

Climate Change on Gabriola, DeCourcy, and Mudge Islands

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 Plans for Gabriola, DeCourcy, and Mudge Islands 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.

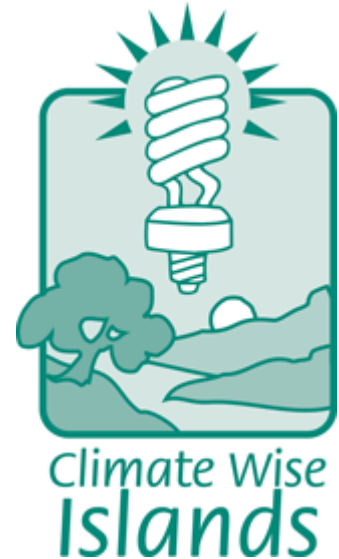
For example, the design and layout of roads, buildings and communities directly influence greenhouse gas emissions. Plan policies can encourage "green" building. The Official Community Plans can also highlight local initiatives and practices that help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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 Plans for Gabriola, DeCourcy, and Mudge Islands on Thursday, November 26th at the Women's Institute. There will be an Open House from 7:00 to 7:30 pm then the Working Session will run from 7:30 to 9:30 pm.

Gabrielans: you may have heard that the Official Community Plan is soon to be under review. This greenhouse gas emissions reduction project will be integrated into the overall changes to the Official Community Plan and is just one part of the larger review.

Please attend and help to craft locally-based policies and targets that make sense for our Islands.



Notice of a Community Meeting

Thursday, November 26th, 2009
the Womens Institute
476 South Road, Gabriola Island
Open House 7-7:30 pm
Working Session 7:30-9:30 pm

Questions or comments? Please contact...

Islands Trust, Northern Office
700 North Road, Gabriola Island, BC V0R 1X3
Phone: (250) 247-2063
Fax: (250) 247-7514 www.islandstrust.bc.ca

Pam Shaw, Project Planner
northinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca

Enquiry BC is a Provincial Government phone service that connects you to ministries and agencies within the Provincial government. You may contact us for free using the toll free number or use the number in your area. When you contact Enquiry BC ask for the number above at the Islands Trust and you will be transferred directly.

Toll Free: 1 800 663-7867
Vancouver: (604) 660-2421
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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.

For example, a **target** might be to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 33% by 2020. A **target** could also be to increase the number of cycling and pedestrian trips by a specified amount and year to decrease greenhouse gas emissions by a targeted percentage.

A **policy** could speak to reviewing development permit area guidelines to incorporate alternative energy into new buildings.

An **action** could be developing partnerships with the provincial government to establish air quality monitor stations on our Islands.

What will the targets, policies, and actions look like in the Gabriola, DeCourcy, and Mudge Official Community Plans? The islands are different and special places, and the urban-style solutions proposed for larger centres may not be relevant to the islands. What do you see happening on your island?

Get Involved!

Detailed information on this initiative is available on a new climate change section of the Islands Trust website at:

<http://islandstrust.bc.ca/climatechange>

The webpage includes key decisions and other resources about climate change relevant to island communities. Subscribers to "climate change news" can also receive e-mail alerts of significant project updates.

We need your help to decide on targets and policies and to develop effective climate change actions in our Official Community Plans! Come out and be a part of this creative and collaborative process!

Please visit www.islandstrust.bc.ca/climatechange for more information.

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*Do you have any questions or comments on the climate change initiative?
Please contact one of your Local Trustees or the Northern Islands Trust office.*