



SUSTAINABLE GABRIOLA'S CLIMATE-12 REPORT ON OCP VISIONING

SNUNEYMUXW AS PARTNERS

We believe that the Snuneymuxw First Nation must be a partner in the creation and ongoing implementation of the OCP. They must be invited now as equal partners in creating the vision for the Official Community Plan.

We envision that by 2050 the Gabriola community will be working together with the benefit of Indigenous knowledge and vision to reduce our climate-change impact and to ensure adaptation to climate change.

We hope for a visionary OCP that is short, inspiring, and therefore read by all.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCLUDE IN OCP FROM FEBRUARY 20TH CLIMATE 12 SESSION

Food and Agriculture

- Rainwater is stored to ensure enough water is available for growing local food.
- Crops are grown that are resistant to drought.
- There is a Gabriola specific seed bank.
- Gabriola is food-secure through financially accessible locally grown food and support for young farmers.
- Food prepared on Gabriola (preserves, etc.) is deregulated and thus easily sellable on Gabriola.
- Composting locations are available on Gabriola.

Building and Energy

- Human need is balanced with sustainable housing.
- Housing is close to services (e.g., Village).
- Regulations for buildings (both new and old) ensure energy efficiency and structural integrity and allow for tiny homes and alternative building techniques.
- Incentives are provided to upgrade older houses to make them more energy efficient.
- Experimental building zones are established to explore affordable and alternative building techniques as well as alternative living arrangements.

Biodiversity

- Climate change adaptation information is dynamically monitored and available (pests, species changing, soil health, tree and forest health, and water flows).
- Protection of wetlands is prioritized to ensure sequestering of water and protection of habitat.
- Indigenous ways of knowing inform relationship with the land.
- Incentives and education are available for landowners to lessen impacts of developments or offset with revegetation/rehabilitation.
- A carbon bank is established so that withdrawals (e.g., tree cutting) can be offset with deposits (planting or habitat restoration).
- Forests are not over-harvested and are healthy, with mixed generations and mixed species.
- Climate Change mitigation occurs through eco-system restoration.

Economic Change

- We have an economic system that mitigates and adapts to climate change.
- Our water and land are protected and shared with all people, all levels of income.
- Our economic transactions serve our eco-system, diminishing the impact of climate change, and ensuring sufficient food and shelter (sustainably).
- Economic transactions include cooperatives (housing and food), circular economy, local economy, gift economy and sharing economy.
- We have shifted to locally grown food, and locally produced food and necessities.
- We have shifted away from waste and consumerism to zero-waste.
- Our economic system has shifted to include Indigenous knowledge of living with the land.
- There are sufficient jobs in line with doughnut economic principles.
- We measure economic well-being based on doughnut economics rather than GDP.
- We have healthy civic participation.

Health and Well-being

- Collaboration with Indigenous communities includes holistic practices/traditions.
- There are no unhoused people, and everyone has a living income.
- Community is epitomized by neighbourhoods that come together, plan together and share.
- We have adequate emergency services, staffed by well supported emergency responders.
- Climate anxiety and grief are addressed through effective supports and reduced through adaptive actions.
- Hospice care is available on Gabriola.

Transportation

- There are better bike lanes and paths everywhere, including through the forests.
- There is better infrastructure for bike riders (better covered parking, ebike chargers).
- There is a safe, easy and accessible route for bikes going to and from ferry.
- Bike sharing and electric vehicle sharing are available.
- Active transportation connections are in place around the island.
- A moratorium on new roads is in place.
- There are improved routes and frequencies of public transit.
- Active transportation and public transportation are integrated.

Reducing Consumption and Rethinking Waste

- Neighbourhood focused resource sharing is available (e.g. for tools, seldom-used appliances, freezer space, fish smokers, etc.)
- There is cohesive communication, with full island coverage, for neighbourhood resources networks and emergency support.
- There is an enhanced system for community resource redistribution (so excess and waste can be repurposed where it is needed)
- Organic waste is converted to biodiesel, biogas, biochar, and compost.
- We take care of our own waste – there is no “away.”
- No single use containers are used.

Water

- The people of Gabriola understand that water is connected to all life and cannot be owned.
- Clean, safe water is available for every living organism.
- There is a shift in attitude to stewardship, conserving, and adaptation to climate change.
- The majority of water consumed is from rainwater harvesting.
- There are limits on new wells drilled and on the rate of water extraction
- We are self-sufficient in our water use.
- Composting toilets and grey water use are allowed and encouraged.
- Water is stored for community use.
- Multifamily units and commercial units have access to rainwater harvesting.
- Development Permit Areas are in place to protect water catchment areas.

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Appendix — Verbatim list of written comments, by table

Climate-12 OCP Visioning 2050 session

41 participants

Tuesday Feb. 20, 2024, 7:00–8:30 at Ground Up

Agriculture & Food Security

1. Water storage required to accomplish agriculture during the dry season
 - Rainwater capture — tank farm, reservoir, other
2. Crops resistant to drought
 - Seed bank
3. Want farm-to-table that is affordable to consumer
 - Can residential land-owners sell excess?
 - Locally grown food needs to be less expensive than imported food
 - Initiatives for young people to get into farming
4. More pies! Easy for farmers, entrepreneurs to sell their prepared food products
5. Composting on-island

Buildings & Energy

[Focus on] what we want, not what is presently possible.

