

# carbon 613 sustainability report 2015

Telling the sustainability story in the National Capital Region



envirocentre



carbon<sup>613</sup>

# welcome to our first year-end report!

It's been a very exciting 2015 for us! Through hard work and support from dedicated staff, volunteers, and the Advisory Council, our target-based sustainability program for businesses launched in June 2015, with membership opening in September 2015.

**Carbon 613** has Ottawa businesses top of mind and recognizes that they play a vital role in the mitigation and reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across the city. Organizations participating in Carbon 613 are plugged into a network of like-minded businesses supported in setting targets to reduce their operational carbon footprint. In return, they are able to access resources, events, and gain recognition for the progress made. No matter the size of the company or the industry sector, there is an opportunity for businesses to lead the transition towards the low-carbon economy, adapt and incorporate sustainability into core operations, and benefit from an improved bottom-line.

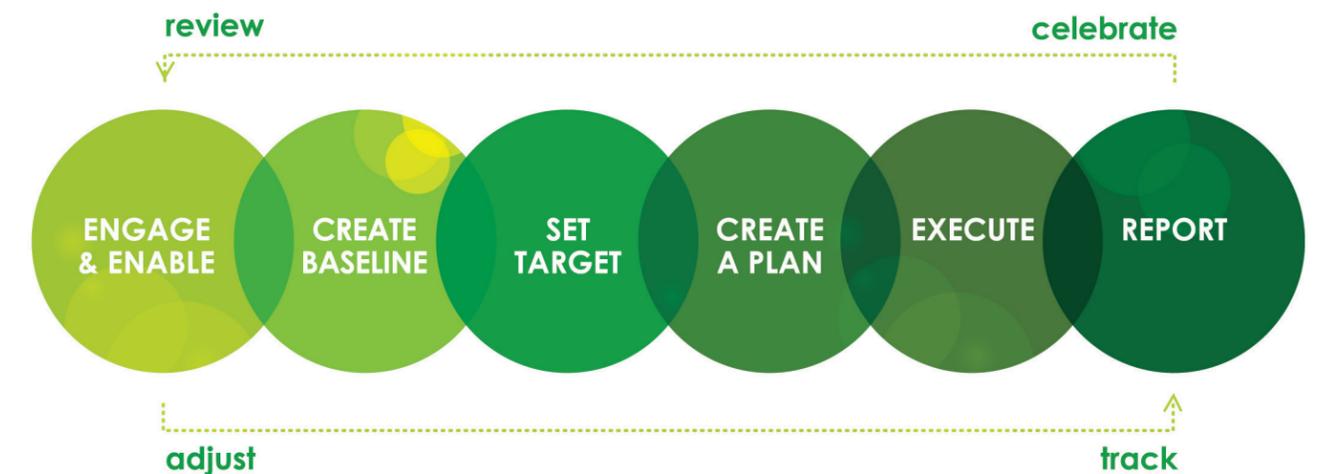
This report provides an overview of what was achieved since our launch back in June 2015, while focusing on what's next for the sustainability story in the National Capital Region.

Together we are celebrating the leading organizations that are participating in Carbon 613. For those of you who haven't become members yet, we welcome you to join us and become a sustainability leader, and let us help you tell the carbon story in the National Capital Region.

– The 2014-2015 Advisory Council

## Carbon 613 EnviroCentre's flagship program for business sustainability

**Carbon 613**, EnviroCentre's target-based sustainability program, has been developed with businesses in mind and supports EnviroCentre's vision of dramatic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions achieved through inspired environmental action and positive change.



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 carbon reduction solution.



EnviroCentre's Carbon 613 is one of eight environmental non-profit organizations across Ontario that make up the CoLab Network. Carbon 613 and the other network programs are convening networks of businesses that are setting and achieving targets to reduce their environmental impacts while enhancing their competitive advantage and stimulating the low-carbon economy.



Technical working Group Formed



Launch! Transition to Affiliate Member of Sustainability CoLab

Partner BBB Event with Minister Murray

Seminar: Carbon Offsets vs. Renewable Energy Certificates

Lightenco joins



First Annual Recognition Event

2014

2015

2016



EnviroCentre becomes Emerging Member of Sustainability CoLab



TD Bank & MOECC support as Catalyzers



Membership opens OCDSB (Catalyzer & Member) and Arborus Consulting (Member) join Lab: GHG 101

Smarter Shift joins



Seminar: From Paris to Ottawa Your Credit Union & the Canadian Museum of Nature join

Lab: Building a Successful Green Team with EcoDistrict



## goals of the program

- 1 Demonstrate the business case for sustainability
- 2 Measure and set carbon reduction targets to improve environmental sustainability
- 3 Advance the low-carbon economy

“As the largest school board in the Ottawa area with a significant role within the community, we understand the importance in taking a leadership role of transitioning to a lower carbon consuming city.”

