

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

WHO TO WRITE AND WHAT TO ASK FOR:

Up till now, we have focused on letters concerning provincial and federal climate change policies. This month, being EARTH DAY (April 22) month we are focusing on local issues for Salt Spring Island. Some you can decide to write on and some you can get involved in. You decide.

- Encourage people to leave their cars at home by supporting Gary Holman's (CRD Director) bid to get a public transit system up and running on Salt Spring.
- Make Salt Spring more friendly to non-motorized transportation by maintaining our roads and providing for bike and pedestrian lanes by writing our MLA Murray Coell and c.c. a copy of your letter to Greg Galpin, Area Manager of Ministry of Transportation.
- Work towards an anti-idling signage program by BC Ferries and working with local stores to reduce energy consumption by contacting Jan Slakov.
- Thank the Island Trust Council for their climate change planning initiative.
- Start a Ride-Share program in your neighborhood by contacting Brenda Guild.
- Attend the Imagine Salt Spring Speaker Series final presentation by **Guy Dauncy**. His topic is The Great Climate Challenge: Practical Solutions for Salt Spring. April 19th, 7:30 to 9:30 pm - Community Gospel Chapel - **FREE**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On average, it is estimated that one passenger-kilometer traveled on transit produces 79 grams of CO₂ (Green House Gas equivalents) whereas one person-kilometer traveled by urban automobiles produces 254 grams, or more than 3 times as much. A transit system for Salt Spring could make the island safer, more enjoyable to visit, be less polluting, help alleviate our parking problem and give residents and tourists a great alternative to using their cars to get around. If you would like to have public transit on SSI please write a letter to the editor of the Driftwood in support of this idea and a letter of thanks to Gary Holman for his efforts to make this happen.

Even less polluting than transit are non-motorized choices such as walking and cycling. Even though Salt Spring Island is a favorite destination for cyclist many of our roads are not bicycle and pedestrian friendly. Being a small island, the width allocated for our roads were not wide and our community has grown up around our narrow winding roadways. It is part of our charm but no longer conducive for safe bike and pedestrian use on our main roads. Motorized traffic has increased on our island. This increase in traffic, both residential and tourist, combined with inadequate bike lanes on our main roads and lack of pathways into town, has made walking and cycling more dangerous. Salt Spring needs more money spent on its roads so they are free of pot holes which can be dangerous to cyclists and so adequate bike/pedestrian lanes are provided on our main roads for people to travel on safely.

According to Alicija Rudzki, manager of the Safety, Security and Environment Dept. at BC Ferries, she hopes to have anti-idling signs up at all ferry terminals in time for the summer season. BC Ferries has already put signs up at the Tsawwassen and Horseshoe Bay terminals. This was done in conjunction with the GVRD-based group,

which set up one-day information kiosks at the terminals to help inform drivers about the reasons to keep idling to a minimum. If you would like to set up something similar at SS ferry terminals one day, please let Jan Slakov know, at 537-5251 or js@saltspring.com.

In his book, HEAT, George Monbiot describes the immense energy saving that could be made if grocery stores would make a concerted effort to reduce their energy consumption. If anyone would like to be part of a group which would contact local store owners and managers to discuss energy-saving changes they could make also contact Jan.

The Trust Council of the Islands Trust has approved up to \$20,000 in the 2007/8 budget to partner with other agencies in undertaking climate change studies including adaptation planning. Write and congratulate them for taking this planning initiative.

Brenda Guiled has set up an on-line ride-share schedule and invites people in her neighborhood to make use of it. Or start your own calendar by going to <http://freecal.brownbears.w.com/>. This web page gives you the means to set up your own neighborhood Ride-Share calendar. This calendar is interactive, and allows you and people in your neighborhood to post times, dates and destinations of trips so you can share rides. This is good for the environment, the pocketbook and will allow you to get to know your neighbors better.

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