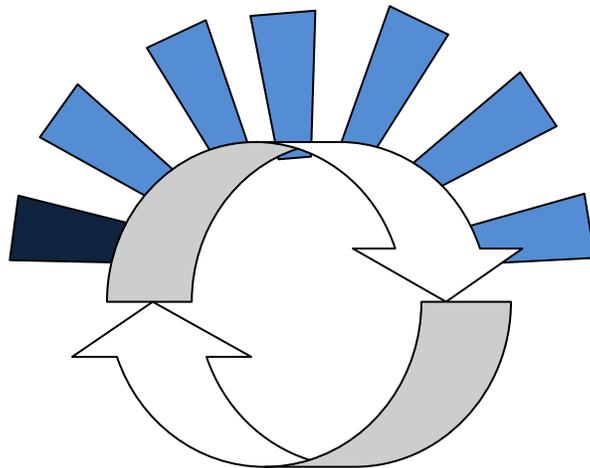


GABRIOLA

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PLAN



AUGUST 2010, AN EVOLVING DOCUMENT



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INTRODUCTION

*Salamanderability*¹: The indicators that we can use to measure whether we are reducing our impact on salamanders and the ecological and social systems that we depend upon.

What is sustainability? What kind of community do we want to live in? How can we protect the ecological systems on Gabriola? What does well-being mean to Gabriolans? Should the purpose of our economic system be to provide more luxuries or to ensure we have enough to eat, have shelter and time to celebrate life? How are our actions connected to the broader world? As part of the Sustainable Gabriola process these are all questions that have been posed to Gabriolans over the last year and a half.

On **May 9th, 2009**, 30 people attended the inaugural Gabriola Sustainability meeting at the Haven, in an open style session with participants self-selecting topics for discussion.

The group began the process of defining sustainability from a Gabriola perspective and topic discussions were recorded on themes such as energy, community resiliency and well-being, recreation and health quality, agricultural land and food security, water, sustainable community economics, and housing and multi-level seniors' care facility. Other topics proposed were transportation, waste and recycling, youth, safety and security, art and culture, and, protecting and sustaining ecological systems.

The next steps included building on the initial discussions and finding people interested in taking a lead on topics plus the development of principles and vision based on the May 9th session. On **October 24th, 2009** about 70 people attended the second Sustainable Gabriola meeting and identified goals, actions and indicators for all of the preceding areas and commented on the principles and vision. Actions based on those conversations were started, together with the development of a community sustainability plan.

On **April 24th, 2010** the third public meeting was held, approximately 100 community members commented on the salamanderability goals and actions as well as participating in a myriad of other activities!

This document is based on those conversations and input from community members at the two Sustainable Gabriola public events and local community organizations. While the document is divided into different headings, all of these topic areas are interconnected. The diagram at the beginning of each section reflects the interconnections. The following document is not set in stone but rather reflects the responses and comments from Gabriola residents at this particular point in time.

¹ The Salamander is a sentinel species: the health of the environment is reflected in the health of the salamander.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY SUSTAINABILITY?

The definition of sustainability depends on who you are talking to. While there are many commonalities in principles, values and language, each community ultimately must craft a sustainability definition that meets its unique needs. Gabriolans have discussed a variety of concepts, for example: interdependence, diversity, inclusivity, equity, self-reliance, living within our ecological means, and planning for seven generations into the future.

PRINCIPLES AND VISION

In developing the principles and vision, we looked at what other communities were doing, both locally and around the world. We discussed and debated what those principles might mean in the context of Gabriola and proposed the five principles and vision outlined below. We are committed to examining our principles and vision on a regular basis.

FIVE PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE OUR VISION FOR A SUSTAINABLE GABRIOLA:

- Recognition of the interdependence of life in all its forms and that the decisions we make today will have an effect on future generations.
- Recognition that resources are finite and that living within our resources means there are limits to growth.
- A commitment to weigh the costs and benefits of decisions fully, including the long-term costs and benefits to future generations.
- The belief that sustainability requires the exercise of individual rights and responsibilities in the context of the greater community good.
- Notwithstanding that Gabriola is part of the larger world community; we believe that Gabriolans are entitled to have democratic control over decisions that impact their community.

OUR VISION STATEMENT:

As Gabriolans, we are committed to stewarding our natural resources for the benefit of generations to come. It is our vision that future generations will have access to renewable and non renewable resources that will support diverse, healthy ecosystems, individuals and communities, affording economic prosperity, environmental quality and social justice to all.

We envision a future in which generations to come have access to clean air and water, healthy, abundant, affordable sources of food; safe, affordable shelter; safe and caring communities; opportunities for dialogue and discussion; and equitable opportunities to participate in the economic, social, cultural and spiritual life of the of a vibrant, diverse, healthy ecosystem and human community.

QUESTIONS

In the course of developing the principles and vision there have been questions and a desire to dig deeper into the meaning of many of the concepts and words. While the vision is essentially the same – a healthy, sustainable community for all, now and in the future – we recognize that the values, principles and key elements of that vision will need to be constantly scrutinized and revisited. So the vision will be a passionate work in progress that makes us all deeply examine what we mean by sustainability.

Some questions that require further discussion include:

- Are we only talking about sustainability for Gabriola? Even though we are physically an island, can we afford to act as an island cut off from the larger regional, provincial, national and global sustainability issues? We recognize we must start locally but is that ultimately enough?
- In a time of increasing cynicism about the political process and systems of governance, should we also be talking about political and governance sustainability? Is it time to talk about reinvigorating democratic processes and strengthening civil society?
- What do we mean by ‘economic prosperity’? Is the word prosperity tainted? At its most basic level the word prosper means ‘to thrive’, certainly something most of us would support. But it also means ‘to achieve financial success’. Many would argue that financial success as it is currently achieved comes at a very high cost and that cost is not sustainable.

THE PLANS

We are actively developing plans for twelve topic areas:

Agricultural Land and Food Security
Community Well-being and Resiliency
Ecosystems and Natural Areas
Energy
Transportation
Economics
Learning
Waste Management
Climate Change and Air Quality
Housing
Water
Soul (Creativity)

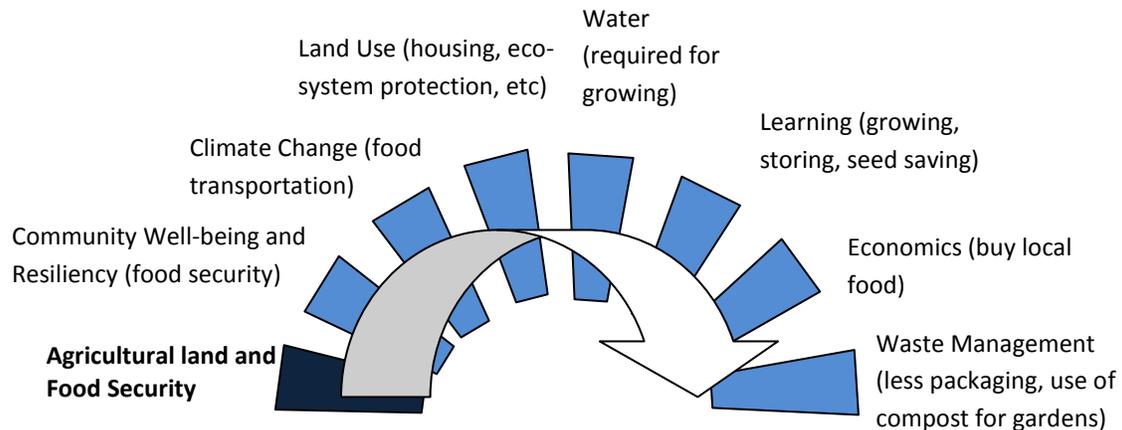
As you will see some are more fully developed than others. Where there are organizations actively involved in planning on a particular topic area we have deferred to their plans. The value of Sustainable Gabriola is that it can identify gaps, take action in those areas, and undertake activities complementary to those areas where planning is already actively underway.

We have attempted, with our graphic, to show the interconnectedness of each topic area, given a basic description of the issues that need to be addressed and proposed goals, proposed targets, objectives, indicators and actions. We have also described the organizations currently involved in addressing the topic area.

As part of the process of developing this plan, we have sought input into each topic area broadly across the community and specifically with organizations. Their comments and recommendations have been incorporated into this plan.

Side bar poems throughout the document together with the final section were created from responses to questions posed to participants at the Spring Fling.

AGRICULTURAL LAND AND FOOD SECURITY



The Gabriola Community Profile identifies 17 major parcels of ALR land protected for agriculture. Some properties outside the ALR are also designated Agricultural in our OCP. Plus all residential property can be used in some capacity to grow food as per zoning bylaw 177.

At present we have no baseline figures to indicate how much designated ALR land is used to grow food. Nor do we have more than an estimate from local growers of the volume of local food purchased by Gabriolans.