– Clem Laferriere, Supervisor Facilities Management OCDSB



## members:

are local businesses which participate in setting a target reduction, measuring progress, and being recognized for their results.



## catalyzers:

are organizations which support **Carbon 613** with a one-time financial investment ensuring the long-term viability of the program.



## collaborators:

are sustainability professionals and organizations that collaborate and work with **Carbon 613** to ensure the recognition, credibility, technical know-how and accessibility of the program in a mutually-beneficial way.



## Arborus Consulting

Arborus is a consulting engineering practice working with high performance buildings and renewable energy. The firm offers consulting, verification and research, advisory and education services.

### Highlights

- Introduced work shifting for employees traveling from outside the city.
- Uses Bullfrog Powered clean energy.
- Certified 1st LEED project for National Capital Commission.
- Incorporated a 100 kW solar rooftop on a client project.

### What is the greatest value of Carbon 613?

Carbon 613 brings visibility to the issues and opportunities for businesses to reduce their environmental impact.

“ We need to de-carbonize our economy with the same urgency we respond to humanitarian crises that arise as the result of earthquakes, hurricanes, etc. Delays in our response elevates the risk of catastrophic losses as each day passes.”

– Robin Hutcheson, President, Arborus Consulting



## Canadian Museum of Nature

Canadian Museum of Nature is home to one of the world's largest and finest natural history collections. Beyond the public facing vibrant exhibits, the organization is composed of world-renowned research scientists, educators, collection specialists, and innovators. With two facilities, sustainability is an important piece to operating and managing the museum's daily activities.

### Highlights

- Implemented a comprehensive waste management program that includes recycling and composting.
- LED-retrofitted 191 fixtures from 100 watt lamps to 6.5 watt lamps.
- Introduced the Green Meeting approach with various working groups and committees.
- Installed low-to-no water consuming fixtures.
- Developed and implemented the Landscapes of Canada Gardens to minimize Groundskeeping activities.

### What is the value of being part of a like-minded network with Carbon 613?

Networking is underrated; there is tremendous gain in sharing successes and ideas with colleagues facing similar situations.



## EnviroCentre

An environmental non-profit organization whose mission is to offer practical services and programs that help individuals, families, and organizations conserve energy, improve environmental health and act more sustainably.

### Highlights

- Introduced work shifting for employees.
- Track and weigh all of our recycling, composting, and garbage.
- Completed waste diversion best practices presentation for staff.
- 50% staff do not own a car and many are passionate cyclists, advocating for a safe and emissions free commute year-round!

### Future goals

- Continue to “walk the walk” by setting 2016 as the baseline year.
- Engage staff more frequently with creative activities that support a healthier, happier, work environment.

“There is a strong business case for sustainability and we are providing an inclusive program that provides each business with the tools necessary to succeed.”

– Erika Mayer, Manager, Energy Strategies and Quality Assurance, EnviroCentre.



## Ottawa-Carleton District School Board

The OCDSB is the largest school board in Ottawa. Sustainability is an integral component of how the school board manages and operates facilities that they occupy. They also instill a culture that engages students, teachers, and administrative staff in playing a role in caring for the environment.

### Highlights

- Environmental Stewardship a significant component of Board's 2015-2019 Strategic Plan.
- Energy management and Conservation Department lead annual initiatives including renewable energy projects and waste diversion strategies.
- 58 Schools (1 in 3) certified under the Ontario EcoSchools Program, each with their own Green Teams.
- Completed the 41st roof mounted solar PV installation in 2015.
- Replacement of 20 gasoline fleet vehicles to 2015 compact hybrid vehicles.



## Smarter Shift

Operating since 1984, Smarter Shift is a small, home-based business that specializes in climate and energy communications and analysis, social media management, and online content curation.

### Sustainability commitment

Low-to-zero impact sustainability goals have always been built into Smarter Shift's business planning.

### Highlights

- Moved out of commercial space in 2010 to eliminate daily commute and reduce carbon footprint.
- Moved to a new build LEED certified home office in 2015.

