
Climate Wise Islands

By May 31, 2010, all 19 Official Community Plans for island communities will be amended to include **targets** for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the area covered by the plan, and **policies** and **actions** of the local government and the community for achieving those targets.

What will the targets, policies, and actions look like in the **Mudge Island Official Community Plan**? The islands are different and special places, and the urban-style solutions proposed for larger centres are not relevant to the unique characteristics of Mudge Island. What do you see happening on your island?

Given that the OCP must be amended to meet the May 31, 2010 deadline, a placeholder amendment has been prepared for Mudge Islander`s review. This amendment is as follows:

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

Climate change refers to the increasing concentration of heat-trapping greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere as the result of human activities— primarily the burning of fossil fuels and large-scale deforestation. A 2007 report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reveals that between 1970 and 2004, GHG emissions have increased by 70%. This dramatic rise in atmospheric GHG concentrations has in turn triggered an increase in the average temperatures of near-surface air and ocean water, with temperatures projected to rise 1.1° to 6.4° C over the next century. Although seemingly slight, these temperature changes will have dramatic and negative impact on ecological systems around the globe.

In response to climate change issues, the provincial government gave Royal Assent to Bill 27 [*Local Government (Green Communities) Statutes Amendment Act, 2008*] on May 29, 2008. Bill 27 amends the *Local Government Act* and other Provincial regulations to provide new tools for local governments. Most significantly, Bill 27 requires that all local governments include GHG emission reduction targets—and policies and actions to achieve those targets— in their Official Community Plans.

The Islands Trust Council identified Climate Change and the implementation of Bill 27 as the top strategic plan priority in 2009 and early 2010.

The following targets and objectives are the first step to ensuring that the reduction of GHG emissions specifically and the impact of climate change in general become part of the planning process for Mudge Island. Future amendments will add policies and actions.

Climate Change Objectives

The objectives of this subsection are:

- 1) To establish climate change as a fundamental factor in land use decision-making.
- 2) To support efforts and policies to help our community adapt to climate change impacts.
- 3) To work with others to support actions to limit emissions.
- 4) To achieve the following targets as measured from 2007 levels:

- i. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions 33% by 2020; and*
- ii. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions 85% by 2050.*

This reduction will be achieved by actions resulting from individual and community initiatives, the actions of other levels of government, technological changes, and changes to land use policies and regulations.

Climate Change Policies

Specific Policies and Actions with respect to climate change mitigation will be considered as part of a future review of this Bylaw and incorporated into this Bylaw when it is amended.

This amendment will be discussed at the **Community Meeting**. It is important to note that community discussions on climate change will be ongoing, and future amendments to the OCP on this topic are anticipated as more is learned on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Please come to the **Community Meeting on Saturday, March 20th, 2010 at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre, beginning at 12:30 pm**, to discuss this important topic.



Climate Wise
Islands

Notice of a Community Meeting

Developing a new section on
Climate Change in the
Mudge Island
Official Community Plan

Saturday, March 20th, 2010
Nanaimo Aquatic Centre
741 3rd Street
Presentation at 12:30 pm
Working Session
to follow

Questions or comments? Please contact...

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Climate Change on Mudge Island

Climate change is a global problem that demands local action. The Islands Trust is committed to taking meaningful action to reduce the carbon footprint of our islands, and your Local Trust Committee has made this a top priority.

What can we as a community do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet the challenges we are facing from climate change and peak oil?

How can we meet provincial requirements to craft targets, policies and actions on greenhouse gas reduction and integrate them into the Official Community Plan for Mudge Island by May 31st, 2010?

Climate Change in Our Official Community Plans

In the Islands Trust Area, Local Trust Committees have authority to regulate land use. Local Trust Committees and the residents of the islands can significantly influence future greenhouse gas emissions through Official Community Plan policies and actions.

For example, the design and layout of roads, buildings and communities directly influence greenhouse gas emissions. Plan policies can encourage "green" building practices. The Official Community Plans can also highlight local initiatives that help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Because the Islands Trust's primary responsibility is land use planning, we are committed to creating sustainable island communities through innovative land use planning and advocacy initiatives in partnership with other levels of government and local community groups. The changes proposed to the Official Community Plans will focus actions that can be taken by the Islands Trust and island residents, but we will also make recommendations to other agencies on how they can help our islands achieve our targets.

You are invited to attend a **Community Meeting** on implementing changes to the Official Community Plan for **Mudge Island** on **Saturday, March 20th, 2010 at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre**. DeCourcy Islanders are also invited to this Community Meeting.

For more information (or if you cannot attend the meeting) please view "Climate Wise Islands" on the Islands Trust website at:

www.islandstrust.bc.ca (click on the "Climate Wise" logo)

Please send any comments, ideas, or suggestions on reducing greenhouse gas emissions on Mudge Island to
northinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca.