

October 9, 2009

File No.:GL-

To: Galiano Island Local Trust Committee

From: Robert Kojima
Island Planner
Local Planning Services

CC: David Marlor, RPM
Gary Richardson, Island Planner

Re: Climate Change Mitigation

BACKGROUND:

Trust Council has identified Climate Change mitigation as strategic plan priority for several years. Trust Council endorsed the BC Climate Action Charter in 2007, which is a non-binding statement of commitment by local governments to take action on climate change. Charter signatories committed to develop strategies and take action to achieve three goals:

- Achieve carbon neutral operations by 2012
- Measure and report on community GHG emissions
- Create complete, compact, more energy efficient rural and urban communities

Bill 27 requires all local governments, including LTCs, to amend their OCPs 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 proposed with respect to achieving those targets BY May 31, 2010

At its most recent meeting, Trust Council recommended that all local trust committees make climate change mitigation a work program top priority. To support this, staff developed background information and a menu of potential policy options for LTCs.

The Galiano Island Local Trust Committee has not yet amended its work program to explicitly make “targets and policies for the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions” a Top Priority. However, the Official Community Plan (OCP) review scope of work has already identified “Targets and policies for Greenhouse Gas Emission reduction” as part of the overall review (see staff report of May 19, 2009 and LTC

resolution GL-93-09). Consequently, the LTC has already included this requirement in its OCP review project. The purpose of this report is to provide the LTC with background on the requirements, including target setting, and options for fulfilling the requirement without affecting the update of the OCP and LUB.

TIMELINE: A proposed timeline was presented to Trust Council at the recent meeting which would achieve the required changes by May 2010 (this timeline is attached as Schedule A). With respect to the required changes, the LTC has the following options:

1. As the LTC would be including targets and policies for GHG mitigation in its updated OCP, the LTC has the option of proceeding with the OCP review and including the GHG mitigation required content in the revised OCP (currently scheduled for completion in 2011). The drawback of this approach is that it may result in delay in approval of any other OCP amendments that the LTC may be considering in the meantime (delay in approval by the Minister or by the Executive Committee).
2. Make minimal required changes to the OCP by May 2010. This would consist of including a new section heading in the OCP for Climate Change, adopting a target for GHG emissions reduction, and inserting a policy or policies stating that the LTC will be including more specific policies and actions in its revised OCP. While this approach may seem redundant, it has the advantage of ensuring that no unrelated OCP amendments are affected before the OCP review is completed in 2011, and it endorses a target, allowing the LTC to focus on policy options in the subsequent OCP deliberations.
3. Undertake a more comprehensive amendment by May 2010. This would consist of identifying this as a project separate and distinct from the OCP review, with a tighter timeline, and devoting some additional LTC and staff time to completing it. The advantage of this approach is that some meaningful policies may be incorporated in the OCP by next year. The disadvantages are that it may detract from the focus on OCP review and that subsequent changes could result from the outcome of the OCP review.

Unless the LTC is certain that it will not be considering any unrelated OCP amendments prior to 2011, staff would recommend the second approach: endorse a target and minimally amend the OCP to include a climate change section, a target and a policy stating that the LTC is undertaking a comprehensive OCP review and will include specific policies and actions are part of that review. This should not detract from the time and resources devoted to the OCP review.

INVENTORIES: GHG emission inventories have been prepared for each local trust area. While there are limitations to the data, based on the availability of data and the small size of the populations; however they provide useful qualitative information on the key sources of GHG emissions in the Trust Area. In particular, they highlight the fact the transportation (vehicle emissions) are the primary source of emissions and

emissions per capita in the Trust Area are higher than the provincial average per capita emissions. This should not be surprising given the low density settlement pattern, length of roads, lack of transportation alternatives, and the distances between most residences and services.

TARGET SETTING: Bill 27 requires that each Local Trust Committee (LTC) set greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets in their official community plan (OCP). At least one of the targets set by the LTC must be a measurable and numerical emissions reduction target, expressed as a percentage reduction or number of tonnes reduction in GHGs. The LTC essentially has two options:

1. To establish a target based on the available information on current emissions and an analysis of the effects that proposed policy changes would have on current emissions. This type of target would have to follow from any policy changes and would require some analysis of the effects of those policy changes, expectations concerning timing of changes, and assumptions about external changes beyond the LTC's control.
2. The second approach is to establish an overall "aspirational" target, and then state that the LTC will work to achieve that reduction through policy changes that fall within its area of jurisdiction. This option recognizes the importance of achieving reductions, despite lack of knowledge about current emissions and the overall relative effects of LTC policies or changes resulting from other effects.