Gabriola has no baseline on local farm production and consumption from which we can monitor our progress. It is possible to project some approximate statistics from the recent Salt Spring Island Community Profile:

The Salt Spring Island Community Profile gives the percentage (rather than the volume or \$ value) of local food purchases by Salt Spring residents:

- 68% purchase local food weekly
- 23% once or twice a month
- 7% less than once a month.

However with less than one half the population and one quarter the active farms and market gardens it is obvious that on Gabriola we need to do much more than talk and study. Our challenge is to prepare, as best we can, the possible agricultural futures of Gabriola Island and its inhabitants with a holistic view that encompasses our human needs as well as sustaining our environment. Local production must work in tandem with local support and consumption to have maximum effect on GHG emissions, as well as create a healthy resilient agricultural economy.

One hundred percent of Gabriola Islanders eat for a living with an estimated 95% of our food sources originating from off-island sources. Food backyard gardening can buffer these statistics by roughly 5% for every 100 lbs of production depending on the crops and personal nutritional requirements and again there are no available statistics.

Although at the present time there are a number of individuals, ad hoc groups, organizations and businesses* (see details below) who are actively engaged in different aspects of food security, there is, currently, no unifying network of local food production, nor any Farm Plan for Gabriola.

Actions already identified are:

- assist and encourage sustainable relationships with local agricultural enterprises
- facilitate partnerships with emerging farmers, growers and landowners
- identify Gabriola's agricultural land, and current and future role and capacity for food security
- scan current local food economy including gaps and opportunities
- identify barriers to personal and collective food security including the role of government
- identify resources/ strategies for the creation of cooperative social enterprise
- develop/ adapt framework and toolkits for community and allotment gardens on public and private land
- identify educational opportunities and developing systems to give the broadest access to both local and regional food security
- assist in building awareness of the relationship between groundwater and all types of agriculture
- **Advocacy statement:** Ban cosmetic use of herbicides, pesticides and fungicides in any area that has potential to contaminate neighboring properties through groundwater, surface or airborne drift

Identified as challenges in the Gabriola Community Profile and affirmed by community input:

- shortage of water
- lack of labour pool
- lack of affordable housing for farm labour
- communication among farmers
- recent provincial /federal regulations that limit opportunity for livestock farmers
- high transportation costs to off island markets and resulting GHG emissions

GOAL STATEMENT:

Increase production and consumption of local food

PROPOSED TARGET

At least 25% more local Food Production and Consumption by 2025

Baseline: No figures available

OBJECTIVES, INDICATORS AND ACTIONS:

1. OBJECTIVE: Increase Local Food resiliency through production:
Baseline: no baseline available at present

ACTIONS:

1. Increase Local Food Production

Through education and mentoring for those growing their own food (growing, seed saving, storage, composting)

Organizations involved: Gabriolans for Local Food Choice (GFLFC); Garden Club Speakers; Agi Hall/Farmers' Market; Gabriola Commons/ PHC plots and allotments;

2. Increase Community and Allotment Gardens

Organizations involved: thus far Gabriola Commons, PLUS..... individuals who need space to grow food, or who wish to grow more food, need to seek places to garden in their neighborhood

3. Support Local Farmers

Through incentives through regulation and bylaws to support the growing of food locally

Organizations involved: OCP advocacy statement to support local growers and food security
OCP advocacy statement to support sustainable growing practices

2. OBJECTIVE: Recover seasonal abundance

ACTIONS:

1. Develop Community Kitchen

Responsibility: Gabriola Commons Foundation, community cooks and food growers/ gardeners

2. Increase education about food storage capacity

Responsibility: individuals willing to share preservation skills: dehydration, canning, freezing etc

3. Gleaning Initiative - towards zero waste from local fruit and nut trees,

Responsibility: individuals willing to harvest, share and process food crops

Food/Agriculture

Every time
I see blackberries in August
selling for \$4.99 per pint (between
bananas
and California strawberries) I wonder
how we have managed at
all to imagine our food coming from
somewhere
other than shelves, racks, coolers,
bins, and relentless
packages.

Tomatoes, fresh off the vine
Divine
The first bite of fresh corn
Smothered in butter
Heaven
Sweet, home grown carrots
Rich red melt in your mouth beets
orgasm

GROUPS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN ISSUES AROUND FOOD SECURITY

Gabriolans for Local Food Choices (GFLFC); Gabriola Commons; People for a Healthy Community (PHC); Agi Hall Coop (Farmers' Market); Garden Club; 4H; Gabriola School; Local Food Services; The Haven;
Farms: Gabriola Garlic, Belvedere Farm, Somerset Farms, Good Earth, Rocky Hill, Three Gates

REFERENCES:

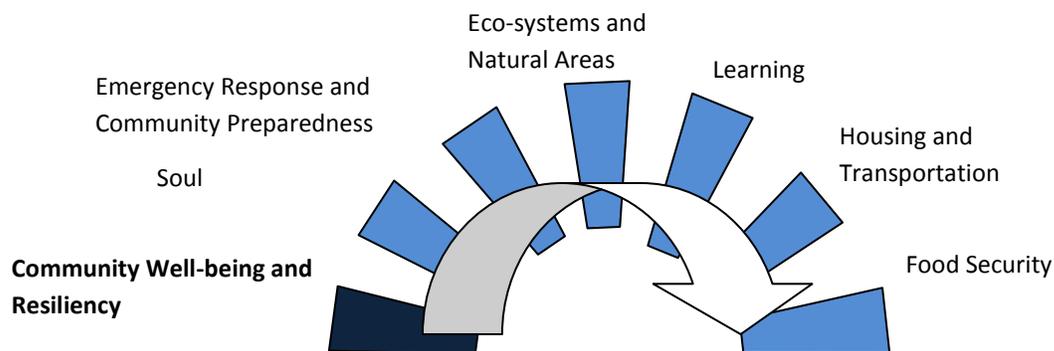
<http://gabriolafoodchoices.org> Gabriola Food Charter

www.gabriolacommons.ca

see Link : Farmer Direct (Gabriola Island) on www.slo-foods.com

for stats on interest (hits) for potential farm-gate sales

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING AND RESILIENCY



There are as many ways to define community well-being and resilience as there are people living on Gabriola Island. Here are a few that we have heard as we have spoken with people in our community:

“Ability to thrive in times of uncertainty, where it may be unpredictable how our systems are impacted and adapt to the big issues confronting us today - climate change, economic depression or oil scarcity.”

“Building trust and relationships”

“Sense of generosity and reciprocity”

“Equity – ‘your hunger and thirst is equal to my hunger and thirst’ “

“It’s the glue, community cohesion.”

In our endeavor to define community well-being and resilience on Gabriola through Sustainable Gabriola community meetings, ‘interviews’ with people working to improve community well-being on the island and at a World Café dialogue, we have heard a desire for some of the following elements:

A sense of belonging, feeling connected to each other, inclusiveness, feeling valued, feeling supported, peace, ability to have open dialogue, connecting human resiliency with ecological resiliency, selflessness, security, respect, interconnectedness, spirit, contribution, reciprocity, generosity, diversity, wholeness, dignity, and safety.

Most agree that a resilient community must be able to meet basic human needs: food, water, shelter, safety, connection with others and good health, including during times of emergency. Most people also understand well-being to be multi-dimensional and include physical, emotional, mental and spiritual well-being.

The dialogue and conversations have resulted in many interesting questions:

- What feeds our roots to the community and gives us strength?
- What gives us a sense of belonging?
- What does community mean when we all arrive as individuals with roots in other places and we are here for different reasons?
- How can we make sustainable choices when it means giving up personally for sake of the community?
- What is Community Well-Being for the teen/young adult demographic? How can we improve CWB for this group?
- How can a community ensure that all people are included, welcomed and encouraged to participate?
- What is “community”? Is everyone living in the physical community part of the “community”?
- What does it take to become part of the community?
- How do we support what is already here?
- How do we foster mentorship, learn from youth, and encouraging inter-generational relationships?
- How does a community develop safety nets for its members?

Wellbeing

Sitting in my easy chair
looking up into a corner,
I speak my thoughts
hopes, fears aloud.

It is all racing around
in my mind, but when
spoken aloud at the walls
I can make better
sense of things,

find resolutions,
and revelations,
in the handwriting
on the wall.

- How do we learn to be less selfish? How do we let go of self interests?

Answering these questions will mean further engaging in conversations that will be ongoing for many years to come. Through this process so far, we have learned that we all have the knowledge and creativity to tackle these questions and some of the difficult challenges that lie ahead.

We acknowledge that community well-being and resilience are complex and inextricable linked to many other topics. In fact, they are the threads that weave and connect topics such as Ecosystems and Natural Areas, Food security, Arts and Culture and Learning.

