



QUADRA ISLAND CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

Final Report

ICAN Community Engagement Session February 11, 2024

Written by event facilitator Jennifer Banks-Doll, based on the recordings from the Session

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Introduction

On February 11, 2024, ICAN hosted a Community Engagement Session and invited the community to attend. 60+ people were in attendance. All participants were given a handout that listed ICAN's aim and mandate, as well as a list of all of the current Action Teams and Projects.

Attendees were provided with a suggested list of topic areas, based on the themes that arose during discussions at the ICAN Community Consultation in September 2023. People were asked to come forward and volunteer to "host" a breakout group on a topic that they wanted to discuss. The topics could be from the suggested list or not. Nine breakout groups were formed.

The breakout groups were asked to brainstorm (using a "Rules for Brainstorming" tool and sticky notes) a list of ideas in answer to the following Questions: *"For our topic area, what can we do as a community to become more resilient and self-sufficient in the face of ecological challenges? How do we get from our current situation to where we want to be?"* They were told that they could propose new ideas AND/OR modifications/expansions of existing projects, and that they could ask for help from ICAN members in the room.

After all the breakout groups had generated a good list of ideas, they were asked to prioritize their ideas using an Impact/Effort grid. This tool required them to consider how much effort and how much impact each of the brainstormed suggestions would have. Then groups were given time to present the priorities that they had come up with to the large group through breakout group report backs. Finally, group members were asked to create a list of the participants in their breakout group and to fill out a Skill Share list.

At the end of the Session, participants were asked what the next steps should be.

The following are the breakout groups (in order of their report backs at the Session) and the lists of priorities that each group came up with. Group members were given the opportunity to edit their lists following the Session and some did, in which case the edited list is the one used below.

Breakout Group Report Backs

Housing & Land Development Group

(These ideas were passed on to Discovery Island Affordable Housing Society as housing falls outside of ICAN's mandate)

QUICK WINS (Low Effort/High Impact):

1. Gray water and composting toilets i.e. Ways to have safe, legal, ecologically sensitive wastewater and septic solutions
 - Address septic and water
 - Resource list of APs (people to sign off) - certified technicians
 - Look to Salt Spring Island
 - Beaver Point Community Hall
 - Large Scale examples
2. Salvage Construction Materials
 - Mill off-cuts
 - Flooring
 - Windows
 - Construction

WILL TAKE SOME PLANNING (High Effort/High Impact)

1. Small apartment blocks
 - Run by community
 - Coop apartment
2. Mobile Home Area
 - Salvage site
 - Tiny homes
 - Upcycling
 - Construction waste redirect
3. Co-housing options for seniors
 - Different housing models
 - CO-HO cohousing society on Denman Island
 - Financing options and legal info
 - *Discovery Islands Affordable Housing

CONSIDER (Low Effort/Low Impact):

1. Agri-entrepreneurial Incubator Programs
 - Small land leases
 - Grant Connections
 - Young Agrarians/Community Connections

LIKELY NOT WORTH IT (High Effort/Low Impact):

1. Float House Park

- Sustainable Solutions
- Septic, water, regulation, ?

Also:

- Program to help older homeowners to build suites in their homes for younger people to live/help the owners.

Oceans & Beaches Group

EDITED POST SESSION

(Opportunities to partner: Beach Clean Dream Team, Hakai, We Wai Kai Guardians, BC Marine Trails, Quadra Island Trails Committee, Quadra Elementary, Quadra Recycling Depot/SRD/CSWM, Sierra Quadra, Friends of Hyacinthe Creek, Salmon Enhancement)

QUICK WINS (Low Effort/High Impact):

1. **We Wai Kai Guardians.** Let's partner to share responsibility for Quadra's shorelines but also to build bridges within our community. This relationship has been initiated. There is mutual interest in partnering.
2. **BC Marine Trails Group.** This is a like-minded charity with a local chapter in Willow Point. Partnering may allow the groups to share costs of clean-ups and strengthen the local ecosystem of environmental charities.

WILL TAKE SOME PLANNING (High Effort/High Impact)

1. **Quadra Island Recycling Depot.** Include a beach & marine debris collection area or receptacle in the new depot, offering free drop-off (no tipping fees) as does the current Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) Depot in Cumberland.
2. **Forest/Lake/Marine Trails Stewardship.** This is about growing collaboration with other environmental charities or groups.
3. **Create a Culture of Stewardship.** The Beach Clean Dream Team motto is "do *what* you can *where* you can *when* you can" and it illustrates a culture of stewardship. That culture is demonstrated when people don't need an organized event before they do something good to steward the environment, be it a beach, a stream, a lake, a trail, a forest, or a fish, etc.
4. **Junior Stewards Crew.** Families can teach their children to care for the environment by taking them on beach clean-up hikes. High schools also offer credit for students who get involved in local stewardship efforts. With sufficient interest shown (i.e. through participation) ICAN could create a Junior Stewards Crew that would surpass parental and school guidance and see young people trained in environmental stewardship, possibly for future career directions.
5. **Prevention Measures.** Prevention is sometimes within our grasp, other times beyond it. Marine debris is an example of something we cannot control. However, we can

facilitate the gathering of beach garbage by placing receptacles in strategic places with good signage. Supported by "neighbourhood watch" people or groups willing to transfer gathered debris weekly, for example, to the Quadra Recycling Depot, we can prevent garbage from piling up and becoming an unsightly mess on our beaches.

