

## 12. Environment

- **Animals – wild.**  
The following was posted on the Town Facebook page around May 7, 2024: As spring emerges, so does an increase in wildlife activity. **The law stipulates that the Town cannot remove wild animals (from) your property.** However, for advice on how to prevent wild animals from settling in, what to do when they become a nuisance, and what to do if you care for their wellbeing, visit the SPCA de Montreal website: <https://www.sPCA.com/en/>
- **Christmas trees: carbon footprint of real versus artificial**  
Excerpt from Maria Torres Council Communique in the November-December, 2020, Informer "Did you know that a real Christmas tree has a significantly lower carbon footprint than an artificial one? Studies have shown that artificial trees have ten times the carbon footprint of natural trees, especially if the latter is properly disposed of, which is the case in Montreal West. Every year, Public Works picks up Christmas trees, recycles them into wood chips, and uses them in Town gardens."
- **Circular economy** (see Councillors' Reports)
- **Electrical charging stations.**  
It was suggested that more electrical charging stations be added around the Town. Councillor Ulin replied that there are no plans to add more charging stations in the Town presently, but some will be included in the new recreation center. (November, 2022, Informer – **September, 2022**, Council)
- **Environment Action Committee.** (see Councillors' Reports)???  
Membership list.
- **Fireplaces & wood-burning stoves.**  
The Environment Action Committee is working on a variety of projects including a review of wood-burning regulations, better waste management policies and the potential for bike routes within the territory. (November, 2023, Informer – **September, 2023**, Council meeting)

Several residents were concerned about a possible ban on wood-burning fireplaces. They were reassured by both the mayor and Councillor Ulin that what is to be examined is the placing of certain restrictions on the use of these fireplaces rather than a total ban. (May, 2022, Informer – **March, 2022**, Council meeting)

Why is the Town considering a ban on wood-burning fireplaces when they are attractive, contribute a minimal amount of air pollution and are needed in the event of power outages? Instituting a ban is under discussion because, while fireplaces are attractive and useful, they also contribute to urban smog which is not good for the environment and can also cause health problems for those with respiratory issues was Councillor Torres' reply. Both the pros and cons will be considered in the wording of the final bylaw. (April, 2022, Informer – **February, 2022**, Council meeting)

- **Fossil fuel heating.**  
The mayor assured one questioner that, unlike new regulations being introduced in Montreal regarding the type of heating to be used in all buildings, the Town has not even started discussing this issue. (December, 2023, Informer -- **October, 2023**, Council meeting)
- ... the Town is going to start looking into this situation in order to be in sync with governmental mandates when they are released. The mayor expects a phased-in approach with plenty of notice given in advance. (September, 2022, Informer – **June, 2022**, Council meeting)

- **Lead water pipes.** (See Councillors' Reports)
- **McGill University student environmental issues.**

The Town has partnered with McGill University to have groups of students do research on a variety of environmental issues within the Town, such as the Town's tree canopy and greenhouse gas emissions. (February, 2023, Informer – **November, 2022**, Council meeting)

- **New garbage regulations.** (See Councillors' Reports)
- **Salt.**
- **Solar panels on townhall roof.**  
Councillor Ulin replied that although solar panels on the Town Hall had not yet been considered, it was an idea that could be explored. [What about snow on the winter?] (November, 2022, Informer – **September, 2022**, Council)
- **Water testing & water filter program.** **Find references**

- **Where does our recycling go?** (See Councillors' Reports) September, **2023**, Informer  
The oft-asked question about where the recycled material picked up in the Town actually goes. The mayor replied that the recycling trucks are often mistaken for garbage trucks, but they serve two separate functions. The Town's contract with the recycling company states that the items picked up by them go to a recycling plant. (November, 2021, Informer – **August, 2021**, Council meeting)