

Islands Trust Official Community Plan Climate Change Policy Options

Natural Areas and Ecosystems



Large-scale shifts in land use – such as deforestation and urbanization – intensify the greenhouse effect. Forests act as an important carbon sink – absorbing and storing carbon that would otherwise be circulating in the atmosphere. By supporting the Trust Fund Board and other land conservancies, local trust committees can promote conservation and restoration of forested land in the Trust Area – thereby helping to reduce the greenhouse effect.

Objective (Target)	Potential Policies: <i>The LTC will consider...</i>	Planning Tool(s)
To preserve and restore natural areas and forest ecosystems as a means to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	Working with Trust Fund Board to set targets for protecting and restoring forest land.	Partnerships
	Promoting conservation of sensitive ecosystems and forested land – especially unfragmented areas.	Zoning, Partnerships
	Establishing a Development Permit Area limiting removal of trees over a certain diameter, restricting clearing, and requiring restoration of damaged forest during subdivision or development.	Development Permit Area (through new Bill 27 authority)