Goal: To foster and strengthen community resilience and well-being on Gabriola

Specific Objectives:

- For everyone living on Gabriola to feel a strong sense of physical, emotional and spiritual well-being
- To measurably improve people’s sense of feeling valued and accepted for who they are and how they choose to live their lives
- To encourage diversity on Gabriola, including inter-generational opportunities, socio-economic, thought/opinions and lifestyle choices
- To encourage ways to live affordably and lightly on Gabriola, including affordable housing, access to food, encouraging the gift and the barter economy
- To support young families to be able to afford to live here
- To encourage a community culture of reciprocity
- To encourage each person’s desire to participate in community events, activities and services on Gabriola, regardless of physical, financial and health barriers
- To support the efforts of Gabriola Emergency Social Services (GESS) and the RDN in developing emergency preparedness on Gabriola

Targets:

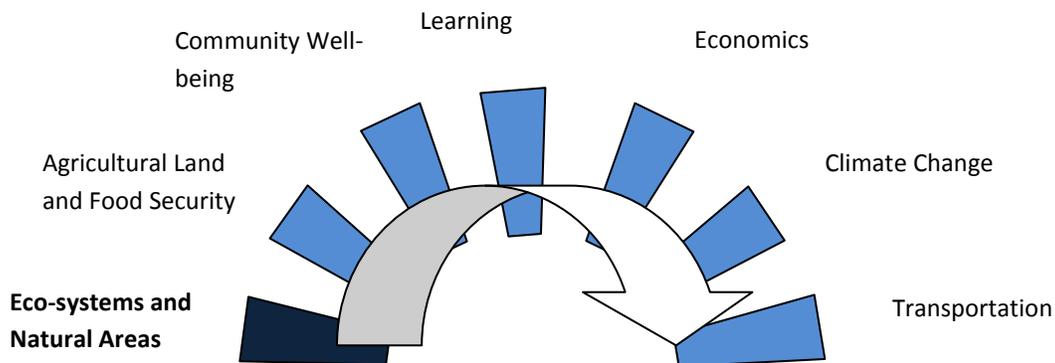
It is difficult to establish targets for this topic area. We are lucky to have Gabriola Health Care Society’s Community Well-Being Survey as one survey instrument for establishing a baseline this year, with results due in the fall. Once the survey has been completed, we will reflect on the indicators that they are measuring to determine those against which we can measure change and improvement over the next five years.

Medium Term Actions:

Seek practical ways for everyone on Gabriola to participate in community events, activities and services, regardless of physical, financial and health barriers. Some short term actions include encouraging event organizers to allow free admission for volunteers, establishing sliding scales for admissions, providing transportation; encouraging events to be scent-free and radiation-free, providing wheelchair accessibility, being child-friendly (child care), and using plain language in describing services.

- Influence and broaden our existing planning mechanism to include elements of CWB in the Official Community Plan
- Seek ways to support those organizations already working to foster resiliency and well-being on Gabriola (the HOPE Centre, PHC, GHCS, The Commons and GESS) – through financial and volunteer support.
- Seek ways to foster volunteerism and participation in the community.
- Create opportunities for community dialogue on the concepts of CWB so that people personalize the issue and learn about the concept.
- Determine what assets and skills are present in the community

ECOSYSTEMS AND NATURAL AREAS



Gabriola Island covers approximately 5256 hectares (12987 acres) and encompasses a broad range of ecosystems including: old forest, woodland, cliff, riparian, freshwater, wetland and herbaceous. The rate and degree of development on the island is managed to a large extent through the Local Islands Trust Official Community Plan. The Trust has also undertaken extensive ecosystem mapping to identify the various ecosystems on the island. Currently the greatest threats to preserving ecosystems are development and invasive species. Development is controlled to a certain extent by the OCP and land use bylaws. The way in which development occurs can be moderated through the OCP and by public education.

Perhaps the single most challenging threat to ecosystems is the incursion of invasive species particularly plants, on Gabriola. They include Scotch broom, daphne laurel, Himalayan

blackberry, English ivy, English holly, vinca minor and major, giant hogweed, tansy ragwort, and knotweed. Invasive wildlife include domestic rabbits and turkeys that have become feral. There is a concern that bullfrogs may come to the island and vigilance will be necessary to determine if that has occurred. Of all the invasives, arguably Scotch broom poses the greatest threat to sensitive ecosystems like garry oak and camas meadows, while giant hogweed poses the greatest health risk to humans and tansy ragwort to livestock. Non native wildlife such as animals allowed to become feral are likely more of a nuisance than a threat at this point. However, rabbit populations if not controlled, have the potential to be a serious threat to individual and commercial agriculture.

The following goals and objectives provide a framework for action for preserving and sustaining Gabriola's ecosystems and natural areas. They were derived from discussions with members of Sustainable Gabriola and from people who participated in the Sustainable Gabriola Spring Fling. In addition, the working group who drafted this framework reached out to other organizations with similar interests including the Gabriola Land Conservancy, GROWLS, the Commons, and the Gabriola Land and Trails Trust. We have attempted to coalesce divergent viewpoints around common themes and agreed upon objectives and we deeply appreciate the willingness of everyone to find common ground.

GOAL

To preserve and sustain representative ecosystems and natural areas for current and future generations.

OBJECTIVES

1. To eliminate invasive plants over 20 years with priority given to Scotch broom, daphne laurel and giant hogweed.

Discussion: A wide variety of input was gathered with suggestions that ranged from public education (including pamphlets) and ideas about how best to address specific problem plants.

PROPOSED STRATEGIES:

1. Develop and implement a plan to eliminate invasive plants working with the BC Coastal Invasive Plants Committee, GaLTT, the Commons and public and private land owners. The plan should include: an assessment of the degree of problem on all public lands; public education; targeted, iterative actions to remove high risk invasive plants (e.g. broom, hogweed and tansy ragwort); and strategies for plant material disposal.
2. Track the impact of the Commons efforts to remove daphne laurel from the Commons lands and apply learnings to other large infestations of daphne laurel on public land.

TARGET: It is important to have a baseline of how many hectares are impacted by specific invasives (see strategy 1 above) in order to set the target.

- Scotch broom, daphne laurel and giant hogweed populations eliminated by 2030 with annual targets as follows:
 - Scotch broom coverage area reduced by 5% each year.
 - Daphne laurel coverage area reduced by 5% each year.
 - Giant hogweed coverage area reduced by 30% each year.

2. To manage the impact of non-native wildlife (e.g. rabbits, feral turkeys, bullfrogs).

Discussion: During our discussions there were a wide variety of opinions on what constituted non-native wildlife (e.g. feral rabbits, feral turkeys, feral peacocks and guinea hens, and bull frogs – although there are no bullfrogs present at this time), on whether we should be concerned about the management of all wildlife (e.g. what about dogs not kept under control, what about a deer population with no predators), and what types of actions should be taken (e.g. leave them alone; capture and relocate; capture and kill/consume). At this point the problem with feral animals appears to be localized which suggests that the solutions to address the problem should also be localized.

Natural Ecosystems

The last time I went for
a walk I heard,
along with the sound of
my own singing,

the voices of geese,
eagles, peacocks, ravens,

the throughsh's morning song,
and leaves trembling
in the still breeze.

PROPOSED STRATEGIES:

- Develop and implement a plan which includes identification of non-native wildlife populations and public discussion regarding acceptable management strategies with an emphasis on developing local neighbourhood strategies.
- Undertake a public information campaign on the impact of releasing domestic animals into the wild.

TARGET: No targets are proposed at this time.

3. To advocate sustainable stewardship of ecosystems and landforms on public and private land.

Discussion: Gabriola has a rich variety of ecosystems on both public and private land. It is desirable to ensure the preservation of representative ecosystems for current and future generations through engagement with both public and private landholders.

PROPOSED STRATEGIES:

- Identify highest risk ecosystems and develop recovery strategies that can be implemented with both public and private landowners.
- Develop and implement a wetland sustainability plan.
- Encourage the development of covenants to protect at-risk or sensitive ecosystems on private land.
- Advocate to the Local Trust Committee that the OCP be amended to include ecosystem and landform mapping of properties brought forward for subdivision.

