

City of London
300 Dufferin Ave, London, ON

Nov 26th 2021

Dear Councillors, Budget Chair Peloza and Honourable Mayor,

We were saddened by the lack of new funding for climate action and the delay of the climate emergency action plan in general. We are eager to see the City Council start implementing new climate action and adaptation measures, and we hope to see significant investment in 2022 and onwards, whether or not the allocation time aligns with a budget cycle.

In regards to this budget update, the environmental sector **supports the following:**

- (P-9) - Continuation of the Invasive Species Management Strategy
- (P-12) - Zero Emission Bus Implementation Strategy
- (WWT-1, Part A and B) - Using the savings from Greenway's energy reduction to fund wastewater projects (*see more details in Antler River Rally's letter submission*)

Future Suggestions for Climate Projects in the Budget

We'd love to see more capital funded support introduced for the community and the Corporation itself, specifically for climate action projects. Having multi-year, capital funding for climate projects creates a steady source of revenue for City staff and the community to initiate climate action projects, without having to create annual business cases. [Ottawa is currently looking at this too.](#)

We were very happy to see the Wonderland Road and Adelaide Road North widening projects being suspended earlier this year, after analysis of the project with the climate emergency screening tool. These types of budget cuts help reduce the burden on taxpayers and reduce future emissions from cars. The Wonderland Road Widening cancellation saved over \$212 million for Londoners, and we would be eager to see more cost savings from projects that cause significant emissions.

With the looming climate and biodiversity crises, every budget needs to be critically evaluated to ensure the spending this year and next year doesn't negatively impact reaching our emission reduction targets. I encourage department staff to continually evaluate their projects and budget submissions with the screening tool and report back to Council prior to moving forward with those projects. As we learned with Wonderland Road, it's never too late to cancel a high-emissions project, or projects with negative biodiversity impacts.

Thanks for your time and consideration,
(*see signing organizations on the next page*)

Signing organizations*:



London
Environmental
Network



Friends of Kilally Meadows ESA



EnviroWestern

**More signing on, we will send along an updated letter on December 1st with all the signing organizations*