

# GABRIOLA

# OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN REVIEW

# Discussion Guides CLIMATE CHANGE

## What is a Discussion Guide?

The Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee is updating the Official Community Plan (OCP) – which guides development to align with the community's vision and values on a variety of topics. This guide is designed to provide community members with background needed to provide feedback on policy options related to climate change.

Climate change is a primary lens influencing policy development throughout the Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw updates. As such, the engagement process has been designed in a way that promotes climate change as a point of discussion in all topic areas.

Share your thoughts through focus groups, direct communication with the Local Trust Committee and the Gabriola OCP Review Topic-Focused Engagement online survey (December, 2024 - April, 2025).

## What is an Official Community Plan (OCP) for Gabriola Island?

**The OCP implements the community's vision.**

It provides a long-term strategy for land use management, outlining broad objectives and policies to guide future growth and development of the community.

**The OCP must align with higher level policies.**

These include the Local Government Act, the Islands Trust Act, and the Islands Trust Policy Statement. This ensures that local plans are consistent with regional and provincial directives.

## What is NOT part of an Official Community Plan for Gabriola Island?

The OCP is not a zoning bylaw or detailed regulatory document. Specific regulations and enforcement mechanisms are found in the Land Use Bylaw (LUB) and must be consistent with the OCP.

The OCP does not include the provision of infrastructure or services. Infrastructure such as sewer, or roads, and community services within the Islands Trust Area are the responsibility of other levels of government.

## What does the current OCP say about Climate Change?

Gabriola's OCP fulfills the Local Government Act requirements to include greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. Policies and actions include a target of 33% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions compared to 2007 by 2020, and an 85% reduction by 2025.

Policies focus on:

- Land conservation
- Using a climate mitigation and adaptation lens when looking at development applications
- Creation of development permit areas and guidelines
- Increasing walkability and encouraging alternatives to car use
- Setbacks from the sea that consider sea level change

The actions proposed are all education and advocacy in nature and include:

- Promoting the Islands Trust Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program
- Encouraging provincial agencies to take a "small ecological footprint" approach to infrastructure
- Encouraging the Province to support water conservation, rainwater catchment and alternative forms of septic treatment
- Encouraging the Province to implement sustainable, ecologically safe forestry practices
- Encouraging Islands Trust to add a "carbon neutral calculator" to the Islands Trust website
- Encouraging high energy efficiency building design
- Encouraging residents to avoid backyard burning and encourage minimal soil disturbance
- Encouraging ride sharing
- Encouraging production of renewable energy

## Exploring Climate Change

Given climate change is a lens through which to view all policy options, realistic climate change targets, policies and actions should be considered.

Existing climate change targets for Gabriola are not realistic in the face of a growing population, and are hard to measure. More realistic targets for the OCP could focus on specific areas where the Islands Trust and Local Trust Committee have some level of influence such as: increasing land designated for conservation and increasing residential density within walking distance of the village core.

The bulk of actions and policies should be directly related to what the Local Trust Committee has jurisdiction over. Education and advocacy actions should be limited and reflect what is achievable by the LTC or Islands Trust Council.

The [Climate 12-12-12](#) project is an excellent local source of information relating to climate change impacts and actions that can be taken at the community level to address climate change.

## What we Heard

Much of the feedback received through the Gabriola Visioning 2050 process identified concerns related to climate change. Most community members engaging with that process and discussions related to principles and goals understand climate change as a clear reality that will impact the future of Gabriola's ecosystems and community. There were many responses related to the need to adapt to potential impacts such as fire and drought.

For details on community visioning and resulting goals and principle see: <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/document/gabriola-visioning-2050-what-we-heard-report/>

## How do you feel about Climate Change as it relates to the OCP?

### We want to hear from you!

The survey is open to all Gabriola residents! Answer the survey to tell us what you think about climate change, or any of the other topics that Gabriola residents told us is important during the last round of engagement. Complete the survey online, or contact Islands Trust to complete a paper version of the survey.

Stay up to date by subscribing to updates or following along on the project page: [islandstrust.bc.ca/island-planning/gabriola/projects/gabriola-ocpreview](https://islandstrust.bc.ca/island-planning/gabriola/projects/gabriola-ocpreview)



[www.surveymonkey.com/r/GabriolaOCPFocus](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GabriolaOCPFocus)

# GABRIOLA ISLAND community snapshot CLIMATE CHANGE



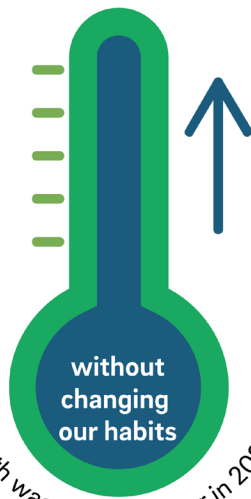
## Annual Temperature Trends

### Trends

**+4.0 ° warmer**  
by 2080

**+2.5 ° warmer**  
by 2050

*\*Compared to pre-industrial temperatures*



Earth was ~ 1.4° warmer in 2023 than in the late 19th century (1850-1900)

## Sea Level Trends

Since 1990, sea levels along the coast of B.C. have risen by

**~3.5 mm per year**

By **2050\***, they may rise by an additional

**+30 - 60cm**

*(\*under high-emission scenarios)*

By **2100\*** they may reach up to

**+ 1 m**

these changes could impact:

**12.86%**  
of residential lots that are within 10m of the coastline of Gabriola

**18.93%**  
of residential lots that are along the coastline of Gabriola

## Impacts on the Community

### Include:

- Increased wild fire risk
- More wind storms
- More rainfall
- Sea level rising
- Ocean acidification
- Decreased water availability
- More power outages
- Increased shoreline erosion
- Increased drought risk

### Did you know...

Some of the ways effective land use planning can reduce risk is by avoiding development near shores, creating sea level rise informed setbacks, fresh water sustainability planning and promoting fire-resilience (e.g. keeping subdivisions away from forests)



References:  
2016 Source: Statistics Canada  
2021 Source: Statistics Canada  
Islands Trust Conservancy