

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2010 Nominee Profile

Dorothy Cutting, Salt Spring Island

- Category:** Individual
- Project:** West Coast Climate Equity website and public education on climate change
- Nominator(s):** Salt Spring Island Conservancy
- Letters of Support:** N/A

Project Description:

In 2008, following many years of effort to raise awareness about climate change, Dorothy Cutting started the West Coast Climate Equity web site <http://westcoastclimateequity.org/>. With a board of eight directors and an advisory board that “reads like a climate change ‘Who’s Who,’” the site provides information on climate change “to help people act in time to prevent immeasurable harm to humanity and the earth’s biosphere.” The web site had 12,000 hits the first year and 127,000 the second. As of April, 2010 the site is getting about 6,000 hits a week.

In 2002, at the age of 71, with the sponsorship of the Canadian Sierra Club, Dorothy departed from Mile Zero of the trans-Canada highway in Victoria, bound for the parliament buildings in Ottawa in a Honda Civic Hybrid. Her goal was to deliver a copy of the book: 2030: Confronting Thermageddon in Our Lifetime by Robert Hunter to every Member of Parliament. She gave hundreds of interviews to the media about climate change as she crossed the country. When she returned to Salt Spring Island she started designing and financing posters, bumper stickers and postcards to send to politicians. She started petitions and islanders signed them. She wrote and persuaded many islands to write hundreds of letters and e-mails to policy makers. She has also been a fixture at the Saturday market for the last eight years, talking to thousands of people about climate change. She has worked with the SSI Energy Strategy group, Institute of Sustainability Education and Action, SSI Conservancy, Island Pathway, the Frtiz theatre, the local secondary school and other groups to bring in guest speakers, moves and special events about climate change. Dorothy is devoting the remainder of her life to climate change because “this planet is unique and beautiful.”