



RIDEAU VALLEY  
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

# News Release

## Christopher Simmonds Architect Leads Carbon Neutral Trend

OTTAWA, May 5, 2015 — Award-winning Ottawa-based business firm Christopher Simmonds Architect has done it again by running a 100 percent carbon neutral operation at its office site on Eccles Street. The firm is among the leaders in the carbon neutral trend in Eastern Ontario. The energy used for staff travel and in the day-to-day needs of the office setting is now entirely offset by the planting of trees to absorb the carbon dioxide produced.

“Going carbon neutral was a logical fit for us,” says Mr. Simmonds. “We are committed to environmental responsibility so the decision to go carbon neutral was an easy one. Working with the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (RVCF) to achieve this goal was a simple way to take responsibility for the firm’s emissions.”

The RVCF’s Carbon Neutral Program calculated the amount of energy consumed by the office and professional activities. This included the gas used in staff commuting and travelling to building sites, the natural gas and electricity used in office heating, lighting and cooling and all office machinery to tally the number of tonnes of carbon produced on an annual basis.

From there, the number of young, vigorous, native Canadian trees needed to absorb that same amount of carbon dioxide over the next 20 years was determined. The RVCF’s Carbon Neutral program then ensures the required number of “carbon-eating” trees are planted each spring.

Christopher Simmonds Architect Inc. is one in the “growing” number of businesses and families choosing to plant trees to offset emissions.

“Chris Simmonds and his staff are environmental leaders as well as architectural leaders in the city,” said Jason Kelly, Chair of the Conservation Foundation. “The firm’s trees will clean the air, the water, reduce erosion, abate noise and wind, provide wildlife habitat as well as years and years of plain old peace and quiet. It’s a pleasure to publicly thank Christopher Simmonds Architect for this thoughtful investment in the health of our whole region.”

“This is our fifth year in the RVCF’s program,” says Mr. Simmonds. “We are delighted to maintain our carbon neutral business operation in hopes of making a significant contribution to the well-being of our community and our quality of life.”

For information of the RVCF’s Carbon Neutral Program visit [www.rvcf.ca](http://www.rvcf.ca) or contact Dan Cooper, RVCF Executive Director at 613-692-3571 ext. 1124.

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### More information:

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