



FACT SHEET

OCP Climate Change Amendments Process + Timeline

OCP Climate Change Amendments

Bill 27 (the *Local Government (Green Communities) Statutes Amendment Act*) requires all Official Community Plans be amended to include greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets and climate change policies by May 31, 2010.

What is an OCP?

An OCP is a statement of objectives and policies to guide decisions on planning and land use management. It is a legal document that reflects community consensus on future land use and growth management. An OCP typically contains: goals, objectives, and policies, as well as zoning maps and Development Permit Area guidelines. Any bylaw subsequently adopted by an Local Trust Committee (LTC) cannot be in a clear and direct collision with an OCP policy.

Amendment Process

Amending an OCP to include climate change policies will be a multi-month, community-driven process leading to changes to existing policies and creation of new policies in the OCP intended to reduce GHG emissions. To ensure policy changes incorporate community input, residents and other stakeholders will be engaged through a variety of means. Each Local Trust Committee (LTC) is required to hold a formal public hearing process, which may be complemented by additional community engagement – such as town hall meetings, open houses, advisory groups, open space workshops, online forums, and design charrettes.

Amendment Timeline

While each Local Trust Committee will follow a slightly different path when amending their OCPs, the following schedule provides a rough timeline of the process:

- **October - December 2009:** Islands Trust planners provide policy options to Local Trust Committees.
- **November 2009 - March 2010:** Community and stakeholder consultation and engagement.
- **January - May 2010:** Formal bylaw process, including information meetings, referrals, readings, and public hearings.
- **May 31, 2010:** Submission to the Minister of Community and Rural Development for approval.

