

Climate-12 Action Team Convenors meeting #11

Tuesday, November 19, 2024, 1:30pm, library

Here: Betty Kehler, Joan Johnson, Fay Weller, Greg Blee, Susan Swift (notes)

Regrets: Steve Earle, Hans van Kessel

1. Action Team updates

Agriculture & Food Security (Betty) — Had only one consistent participant in the Learners' Garden, the Mentors Project also didn't seem to take off. Members of the group (5–6) stopped meeting. Although Betty continued offering her skills in preserving, freeze drying, dehydrating, juicing mostly in connection with the Agi Coop (about 2,500 L of apple juice produced!). Food security is what links everything together. Susan & Betty will call a few people together to check the pulse of the community to see if more people want to be involved in climate-related Food Security (gleaning fruit, building soil, seed saving, regulations re: goat milk, etc.)

Steve Earle is investigating the idea of a “Gabriola Diet” (local version of the 100-mile diet). It would entail sourcing all food on Gabriola. This may fit under the category of Food & Ag and inform the community about what we need to cultivate to be more self reliant.

Water (Joan) — We have four active members: Howard Bashaw, Margie Gilmore, Joan Johnson, and Steve Usher. We should be ready to share a draft of the Water Guide soon. It's an in-depth resource about wells, cisterns, regulations, best practices, etc. To keep it concise, it has hyperlinks to regulations and other details. We want to publish a physical copy as well as an online version. It should come to the Coordinators for input soon.

Economic Change (Fay) — The Fix-It Fair in early November was a great success. The next one is coming in Spring (March or April). The group has a draft of the survey (in Survey Planet) that will go out to the public soon. They are trying to keep it to 12 questions, very quick to fill out. Circulating it for approval! How will it be distributed? We will put the link in a lot of different places, also paper copies.

For biochar, Blue Heron Learning Society applied for a PICS grant to buy a smaller, lighter kiln from Salt Spring Island to loan or rent out. Someone may donate money to buy it (\$1,700 plus the cost to transport it here). Robbie and Mary will give a biochar workshop in the spring.

Buildings & Energy (Hans, by email) — nothing to report. Rob will be giving a presentation on the farmhouse project, but he's not ready yet.

Arts & Culture (Greg) — talked to Chelsea of GAC to get her opinion. She was clear that art & culture workers each have their own motivations. And, the Arts Council is strapped right now —

there was a lot of funding during COVID but it has dried up. But there is some funding for climate now — maybe we could partner with the Arts Council? Also met Barbara Adler from “The Only Animal,” a theatre company on the Sunshine Coast that does art & theatre events focused on climate. Possible partnership?

On Sat., January 25 2-4pm, Steve Earle & Greg are planning a “Climate Emergency Reading” at the library. There may be a visual art component as well, and they are hoping that it won’t be all grim.

Health & Well-Being — Greg is communicating with H&WB people about what they are interested in doing relative to climate. He will advise them that Joan and Steven would like to meet to explore ideas (especially Neighbourhoods). Susan is working on an article about the mapping project but is waiting until there is a “neighbourhoods” group or Convenor to refer people to.

Biodiversity — no report

Transportation — no report

2. Other info

Calendar & Communications

Greg has updated the email and web address so that Climate12 is easier to access: new email is GabriolaClimate12@gmail.com, new web page is SustainableGabriola.ca/climate12.

Susan & Greg are creating an (internal) communications calendar to track and plan events throughout the year. Having monthly activities and regular news/posts will help keep Climate initiatives on people’s minds and promote opportunities for engagement. If you have a climate-related event or initiative that needs promotion, please let them know.

A few things for the calendar:

- Fix-It Fairs
- Biochar workshop (spring)
- Carbon Offset Program announcement
- Gabriola Water Guide release
- January 25 Climate Reading at the library
- The Re-Energized Building presentation (Rob West)

Joan & Greg talked about the idea of doing more videos to disseminate info.

Upcoming Events

- Sunday, Nov. 24 3pm, Sustainable Gabriola at The Commons.

- Tuesday, Dec. 3, 7–9pm, Linda Gilkeson “Gardening in a Changing Climate” webinar, registration: revenue-can.keela.co/linda-gilkeson-webinar-registration-dec24 (pay what you can).
- January to March, “Living Into the Earth Emergency” course offered by Shelagh Huston TalkEarthEmergency.com — three concurrent sessions, the nine-week course has waitlists for each session.
- January Garden Club Meeting: featuring Betty Kehler in a learning quiz event.

Convenors meeting time (discussion)

Tuesday afternoons 1:30–3:00 don’t work for everyone. Maybe:

- Mondays, 3:00–4:30 at Fay’s house (110 McConvey) as library is closed.
- Tuesdays, 3:00–4:30 in Commons Conversation Room (if available).

Greg will find a third day/time/place option, circulate all to Convenors to see what works best.

“Everything is connected.” Amen!

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