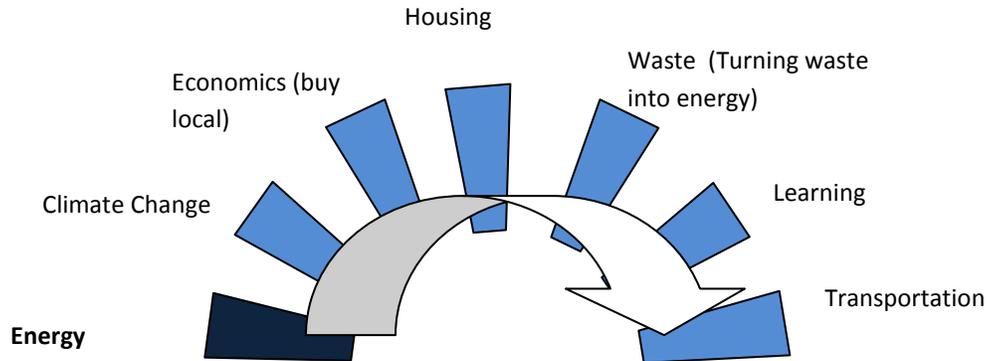
TARGET:

- High risk ecosystems identified and preservation plans developed by 2012
- % of wetland remains stable or increases.
- Increase in number of covenants related to ecosystem, landform and trail preservation.

IMPLEMENTATION:

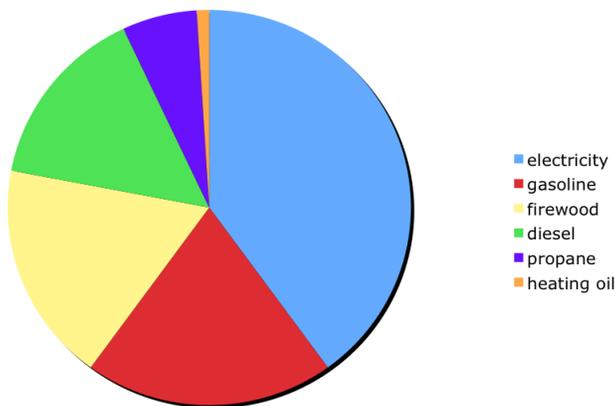
This section of the document represents the initial steps in protecting ecosystems and natural areas. Further discussion is required to identify individuals and organizations willing to take responsibility for the actions outlined and to identify the resources required to implement the strategies. Many organizations will have a role to play including the Islands Trust, the RDN, the Ministry of Environment, the Gabriola Land and Trails Trust, the Gabriola Land Conservancy, the Commons and GROWLS.

ENERGY



An audit done by Island Futures showed that Gabriolans used approximately 389 TJ (108,000 GWh) of energy during 2008, or 97 GJ per capita based on a population of 4,000. This energy was used for transportation (vehicles, ferry, boats, seaplane), space heating, lighting, water heating, refrigeration, and all types of electrical appliances and consumer products. The figure does not include energy used for off-island travel by islanders, energy used in the manufacture and distribution of goods brought to the island, and the energy consumed in the provision of social and medical services to islanders. Roughly 40% of the 389,000 GJ was derived from electricity; the rest came from gasoline (20%), firewood (18%), diesel (15%), propane (6%), and heating oil (1%).

Energy Sources-Island Futures Audit 2008



In the various energy-related discussions conducted by Sustainable Gabriola there was universal agreement that energy is an important consideration with regard to sustainability. The following framework arose out of these discussions. It should be pointed out that there was some difference of opinion over whether Gabriola should strive to be energy independent or whether importing a certain

amount of off-island energy was acceptable. The framework goal was chosen to accommodate both these points of view.

GOAL

Reduce by 25% the island's reliance on imported energy by 2015.

OBJECTIVES

- Reduce energy consumption
- Use any energy being used more efficiently
- Develop on-island renewable energy resources.

Some ideas that arose from the discussions about how these objectives can be achieved are presented at the end of this section.

ACTIONS

- Develop a resource base detailing ways to reduce energy consumption, use energy more efficiently, and develop renewable energy resources;
- Encourage local government to establish policy that will promote reduced energy consumption, energy efficiency, and the development of renewable energy sources;
- Educate individuals and organizations about products and procedures to reduce energy consumption, use energy more efficiently, and use renewable energy sources;
- Monitor progress in moving towards the goal by conducting and publishing an annual energy audit;
- Study the feasibility of establishing an energy utility on Gabriola, and, should doing so prove feasible, do what it takes to establish one.

Energy

What do I hear when the power goes out?

The wind blowing through the trees and the breathing of my family.

Birds, frogs, freighters, and harmac.

My own breath, the wind in the trees, and the cat's footsteps.

IMPLEMENTATION

Based on the belief that little will happen in the absence of leadership, and because there is no government body or community group on Gabriola other than BC Hydro that focuses on energy and reduction in the use thereof, it is recommended that an Energy Group be established to implement the forgoing actions.

BASELINE and PROGRESS MONITORING

The Island Futures 2008 energy audit is available as a starting point.

Progress should be relatively easy to monitor because most of the energy used on Gabriola is readily quantifiable. Mid-Island Co-Op, Columbia Fuels, and BC Hydro made their sales information available for the 2008 audit; however Superior Propane and BC Ferries did not and their sales figures needed to be estimated. A better way of measuring firewood growth and use needs to be found.

ORGANIZATIONS EXPRESSING INTEREST

The Islands Trust, the RDN, the Commons, the Haven, the Transportation Association, Island Futures, Sustainable Gabriola

Some ways of reducing energy consumption

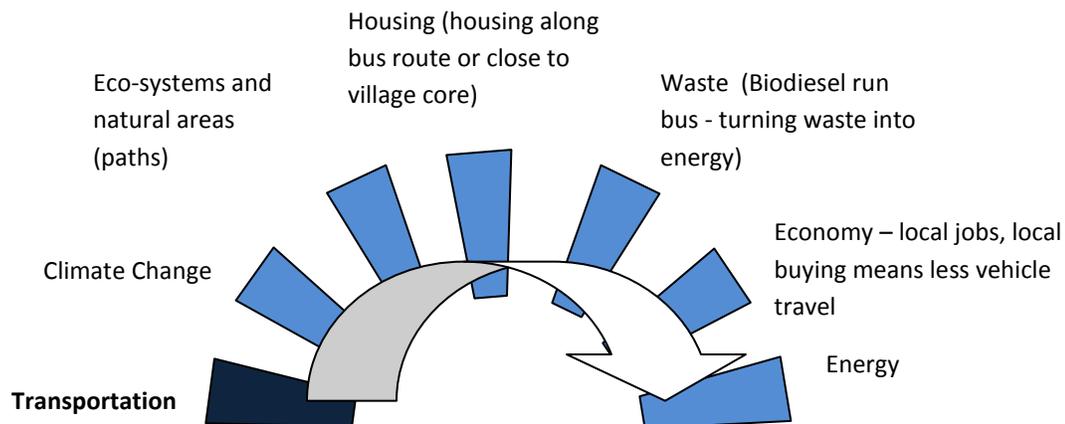
Basically through lifestyle change and increased energy efficiency; eg –

- Less consumption of manufactured goods, especially those imported from afar
- Less energy intensive packaging
- More re-use and recycling
- More locally grown food and services
- More use of traditional methods for storing and preserving food - root cellars, canning, drying, pickling, salting, etc
- More walking and use of bicycles, motorbikes, and scooters
- More car-pooling and ride-sharing
- Public bus
- Less long-distance travel
- Houses laid out to take advantage of the sun for heat and light, and northern exposures, prevailing winds, trees, and vegetation for cooling
- Better house insulation
- Wearing sweaters, turning thermostats down
- Using solar energy for space heating, water heating, and lighting (solar tubes)
- Using compact fluorescent and LED light bulbs
- On lights using timers and motion-controlled switches
- Recovering heat from air and water leaving the house as waste
- Using high efficiency woodstoves and operating them properly
- Using thermal mass (stone, sand, water) to retain heat from any woodstove
- Using high efficiency refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, driers, and well pumps
- Using outdoor lines and racks to dry clothes
- Using heat pumps in place of conventional electric heat
- Rainwater collection to eliminate electric power used in pumping water

Some alternative energy sources

- Sun for hot water, space heating, electricity
- Generators driven by the wind, running water, ocean currents, and wave action. An intriguing possibility is a tidal generator in Dodd Narrows using Hogan Lake in conjunction with the Coats' generating station for pumped storage to match supply to demand.
- Recovering and using waste heat near commercial centres
- Converting waste vegetable oil to biodiesel
- Burning wood waste and other biomass – from construction, land clearing, forest floor, invasive species removal, etc - in an efficient manner to produce heat and/or electricity
- Collecting methane from decomposing organic material
- Producing hydrogen for use in fuel cells – from photovoltaic cells or from a liquid fuel such as biodiesel using a reformer (probably not too practical yet, but several RandD efforts are underway)
- Geothermal – water and ground loops and drilled wells.

TRANSPORTATION



Cars and trucks are currently the most common form of transportation on Gabriola. There is a network of roads to support vehicular travel on Gabriola that is the responsibility of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Transportation by vehicle is the source of the highest GHG emissions on Gabriola. Ferry travel to and from Nanaimo is the second highest source of GHG emissions for Gabriola, with heavier loads increasing the diesel required per trip.

