

# Environment



## Environment

Human health and prosperity is dependent on the health of the natural environment. We need clean water to drink, nourishing food to eat and natural resources to manufacture goods such as medical equipment. The global and local economy is equally impacted by environmental forces. As the trend of long-term global warming continues - 2013 was tied with 2007 as the sixth warmest on record - we will see an increase in extreme weather events such as heat waves, extreme precipitation and coastal flooding. There is good news! We can reduce the overall risks and impacts by taking action to limit the rate and magnitude of climate change; hence, the focus being given to developing a "green economy."

In 2008 "green jobs" accounted for 7.2% of total employment in BC. Key elements of BC's green economy include renewable energy, green buildings, clean transportation, water management, waste and pollution control, and land and resource management.

### Key Facts

- Provincial legislation requires local governments to include GHG emissions reduction targets, policies and actions in their official community plans (OCP). In 2010 Esquimalt's OCP was amended to include a target to reduce commu-

## Definitions

*Environment* means air, land, water and all other external conditions or influences under which humans, animals and plants live or are developed.

*Green economy* is any economic activity that grows our economy and creates jobs, while also preserving or enhancing our environment.

- nity GHG emissions by at least 38% by 2020, and 83% by 2050 compared to 2007 levels.
- Esquimalt's community GHG emissions decreased by 3.6% in 2010 compared to 2007 levels. The emissions from transportation, buildings and solid waste for all residential and commercial users produced 74,043 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.
- The mode share of Esquimalt residents commuting to work is 63% by motor vehicle, 16% by public transit, 14% by walking, 5% by bicycle, and 2% by other means.
- Esquimalt is a walkable community with 33% of all trips within the Township being taken on foot.

## Township in Focus

In 2008 the Township of Esquimalt signed on to BC Climate Action "Charter." The Township reports annually on its plan and progress towards meeting its Charter commitments to becoming carbon neutral in its operations and to create a complete, compact, and energy-efficient community.

As a signatory to the Charter, the Township receives a grant equal to 100% of the carbon taxes paid. In 2013, the Township received a Carbon Tax Grant of \$28,200 which is deposited to the Sustainability Reserve Fund to help fund future projects reducing GHG emissions. The fund was used to match a grant to install an electric vehicle charging station at the Municipal Hall and Library parking lot.

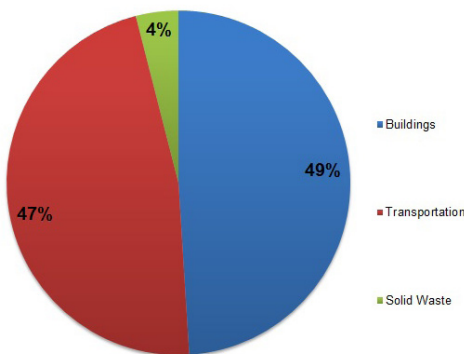
In 2013, the Township produced 1,038 tonnes of GHG emissions from its municipal operations with 75% of emissions coming from buildings and the remaining 25% from fleet vehicles and equipment.

Over the last four years the Township has invested in energy efficiency upgrades of its municipal buildings. As a result, the Township realized a savings in natural gas consumption of 27% in 2013 compared to 2012 levels. The savings reduced GHG emissions by 255 tCO<sub>2</sub>e and the Township's spending on utilities by \$100,000.

...more

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**  
 Marlene Lagoa, Community Development Coordinator  
 marlene.lagoa@esquimalt.ca  
 Tel: 250-414-7114

This is one in a series of eight backgrounder documents available for public review as part of Esquimalt's Economic Development Strategy. To provide your input, please visit our website to review information and take our online survey.



Esquimalt GHG Emissions Sources (2010)

## Sources

<sup>1</sup>British Columbia (2003). Environmental Management Act.

<sup>2</sup>British Columbia (2012). BC's Green Economy: Growing Green Jobs.

<sup>3</sup>World Meteorological Organization (2014). WMO Statement on the Status of the Global Climate in 2013 (WMO-No. 1130).

<sup>4</sup>Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 2014). Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability.

<sup>5</sup>British Columbia (2012). BC's Green Economy: Growing Green Jobs.

<sup>6</sup>Federation of Canadian Municipalities (2011). Building Canada's Green Economy: The Municipal Role.

<sup>7</sup>British Columbia (2014). 2010 CEEI - Esquimalt District Municipality.

<sup>8</sup>British Columbia (2014). 2010 CEEI - Esquimalt District Municipality.

<sup>9</sup>CRD (2012). 2011 CRD Origin-Destination Household Travel Survey

<sup>10</sup>Township of Esquimalt (2014). Climate Action Revenue Incentive (CARIP) Public Report for 2013.

## Round Table Recommendations

The Esquimalt Economic Round Table on the Environment identified the following as priority areas for action.

### 1. Develop energy efficient buildings

- Streamline approval processes for green building renovations
- Review and update Green Building Checklist
- Encourage partnerships to investigate economies of scale on green building supplies
- Have Esquimalt Village Project (EVP) set an example of green building practices

### 2. Encourage clean transportation

- Identify impediments to movement of pedestrians and bicycle riders
- Develop walking tour of Esquimalt with interpretive signage on natural assets
- Develop a long-term plan for improving bicycling networks
- Introduce bike sharing program - connect with Harbour Ferry Stops
- Work with Harbour Ferries on improving service levels and affordability
- Develop waterway transportation plan including boat launches and storage facilities

### 3. Improve waste resource management

- Develop a Green Event Guide
- Create a "RE-USE IT" centre, including building materials
- Host workshops for residents on greening practices and incentives

### 4. Promote a green local economy

- Host workshops for businesses on greening practices and incentives
- Develop tax incentives to attract green businesses to Esquimalt
- Identify sites for green tech park
- Work with green businesses to attract more green businesses
- Brand Esquimalt as a progressive green economy
- Recognize green business - certification and awards
- Designate a venue for education and outreach to citizens and businesses
- Create a map highlighting green accomplishments in the Township

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**  
 Marlene Lagoa, Community Development Coordinator  
 marlene.lagoa@esquimalt.ca  
 Tel: 250-414-7114

Township of  
**ESQUIMALT**  
 www.esquimalt.ca