



FACT SHEET

Islands Trust Mandate + Authority

Islands Trust Mandate

The Islands Trust is a unique federation of local island governments (Local Trust Committees) with a provincial mandate to make land use decisions that will “preserve and protect” the Trust Area—the only government in Canada and, perhaps, the world, with a legislated mandate to preserve and protect

a special area. The Trust Area covers the islands and waters between the mainland and southern Vancouver Island, including Howe Sound and as far north as Comox – encompassing 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands.

Islands Trust Authority

The authority of Trust Council and Local Trust Committees (LTCs) is defined by the *Islands Trust Act* and the *Local Government Act*. These Acts grant LTCs exclusive authority to plan and regulate land use and development within the Trust Area, including:

- Official community plans
- Settlement patterns
- Zoning
- Density
- Parking requirements and alternative transportation infrastructure
- Screening and landscaping
- Siting of buildings and structures
- Form and exterior design of buildings and structures

Overlapping regional districts have no authority to exercise powers granted to Trust Council or LTCs – as a result, the opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through land use depends entirely on LTCs. In addition to land use planning, LTCs can use advocacy and partnerships to achieve the object of the Islands Trust – for example, working with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to create an electric vehicle road network.

New Authority Granted by Bill 27

Bill 27 amended the *Local Government Act* to expand the authority of LTCs to use land use planning to promote energy conservation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The most significant expansions in authority include new power to create development permit areas for green development and new ability to require alternative transportation infrastructure in lieu of parking requirements.