As noted in a recent transportation survey many Gabriolans would prefer to walk, cycle or have the option of using public transit and many of them do walk and cycle when possible

although there are concerns about safety given the current road conditions and speed of vehicles.

There are several organizations on Gabriola that are working on walking, cycling and public transit initiatives. Gabriola Lands and Trails Trust (GaLTT) is working towards establishment of walking paths throughout the island. A Public Transit Committee, comprised of representatives from Island Futures Society (IF), The Gabriola Transportation Association (GTA) and the Gabriola Commons Foundation (GCF) carried out a transportation study and are working towards establishment of a public transit system on Gabriola. There is also an ad hoc transportation committee that was established from the Sustainable Gabriola October 2009 meeting that has created an on-road cycle route plan and a Gabriola Ferry Advisory Committee that provides advice to the BC Ferry Corporation.

The current Gabriola Official Community Plan includes support for public transit, walking trails and cycle paths.

TRANSPORTATION GOAL:

Increase zero to low GHG emission travel while reducing vehicle travel

PROPOSED TARGET:

30% reduction in GHG emissions from vehicle fuel sold on Gabriola 2008 to 2015

Baseline: 5912 Tonnes CO2 Equivalent

OBJECTIVES, INDICATORS AND ACTIONS:

A. Increase walking as form of transportation

Indicator: % of people using walking as common type of transportation

Baseline: 2008 – 32% indicate cycling as common type of transportation used

Actions:

- a) Develop a series of paths to allow people to walk from one end of the island to the other. Through GaLTT's work 90% of this is now completed.

Involved: Gabriola Lands and Trails Trust with support from POSAC, Regional District of Nanaimo, Islands Trust, private landowners.

- b) Increase walk-ability in Village core through reduced vehicle speed, traffic calming measures, footpaths between all commercial buildings in village core, and redesign to focus on pedestrian and cycle.

Involved: Islands Trust, MOTI for reduced vehicle speed and traffic calming, owners of commercial buildings, community members support

B. Increase cycling as form of transportation

Indicator: % of people using cycling as common type of transportation used

Baseline: 2008 – 18% indicate cycling as common type of transportation used

Actions:

- a) Implement **on-road cycle paths** (marked shoulders) as per “Shared Roadways – Gabriola Cycle Route Plan”.
Involved: Islands Trust, MOTI, POSAC.
- b) Create an **off-road cycle path** route(s) for Gabriola (include MOTI right of ways and undeveloped road allowances)
Involved: GALTT , POSAC, Islands Trust
- c) Implement **vehicle speeds** that support concept of shared roadway and provide solar powered monitoring of speed.
Involved: MOTI (review of speed limits and implementation as required plus funds for monitoring speed), Islands Trust (Advocacy), RCMP
- d) Use **Green Bikes** program – Green bikes are available for everyone on Gabriola to use to transport themselves from their starting point to their destination.
Involved: Community member, Islands Trust and other organizations involved in transportation on Gabriola need to include in their descriptions of transportation on Gabriola.
- e) Install **Bike racks** –at stop points (shopping, medical, etc.) under shelter if possible.
Involved: Commercial and public buildings

Transportation

When I was a child
My bike was a purple
Bmx with white mags

Edgy, unique,

Yes! My bike now
makes me feel like
I felt then.

C. Increase low-emission travel as form of transportation

Indicator: % of people using low to zero emission forms of transportation

Baseline: 0 public transit on Gabriola, 6% hitchhike, 7% school bus, 5.6% motorcycle/ scooter

Actions:

- a) Establish **public transit** system on Gabriola – public transit was strongly supported in the 2008 survey (Appendix B), a proposed route has been developed and supported in public forums (see Appendix C for phantom bus route). BC Transit has been working on their own feasibility study to determine if they will provide 50% funding – other 50% from fare revenue. Community has indicated preference for biodiesel fueled bus and locally managed system.
Involved: Public Transit Committee, BC Transit, RDN, Islands Trust (bus route in OCP, advocate with BC transit and RDN)
- b) Establish **Ride-Share, Car stops** and **Taxi-supplement** program to complement bus system
Involved: RDN, MOTI, BC Transit

- c) Encourage **Low-speed vehicles (LSVs)** through flexible and relevant regulatory change – recognizing the evolving technology of low to zero emission travel. In the USA 50 states have legalized LSVs to drive on their roads.
Involved: Islands Trust and MOTI
- d) Encourage alternative fuels for vehicles. Support the provision of biodiesel from waste vegetable oil for vehicles.
Involved: Islands Trust, Gabriola Commons, Island Futures

D. Reduce Emissions from Ferry

Indicator: Reduction of GHG emissions from Ferry

Baseline: 2870 tCO₂ equivalent

Actions:

- a) Reduced fares for foot and cycle passengers on ferry (increases likelihood that people will not take their vehicle plus reduces weight on ferries as heavier vehicles results in increased fuel use). *Involved:* Ferry Advisory Committee, BC Ferries Corporation
- b) Support local production of food, goods and services to reduce number of heavy vehicles on ferry (heavier vehicles increase fuel required and thus increase GHG emissions) *Involved:* Gabriolans
- c) Biodiesel for ferry fuel –current opportunities for BC Ferries to switch from diesel to biodiesel in return for offset funds from Pacific Carbon Trust
Involved: Ferry Advisory Committee, BC Ferries Corporation

E. Intermodal connections for zero to low-emission travel

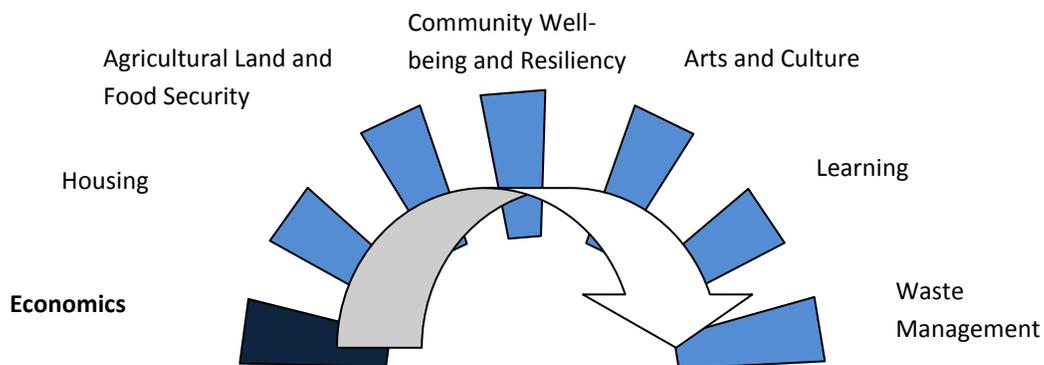
Actions:

- a) To facilitate implementation of on-road and off-road cycle paths and a public transit system, further discussion is required to identify individuals and organizations willing to take responsibility for coordinating the actions outlined and to identify the resources required to implement the strategies.
- b) Each transportation modes contain provisions for transportation to and from other forms (i.e. bike racks on buses, at bus stops, etc)
Involved: BC Ferry Corporation, Transit system
- c) Map markers include bike and walking trails (and bus route when it happens), not just roads.
Involved: Chamber of Commerce, Gabriola Arts Council
- d) Ensure connections and supports on Nanaimo side: schedule for bus allows easy access to Departure Bay ferry and University of Vancouver Island; and, bike racks at Gabriola ferry. *Involved:* RDN Transit, BC Ferry Corporation

IMPLEMENTATION:

This document represents the initial actions required to create sustainable transportation options on Gabriola. Many organizations and individuals will have a role to play including the Islands Trust, the RDN, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, BC Ferries, BC Transit, the CyclePaths, the Gabriola Public Transit Committee/Task Force, the Green Bike Program, the Gabriola Transportation Association, the Gabriola Land and Trails Trust and the Ferry Advisory Committee.

ECONOMICS



There are different kinds of economic systems at play in all communities and on Gabriola we are fortunate to have a mix of bartering, monetary, resource recovery and in-kind. The economic systems used on Gabriola reflect the high number of semi-retired and retired people living on the island, an interest in alternative lifestyles and less emphasis on consumerism than in urban settings.

In-kind System is reflected in the high number of volunteer hours that Gabriolans contribute to accomplish community goals as well as provide supports to family and friends. The Health and Well-being Survey (results expected in September) will provide us with an understanding of the number of volunteer hours residents provide within a year.

Resource recovery system: there is a high rate of reduce, re-use and recycle, which has resulted in lower garbage per capita than elsewhere in the Regional District of Nanaimo. It also means there is less consumption of new clothes, books, household items, and other products.

Informal Bartering occurs between friends, neighbours and acquaintances on Gabriola and may include services provided for reduced rent, exchange of one type of food produced with

another, labour carried out in return for teaching skills, and a range of other money-less transactions.

