



Islands Trust

# News Release

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## SUSTAINABILITY CHECKLIST FOR HOMEOWNERS TO BE RELEASED

Salt Spring Island —

Islands Trust and Capital Regional District elected officials will join forces on August 6 to launch the Salt Spring Island Sustainability Checklist for Single Family Dwellings. The Checklist is a guide that allows property owners to design in a manner that will save long term costs and lessen damage on our fragile environment. Information about financial incentives and other construction resources is also included.

The Sustainability Checklist will be unveiled at the Local Trust Committee meeting on August 6<sup>th</sup>, starting at noon at the Art Spring Theatre. Champions of energy awareness and primary authors of the Checklist, Elizabeth White and Marion Pape will present the Checklist on behalf of Salt Spring's Earth Festival Society. The Checklist offers practical tips on renewable energy, water conservation, tree removal, and building design as well links to government grants available to home owners and landlords.

Financial support for Salt Spring Island's Sustainability Checklist was provided by the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and the Fraser Basin Council through the Community Action on Energy Efficiency (CAEE) Gold Program. The CAEE promotes energy efficiency in new and existing buildings, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Salt Spring Island was one of five communities awarded funds for innovative programs to reduce energy consumption. The Capital Regional District and the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee provided additional financial support for the project.

The Sustainability Checklist will be available on Salt Spring in the fall at the Islands Trust office and at the Capital Regional District Building Department to all persons applying for development and building permits. Through a preliminary feedback period, applicants will be invited to comment on the value of the Checklist in informing them of design options, critical environmental considerations, and grant opportunities.

Copies of the Sustainability Checklist will be available on August 6<sup>th</sup> and will be available online as a resource to all persons interested in sustainable living.

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*Preserving Island communities, culture and environment*

Bowen, Denman, Hornby, Gabriola, Galiano, Gambier, Lasqueti, Mayne, N. Pender, Salt Spring, Saturna, S. Pender, Thetis