

Greater Victoria Climate Hub

Non-profit uses new tool to host climate workshops

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Climate Action Planner

! Quick Tips



CLIMATE LEADERS
PLAYBOOK

**this tool is for BC local governments to explore community-wide climate actions. For a detailed plan with community-specific assumptions, please contact CEA.*

In the graphs below, "BAU" = Business As Usual

Viewing Charts For:

Choose a Community to Get Started

Working across diverse communities to tackle climate change is nothing new for Dawn Moorhead of the Greater Victoria Climate Hub project (the Hub). But when she learned of the Community Energy Association (CEA)'s new interactive planning tool, she immediately saw how it might be used to tailor solutions to each community's situation.

CEA's Climate Action Planner starts by creating draft energy and emissions inventories for any local government or Islands Trust area in B.C. From there, users can conduct simplified modelling to see the effectiveness of implementing various actions to meet GHG reduction targets.

With the tool, communities can quickly see their largest sources of emissions to 2020 — something that was not always so easily available. During the workshops, participants choose different emissions reduction solutions, such as more energy-efficient homes or electric cars, and see the various effects of these options modelled right before their eyes. Gabriola Islanders, for example, are taking a closer look at electric vehicles after their workshop.

Since the tool launched in October 2020, the Hub has been using it to host climate planning workshops with many groups, including Gabriola Island, Cowichan Valley, Port Hardy, Port Alberni, Nanaimo, and Campbell River.

"It was energizing and motivating to contemplate concrete actions we can take to lessen the impacts of climate change. My library colleagues were also very impressed, and eager to bring the Climate Planner Tool to their own communities. I strongly encourage other community groups, and municipal and regional governments, to get involved with this initiative."

LAURA KAMINKER

Vancouver Island Regional Library
Library Manager, Port Alice, Port Hardy, Port McNeill, Sointula, and Woss branches Vancouver Island Regional Library

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The Hub uses the tool in two ways. First, to preview how it works and second to help users plan actions to reduce emissions, usually by holding a 90-minute to two-hour interactive workshop.

In the workshop, the Hub runs through introductory material and then collaborates with participants to fashion a rudimentary yet realistic scenario to meet 2030 climate targets. This is a big step not only to creating a local plan for reducing carbon pollution, but also towards creating awareness about local emissions and opening the conversation of ways to reduce them in their own community.

The Greater Victoria Climate Hub is affiliated with Climate Reality Canada and climate hubs across Canada. It has been established for 10 years and the leadership was personally trained by former US Vice President Al Gore. Their membership spans the traditional territories of over 20 First Nations, including Songhees, x^ws epsəm (Esquimalt), WJOE P (Tsartlip), BO ECEN (Pauquachin), SÁ UTW (Tsawout), WSIKEM (Tseycum), MÁLEXE (Malahat), Scañew (Beecher Bay), T'Sou-ke, Pacheedaht and Pune'laxutth' (Penelekut). All of whom have a long standing relationship with the land and waters from time immemorial that continues to this day.

Benefits

- Improve awareness by letting people easily visualize where emissions come from and what they could accomplish
- Motivate people by making scenarios more relevant and showing in real time outcomes from taking different pathways to GHG targets
- Create opportunities to discuss options, collaborate in planning and taking effective local action

Lessons learned

- Each community reacts differently to using the tool so be ready to take advantage of differences to optimize solutions. There are various challenges in reducing emissions, and this tool is specifically geared towards each B.C. community, avoiding a "one size fits all" solution
- Groups get better results when someone supports participants in using the tool throughout workshops, using break out rooms and polling

Contacts

Greater Victoria Climate Hub. The Hub is open to facilitating complimentary workshops for any local government, community group or Indigenous Nation or organization throughout all of B.C.

Dawn Moorhead
Greater Victoria Climate Hub
2capworkshops@gmail.com



Sources: [Community Energy Association Climate Action Planner](#), [Greater Victoria Climate Hub](#)

BC Community Energy Association. CEA is a non-partisan Canadian registered charity. Its mandate is to raise local government awareness with respect to energy efficiency, community energy planning and relationship building.

Rob van Adrichem, Director of External Relations
Community Energy Association
rvanadrichem@communityenergy.bc.ca
250-469-6783 ext. 721