Monetary System: According to the last Census (2006) the preceding factors are combined with a high number of people earning income from retirement income, and a high rate of self-employment relative to other parts of BC (37.8% compared to 14.1%) and a relatively low average income (\$29,026 to BC's \$34,519). Of the working population there were more residents working part time (57%) than were working full time (43%) in 2006. Seventy-one percent of those in the labour force work on Gabriola, 22% work off of Gabriola (14% work in Nanaimo area).

Businesses on the island, in order of labour force participation, include retail, construction, professional services, education services, health and social services, accommodation and food services, manufacturing, and information and cultural industries. Research indicates that for every \$100 spent at a locally owned business, \$45 remains in the local economy; and, for every \$100 spent at a big-box store, only \$14 stays in the local economy. While most Gabriolans do buy from the local businesses there are still many who feel that going off Gabriola to shop will give them a better deal.

The statistics also show that Gabriola is becoming less age-diverse, losing both young families and youth. Viable employment opportunities appear to be one of the challenges facing younger residents.

There are several non-profit organizations that have focused on economics. The Chamber of Commerce promotes businesses in the community, and the Commons is looking at alternative approaches to economics, while GIRO supports itself through sale of second hand goods. Several organizations on Gabriola are also considering social enterprises that will support their organization while at the same time provide a social or environmental good for the community (employment for people with disabilities, etc).

GOAL:

To provide local viable opportunities to earn a living wage in a diverse range of sectors

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

A: TO INCREASE BUY LOCAL BEHAVIOUR

Actions:

- a) Implement buy-local awareness/educational campaign that informs residents of true impact of buying local versus buying off of island
- b) Create local food box program on Gabriola (local farms contribute to food box that is delivered weekly)
- c) Create central depot where local goods and services can be bought and sold with the option of local currency

- d) Encourage local currency concept

B: TO NURTURE AND SUPPORT COLLABORATION AS A KEYSTONE FOR SUSTAINABLE BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Actions:

- a) Investigating and supporting the development and establishment of a variety of cooperatives to serve local entrepreneurs (i.e. artists, farmers, etc.)
- b) Support the development of cooperatives for community services and housing

C: TO INCREASE PERCENTAGE OF BUSINESSES THAT ARE SOCIAL ENTERPRISES ON GABRIOLA

Actions:

- a) Identification of current social enterprises, potential employees and potential opportunities.
- b) Awareness/educational information for Gabriola residents regarding what social enterprises are and what they achieve
- c) Support the implementation of social enterprises identified – diversity encouraged

D: ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING BUSINESSES THAT REUSE AND RECYCLE MATERIALS

Actions:

- a) Central info registry that links businesses with recycled materials
- b) Zoning by-law support for range of businesses that re-use and recycle materials

E: STIMULATING/INVESTING IN ISLAND-OWNED, ISLAND RUN INITIATIVES

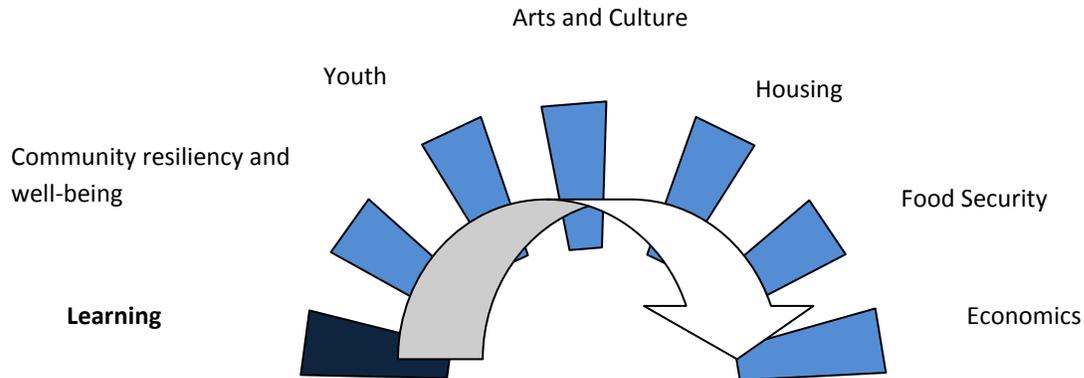
Actions:

- a) Analysis of potential opportunities that exist (utilities, ownership of medical centre, etc.) and the extent to which they are consistent with principles, vision and goals of the sustainability plan and provide a service or good that is available to all Gabriolans.
- b) Identifying best structure and management and implementation strategy for viable options
- c) Support for micro-lending
- d) Mentoring young entrepreneurs

IMPLEMENTATION:

This document represents some proposed steps to support a sustainable economic system on Gabriola. Further discussion is required to identify individuals and organizations willing to take responsibility for the actions outlined and to identify the resources required to implement the strategies. Many organizations will have a role to play including the Islands Trust, the RDN, the Chamber of Commerce, non-profits operating or wanting to operate social enterprises socially/environmentally responsible businesses and consumers.

LEARNING



GOAL

Learning opportunities exist for all ages and income levels, on Gabriola. Learning options exist for educational and technical skills, and for artistic and cultural knowledge.

ACTIONS

- Compile a resource base of willing participants with useful skills and knowledge
- Identify topics of interest and knowledgeable leaders for topics
- Identify people willing to provide mentoring for skills and match with those interested

Topics identified April 24th:

Food security (preservation): curing/drying/smoking; root cellaring; pickling and fermenting; canning

Textiles: knitting, spinning, pattern-making; hooking

Tool-sharing: what tools and appliances are suitable for sharing among neighbours? Eg: sewing machines, rototillers, mowers, chippers, freezers. Also, where should they be stored? Someone's house or a central depot?

Sailing and Boating skills

Shelter-building skills

Social skills: how to work as a community to accomplish what we need. Also some discussion about coordinating community events so that we don't bump into each other with all that's going on in our community – could there be an event clearinghouse coordinated by one person/agency – groups all sign on so as not to conflict with each other. An online resource.

Wood harvesting: clearing, bucking, falling in a sustainable way

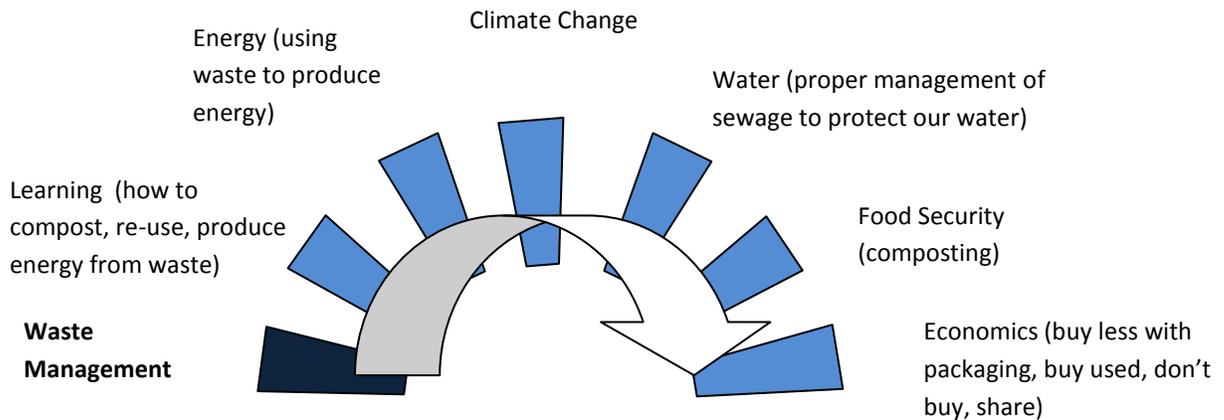
Animal husbandry

Gardening: pruning; grafting; propagation; harvesting

Indicators

- low cost or free workshops and classes available on a wide variety of topics, for all ages
- mentoring opportunities for many skills
- School established as a community school

WASTE MANAGEMENT



There are two key organizations involved in solid waste management on Gabriola Island: Gabriola Island Recycling Organization (GIRO) and the Regional District of Nanaimo.

GIRO: The idea to build a recycling depot on Gabriola was born in June of 1989 with an excursion to Hornby Island by a small group of environmentally minded Gabriolans. As a result of this investigation, this same group gave a presentation which resulted in the formation of a recycling committee.

Shortly after its formation, the Recycling Committee became a committee of the Ratepayer Association and was originally known as the Gabriola Recycling Committee (GRC). During the

first two years of existence, they worked hard towards building a depot here on our island. The land was donated by Merv and Annette Sweeney and the recycling committee raised money through both community fundraising and government grants to build and staff the depot.

