



Ottawa Eco-Talent Network

Annual Report 2021/22



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Message from the board.

Ottawa Eco-Talent Network (OETN) is an organization that supports sustainable project development in Ottawa by providing pro bono advisors and support to community partners. OETN has been in operation since 2014, with the vision to mobilize talent to achieve an environmentally sustainable Ottawa. Our key goals include helping the environment, brokering relationships and fostering a sustainable city.

Finding skills-based volunteering opportunities in the sustainability field, as an individual environmental professional, is challenging and time consuming. OETN makes it easy and lets volunteers focus on delivering value rather than searching for opportunities. The same is true for local organizations - OETN brokers top local talent, in a fraction of the time, to meet their sustainability needs.

Warmly,

Josh Hendry, Former Chair of the Board

Mission, vision & goals.



Ottawa Eco-Talent Network (OETN) is a non-profit organization that is helping to create an environmentally sustainable Ottawa.

Mission.

Our mission is to develop and manage a network of project advisors and broker campus-community partnerships to provide pro bono advice, research capacity, and / or other assistance to support community action on the environment and climate change.

Vision.

Our vision is enhance sustainability in Ottawa with a focus on the environment and climate action.

Our Goals.

Support local action on environment and climate change related issues.

“Strengthen the quality and effectiveness of environmental sustainability and climate change projects undertaken by not-for-profits organizations in Ottawa.”

Support broker relationships.

“Link expertise and knowledge with client needs.”

A dedicated board and staff team.



Lora Ferrarotto as our Chair

Lora is the interim chair of Ottawa Eco-Talent Network. Lora Ferrarotto is a Professional Engineer with a background in building systems and facilities management. She started her career over 20 years ago developing and implementing energy conservation programs for commercial buildings. Lora then held various operational roles in facilities management before joining the Bank of Canada as Director, Facilities Services in 2015.

John Karau as our Secretary Treasurer

John Karau is the Secretary Treasurer of Ottawa Eco-Talent Network. John is a biologist by training who has worked for conservation authorities, the United Nations, Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. John is also one of Ottawa Eco-Talent Network's advisors and provides expertise on projects relating to biodiversity, climate, conservation, environmental science, water, and citizen engagement.



Lisa Meyer as our Board Member



Lisa Meyer is a member of Ottawa Eco-Talent Network's Board of Directors and a faculty member in the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies at Carleton University. Lisa is one of Ottawa Eco-Talent Network's advisors and has provided expertise on communications and post-secondary engagement.

A dedicated board and staff team.



Mary Hegan as our Board Member

Mary Hegan is a member of the Board of Directors and is a social worker by training whose work has been focused on community development. She has spent the last 15 years with the federal government examining environmental health issues. Mary is a member of Ottawa Eco-Talent Network's Board of Directors. Mary is one of Ottawa Eco-Talent Network's advisors and provides expertise on projects relating to climate, conservation, energy, water, infrastructure and planning.

Robert Fitts as our Board Member

Robert Fitts is a Graduate Technologist in Electrical Engineering of Sir Sandford Fleming College and an Alumni of the Executive Program at the Queen's School of Business. Robert's full time "day job" for the past 38+ years has been in Telecommunications, but at heart he is an Eco Warrior who not only talks the talk, but walks the walk. As a member of the Board of Directors of OETN, Robert's intention is to help all residents and companies in Ottawa vastly reduce the amount of greenhouse gases they generate to help Canada and the world slow down the devastating effects of climate change.



Jessica Legere as our Eco Executive Director

Jessica graduated from Carleton University with a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Environmental Studies and minoring in Geography. She has a strong passion for environmental management and sustainable development. As our shared executive director, Jessica from Eco Executive Director helps OETN with our risk management & legal issues, by providing HR support, and by helping us develop our fundraising strategy.

Our year at a glance.

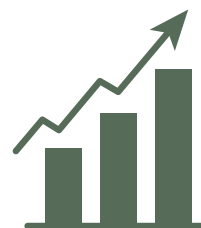
Business Model Review



As part of the Leadership, Strategy and Sustainability course, students from the University of Ottawa's Telfer School of Management reviewed OETN's business model and produced a report highlighting its main strengths and weaknesses, and identified options to expand or evolve the current business model. To do so, they conducted interviews with OETN advisors, Board members, staff and HR.

Eco Executive Director Pilot

Eco Executive Director is a social enterprise that transforms small-shop environmental organizations across Canada who need operational leadership and administrative support by implementing a shared Executive Director model. OETN agreed to take part in the pilot model from September to December of 2021, and continues to be supported by Eco Executive Director services.



Projects at a Glance



Within this past fiscal year OETN has involved in the following projects: Manor Park Tree Canopy, Kanata Eco-Tours, Composting in Lowertown, Deep Blue Cleanup, Business Model Review, Ottawa Youth Hub, Citizen Science Guide, and Parkdale Food Centre.

