

## Ottawa Sustainability Tour Activities this Saturday

The sites on this self-guided tour are free and can be visited by car, bicycle or bus, anytime in the spring to fall period. You, friends and family can enjoy learning how local people and organizations developed better approaches to 10 modern sustainability challenges: Transportation, Energy, Design, Habitat, Food, Natural Capital, Waste Reduction, Health, Recreation and a Sense of Place.

On Launch Day there will be special activities at six of the sites as described below.



**Richelieu Park** in Vanier hosts the opening ceremony, beginning at **8:30 AM** with pancakes and maple syrup. You can pick up a copy of the tour book in English or French, see electric cars from VRTUCAR and the Electric Vehicle Council of Ottawa. Also on hand will be the inventors of Gemagram, a cloud-based mobile application that you can use on your smart phone to follow the tour. Mayor Jim Watson and Councillor Mathieu Fleury will be on hand to start the bicycles and cars on the tour.

**Corktown Footbridge** will come alive at **10:00 AM** when cyclists from the Capital Vélo Rally pass by and members of Just Voices begin to sing. Also, at this time, tour-goers who left Richelieu Park at 9:30 will begin to arrive. And Envirocentre representatives will answer questions on sustainable transportation. Great opportunities here for photos of people and the beautiful Rideau Canal below the bridge.

**The University of Ottawa's FSS Building** welcomes visitors from **10:00 AM** to noon. Staff will be on hand to explain how its energy systems were designed to achieve LEED gold. Groups arriving together can have a guided tour. You can also view North America's tallest indoor living wall. *Première Moisson*, on the ground floor, will be providing coupons for its delicious local food to the first 50 visitors.

**The Playground for Children of All Abilities**, from **10:00 AM** to 2:00 PM, will have Rotary Club members on hand to explain how they created the playground and how Rotary supports community needs. At the other end of Brewer Park, the Wall of Paint hip-hop festival will be in high gear.

**Fletcher Wildlife Garden** contains seven distinct habitats within the Central Experimental Farm. It is an important area for butterflies and migrating birds. From **noon** to 4:00 PM, members of the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club will answer questions on plants, animals, gardening and birdwatching. They can also offer tours to groups on request.

**The Algonquin Centre for Construction Excellence** will have displays by college students on architecture and eco-friendly projects. Interpretive signs explain the features of this “living laboratory.” There will also be staff from **noon** to 4:00 PM, to answer your questions and to explain why this building was awarded LEED Platinum certification and the National Green Building award.

**terra20** will have a meet & greet with several vendors of store products from **noon** to 4:00 PM. Along with light refreshments, you will receive a handout on waste reduction, a store coupon and product samples from the ecobar. There will also be the debut of the Ottawa Learnery – a new program of lively community seminars - with a half hour talk on waste reduction delivered at 3:00 PM and 4:00 PM.