GIRO currently provides islanders with a place to purchase second hand goods, to access free used goods, to bring goods recyclable goods not permitted in the curbside pick-up and a place to bring all other goods (clothes, household goods, construction materials, etc) that would otherwise be destined for the garbage. Clothing not sold is sent to a non-profit organization to be used as scrap material. Other goods received that cannot be sold or given away are shipped off to the RDN land fill and recycling depots. In 2009 numerous recyclable materials together with 6850 metric tons of garbage were sent to the landfill.

The Regional District of Nanaimo is responsible for bi-monthly residential curbside garbage and recycling pick-up. In the fall of 2010 there will be weekly pick-up for compost and bi-monthly pick-up (alternating) for garbage and recycling. The following figures were provided by RDN:

Garbage and recycling for Gabriola for 2007 and 2008

	houses	garbage (tonnes)	recycling (tonnes)	total (tonnes)
2007	-	504	183 (27%)	686
2008	2,274	465	190 (29%)	655

Source: Regional District of Nanaimo 2009

Goal

Zero Waste

Targets

Reduce the amount of total recyclables and garbage trucked off the island (TBD)

OBJECTIVES AND INDICATORS

A. Reduce amount of garbage going to landfill

Indicator: Reduction in amount of garbage trucked off the island in Kilograms

Baseline 2009: 465 tonnes of garbage trucked off the island – residential
6850 tonnes of garbage trucked off island – GIRO

B. Reduce amount of garbage relative to recyclable materials

Indicator: Reduction in amount of garbage trucked off the island in Kilograms

Baseline 2009: 26.6% of total trucked off Gabriola that are recyclables

C. Reduce amount of total garbage and recyclables

Indicator: Reduction in amount of garbage trucked off the island in Kilograms

Baseline 2009: 0.38 Kg of garbage and recyclables trucked off Gabriola

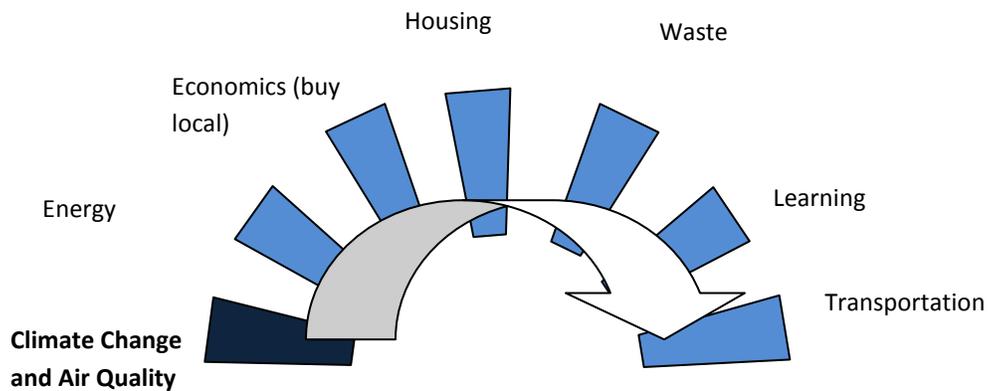
ACTIONS

1. Support GIRO's actions in reducing waste on Gabriola Island
2. Analyze environmental and financial implications of composting pick-up being implemented by Regional District of Nanaimo.

Sewage: a crucial component of waste management - TBD

To include monitoring of existing fields and encouraging alternate techniques of disposal - composting toilets, grey water re-use, alternative designs to septic design.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND AIR QUALITY



This area encompasses greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as well as air pollutants - chemicals, particulate matter and/or biological matter that cause damage to humans or the natural environment. While some sources are the same one of the key differences is wood burning, which is included as an air pollutant but not a GHG emission.

For sources of GHG emissions a report carried out by Island Futures produced the following baseline information for Gabriola Island:

GHG emissions by source for 2008

Source	tonnes of CO2 equivalent
vehicles	5668
ferry	2808
float-plane and boats	666
electricity	1279
propane	1334
furnace oil	255
food	2340
waste	419
total	15,140

These calculations are confined to those uses that can be readily measured for Gabriola Island. For example, CO2 generated by residents travelling long distances off island by car or plane is not considered. The energy required to provide services and manufacture goods “imported” to Gabriola is also not included.

CO2 is only considered to be a GHG when derived from the burning of fossil fuel such as coal, natural gas, and mineral oil. All photosynthetic plants absorb CO2 while they are living, and emit CO2 when they decay after they die. This natural cycle is considered to be balanced and is not part of the GHG audit.

In addition to fossil fuel burning there are two other key sources of air pollution impacting Gabriola – Harmac Pulp Mill and wood burning (woodstoves and backyard burns). There are no current figures regarding the air pollution created from either of these sources.

Organizations involved: GabCAN (Gabriola Climate Action Network) carried out a number of climate change related activities on Gabriola from 2006 to 2009. These include public awareness speakers and information, the creation of a Gabriola shopping bag (in partnership with Village Foods), lobbying for groceries to be labelled with country of origin, promoting the establishment of carstops and a

Air Quality/Emissions

The last time I went for a walk the air was

cool, moist, and full of spring.

The last time I went for a walk the air was

blessed with the dawn and a touch of fragrance from cherry blossom.

The last time I went for a walk the air was

wonderful and fresh until directly across from Harmac, then it smelled toxic.

The last time I went For a walk the air was

sweet, moist, caressing, nourishing, fragrant, loving, and alive.

rideshare program. Unfortunately, GabCAN are no longer active. Island Futures Society carried out the GHG emission inventory early 2010, mentioned previously. Islands Trust, recently passed by-law 253, which added the following statement plus a list of Climate Change Adaptation and Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Policies to Gabriola Island's OCP:

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 33% by 2020 and 85% by 2050 from 2007 levels. 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.

GOAL

Reduced GHG emissions

TARGET

Target to be established by community process

Baseline: <http://islandfutures.ca/ghg.html>

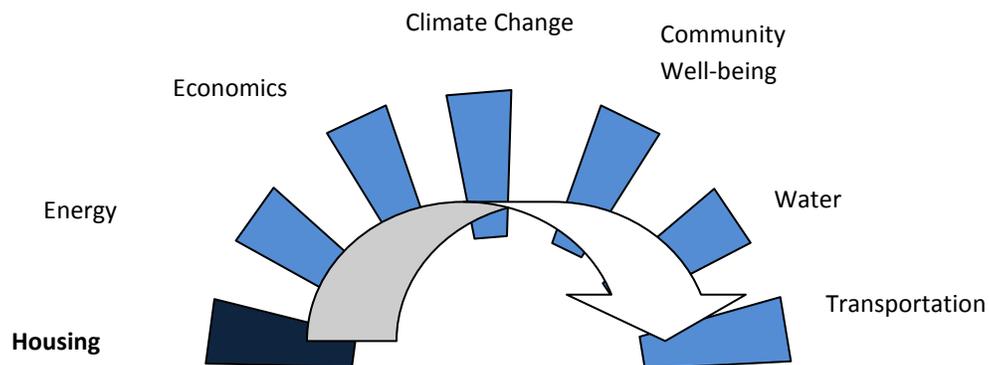
Some GHG sources are not well quantified and there is room for improvement. It is for example difficult to calculate the contribution from private vehicles, even though this is a major source. The omission of the GHG contents of "imported" goods to Gabriola is serious, and ideas for quantifying these would be welcome.

OBJECTIVES, ACTIONS AND INDICATORS

- A. Establish community agreement on inventory and targets
- B. Reduce GHG emissions from transportation sources (see Transportation for Actions and indicators)
- C. Reduce GHG emissions from buildings (see Energy for Actions and Indicators)
- D. Reduce GHG emissions from Waste (see Waste Management for Actions and indicators)
- E. Reduce GHG emissions from Transport of Food and Goods (see Agricultural Land and Economics for Actions and indicators)
- F. Reduce air pollutants by reducing or eliminating backyard burning through promotion of alternatives such as mulching and chipping, composting wood waste, using wood waste for efficient heating systems, and by promoting highly efficient wood burning systems, stoves and practices.

Involved: Islands Trust, Island Futures, other interested community organizations and individuals

HOUSING



Housing on Gabriola is limited by the present land use bylaws which restrict the range of housing availability, leaving target groups of residents in need of housing which include: young families, people living on island salaries, low-income employees, single parents, disabled persons of all ages, people living in substandard housing, the elderly on fixed incomes with inadequate heating in the winter months and a varying population of homeless persons, and those at risk of homelessness.

The total number of occupied private households on Gabriola Island in 2006 was 1,998 and the average number of people considered permanent residents living in each household was 2. The only purpose built multi-family dwelling on Gabriola is for seniors. There are no subsidized affordable housing units available on Gabriola.

The *Affordable Housing Needs Assessment* was completed in 2009, providing a picture of housing on Gabriola Island and included recommendations for both community and local governments. We support the actions and strategies arising from that report. One of those recommendations and an action resulting from the work of the consultants was the establishment of the Housing Task Force in October 2009.

