

Conservation

Conservation – Group 1

1. Trees - great sequestration potential from standing forest
2. Have to address private land management issues more strongly - (public land is limited, not enough impact).
3. Development Permit Areas to protect water by protecting vegetation (re temperature moderation)
4. Re-establishing eelgrass (kelp on Galiano) – health and capacity of ocean ecosystems is as important as forests
5. Restoration activities – need tools to encourage this
6. Tree bylaws – cutting on private property – apparent unanimity of group on need for this on SSI/Trust area ←
7. CRD regional parks acquisition \$ - need plan for SSI to get access to these funds for priority lands
8. Riparian area vegetation - careful not to oversimplify ecology
9. Encourage land use conservation thru taxation – Trust should build on NAPTEP program.
10. Information to people whose land /trees are in sensitive area -- plus enforcement -- both are necessary
11. Burning of slash etc. should be prohibited or at least more strictly controlled, accompanied by info campaign
12. Brush clearing = habitat destruction, so it is not okay -- limits are needed.
13. Education of children for stewardship is important to continue and extend
14. Huge importance of natural carbon sinks – degradation and deforestation account for 50% of emissions in BC
 - a) need incentives for landowners – BOLD designations – new zone needed to increase forest protection
 - b) Pricing carbon effectively can be part of strategy to conserve forested land – using “offset” purchase approach
15. Ecofit – outreach to assess individual properties for landowner action
16. Carbon sink potential of ocean green plants – SSI Conservancy partnership?
17. Incentives for private property owners to do the right thing – faster change
18. Regulate all tree cutting or establish plan for designating key portions – use models like “farm status” (tax breaks)
19. Education needed about tree value re carbon sequestration even as they are dying/dead
20. Development Permit Areas for sensitive ecosystems needed
21. Goal should be to add 35% to the 15% existing protected land – i.e. 50% in total under some kind of protection ←
22. Stress on incentives
23. Also penalties
24. Strong education component e.g. real estate involvement; neighbourhood mapping.

- 25. Need for funding is huge problem – having a direct carbon price could provide funds to education/stewardship
- 26. Need funding for a workforce to do significant work of education, restoration etc – an “ecological services” corps.
- 27. Education about burning as release of carbon
- 28. Note good ideas captured by I-SEA which go out in newcomers basket -- “Living with Nature” pamphlet – get it more widely distributed

Conservation – Group 2

- 1. UN study says conservation is #1 strategy: Triple whammy:
 - a) Mitigation (i.e., less emissions); BC – 50% of our emissions from deforestation/degradation
 - b) Carbon sink maintenance and expansion as critical policy/action tool
 - c) Ecological adaptation
- 2. “Transition island” sign at/near ferry terminals -- state what our goals are – lets make a public declaration ←
- 3. Offset \$ from urban areas to rural areas that provide ecosystem services – e.g. from Surrey to SSI.
- 4. Need respected accreditation organization to manage an effective/trusted system of carbon credits
- 5. Education – “Wind in the Willows” – teaches respect for nature – also seen in Avatar
- 6. Book list for children?
- 7. Speed of change needed re climate change is dire – sense of responsibility needs to be evoked in adults asap ←
- 8. Neighbourhood mapping as a means to identify more specific priority goals for conservation – helps show what people can do on their own land (“what can I do” question answered)
- 9. Revenue sources needed – can’t do what’s needed just by volunteers – increase local taxes for this?
- 10. Give local government the role of ‘project manager’ to set up mechanisms for reaching targets
- 11. Better understanding needed of NAPTEP – simplify current rules and apply concept of carbon sequestration
- 12. Real estate education – natural land ethics/language use in ads shouldn’t invite cutting (“view property” etc.)
- 13. Being a green realtor is “cool” – how to spread that idea, build that partnership?
- 14. Possible partner for some kinds of projects: Real Estate Foundation
- 15. BC Hydro cutting policies – need modification and more effective “protocols” with Trust
- 16. Certification of green real estate agents?
- 17. Support for writers to bring message is part of what funds are needed for.

Conservation Highlights

1. **Strengthen Environmental Development Permit Areas** – they provide ecological services, both for mitigation and adaptation. Set a target of 50% of the island protected in some form, with varying land uses in “carbon buffer areas”. Address deforestation, encourage restoration.
2. **Education:** Funded and staffed outreach to landowners, realtors, children (leverage parents), existing Salt Spring Island organizations, etc. Encourage people to implement various ways of reaching GHG reductions.
3. **Incentives:** Look at and explore the conservation offset approach, with backup enforcement. Also modification of NAPTEP. In general the group wanted to stress the power of incentives as a positive and effective policy tool and urge Trust to explore all possible ways to use that approach actively and concretely within its powers and jurisdiction, and in influencing other agencies/levels of government.
4. **Partnerships:** Look for partnerships between the Trust and other agencies with overlapping responsibilities that relate to climate change through conservation -- such as BC Hydro (and Highways) re their cutting strategies, ocean authorities re better protection of plant life in relation to sequestration (role only beginning to be understood by public), CRD Parks re priority forested lands, Ag Land Comm to get climate objectives built into their decision making on agricultural land, etc.