

**ISLANDS TRUST  
BRIEFING**

DATE: March 9, 2010

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**TOPIC: GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) EMISSION REDUCTION UPDATE****DIRECTED TO:** Trust Council**CONFIDENTIAL:** No

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**DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE:** To inform the Islands Trust Council of the work to reduce GHG emissions through Official Community Plan amendments.**BACKGROUND:** Provincial Bill 27 requires all local governments in British Columbia to amend their Official Community Plans (OCPs) by May 2010 to include targets, policies and actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The reduction of greenhouse gases will be a continuing requirement of all Official Community Plans after May 2010.

In September 2009 the Islands Trust Council recommended that all Local Trust Committees (LTCs) consider this work as their top Work Program item. All 12 Local Trust Committees have done so and are currently working on amendments to their OCPs.

In light of the short timeline required of this work and the complexity of this new subject, Local Planning Services support to the LTCs has been provided through a dedicated Planner in each of the three regions. Feedback on this approach to date has been very positive and will continue until all amended OCPs are submitted to the Minister of Community and Rural Development in May 2010.

The status of each OCP amendment process is as follows;

**Northern Region:****For all the Northern LTCs:**

- A shared target of reducing greenhouses gases 33% by 2020 and 85% by 2050 is being proposed for all the OCPs. This is under review by each LTC;
- The proposed amendments have been tailored to fit the structure of each OCP;
- The amendments all contain targets, policies, and actions, as required by the legislation;
- Proposed amendments are going forward with some bylaws receiving first reading;
- Eleven Draft bylaws are now prepared and moving forward;

- It is anticipated that all bylaws will be before the ministry of Community and Rural Development in advance of the May 31st deadline.

Gabriola: A staff report with a proposed amendment for the Gabriola OCP went forward to the January 29th LTC meeting. The LTC received recommendations for changes to these proposed amendments on February 25, which it will consider at their March 10 meeting. Placeholders are being recommended for the Mudge and DeCourcy OCPs as community members have requested a special meeting in addition to the meeting that was held in November 09 to address their concerns. It is anticipated that this meeting will occur in April 2010;

Denman: As this is a fairly recent plan (adopted in 2008) the OCP already contained a section on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigations. The proposed amendment adds new policies specifically relating to GHG emission reductions as well as a list of actions for the LTCs and public's consideration. A staff report with a proposed amendment was provided to the January 18th meeting. Some changes to the proposed amendment were made, and a community information meeting was held on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, and a public hearing is scheduled for April 1.

Hornby: A staff report with a proposed amendment went forward to the February 3 meeting and further considerations are planned for March 17. The proposed amendment is reflective of the extensive work already completed on Hornby Island;

Gambier: The first OCP for the Associated Islands was given first reading on February 1. Given the timing of this review, a proposed amendment was prepared for the December LTC meeting. The amendment has been incorporated into the OCP and is proceeding through the formal review process. The proposed amendments for Keats and Gambier OCPs have been prepared and were considered at the February 1st LTC meeting. Further amendments will be considered at a special meeting on March 23;

Thetis: Further review occurred on March 1st at a special LTC meeting, convened specifically to complete this task. The Thetis Island bylaw received first reading and staff have been directed to go to public hearing and send out referrals. The Valdez OCP required more work on targets and will be considered for first reading by Resolution Without Meeting. The Valdez Island Public Hearing will be scheduled the same day as the Thetis Island Public Hearing. Ruxton Island was determined to not require an OCP update as it only has a zoning by-law; and

Lasqueti: Lasqueti has proceeded with its own emissions survey, conducted by the APC under the direction of Trustees Gobby and Morrison. The survey is comprehensive and well done, and the data establishes a useful baseline of current day activity on which to base reduction targets. The LTC does not meet until March 11, so a draft bylaw will be prepared along with the proposed amendment for the LTCs consideration at that time.

## **Salt Spring Region:**

The SSI OCP in 2008 was amended to include climate action policies so next steps are focusing on the establishment of GHG reduction targets and actions. The LTC prepared draft targets for GHG reductions and referred them to the Advisory Planning Commission, The Advisory Environment Committee, the Agriculture Advisory Committee and the Advisory Design Panel during January and February

The LTC also partnered with the CRD, the Transportation Commission, the Institute for Sustainability Education and Action, the Earth Festival Society and the Chamber of Commerce under the guidance of a Climate Action Coordination Committee to hold a Climate Action Workshop on Feb 6, 2010 for the community to develop goals and actions to reduce greenhouse gas. The workshop was well attended and numerous actions were identified that the CACC is now reviewing to identify potential lead and partner agencies who may take these actions forward. The Local Trust Committee will examine those actions within their authority and consider work program options.

The LTC gave first reading to the target reduction bylaw at their March LTC meeting and established a timeline for referral to agencies, a public process including a public hearing in April or early May and referral to Executive Committee in May. The bylaw proposes a 15% reduction by 2015; 40% by 2020 and 85% by 2050.

## **Southern Region:**

For the Southern Region generally, all LTCs are considering a target of 33% reduction by 2020, consistent with the provincial target.

Galiano: The LTC has chosen to consider specific policies and actions as part of the current ongoing OCP review and concurrently consider a separate amendment to the OCP that would set a target and create a 'placeholder' section in the OCP. This amendment received First Reading on February 8<sup>th</sup>, and a public hearing has been scheduled for on March 15<sup>th</sup>, with second and third reading and forwarding to EC anticipated at the same meeting.

Saturna: The LTC has received a menu of potential OCP amendments and a community information meeting was held on January 13th. The LTC considered a staff report on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and directed that a draft bylaw be prepared for consideration of First Reading at a special LTC meeting. The special meeting has been scheduled to consider first reading on March 29th, with a public hearing anticipated in late April;

North Pender: The LTC received a menu of potential OCP amendments and a community information meeting was held on January 23rd. Staff was directed to draft an amending bylaw at the Jan 28th LTC meeting. The draft bylaw was considered and given First Reading at the LTC meeting of February 25<sup>th</sup>, and a public hearing is scheduled for the April LTC meeting;

Mayne: The LTC received a menu of potential OCP amendments and a community information meeting was held on Jan 30th. Staff was directed to prepare a draft bylaw at the meeting of February 1<sup>st</sup>, first reading was given to the bylaw at the LTC meeting of March 1<sup>st</sup> and a public hearing has been scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup>.

South Pender: The LTC received a menu of potential OCP amendments and a community information meeting was held on February 6th. The matter was also referred to the APC for consideration. Staff was given direction to prepare a draft bylaw at the February 23<sup>rd</sup> LTC meeting and consideration of First Reading is anticipated at the meeting of March 9<sup>th</sup>, with a public hearing to be scheduled for April.

**ATTACHMENT(S):** No

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**FOLLOW-UP:** Local Planning Services will continue to provide three dedicated planners in support of the LTC work to amend all OCPs by May 2010.

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**PREPARED BY:** Mac Fraser, DLPS

**SUBMITTED BY:** Mac Fraser, DLPS

**REVIEWED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Chief Administrative Officer)**

**REVIEWED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

March 2, 2010

March 9, 2010

**OTHER REVIEW:**

Local Planning Committee – Feb 10/10  
Regional Planning Manager Brodie Porter  
Island Planner Robert Kojima  
Contract Planner Pam Shaw