Community Recognition

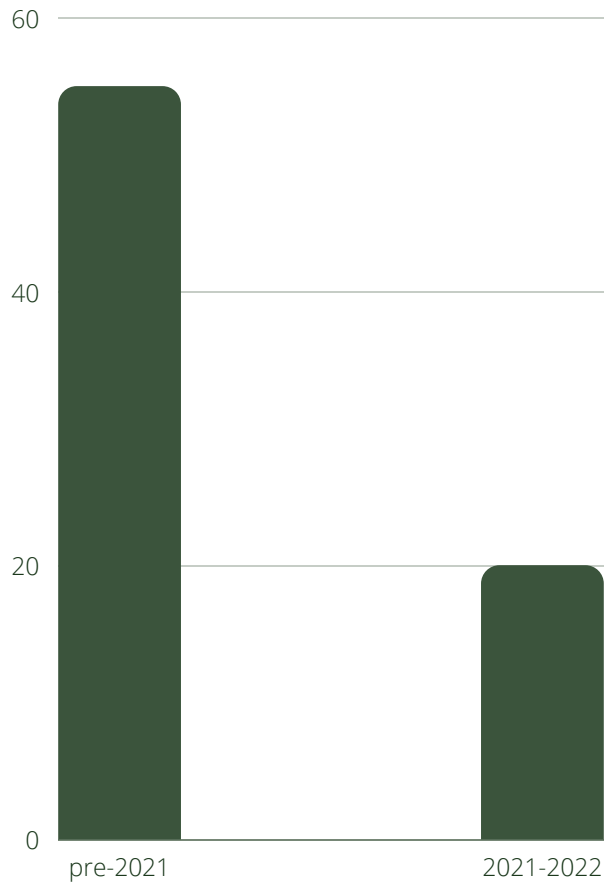
The 8 page spread of the Spring Insider 2021 issue of Peace and Environmental Newsletter (PEN) was dedicated to featuring OETN. OETN was also interviewed and featured as a campus community partner in the Community Campus Engage Canada Spring newsletter.





Advisor Directory.

OETN has spent this past fiscal updating our advisor directory with a combination of email communications and surveys to reassess the members within our directory. We previously started with a directory of 55 advisors which has now been narrowed down to a list of 20 active advisors.



Funding update.

As a non-profit, Ottawa Eco-Talent Network relies on grants and foundations to provide supports towards sustainable project development in Ottawa.

Grants and Foundations:
\$27,000.00

Government Grants:
\$ 25,104.00

NGO Contributions & Partnerships
\$ 31,430

Total Revenue:
\$ 83,534





A big thank you to our donors.

Our team would like to extend our gratitude to the following donors. We couldn't have done this without your support.

The Sustainable Capacity Foundation (SCF) has provided cash flow loans and support to enable our first year of operations. SCF supports the Canadian environmental sector with grants that assist with capacity building efforts.



The Ottawa Community Foundation awarded us \$10,000 in Partnership with PERC. The Foundation is a public, charitable organization created by and for the people of Ottawa working with donors and communities as a trusted partner to bring about sustainable change.

TD Friends of the Environment awarded us \$4,000 in partnership with OBEC. Founded by TD Bank Group in 1990, the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF) is a national charity that funds environmental projects across Canada.



The City of Ottawa awarded us \$5,000. Community Environmental Projects Grant Program (CEPGP) provides funding to non-profit organizations interested in undertaking small-scale, community-based initiatives that support an environmentally sustainable Ottawa.

Communications update.

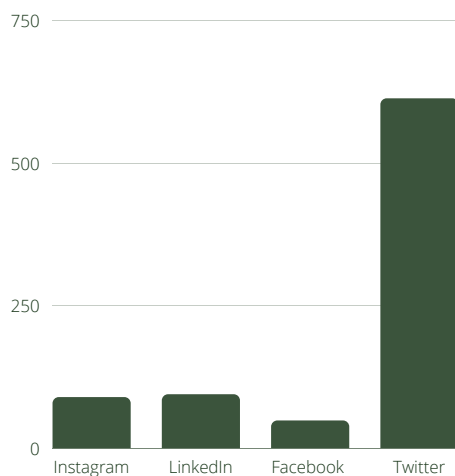


A brand new website.

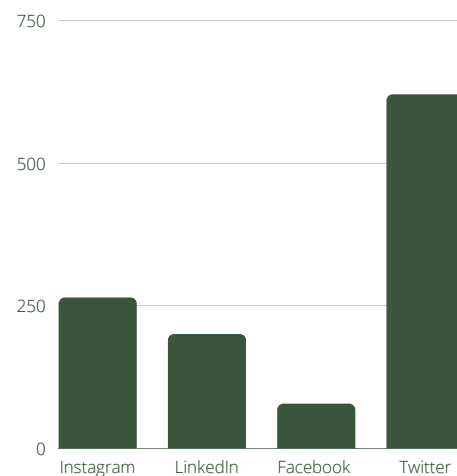
Our new site was officially launched in November of 2021 (www.oetn.ca) using the Squarespace platform. The team has made revisions to ensure it is user-friendly and that the information is accessible to all viewers.

A growing online presence.

Through our intern staff support we were able to grow our online presence in the past year, expanding our outreach and network. OETN had its first social media calendar developed which helped expand our online reach. Charts below indicate our growth based on when we started recording our following within this fiscal year. Our Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram accounts were created within this past fiscal year.



2021
October, 2021



2022
June, 2022



Spotlight Partnership.

Ottawa Biosphere Eco-Cities (OBEC) has a working partnership with Ottawa Eco-Talent Network (OETN) and has benefited greatly from the knowledge and expertise of OETN advisors on previous projects, such as Composting in Lowertown, Manor Park Tree Canopy, Kanata Eco Tours and our Ottawa Sustainability Stakeholders Council.

As such, OBEC is eager to collaborate with OETN on future projects.

