



Leading in a Climate Emergency – Break Out Session Summary HOWE SOUND COMMUNITY FORUM October 25, 2019

HSCF Communities that have passed Climate Emergency Declarations - Current to January 2019

- District of Squamish
- District of West Vancouver
- Bowen Island Municipality
- Islands Trust
- Squamish Lillooet Regional District
- Metro Vancouver Area A
- Sunshine Coast Regional District and Town of Gibsons (urged Province to declare a Climate Emergency)

Key Themes. This synthesis presents key themes surfaced in the Break-out discussion. Detailed table notes/transcriptions are available upon request.

What meaningful actions and bold moves is your community taking to address the climate emergency?

- Integration of climate declarations in strategic plans, budgeting; redirecting resources, creation of climate leadership teams (internal, external with community), zero waste teams and working groups, shifting policies and operations (procurement policies, remote meetings to reduce carbon footprint)
- Energy and Emissions Planning – inventories and target setting, refining plans, increasing collaboration and sharing at regional level
- Transportation planning – advancing regional transit, free transit under 18, electrification of fleets (EV, e-bikes)
- Green Building – step code implementation and advancing targets
- Ecosystem Based Management and Protection – watershed and ecosystem protection strategies, foreshore protection areas, conservancies and land trusts, community forests, evaluating forest/canopy health, living dikes
- Asset Management (Natural Capital) – developing and implementing NC accounting frameworks (Gibsons, West Vancouver). [Learn more here.](#)
- Accelerating climate adaptation and emergency management planning (flood hazard management plans, wildfire risk reduction measures and development permit areas, financing sea level rise measures.

How are engaging on, operationalizing and prioritizing climate action plans?

- Campaigns, community engagement and education to shift norms, choices; youth initiatives
- Integrating internal and community environmental and climate advisories and working groups
- Incentives – zero emissions, from gas to electric heating systems, taxation, pay parking and transit investments
- Monitoring and research – base line community-wide data, report cards, natural asset inventories, studies and plans (ground water protection, forest management, harbour plans)
- Decision support – climate considerations in all reports, impact assessments and accounting
- Growth management – focused growth areas, limiting footprints and sprawl,

How can we support each other? What is the role of the HSCF in this work?

- Regional level climate planning and coordination; considering ‘transboundary’ issues, priorities and solutions/actions amongst Howe Sound communities
- Leadership – commitment to stepping up together; building increasing advocacy/collective voice and lobby (climate accountability,
- Build shared knowledge base, data pooling, resources and best practices; tracking actions and improvements, + dialogue opportunities for learning and networking (staff, elected officials)
- Improve coordination, joint funding, opportunities through procurement (equipment, renewable energy).

