



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

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### **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 are appended for the record.

### **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 SLR 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).