### How would you describe EnviroCentre's Carbon 613?

Ottawa's best source of support to put practical action behind your commitment to carbon reductions and overall sustainability.



## Your Credit Union

Established in 1950, Your Credit Union is a proud and socially-responsible financial co-operative existing to improve the financial lives of its members.

### Highlights

- Developed a 2015-2018 Strategic Plan that provides clear direction on sustainability ambitions within their Quality of Life Corporate Sustainability Reporting Program.
- Chose renewable electricity and natural gas through Bullfrog Power to power all of its locations and was the first credit union in Canada to do so.
- Created a Sustainability Policy to guide future sustainability goals.

### Why is sustainability important to Your Credit Union?

On behalf of our member owners, Your Credit Union wants to contribute to fighting climate change. Carbon 613 is a key resource to partner with for this journey and provides access to the latest tools and strategies, along with great networking opportunities.

## cheers to members who recently joined

Lightenco, Ottawa Chamber of Commerce,  
Hydro Ottawa

# thank you

Carbon 613's technical working group evolved into its Advisory Council in September 2015. The Advisory Council provides strategic leadership to Carbon 613.

Shawn Carr, Hydro Ottawa  
David Handleman, TD Bank  
Robin Hutcheson, Arborus Consulting  
Paul Labrosse, Hydro Ottawa  
Clem Laferriere, OCDSB  
Fin MacDonald, Morrison Hershfield  
Brandon Malleck, Bentall Kennedy  
Lise Beutel, SDTC

We wouldn't be able to do our work without the help of the following dedicated, dynamic, and fun volunteers! Thank you!

Stu Campana, Member Support  
Kathryn Beaton, Year-End Report Coordinator  
Marwan Ghalib, Events Support  
Sam Likely, Events Support  
Greg Dong, Member Support  
William Nixon, Social Media Coordinator  
Ronnie Safarov, Media Relations Coordinator  
Jessica Currie, Member Support  
Emma Fisher, Member Support

## Catalyzers

TD Bank  
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change  
Ottawa Carleton District School Board

## Event Sponsors (including in-kind)

Bullfrog Power  
Invest Ottawa  
TD Bank

## Funders

CEPGEF – City of Ottawa  
ECO Canada – Environmental Youth Corporation

## Collaborators

Better Buildings Breakfast  
Ottawa Centre EcoDistrict  
Ottawa Renewable Energy Coop  
Sustainable Eastern Ontario  
Ottawa Chamber of Commerce  
Ecology Ottawa  
Faith & the Common Good

## Sustainability CoLab Network

# what's next?

Do you feel it? The Paris Agreements has brought a sense of optimism and urgency across Canada. Climate change is a top priority for businesses and governments, to prevent global temperature rise from exceeding 1.5 degrees Celsius.



The Government of Canada has committed to reach ambitious goals set out by the global agreement on climate change.

The federal budget includes investments in clean energy and the Prime Minister is engaging with each province to discuss a price on carbon.



In 2015, Ontario became the first province in Canada to set a GHG reduction target of 37% below 1990 levels by 2030 and announce a cap and trade system.

The province also allocated \$ 1 million from the Green Investment Fund in the Sustainability CoLab Network.



In Ottawa, the City of Ottawa set a new target of 80% emissions reduction below the 2012 baseline by 2050 and commits to mitigate and adapt to climate change over the next 20 years.

# future for Carbon 613

**Carbon 613** looks forward to working with businesses in the National Capital Region to develop initiatives that simultaneously help them meet their carbon reduction goals and reduce the carbon output of the city.



"I'm excited to see what's possible when business leaders come together to share their successes and challenges on sustainability, compete not only on profitability but on climate action, and when people in Ottawa come to expect more of organizations in their community. Seeing what's worked elsewhere, I know our nation's capital will raise the bar."

– Mike Morrice, Executive Director, Sustainability CoLab

# stay connected

Learn more about what we do on our website:  
[www.envirocentre.ca](http://www.envirocentre.ca)

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 @envirocentre @carbon613

 envirocentre (Ottawa)

Visit us: 366 Rideau Street,  
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Call us: 613-656-0100

## environmental impact statement

150 copies of the Year-End Report were printed using 15kg of 100% post-consumer paper.

By using environmentally friendly paper we saved:

- 26 kg GHG emissions
- 9 kg of solid waste
- 726 litres of water

Environmental impact estimates were made using the Environmental Paper Network Paper Calculator Version 3.2. For more information visit [www.papercalculator.org](http://www.papercalculator.org).

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