CONSIDER (Low Effort/Low Impact)

1. **Squeaky Wheel Advocacy Group.** There are people on Quadra who are unable to participate in strenuous outdoor activities but who care passionately about environmental damage caused via neglect, e.g. the Gowlland Harbour sunken barge. Such people would gladly engage in phone, email or letter-writing campaigns that bring attention to unsolved or neglected issues.

LIKELY NOT WORTH IT (High Effort/Low Impact):

No cards.

Update from the meeting between ICAN members and Beach Clean Team (subsequent to the Session):

1. **Grant Update.** First, the 2024 Ocean Literacy Grant application was not successful. Therefore, there will be no funding to monitor or account for with respect to Ocean Week (June 1-9, 2024) or bringing the Quadra Island Beach Clean Dream Team under the umbrella of ICAN.
2. **A Big Question.** It has been asked "Should beach clean-up be an Action Team for ICAN?" This team believes it should, however, the answer is more than a simple "Yes!"
 - o Since the Community Engagement Session, the Quadra Island Beach Clean Dream Team has decided to take an incremental approach to working with ICAN. We have agreed to a trial period of working together to see if ICAN's efforts can add to what this group is already doing on its own. ICAN's efforts would include participants, promoters/organizers and funds.
 - o Internal discussions at ICAN are suggesting that rather than focus solely on beach clean-up, an action team should encompass other environmental concerns as well. The name "Shoreline Stewardship Action Team has been suggested.
3. **A Hopeful Outcome.** We hope that the Beach Clean Dream Team will, in due course, benefit and grow from its association with ICAN and, ultimately, agree to come in under our umbrella. In the (likely?) event that they do, it will be because we have given them wings. The challenge will be to create a bigger vision of what is possible, and that will also mean funding. This initiative began with the need for funding, and hopefully will continue into the future because, as a charity, we qualify to receive grants like the Ocean Literacy Community grant, and can pass along funding for worthwhile causes.

Water Group

EDITED POST SESSION

(possible partners: Salmon Enhancement, SRD Engineers, Island Health, We Wai Kai, Discovery Islands Affordable Housing Society)

QUICK WINS (Low Effort/High Impact):

1. Innovative/creative ways of minimizing aquifer use (e.g., increasing gray water use, increasing rainwater harvesting)
2. Grants & subsidies for water infrastructure (catchment, new building approaches, system for when people's wells run dry)
3. *Education:
 - Needs based options – let people know what they can do at what costs
 - Tour island for how people have used water wisely and conserved water
 - Educate tourists (e.g., poster on ferry “Quadra - a water sustainable island”)
 - School as water use showcase
 - “Do you know?” simple info sent to increase awareness
 - Water Challenge Month – the public challenged to safe use or collection of water
 - Learn from Nanaimo, Salt Spring, Cowichan, etc.

WILL TAKE SOME PLANNING (High Effort/High Impact)

1. Water strategy in OCP
2. *Retrofitting systems
3. Work with SRD, Island Health, other entities
4. Advocate across islands and Island Health
5. What will new infrastructure/building do to water? How to encourage new buildings to be efficient?
6. Riparian land protection
7. Maintain/re-establish natural water flows
8. Upgrade rainwater collection in school - Education kids in wise use approaches
9. Work with road workers and others who influence water runoff
10. Land development and water relationship
11. Recharge (e.g. beavers created pools that held water, recreate wetlands)
12. Plants landscaping
13. No water exports from Quadra
14. Potable water made available to buy with possible droughts on the horizon

CONSIDER (Low Effort/Low Impact):

1. Burning firewood - education and help to encourage people to burn DRY wood
2. Water health to be maintained by voluntarily restricting pesticide and fertilizer use - education of community to highlight importance

LIKELY NOT WORTH IT (High Effort/Low Impact):

1. Individual treatment of water, rather than waste system
2. Educate the government to listen to needs/approaches
3. Raven Land use for water retention in Q Cove (and housing)

Waste Management and Living Lightly Group

(Opportunities to partner: Comox Strathcona Waste Management, Society of GRIT, Chamber of Commerce, BC Ferries, Phil Stone (Tourism Website), Quadra Circle)

QUICK WINS (Low Effort/High Impact):

