



TOGETHER WE MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE

## Burlington has declared itself a Blue Dot City

- This expresses the belief that its residents have a right to a healthy environment
- Land use policy is one of the biggest determinants of a healthy environment - Official Plans matter
- As reminded by David Suzuki on Nov 21 at BPAC – policy must be grounded in nested priorities
- BurlingtonGreen has adopted a similar lens in its new strategic plan
- Without clean air and water, healthy food and environment, we don't survive



**economic activity  
occurs within social  
and ecological limits**

**We are testing those  
limits**





**That is why BurlingtonGreen made the following investment in meetings with City officials, community members (a cross section of Council's constituents) and internally to specifically understand & address the City's proposed Official Plan\***

December 2/14	July 15/15	December 5/16	September 14/17
February 4/15	Aug 19/15	February 6/17	September 22/17
June 8/15	September 30/15	June 23/17	October 11/17
June 10/15	October 13/15	June 30/17 – submission	November 6/17
June 18/15	October 26/15	July 5/17	November 30/17
June 23/15	November 3/15	September 6/17	T.b.d....
June 25/15	November 24/15	September 7/17	
June 29/15	October 21/16	September 11/17	

**\* Not including time spent on research, writing, discussions at team meetings, etc.**

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- Our focus has been and continues to be the environmental lens
- **Key takeaways at this point:**
  - We support the overall approach and direction of the OP
    - ***Protection of the agricultural/green belt/escarpment lands and embrace of “smart community” planning***
  - Protection and expansion of green space and the tree canopy, especially within the urban boundary, are in jeopardy without an urgent review/rewrite of the Parks Master Plan and open space acquisition policies – these can’t be after-thoughts
    - ***Accelerate completion of the requisite green space Master Plan(s) and policies – embed them in the OP as quickly as possible and adopt tools to better protect/enhance the deteriorating urban tree canopy***

- **Key takeaways at this point (cont'd):**

- How “smart communities” will evolve - fully integrated transit, compact housing, community open/green spaces and new approaches to mixed development - is not well understood, and not being adequately demanded of developers
  - ***Net zero buildings, getting out of our cars, sustainable energy generation and use, water preservation, maintaining tree canopy, working where we live – all need to become the “new normal” and the OP needs to support willing developers to create these communities in Burlington as quickly as possible***
- Resident perception is that developers are driving the future shape of the City, ignoring the community, Council , and officials
  - ***Quickly make use of Area-Specific Planning studies , Community Improvement Project Plans and create other tools to engage all sectors meaningfully***

**Climate change is the biggest challenge facing the planet**

**Mitigating climate change and preserving a healthy environment must be top priority in every policy decision at every level of government – each decision must pass the “nested priorities” test**



**Adopting and implementing an OP that supports the transition to a more urban and sustainable Burlington is a challenge but also presents opportunities to make the changes needed to help our community survive and thrive**

**I call on all of us to “connect the dots” to make Burlington a model of sustainability and good health**

**Adopting a progressive OP is a good place to start**



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**THANK  
YOU**