Sustainable Gabriola recognizes that everyone needs a secure home. Home is an essential piece of the sustainability puzzle. The lack of suitable housing is impacting the social, cultural and economic diversity of our community. There are examples of initiatives on other islands which

we could apply here. There are several ways to offer more choices for renters that could be in place even without infringing on existing local bylaws.

Sustainable Gabriola supports the work of the Housing Task Force, which has initiated action related to a number of the recommendations in the Report, and which recently presented a submission on secondary suites to the Local Trust Committee as part of this year's Official Community Plan review.

The *ETHOS'* definition of homelessness and housing exclusion aptly describes the complexities of today's need for homes in this community. The Needs Assessment revealed the range of islanders who fit the following ETHOS broad typology:

- rooflessness – sleeping rough – no shelter
- houselessness – place to sleep but temporary shelter (seasonal)
- Living in insecure housing – due to threat of eviction (rents mostly above 30% income)
- living in inadequate housing – unfit, overcrowded, illegal

People for a Healthy Community (PHC) are presently conducting a homeless count to begin to respond to the needs of those that are homeless or at risk.

A Community Forum on Housing is planned for the Fall 2010 to bring together service providers, potential landlords, etc with people needing homes.

Sustainable Gabriola supports the need to link ecological factors to the establishment of accessible housing on the island. An *eco footprint formula* has been proposed to enable higher occupancy within current housing without increasing impact on the environment.

The total number of occupied private households on Gabriola Island in 2006 was 1,998 and the average number of people considered permanent residents living in each household was 2. The only purpose built multi-family dwelling on Gabriola is for seniors. There are no subsidized affordable housing units available on Gabriola.

Housing

What are my favourite sounds of home?

My kitties purring,
my old banjo,
the rooster next door,
my wife snoring,
the coffee grinder,

The frogs at night,
The beat of the raven's wings
when they fly overhead.

Sustainable Gabriola supports the work of the Housing Task Force and, in particular the need to respond to the needs of those that are homeless or at risk of homelessness and to link ecological factors to the establishment of housing on Gabriola Island.

References:

1) Affordable Housing Needs Assessment November 2009

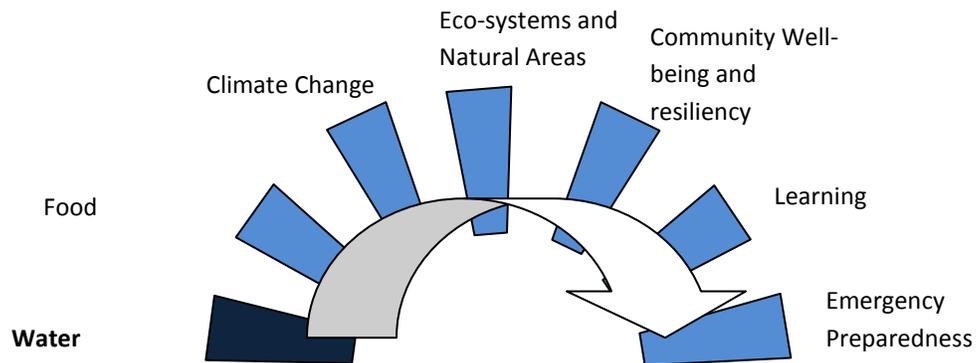
<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltc/gb/pdf/gbrptaffordhousnov262009.pdf>

2) ETHOS definition from:

http://intraspec.ca/homeless_definitions-strategies-solutions.php.

3) Eco footprint formula includes baseline criteria for water use and storage, sewage disposal systems, energy use and transportation distance to amenities.

WATER



“Sufficient levels of groundwater are critical to maintaining ecosystem health and meeting the water needs of island communities. Groundwater feeds streams and wetlands, and supports normal ecosystem functioning and healthy wildlife populations. On some islands, groundwater is the only viable source of fresh water available to residents.” (Measuring Our Progress (Islands Trust, 2006)

There are non-profit organizations, individual advocates, government bodies and businesses all involved in water issues for Gabriola Island.

The Groundwater Management Society has provided a submission to the Local Trust Committee for the OCP review process. The objectives of the Gabriola Groundwater Management Society are to:

- Promote groundwater management on Gabriola;*
- Provide information regarding groundwater use to all interested groups and individuals;*
- Develop a data base regarding distribution, quantity, quality and recharging capability of existing wells;*
- Explore potential for alternative individual household sewage disposal systems;*
- Provide “on island” laboratory water testing services at a nominal fee;*
- Promote groundwater management with reference to the island watersheds;*
- Develop strategies for dispute resolution regarding neighbourhood water problems;*
- Explore the potential for septic tank effluent treatment “on island”;* and
- Raise funds to enable the GGMS to carry out its stated purposes.*

Water

Touch my lips
wet cool slide
down my throat
slowly moist
moisten
clear soft clean
active alive full
range of notes
all gone
over

A submission was also provided to the Local Trust Committee by a group of individuals concerned about the state of water management on Gabriola.

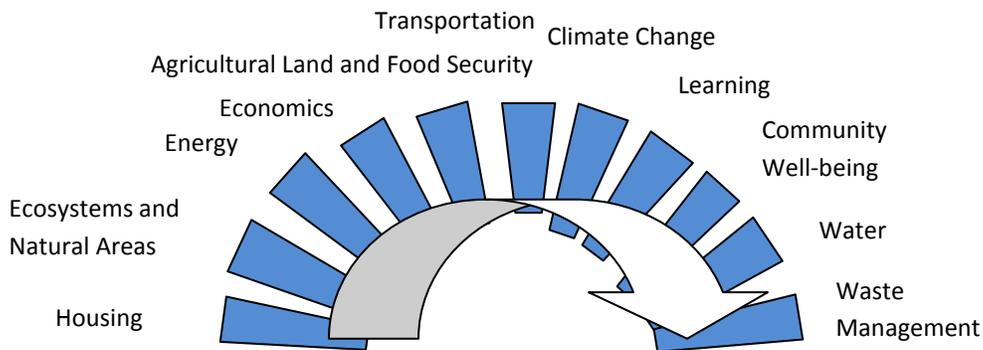
The Regional District of Nanaimo created the **Drinking Water and Watershed Protection** program to help address issues associated with impacts on the region's water resources and to improve our approach to land use that would then assist in reducing further degradation. The proposed actions for the first five years of their plan are as follows:

The first five years would start all programs, but emphasize:

- Public awareness:
 - o WaterSmart website, awards and outreach.
 - o Coordinating public information programs with senior agencies.
 - o Supporting volunteer organizations.
- Water resources inventory and data:
 - o Compiling and mapping existing data.
 - o Starting programs for new data collection.
- Land development management:
 - o Better practices for land use and engineering design.
 - o Updating development review processes and planning tools.
- Watershed management planning:
 - o Complete a process to identify Watershed Management Plan priorities.

- o Complete 'basic' watershed protection guidelines.
- Water use management:
 - o Establish a Water Conservation Plan for the water local service areas.
 - o Promote cooperation with operators of community water supply systems.
 - o Promote rainwater and graywater technologies.
- Water quality management:
 - o Start a private well monitoring pilot project.
 - o Identify and address land uses with high contaminant risk.
 - o Advocate better water quality practices in agriculture / forestry.
- Initiate a climate change adaptation program concerning drinking water and aquatic ecosystems.

REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT OF SOUL



When we originally began the sustainability conversation we spoke about the need to sustain arts and culture as a sentinel of a healthy, reflective society. We were not directly concerned about the economic aspects of sustaining arts and culture believing that the sustainable economic plan could address that, but rather in understanding how creativity could be stimulated and sustained in a community. What would be the attributes of a community where each person felt creatively empowered and opportunities existed to stimulate creative endeavors whether by individuals or groups? Just as the economic aspect of arts and culture is linked to creating a vibrant local economy, so are the creative aspects of arts and culture linked to creating a learning community.

Creativity does not necessarily lend itself to the traditional, structured way of thinking; in respect of that reality, our approach to creativity or “soul” as we have chosen to describe it is fluid and open-ended. It assumes that creativity cannot be pinned down but is constantly

reinventing itself. We ask your indulgence in our playful approach to creativity and emphasize that the dialogue is open to all.

GOAL

Soul

TARGET

All

OBJECTIVES

Remembering

INDICATORS

Touching, smiling, looking, kissing, playing, crying, feeling, listening, holding, giggling, smelling, cherishing, fondling, seeing, pondering, relishing, hugging, noticing, weeping, talking, tasting, cooing, sensing, caressing, wondering, enjoying, gazing, creating, singing, love-making, cuddling, imagining, gaffawing, tending, savouring, adoring, etc.

ACTIONS

Loving