

Greenhouse Gas Workshop

OCP Update Steering Committee/Islands Trust

January 21st, 2010: Collins Hall

Dr. Pam Shaw, Vancouver Island University, led a workshop that was organised by the Islands Trust (and held on several other member islands) and hosted by the OCP Update Steering Committee. Approximately 40 people attended. The workshop was divided into a PowerPoint presentation and 'table' discussions. This report summarises the workshop.

1. Dr. Shaw's presentation (selected items) (see www.BowenOCPUpdate.ca for full presentation)
 - There can be individual island targets or collective targets (the former is being pursued)
 - "the small islands are the canaries in the coal mine" for monitoring climate change (CC)
 - Potential CC impacts on islands:
 - Decrease in potable water
 - Damage to coastal buildings, natural features and infrastructure
 - Increase in species migration and decrease in native species
 - Increase in landslides and road washouts
 - Increase in soil erosion
 - Increase in groundwater contamination through saline migration
 - Regulatory considerations:
 - Bill 27 Section 877 (3) requires GHG emission targets, policies and actions
 - BC Climate Change Charter '07 (Bowen was a signatory municipality)
 - Two approaches:
 - Overarching target (challenge need solid inventory of measurable data)
 - Specific targets (problem lack specific inventory data)
 - Islands Trust has adopted 15% reduction by 2015 and 85% reduction by 2050
 - Examples from other Islands Trust members:

- Denman OCP: exploring transition town concept
- Salt Spring OCP: set baseline; village centred which reduces new GHG's by 22%; building sq footage measured to inside walls to promote use of alternative materials; promoted on-island food processing facilities and community market

2. Discussions at tables

There were 6 tables with six themes: building design, energy sources, environment,

farming and agriculture, land use, transportation.

- environment:
 - support “preserve and protect”
 - complete detailed biophysical inventory
 - enforce steep slope bylaw
 - protect heritage resources in Cove and elsewhere
 - use DCC's for parkland designation
 - determine Bowen's environmental footprint
- building design:
 - change building bylaws to permit alternative building forms that support energy conservation, cob houses, cistern with windmill, solar panels
 - wave setbacks where flexibility permits alternative energy efficient building forms
 - adopt green incentives such as tax credits, reduced fees, speedier approvals
 - educate SF builders re opportunities to reduce energy consumption
- energy sources:
 - most water volume in coldest months: potential for mini hydro projects
 - increasing energy storage from hydro production
 - potential for community woodlots to supply wood fuel (how clean/ efficient is it?)
- farming and agriculture:
 - community demonstration gardens provide social means for learning and keeping knowledge going

- inventory of lands to identify potential agricultural production sites
 - can we produce food on Bowen for Bowen?
 - Livestock: in what context can we do it?
 - Cooperative agriculture that shares costs of production
 - Improve soils through composting
 - Use of density transfer to promote agriculture through trust fund
 - transportation:
 - existing ferry not fuel efficient (but a new ferry might promote increase in vehicle use and defeat potential gain in efficiency)
 - reduce ferry GHG by cutting out some low use sailings
 - promote car stops, lifts
 - promote everyday food distribution (like old milk delivery) in association with small website for convenience store
 - bus service should be expanded and needs to serve more than commuter
 - provide drive/ride along bus route and more bus shelters
 - land use:
 - need better understanding of tree contribution to carbon sequestration and include in carbon equation
 - promote clustering that preserves large tracts of land and trees in Cove
 - provide tax credit for keeping land in natural state
-