



enviro centre

2015 **annual report**

energy

Retrofitted over
1,050* homes



*Delivered on behalf of utility-funded weatherization programs

with a total annual
natural gas savings of

1.17
million
cubic
meters



which is the equivalent to a
greenhouse gas reduction of over

2,100
metric tonnes
of CO₂

This is the same as taking over

460
passenger
vehicles...

**...off the
road**



transportation

During Bike to Work* month
in May over **300,000 km**
or a distance equal to seven
times around the planet...



*Delivered on behalf of the City of Ottawa

...was cycled by over

2,500
participants



*Delivered on behalf of the City of Ottawa

which is the equivalent to a
greenhouse gas reduction of

75
metric tonnes
of CO₂

This is the same as participants
collectively saving over \$51 000



**just by
biking
to work
instead of
driving!**

Positive Change

Making positive change in the communities we serve has been one of our aspirations since our doors first opened in 1999. As we did back then, we aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through inspired environmental action and positive change.

This sense of positive change is evidenced by the focus being shown by Canadian government at all levels on climate change and the concrete steps being made on an international stage towards a low-carbon economy.

For us, our work is even more relevant now than ever and we have been actively contributing to this positive change by offering individuals, families and organizations in communities across Ottawa and the province practical programs and services, which conserve energy, and improve environmental health and sustainability.

With a focus of greenhouse gas reduction, we concentrate our efforts in these areas:

- 1 Building Energy Efficiency** - Improving home and building energy efficiency reduces electricity and natural gas use, lowers utility bills, and increases indoor comfort.
- 2 Community Sustainability** - Promoting healthier commutes and transportation options, such as biking, walking and car sharing, as well as supporting community environmental initiatives, makes happy, healthy and vibrant communities for us all.
- 3 Business Sustainability** - Supporting organizations to reduce their carbon footprint and gain a competitive advantage.

We're pleased to share this year's annual report and highlight the progress we've made in these areas in 2015.

In 2015, we:

ENGAGED AND LISTENED

Funded by Ontario Trillium Foundation, we successfully completed the first year of our **Sustain Your Community** project, working with residents of West Carleton, Kanata North and Lowertown communities to design and implement sustainability initiatives related to energy and water conservation, local food and active transportation.

On behalf of the City of Ottawa, we delivered the **Commute Smart Challenge**, an initiative that promotes sustainable transportation amongst Ottawa businesses. We conducted outreach to and developed user-friendly resources for large employers, which resulted in 11 workplaces having a dedicated portal on Ottawa Ride Match, an online resource to find or provide carpooling.

ASSESSED AND ADVISED

We conducted close to **50 residential energy assessments**, educating homeowners about renovations, ways to save money on utility bills and increase home comfort.

We provided strategic advice and coordination to the **Ottawa Sustainability Fund**, a volunteer-led grant program that exclusively funds local environmental projects.

Through our Transportation Demand Management services, we conducted intercept surveys for **Bentall Kennedy** providing data on their employee transportation habits, used towards their **LEED certification** process.

Consulting for the **Ottawa-Carleton District School Board**, we collected data on employee commuting habits resulting in the implementation of programs, such as the employee ride match program, to reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles commuting to work.





SERVED OUR COMMUNITY

Through our relationships with **Union Gas**, **Enbridge Gas**, and **Ottawa River Power Corporation**, we retrofitted over **1,100 homes** across the province increasing homeowners' or tenant's energy savings and comfort.

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

We informed **boutique visitors** about green products, electronic waste disposal, sustainable transportation options, home energy savings programs and green home renovations.

We donated energy efficient light bulbs to **Crime Prevention Vanier's 'Light Your Porch'** campaign, which aims to improve the safety and security of homes, families, streets and the Vanier community.

As a community partner, we supported the pilot phase of the **Bicycle Friendly Business Designation**, an Ontario-based program recognizing employers for their efforts to encourage a more welcoming atmosphere for bicycling employees, customers, and the community. **EnviroCentre was one of 34 businesses recognized across Ontario for choosing to invest in cycling.**



CREATED NEW PARTNERSHIPS WHILE VALUING OLD ONES

As part of our **utility funded energy program**, we engaged three new insulation contractors to better deliver our programs to our clients.

Through our partnership with **Ottawa Community Housing**, we carried out a new comprehensive **Attic Air Sealing project** in three local communities reducing damage to homes, as well as the health and safety liability from massive ice damming and icicles.

We continued to provide ongoing training seminars to our **Energy Advisors** increasing their technical skills and program understanding.

Our new **Carbon 613 program**, a target-based sustainability program for businesses to track and report their carbon emissions, launched with well over **100 attendees** and more than **60 private, public and not-profit organizations represented** from across the National Capital Region. Three new members (Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, Arborus Consulting and SmarterShift) joined before year end.

Our **third annual reception** in November provided the opportunity to recognize, and network with our many partners and clients.



EXPANDED OUR REACH

Through our utility funded energy programs, we started to work in the communities of **Parry Sound**, **Elliot Lake**, **Espanola**, and other northern communities, while continuing our work in communities across southern and eastern Ontario.

With the development of a new recruitment process, we began to increase and train our team of **Certified Energy Advisors**.

We started work on the Energy Star labelling of EQ Homes' low-rise residential units at **Greystone Village** in Ottawa, a 26-acre river-front community targeting LEED for Neighbourhood Development (LEED-ND) certification.

