

# Climate-12 Action Team Convenors meeting #6

Thursday, 15 Feb. 2024, 3:00 pm, library

Facilitator: Steve ... notes: Greg

**Here** (9): Joan Johnson (Water), Ewout Van Dishoeck (Biodiversity), Steven Earle (Transportation/ Steering Com), Deborah \_\_, Susan Swift (Ag & Food Security/ Steering Com), Betty Kehler (Ag & Food Security), Tawny MacLachlan Capon (Health & Wellness), Deb Ferens (Biodiversity), Greg Blee (Arts & Culture / Steering Com),

**Regrets:** Fay Weller (Economic Change/ Steering Com), Hans van Kessel (Buildings & Energy)

## Announcements & Events

- **Vision 2050: Climate-12 event — Tuesday, Feb. 20, 7:00–8:30** at Ground Up. All climate-interested people invited. Article & ad in yesterday's *Sounder*, event on Facebook. Please share with the people in your Action Team — we want as much input as possible! ... Room will be set up by our topic areas.
- **“Neighbourhoods” event — was set for Sat-13-April at Community Hall ... but oops, conflict with *Fix-It Fair (Sat-13-Apr, 2–5 at Agi Hall)*— [Neighbourhoods event moved to Sat-11-May, 1–3pm at Community Hall]**

Event to feature a big island map on the floor for people to stand and meet their neighbours. We may invite groups in already organized neighbourhoods to talk about what they've done.

- Tawny — H&W group met yesterday, talked about this event. Put red X's on the floor where all AED stations are located. (They need to be maintained.) ... Include big map(s) on wall showing other important info, e.g. all designated island muster stations (for evacuation off island), water access points, etc. If you know of any map ideas, email them to Tawny.

New person Jackie hired by RDN to get on top of ESS; she can print the large maps. Shirley Nicolson is still with the RDN (not an employee), but only does Gabriola ESS.

A network of small neighbourhood “pods” are what we hope to create with this event (as distinct from bigger ESS neighbourhoods). Other Gulf Islands (e.g. Quadra, Salt Spring) have well defined pods.

The new Health & Wellness coordinator will liaise with at the 50-odd related groups on the island, help coordinate them.

- Ewout — Some people are already working to create pods already (e.g. Tobi Elliott). How to combine efforts, rather than duplicate? How to attract people?

## Team updates

**Health & Wellness** (Tawny) — talked about Neighbourhoods above

**Biodiversity** (Deb) — Met 2–3 weeks ago. Many island groups are already focussed on biodiversity. Find out who's doing what, ask what successes, gaps there are. We are listing the groups, with contact names, and creating a set of questions to ask each group to start establishing biodiversity benchmarks (e.g. bird counts, tree cover).

Thinking about updating existing Development Permit Areas (DPAs), to enhance protection for wetlands, etc.

Thinking about how a biodiversity lens can apply to OCP.

Chart from Islands Trust Conservancy (below) shows, in total Trust area, 19.9% area protected. Broken down by islands, Gabriola is one of the lowest, just 12%.

Information regarding protected land throughout the Islands Trust Area - total protected area nearly 20%. See Gabriola in the chart below with one of the lowest amount of protected land at 12%.

<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/conservancy/>

The Islands Trust Conservancy is the **conservation land trust for these islands in the Salish Sea**. Since 1990, the Islands Trust Conservancy has protected more 113 private properties totally more than 1,350 hectares of island ecosystems through acquisitions of land for Nature Reserves and by empowering property owners to protect private land through innovative conservation programs.

Nearly 20% (19.58%) of the Islands Trust area is protected by public and non-profit organizations. Federal, provincial, and regional governments, Islands Trust Conservancy, and island-based partners are working to permanently protect ecosystems. Islands Trust Conservancy's protected areas account for 8.51% of the total protected land in the islands. (Data: Mar 2019)

