

Climate-12 Action Team Conveners meeting #9

Thursday, 19 Sept. 2024, 3:00 pm, library

Introductions

6 here — Fay (Economic Change), Greg (Arts & Culture), Deb (Biodiversity), Hans (Buildings & Energy), Ivan (here for Steve, Transportation), Julian (interested in biochar)

Action Team reports

Biodiversity — Deb

Not much happening locally over summer, but several interesting things worldwide:

- *Souder* article over summer, looking for mapping volunteers for land types, ecosystems, etc. in Salish Sea area, for landowners and government. Deb is following the progress ... may tie in with our OCP review for stronger ecosystem.
- Province is still working on legislation re ecosystem protection. Deb is following.
- England launched a “biodiversity credit scheme” (the Nature Market), mandating that all new building projects have a 10 percent net gain in biodiversity.

Buildings & Energy — Hans

- Rob West’s renovation of the Switzer farmhouse is nearly done ... monitoring everything going into the reno. Family is living in the house now. Rob is waiting for some final energy reports to come in, then he wants to present to C-12 Conveners, in prep for a full community presentation.
- Associated farm stand in producing well.
- The group started with 6 people, but is now down to just 2. A public event could be good for recruiting.

Transportation — Ivan, standing in for Steve

- C-12 group has morphed into Gabriola Transportation Society. People felt creating a nonprofit society would better address the original goals.
- Purpose: to comment on transportation issues as they arise, respond to gov’t decisions, propose transportation improvements, organize public events.

Activities:

- Worked with SpeedWatch program to gather data ... ~12 volunteers ... basically a driver educational tool
- Sent letter to Ferry Advisory Committee, urging safety measures on Ferry Hill
- Met with local MLA to get various agencies moving on transpo issues.
- Organized public Speed Limits Forum (June) ... “Should speed limits be lowered?” — varied responses.

- Field trip to Mayne and North Pender Islands, to research their transportation improvements. Mayne (pop. 1300 people) just completed a 2.5-km trail to their ferry! Funded by CRD; they made their request in 2022. North Pender gets their road lines & safety markings redone every 6 months, also has full highway-sized direction signs! We looked at their “car-stop” system (regular sign, shelter for getting a lift from passing drivers). Impression that CRD’s MOTI managers are more responsive to community requests than ours are.
- The priority is Ferry Hill. Hoping to assemble a working steering group, with reps from MOTI, RDN, Ferries, community.
- Planning a second public forum, in partnership with Wellness Collaborative, to bring over Dr Jeff Brubaker, UBC faculty of emergency medicine, who does road safety research.

Biochar — Julian

Nothing official to report; general discussion.

- Should we try to procure a transportable, community biochar kiln? Gerry was looking into some funding sources.
- The idea of a Gabriola “carbon fund,” for people to offset their carbon emissions at \$80/tonne (current carbon price), proceeds used to fund island climate projects.
- Gerry (by email): hopes to meet with fire dept, GaLLT, etc. to look for solutions to woody debris.

Economic Change — Fay

- Held Fixit Fair in July, not as much demand as anticipated. Another one in November, at Agi Hall. Have about 8 regular fixers. People also learning how to fix things themselves.
- Idea for reviving older computers with Linux.
- Had a table at Community Garage Sale at Commons, made good connections.
- Fay and Jinny have figured out indicators (e.g. heating source, clothes drying, buy local food, etc.). Meeting later this month to push forward.

No reports:

Arts & culture — Greg

Water — Joan

Food & Agriculture — Susan

Health & Wellness – Tawny

Next Convenors meeting:

Thursdays are hard for Steve, Hans, Deb, others. Propose change to 3:00 on third Tuesday, every second month. Tentative next meeting: check if ~~Tue-19-Nov 3:00-4:30~~ works for library booking.
 [Edit: after checking with library, meeting is **Tue-19-Nov., 1:30-3:00**]

Other info

- Climate-12 is getting rolling again after the summer. We've got some funds available (~\$2,000), for groups that need seed funding for events, publicity (e.g. Water team wants to hold a public event).
- Gabr'hoods initiative — 5 or 6 neighbourhoods got \$40 funding for neighbourhood organizing. More \$40 seed grants still available.
- The upcoming provincial election is a great opportunity to raise environmental concern. **All-Candidates Meeting on 28-Sep.** Idea: Get C-12 or SusGabe to send an environmental questionnaire (e.g. 3 questions) to all candidates, asking for response, and publicize the results to our audience.

Something would need to go out to candidates soon (in next week or so). Climate-12 group can solicit the questions. Ivan will draft some transportation-related questions. Put out email from Climate12Action@gmail.com to Convenors, asking for suggested environmental questions to go to all candidates.

- Deb: The Commons has in the past explored a biochar site and workshop. Our efforts could be umbrella'd under Farm Team.

Initiatives starting up again after summer:

- Gabriola Climate Action Charter — Deb
- Sustainable Gabriola Climate Action Communications Plan

Recent event Climate Grief event (last Saturday at library) ... ~50 people there ... presented many (depressing) facts, but a bit short on local actions ... Idea to have Shelagh Huston lead a debrief session, and also talk about her *Living into the Earth Emergency* group, starting in January.

Over: 16:05

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