We coordinated the sixth annual **Bike to Work Month** in May on behalf of the City of Ottawa, delivering lunch and learns to **250 participants**, engaging over **200 workplace teams** and encouraging over **2,500 residents** (with over **560 being first time bike commuters!**) to take up the challenge of commuting to work by bike.

why we did it



TO MAKE IT EASY FOR BUSINESSES TO BE PART OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTION

With a renewed interest in climate change and in transitioning to a low-carbon economy, all levels of government are trying to find ways to support businesses to reduce their emissions, manage energy costs and remain competitive.

Carbon 613, our target-based sustainability program, has been developed with businesses in mind. Participating organizations are plugged into a local network of like-minded businesses and are provided with the tools and supports needed 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.

"Sustainability is everything to us. Although we work in the energy/resource efficiency and renewable energy sectors, we believe that we have a responsibility to operate in a manner that is consistent with our philosophies; that is to be carbon neutral and directly eliminate carbon wherever we have control to do so. Being a member of Carbon 613 will help us do that." – Robin Hutcheson, Arborus Consulting, Carbon 613 Member



TO MAKE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION A REAL POSSIBILITY FOR COMMUTERS AND WORKPLACES

With increasing parking pressures and traffic congestion, commuting by bike, transit, carpooling or walking, not only benefits the environment, but also reduces stress, enhances productivity and saves money.

With each Canadian, on average, making 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. It makes sense to shift away from driving a car alone!

Showing workplaces that there are other transportation options is part of the solution. Our Transportation Demand Management consulting services identifies the right set of measures for organizations or businesses to minimize the need for travel and make sustainable transportation options more viable and accessible for them and their employees.

"Through our work with EnviroCentre, we now have new tools in place to support commuting options for our staff, helping us achieve our sustainability objectives. Thank you to the EnviroCentre Sustainable Transportation Team!" – Kimberly Elmer, Vice Principal Nepean High School, Ottawa-Carleton District School Board



TO MAKE HOME ENERGY SAVINGS AVAILABLE TO ALL FAMILIES

The cost of heating our homes can be more of an expense than anticipated – both financially and environmentally.

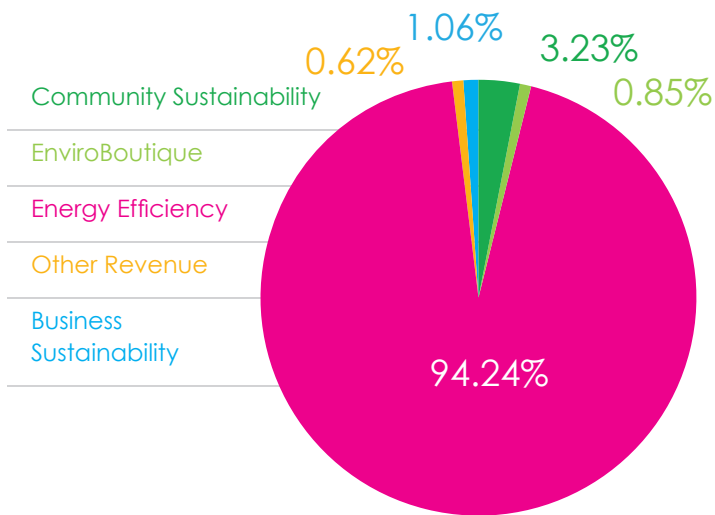
Through our partnerships with major utilities, we are able to deliver home retrofit programs to low income households across Ontario reducing energy poverty and bringing residents energy savings and a direct reduction in their energy bills.

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.

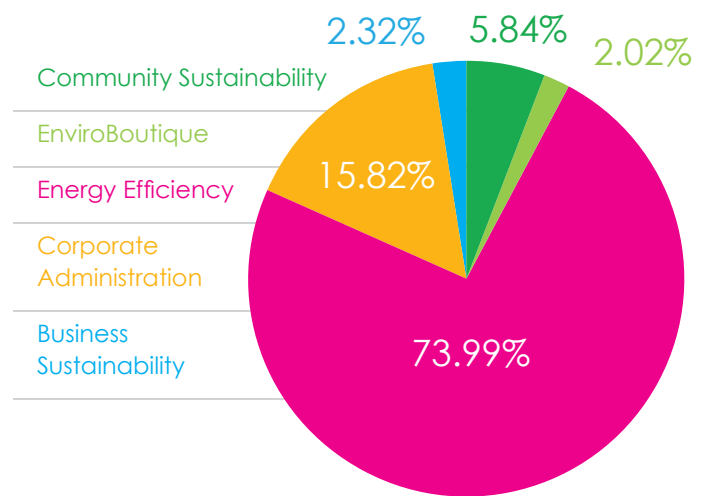
"I qualified for the Weatherization Program and I cannot thank you enough. Chris, the fellow who came to assess my home, was wonderful, and it was a job well done. Peter also did a great job in insulating my crawl space and I couldn't be happier. I am still in awe of this great program and know I will be much warmer this upcoming winter. Saying thanks just doesn't seem like it is enough. I truly can't explain how happy this has made me."
– Lynda, Customer for Union Gas Weatherization Program

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 –
without all of you we couldn't do our work as well as we do.

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

envirocentre

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