Local Trust Area/Island Municipality	Protected Area hectares (ha)	% of area protected	Profiles
ITA	15,730.51	19.91	
<a href="#">Ballenas-Winchelsea Islands</a>	64.14	38.15	<a href="#">LTA Profile</a>
<a href="#">Bowen Island</a>	1085.88	21.49	<a href="#">Profile</a>
<a href="#">Denman Island</a>	1271.7	24.68	<a href="#">LTA Profile</a>
<a href="#">Gabriola Island</a>	701.58	12.06	<a href="#">LTA Profile</a>
<a href="#">Galiano Island</a>	1472.05	24.39	<a href="#">LTA Profile</a>
<a href="#">Gambier Island</a>	1628.67	16.59	<a href="#">LTA Profile</a>
<a href="#">Hornby Island</a>	699.85	23.48	<a href="#">LTA Profile</a>
<a href="#">Lasqueti Island</a>	989.16	13.44	<a href="#">LTA Profile</a>
<a href="#">Mayne Island</a>	196.85	8.31	<a href="#">LTA Profile</a>
<a href="#">North Pender Island</a>	1026.2	19.58	<a href="#">LTA Profile</a>
<a href="#">Salt Spring Island</a>	4466.79	22.70	<a href="#">LTA Profile</a>
<a href="#">Saturna Island</a>	1641.39	45.97	<a href="#">LTA Profile</a>
<a href="#">South Pender Island</a>	293.88	32.16	<a href="#">LTA Profile</a>
<a href="#">Thetis Island</a>	192.43	3.96	<a href="#">LTA Profile</a>
<b>Total</b>	<b>15730.51 ha</b>	<b>19.55 %</b>	

**Agi & Food Security** (Betty) — Library display is coming, showing various food garden options. Mentor/mentee project is rolling ... workshops on pruning, grafting ... where to find mason bees for orchard pollination. Creating an information bank, on paper to start.

Plan *Sounder* article(s) to publicize food security, mentorship program. Will coordinate with Steve to send them to Derek.

Seed Bank event coming in Sun-25-Feb. at Agi Hall.

**Water** (Joan) — Team met (only 3). Working on framework for the water manual, incorporating Indigenous Ways of Knowing. Outline: Big-picture on Gabriola hydrology, water usage ... water catchment, treatment, testing ... individual water situations ... responsibility & stewardship ... grey water ... regulations, codes, best practices ... information network and resources ...

Making good progress, lots of expertise in the group ... Aiming for something out by summer.

Islands Trust island-wide water assessment project is funded.

Nova Scotia had a pilot project for desalination.

Q: Is water for non-humans also a factor? Yes, through IWoK. Challenging the cultural ideas of ownership, resource. Maybe work with Biodiversity team on this.

**Economic Change** (Fay, via email) — nothing to report.

**Buildings & Energy** (Hans, via email) — Building & Energy group met on Jan 27th (2 people):

1. We discussed & revised possible survey questions (for Economic Change group). The list of 9 items was submitted to Fay on Jan 31st. We are not sure of the procedure from here, but expect to get some feedback.
2. Regarding an Energy Audit of buildings: best done by someone local and trained to do this; suggestion was made that Sustainable Gabriola/Sustainable Energy Co-op could be asked to do/facilitate Energy Audits.
3. Lorne Salter, group member, has quite a bit of experience with surveys and agreed to have his name/contact submitted to Fay (who is developing the survey). Also, consider doing the survey together with a community meeting and discussion — perhaps a hybrid Zoom meeting.

**Arts & Culture** (Greg) — Has been hesitating at starting another group, but have a list of names, and will call an initial meeting for ideas on how A&C can inform the climate struggle.

Noted ad in *Sounder* for GAC looking for board members. Maybe include that in our tactics, as a longer-range plan: pool with what's happening at GAC, rather than creating a whole new independent group (e.g. get some climate-aware people onto GAC board). GAC has an OCP visioning event later this month.

**Transportation** (Steve) — met last week (~5 people). Ferry Hill survey to come in next couple of months, to ask people what stops them from biking/walking up/down Ferry Hill ... Car-stops (designated, signed hitchhiking spots) ... Bike-share, ebike-share would require a lot of work, but there's an ebike rental place at Twin Beaches ... Many people getting back into biking, but don't feel comfortable on Gabriola's roads; an on-road bike safety course, with Rec Society ... Speed-Watch project with RCMP, to raise people's awareness of their speed (ICBC will use that information); unofficial, voluntary participation ... Talking about creating an ad hoc (but registered) Citizen's Transportation Advisory Committee, to provide input to governmental agencies; this is long-term.

Idea: Connect bike course and bike repair with the Fix-It Fair, 13-Apr.

**Biochar & compost** (Gerry) — no report

### ***Overall Comments:***

- Create a Gabriola "climate charter" ... a short proclamation that people can post in their offices, websites, stating a shared intent ... e.g. "Gabriola Climate Charter for Seven Generations"
- A river in Quebec was designated a person, through precedent-setting community effort ... Recent CBC documentary: [cbc.ca/documentaries/the-nature-of-things/this-pristine-canadian-river-has-legal-personhood-a-new-approach-to-conserving-nature-1.7100728](http://cbc.ca/documentaries/the-nature-of-things/this-pristine-canadian-river-has-legal-personhood-a-new-approach-to-conserving-nature-1.7100728)

Next meeting (third Thursday): **Thursday March 21st, 3:00pm at the library**

End at 4:25

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