



ISLANDS 2050 - FACT SHEET

CLIMATE CHANGE

In 2019, Trust Council declared a climate emergency and committed to urgent and equitable climate action across the Trust Area. The Trust Area will see rising sea levels, flooding, windstorms, droughts, and wildfires, among other impacts.

On small islands, an important part of preventing community impacts from climate change is preserving, protecting, and restoring the natural areas, processes, and biodiversity of island ecosystems.

The forests, wetlands, eelgrass meadows, and other natural areas in the Trust Area also play important roles in capturing and storing carbon.

In 2018, Trust Area forests absorbed the equivalent of carbon emissions from over 40,000 cars. All levels of government have a role to play in preventing and adapting to climate change. The Province of British Columbia has required that local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality have greenhouse gas reduction targets, policies, and actions in their official community plans.

Challenges

Through the first phase of public engagement (Fall 2019), the following themes emerged as priority concerns regarding climate change:

- Ecosystem Change
- Water
- Land and Marine Use Decision-Making
- Governance
- Transportation
- Community Resilience
- Food Security
- Fire Risks
- Education
- Sea Level Rise

Opportunities

In the second phase of public engagement (Winter 2021), based on public feedback, and other inputs, several guiding principles and policy goals were identified to guide changes to the Policy Statement, including:

- Ensure climate action policies and processes are inclusive of Indigenous ways of knowing, Cultural Knowledge Holders, and First Nations' relationship with the land

Opportunities (Continued)

- Adopt precautionary approaches to decision-making
- Support bolder environmental protections of natural area carbon sinks, freshwater sustainability, and nearshore ecosystems
- Mitigate wildfire risks through land use planning, advocacy, and outreach
- Foster low-carbon, low-impact land use planning
- Seek nature-based solutions and area-based approaches to land use decision-making

How does the Draft New Policy Statement address Climate Change?

Draft policies addressing climate change have been woven throughout the Draft New Policy Statement. These draft policies acknowledge the interconnectedness of ecosystems and communities in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Draft Commitments and Coordination Policies of Trust Council call for:

- Climate vulnerability assessments in each local planning area
- Decision-making guided by the Precautionary Principle and the best available science, Indigenous ways of knowing, and local knowledge
- Advocacy for legislation to prohibit clear cutting and logging of old growth
- Nature-based climate solutions that provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.

Draft Directive Policies would require local trust committees and island municipalities, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, to:

- Regulate land use and development in ways that reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Identify ways to reduce climate vulnerability, safeguard natural area carbon sinks and freshwater sustainability, and mitigate wildfire risk in each local planning area
- Adopt bolder protections of nearshore ecosystems and soft shorelines
- Ensure that new development is small-scale and energy-efficient
- Establish appropriate floor area and lot coverage limits for residential development
- Foster active transportation networks to support electric vehicles and electric bicycles



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

[ISLANDS 2050 WEBPAGE](#)

[ISLANDS 2050 INTRODUCTION VIDEO](#)

[PHASE 1 WHAT WE HEARD REPORT](#)

[PHASE 2 ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS](#)

[ISLANDS TRUST CLIMATE CHANGE WEBPAGE](#)

[TRUST COUNCIL'S DECLARATION OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY](#)