

Sustainable Gabriola electric vehicle initiative

This initiative stems from an online event on May 26th at which about 25 Gabriolans gathered to discuss ways in which we can reduce our carbon emissions, to one-half of what they were in 2020, by 2030. The session was supported by Sustainable Gabriola and facilitated by Dawn Moorhead of the North Island Climate Hub. It was focussed on a range of actions, including:

- increasing the level of active transportation (walking, cycling, bus, etc.),
- increasing the proportion of electric vehicles,
- retrofits to buildings,
- shifting away from fossil fuel heating (propane, fuel oil), and
- further reducing the amount of our organic waste that ends up in the landfill.

The discussion was enhanced using information from a planning tool at <https://www.communityenergy.ca/climate-action-planner/>, which anyone is free to use to discover the effects of making changes to how we do things on Gabriola. Using the tool, which doesn't include some important things like ferries and the climate cost of food choices, we found that the most effective path forward is to dramatically increase the proportion of electric vehicles on Gabriola, with a goal of 50% electric vehicles on Gabriola by 2030. That will take a sustained community effort. We will also have to augment our vehicle charging infrastructure.

The initiative was discussed at the June 27th meeting of Sustainable Gabriola. It was proposed that the first stage of the initiative should be about disseminating information on electric vehicles (both electric cars and electric bicycles). (See below for some of the questions that might need to be answered.) This should take several forms, including:

- 1) written information on the SG website,
- 2) articles in the Sounder,
- 3) a face-to-face session at the Library or some other venue, and
- 4) an electric vehicle information event (outdoors) where current EV owners can share their experiences with those that are interested.

A second stage might include providing incentives for Gabriolans to purchase EVs, since they are still quite a bit more expensive to buy than ICE (internal combustion engine) vehicles. This may involve Island Futures and the Gabriola Community Investment Co-op, and we should also look for external funding.

Questions that people might have (This list is just a start. Please help by adding your own questions)

- 1) What new EVs are available in Canada now, and what do they cost?
- 2) What sort of ranges do they have?
- 3) What E-bikes are available in Canada now, and what do they cost?
- 4) What is the market like for used EVs, and where can they be found?
- 5) What sort of ranges do they have?
- 6) What is the typical annual maintenance cost of an EV?
- 7) What does it cost to charge an EV at home?

- 8) What does it cost to install an EV charger at home, and what's needed?
- 9) How long does an EV battery last?
- 10) What happens to used EV batteries? Can they be re-purposed or re-cycled?
- 11) What are some of the ethical and environmental issues around EVs and their batteries?
- 12) What is the life-time environmental cost of an EV compared with an ICE vehicle?