Staff are recommending that, regardless of whether the LTC wishes to amend the OCP by May 2010 or as part of the OCP update in 2011, it consider the second option for setting a target. An aspirational target:

- Recognizes that while the inventories of current emissions are informative, there are concerns with the specific quantitative accuracy of the results and the limitations inherent in the data sources.
- Allows the LTC to proceed with considering policy changes within the limited time available.
- Supports overall reductions from all sources and sectors, rather than narrowly focussing on changes that may be the result of LTC policy changes.

Specifically, the following target wording is suggested:

The Local Trust Committee supports the provincial target of a reduction of 33% in Greenhouse Gas emissions by 2020. Within the local trust area 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.

This supports the provincial target for the local trust area, and emphasizes that the achievement of meaningful reductions will only result from changes from all sectors.

OCP POLICIES: The LTC will need to consider amendments to its OCP to support reductions in GHG emissions. If the LTC is proceeding with a minimal immediate amendment, this can be general and simply state that the more specific and detailed policies will be identified in the updated OCP.

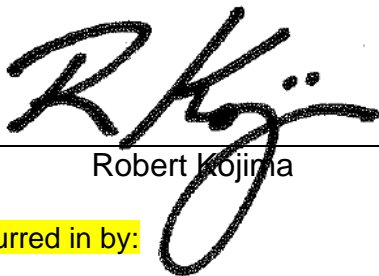
Organizationally, the most common, and the recommended, approach is to insert a new section into the OCP that would specifically address climate change; this would include the target, some objectives to achieve that target and subsequently the more specific policies and future actions. Other policies, including those related to adaptation can also be inserted in this section later. Climate change mitigation and adaption is a long-term commitment and one consequence of creating a new OCP section is that it can be refined, revised and expanded upon over time, either as part of an overall OCP review or as a result of specific initiatives or amendments.

STAFF COMMENTS: because the LTC is undertaking a comprehensive OCP review project and has already identified climate change mitigation as an area for inclusion in the review, staff are recommending that the LTC undertake before May 2010 only a minimal amendment to include a target, and a policy stating that more comprehensive policies will be included in the updated OCP in 2011. If the LTC supports this approach, it should amend its work program to identify this as a top priority. Once this is done, the LTC can anticipate a more detailed report with draft wording at a future meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee Work Program be amended to identify an OCP amendment to include a Greenhouse Gas Emission reduction target and policies in the OCP as a top priority.
2. THAT the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee direct staff to report back to the LTC at a future regular meeting with draft wording for including in the OCP a GHG emission reduction target and policy wording stating that specific GHG mitigation policies and actions would be included in the revised OCP.

Prepared and Submitted by:



Robert Kojima

October 9, 2009

Date

Concurred in by:

David Marlor, MCIP
Regional Planning Manager

October 9, 2009
Date

SCHEDULE A: SUGGESTED TIMELINE

Sept 15 2009	Trust Council workshop on Bill 27 climate change requirements - DONE
Sept 16 2009	Regional Team Meetings focused on Bill 27 climate change requirements - DONE
Sept 16 2009	Trust Council RFD on Bill 27 climate change requirements - DONE
Sept-Oct 2009	LTC resolutions making Bill 27 OCP amendments a work program priority and directing Island Planners to report with options on OCP climate change policies appropriate for individual LTC
October 24 2009	Two all-islands community climate change events on Salt Spring Island – an opportunity to network with residents working on local climate change initiatives.
Oct-Dec 2009	Island Planners provide LTC with customized climate change policy options for OCP amendment.
Nov-Mar 2009	Public, agency, and First Nation consultation on OCP policy amendments to meet Bill 27 requirements.
Dec 2009 Trust Council	First LTC report-back on progress made towards meeting Bill 27 requirements.
Jan 2010 – May 2010	Bylaw process: information meetings, agency and First Nations referrals, readings, and public hearings.
Mar 2010 Trust Council	Second LTC report-back on progress made towards meeting Bill 27 requirements.
Mar 31, 2010	Budget cut-off. 2009/10 Budget allocation for public consultation on Bill 27 OCP amendments must be used by the end of the fiscal year.
May 31, 2010	Goal for submission of OCP amendments to Minister of Community and Rural Development for approval.
Jun 2010 Trust Council	Final LTC report-back on completion of Bill 27 requirements.