program, has been developed with businesses in mind. Participating organizations are plugged into a local network and are supported in setting targets to reduce their carbon emissions in their own business practices. Through this combined approach, we, as businesses and individuals within those businesses, can contribute to being part of the solution.



TO MAKE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION A REAL POSSIBILITY FOR PEOPLE

On average, each Canadian makes 2 000 car trips of less than 3 km each year. Doing these trips by bike or walking would reduce congestion, road traffic, pollution and noise, while making our communities healthier and more vibrant.

Showing residents that there are other viable transportation options is part of the solution. By being out there in the community, we listen to and learn from residents about what they need and want to see in cycling and transportation infrastructure in the city. With the City of Ottawa's goal of providing an integrated system of multimodal facilities and services, we aim to merge people's needs with city objectives and get people moving around differently.

“EnviroCentre did a great job conducting outreach directly with cyclists and pedestrians regarding the new Cycle Tracks on Laurier Ave. and Churchill Ave. They were on-site and sharing information on the infrastructure directly to those using it, and they gathered important feedback that the City of Ottawa was able to use to further improve this new cycling facility” –

Rob Wilkinson, Coordinator of Safer Roads Ottawa, City of Ottawa



TO MAKE HOME ENERGY SAVINGS ACCESSIBLE TO ALL FAMILIES

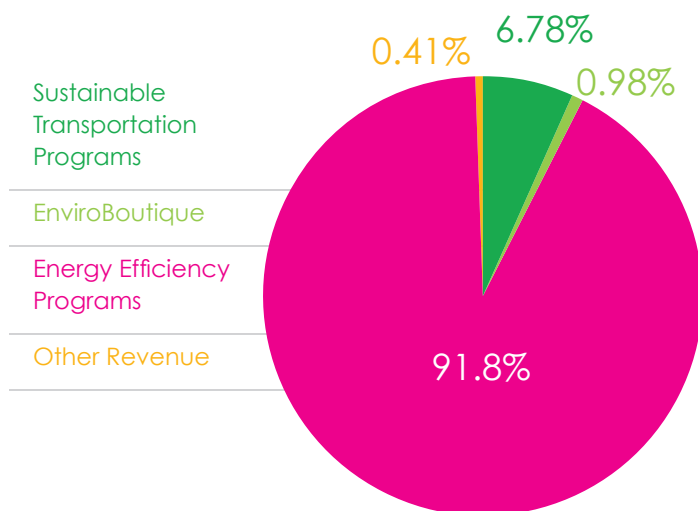
The cost of heating our homes can be more of an expense than anticipated – both financially and environmentally. With some in our community having to decide between heating their homes or buying food and others attempting to make their homes as energy efficient as possible, everyone shares the desire to reduce their energy bills and make their homes comfortable and warm.

Through our partnerships with major utility companies, we are able to deliver home retrofit programs to low income households across Ontario reducing energy poverty and bringing residents energy savings and a direct reduction in their energy bills.

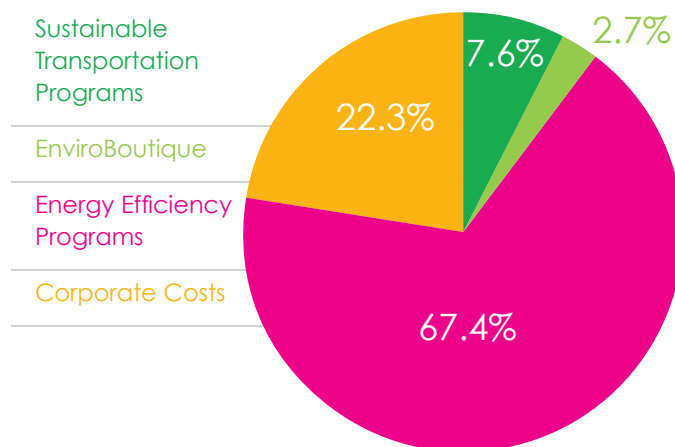
Our residential energy assessments gives others the opportunity to also reap the financial rewards of lower energy bills and cost-savings over the long-term, with recommended upgrades making their homes not only more energy efficient, but also increasing their resale value and comfort.

financials

SOURCES OF REVENUE



EXPENDITURES



thank you

It is only through the many groups of dedicated people, that we were able to achieve our goals.

We would like to sincerely thank our staff, board of directors, clients, energy advisors, contractors, and all of our program participants and supporters for making this year a success.

envirocentre

stay connected

Learn more about what we do on our website: envirocentre.ca

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