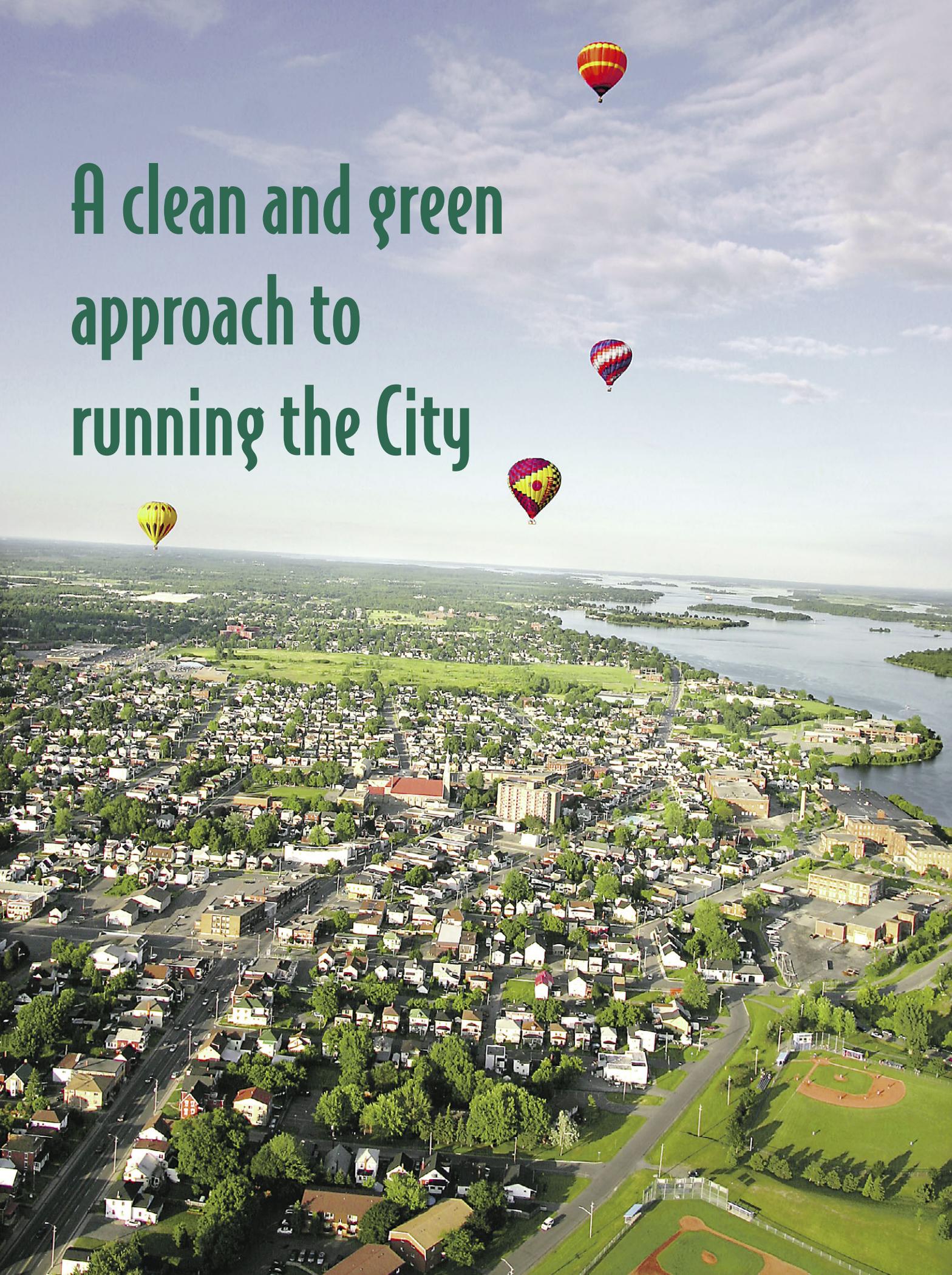


A clean and green approach to running the City



The city's tradeshow booth depicts a wonderful photograph of Cornwall from the vantage point of a helicopter looking east down the St. Lawrence River. The city looks great in the autumn sun, with river glistening and majestic trees dominating the skyline. A common response to the image, especially from people who do not live here, is:

"I never knew Cornwall was so green!"

Green is the colour of choice at City Hall these days as city council and administration work to ensure that idyllic image of Cornwall remains true for the future.



"ENVIRONMENT STEWARDSHIP IS A CORE COMPONENT OF OUR VISION FOR MANAGING GROWTH IN CORNWALL," SAYS MAYOR BOB KILGER. "WE TAKE VERY SERIOUSLY OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PRESERVE THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT FOR GENERATIONS TO COME."



Charged with lessening the impact of 46,000 residents and scores of businesses is Norm Levac and his team. Mr. Levac is the general manager of the Department of Infrastructure and Municipal Works, a wide-spanning city department that looks after solid waste collection, water purification and waste water treatment—in addition to roads, transit and other infrastructure needs.

"We are constantly reinvesting in the city's infrastructure, and every time we repair a road, or install new pipes, we look at ways of doing things better and reducing the impact of the environment," says Mr. Levac. "We also run a number of waste diversion programs that encourage residents to reduce, reuse and recycle."

One of the major engines that helps the city work

is the movement of water to and from the St. Lawrence River.

The city's water purification plant is located in the west end of the city. It has the production capacity to purify 100,000 m³ (cubic metres) of water each day. City staff add carefully measured amounts of fluoride and coagulants to the water before it is filtered, chlorinated and pumped to city homes.

"Our water is tested on a regular basis, and it has always passed inspections with flying colours," says Owen O'keefe, water purification plant supervisor. "Our water is clear, clean and very safe. It also tastes great—especially chilled over ice."

In fact, Cornwall's water is so clean that city council recently issued a directive discouraging the use of bottled water in city buildings—part of a popular movement to reduce the number of plastic water bottles ending up in landfills.

Diverting waste from the City landfill is a key goal of Morris McCormick, who leads the Environmental Services Division for the city. "We are working together with local residents and businesses to reduce their carbon footprint," says Mr. McCormick. "There is wide interest across the entire community to succeed at becoming a greener city."

The city has long had a successful blue box recycling program and has recently introduced paper bag collection of organic yard waste.

"People have really responded well to our new leaf and yard waste collection programs," says Neil Dixon, waste management supervisor. "We are able to compost the organic waste which can then in turn be used to fertilize local gardens. It's a win-win for everybody."

Norm Levac and Morris McCormick's next major project is the construction of a secondary wastewater treatment facility. The \$55 million project gets underway this year, and when finished, the impact of a modern city on the St. Lawrence River ecosystem will be drastically reduced.

"So much of our community depends on a clean and healthy St. Lawrence River," says Mr. Levac. "Our goal is to make sure that the water Cornwall puts back into the river is as clean as possible." 

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This article has been reprinted from the 2010 edition of the Cornwall Living magazine. The magazine is published annually by the Seaway News.

You can order your **free copy** of the current version of the magazine via the ChooseCornwall.ca website.



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