



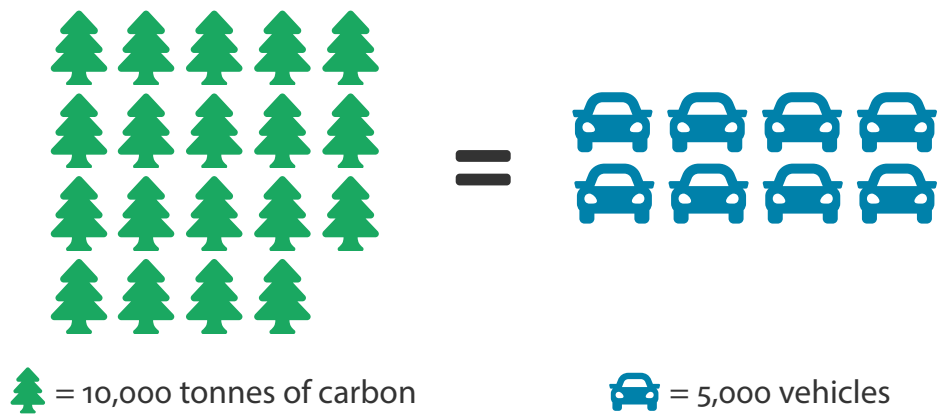
# ISLANDS 2050 - FACT SHEET

## FOREST STEWARDSHIP

The Islands Trust Area is located within the Coastal Douglas-fir and Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zones, and is home to an exceptionally high biodiversity of rare and culturally significant species, including over 100 federally-listed and over 300 provincially-listed species at risk. These ecosystems are classified as ‘sensitive’ because of their rarity and vulnerability to disturbances such as human impacts and climate change.

The Trust Area also plays a role in provincial and national efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by capturing and storing carbon in natural areas. In 2018, forests in the Trust Area absorbed the equivalent of carbon emissions from over 40,000 cars. Healthy trees and forests also play important roles in protecting freshwater, mitigating wildfire risk, maintaining biodiversity, and providing wildlife habitat and migration corridors.

**Carbon Capture in the Trust Area**  
Forests in the Trust Area absorb approximately 190,506 tonnes of carbon per year, which is equal to the emissions from about 40,240 vehicles



## Forest Stewardship and the Draft New Policy Statement

There are no significant proposed updates to directive policies for local trust committees and island municipalities in this section.

### Advocacy for Authority to Regulate Tree Cutting:

There are proposed draft commitments and coordination policies that signal Trust Council's intentions to advocate to the provincial government for authority to regulate tree cutting in the Trust Area. If the Province were to change its legislation to give local trust committees this authority, local trust committees can then decide if they wish to develop a tree protection bylaw locally. Any new bylaw would involve public and First Nations engagement before consideration of adoption. Such bylaws would consider residents' abilities to remove danger trees, collect firewood, or perform regular land maintenance on their properties.

### Advocacy for Stronger Provincial Legislation:

There are also proposed draft commitments and coordination policies of Trust Council that signal its intentions to advocate to the Ministry of Forests to prohibit any clear-cutting of forests or logging of old-growth trees in the Trust Area. These proposed draft policies acknowledge that these activities can impact fragile ecosystems, environmental integrity, and natural area carbon sinks in the Trust Area.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:**

[ISLANDS 2050 WEBPAGE](#)

[ISLANDS 2050 PROJECT INTRODUCTION VIDEO](#)

[ISLANDS TRUST FOREST PROTECTION WEBPAGE](#)