[Focus on] the inappropriately housed — balancing human need with sustainable housing

- Focus on housing close to the Village [i.e. close to services]
- [Current] building code does not help us create energy efficient housing
- Bringing old houses up to code
- Affordably heat old houses
- [Create] an “experimental building zone” for housing experimentation
- If we forbid wells and require alternatives (e.g. rainwater catchment) going forward, it would have a dampening effect on population growth.

Biodiversity

Climate change adaptation requires that information is dynamically monitored! — pests, species changing, soil health, tree and forest health, water flows.

Fire management

- To determine how and where to cut trees to benefit the drying ecosystem

Climate science

- Where do we need to protect wetlands to sequester water and [protect] habitat?

Fuel Management

- Do’s and don’t’s for cutting trees
- Conservation cutting
- WAYS to maintain water in an area

- No slash piles — chip woody debris
- * Informed by Indigenous ways of knowing

[General]

- Incentives and education for land owners to lessen impacts of development, or offset with revegetation/rehabilitation
- Carbon bank — if you need to withdraw to make a development, you need to put back in
- Forests are healthy with mixed generations and mixed species

Water balance/budgeting

- Where to develop/not to develop
- Slowing water flow from the source

Economic Change

We take the power back, as a caring and involved community, from greed- and corporate-driven objectives.

- Take care of our own waste — there is no “away”
- Our water and land is protected, and shared with all people at all levels of income.
- Our economic transactions need to serve our ecosystem, and ensure enough food and shelter — sustainable
- Economic transactions → cooperatives, circular economy, local [economy], gift economy, sharing economy
- Locally grown and locally produced food and necessities
- Cultural shift away from waste and consumerism, to zero waste
- Jobs are in local food production and reusing resources
- Measuring based on doughnut economics, rather than GDP
- Economic activity that preserves the environment and diminishes the impact of climate change
- Economic system shifts ~~to us living with the same attitude as the First Nations~~ [to incorporate Indigenous knowledge of living with the land]

On table paper:

- A circular economy includes a healthy community that participates in civic work
- Before colonization, approx. 5,000 people lived here in a sustainable lifestyle
- How do we take the power back?

Health & Well-Being

On table paper:

- Consultation, collaboration with Indigenous communities on health and wellness — holistic practices/traditions
- No unsheltered people ... living incomes ... no poverty
- Community — training, come together [as] neighbourhoods, free first aid courses, gathering places
- Support for GALLT, PHC ... more staff for LifeLabs

- Health and wellness of first responders, emergency personnel on Gabriola
- Counselling for climate change stress and grief
- Fulsome ESS (as advertised)

Transportation

Getting around on bikes

- [Covered] bicycle storage and parking at ferry and Village
- Better bike lanes, bike sequence for [ferry] exits
- Ebike charging stations
- Bike sharing
- People and bikers need a better way up from the ferry
- Traffic-flow change to one-way around island
- Bike paths in the woods ... interconnections between north and south roads

Other

- Moratorium on [creating] additional roads
- Mudge parking solutions — taxi, bridge, cable car
- Improve bus routes and frequencies
- Light rail by 2050
- Better integration between ... bus, ferry, Hullo ferry
- Change traffic flow on North and South Roads

Reducing Consumption, Rethinking Waste

- Neighbourhood-focused resource sharing — tools, seldom-used appliances, freezer space, fish smokers
- Cohesive communication for neighbourhood resource networks and emergency support
- A platform for community resource redistribution, so excess and waste can be repurposed where it is needed
- More support of organic waste to be converted to biodiesel, biogas, compost soil.
- Allowance for composting toilets and greywater use
- Grassroots rideshare and delivery relay, as part of overall community communication network ... specific strategic locations e.g. ferry, neighbourhood hubs ... not dependent on cell network
- Reduce use of single-use containers, via refill stores

Water

Snuneymuxw involved immediately, and by 2050 all community working together with benefit of Indigenous knowledge and wisdom

- Clean, safe, affordable water for everyone is a basic human right
- Shift in attitude and education — the way we've "always done it" doesn't work for future stewardship and conserving
- Shift from wells to cisterns ... possibly a new policy about who gets to drill wells

- Issue: Bigger demand for water in future because of population change ... Is there a way to control population increase? What about the increase when Snuneymuxw move here?
- Rainwater harvesting for multi-unit residences as primary water source
- Reference [material] for rainwater harvesting and greywater use
- Community reservoir, or way to harvest/store rainwater for community
- Streamline procedures/protocols/permits so harvesting water is more accessible, and greywater can be used to its fullest potential
- Question about municipal funding of water services, and support for water
- Less reliance on delivered water (ideally [we are] self-reliant)

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