1. Pamphlets/posters on ferry about: "bring in, take out" campaign *LL Team
2. Tackle the Quadra Tourism website, update - C? Take on/take over - its SO OLD
3. Government Radio Station - update. Announce on the ferry - no garbage
4. Q Circle? - who? - Money for "garbage pick up support" for no-car folks and seniors, etc
5. As a community can we financially support people by buying a service/sticker
6. Sign as you come off ferry - "Take your garbage with you"
7. Operator for Recycling Depot - Community Plea (Sandy with check with CSWM)
8. Food/Paper Towel/Tissue Digesters *LL Team
9. Compost pick-up program for Commercial Kitchens and Community Compost Site

WILL TAKE SOME PLANNING (High Effort/High Impact)

1. Co-op purchasing for Quadra
 - Done on Cortes
 - Reduce plastic packaging
2. Future Free Store
 - What to do with leftovers/free store?
3. GIRO - Gabriola Island Recycling Organization (community recycling hub)
<https://www.girodepot.com>
4. Recycling/Restore set up for Quadra
5. Metal recycling sites - business for someone on Quadra for money
6. Transfer Station - YES. Transfer station locations? On a barge?
7. Educating people to use less packaging

CONSIDER (Low Effort/Low Impact):

1. Generating money from waste projects
2. Turn waste plastic into other products
 - Beach waste, etc
 - Hard plastic - look into it
3. Reduce plastic packaging - food products, meat

LIKELY NOT WORTH IT (High Effort/Low Impact):

No cards

Sustainable Energy Group

(Opportunities to partner: We Wai Kai, Quadra Elementary, Quadra Community Centre)

QUICK WINS (Low Effort/High Impact):

1. ***Solar panel bulk buy - train installers
2. ***Car charging stations for EV - business sponsors
3. Micro hydro
 - Workshop on doing it yourself
 - Bulk buying
4. ***Green building audit
 - Mark Zimmerman or someone on island?
5. D.C. Fridges and Freezers - community bulk buy?
6. ***Building Audits
 - Green Building Fund
 - Energy Conservation

WILL TAKE SOME PLANNING (High Effort/High Impact)

1. Solar Hot Water - Jack Seigul?
2. Guardianship from We Wai Kai
 - Solar introduction
 - Training
3. ICAN Library of Things
 - DC Cooler
 - Solar Analytic Tool
 - Infra Red Camera
 - Vacuum Pump for Heat Pump Installation
4. Emergency Prep Power Security

CONSIDER (Low Effort/Low Impact):

1. Golf Cart/Small EV Road Access Permit
2. Hybrid Solar and Hydro Morte Lake EV Charging for Bike/Cars charged by hydro electric - stream
3. ***Info on Solar Production from School
4. ***Letters to Green Building Fund - Gov
5. Electricity generation whilst on exercise equipment
6. Solar wide brimmed hat

LIKELY NOT WORTH IT (High Effort/Low Impact):

1. Community Owned Maude Island Tidal with We Wai Kai
2. Geothermal Energy Ground Source Heat

Community Connection Group

EDITED POST SESSION

(Opportunities to partner: Quadra Recreation Society, Chamber of Commerce, Q Cove Plaza Owner, Heriot Bay Store, SRD, Ministry of Transportation, Community of GRIT, Quadra Island Foundation)

QUICK WINS (Low Effort/High Impact):

1. ***hire a Paid Coordinator or Liaison/Grant Writer to coordinate the work of all the organizations on Quadra (partner with the Rec Society?)
2. Install new Benches for social connection, such as outside stores in Q Cove and H Bay - (partner with Chamber of Commerce, Plaza owner, Heriot Bay store)
3. Emerging adult connection – find ways of connecting with teens and pre-teens
4. Community Tables - More days, more locations
5. Use the Community Centre better and more, as a HUB
6. Having fun events, engaging the community
7. Designate a Space dedicated to open discussion - Public gathering space

WILL TAKE SOME PLANNING (High Effort/High Impact)

1. Transportation - increase accessibility -
 - Promote use of bicycles by youth
 - Lobby SRD to make cycling safer by reducing speed limits and putting up signage that promotes sharing the road between QCove/CC and HB/CC -
 - Additional suggestion - 40kph speed limit from QCove ferry terminal to school - then 40kph speed limit when approaching cyclists and pedestrians anywhere on West Road.
 - Additional suggestion: prohibit parking on the side of the main roads, which is the only bike "path" we have
2. Youth and inter-age group
3. "Community of Grit" - skill sharing program
4. Community voice through a community organization
5. Umbrella Organization to coordinate all and represent whole island
6. Interagency Committee with a paid Coordinator (this is listed as #1 above, Maureen thinks it is more appropriate here!)
7. Cooperation over competition amongst the 70 plus volunteer groups on the island (an idea more than an action, perhaps this goes in the low effort section?)
8. Tap community wealth and other resources
9. Word of mouth/door to door to raise funds and begin/launch society

CONSIDER (Low Effort/Low Impact):

No cards

LIKELY NOT WORTH IT (High Effort/Low Impact):

No cards

Forests and Land Management Group

EDITED POST SESSION

(Opportunities to partner: Sierra Quadra, Quadra Island Stewardship and Conservation Society (QICSS), North Island Woodlot Association)

*How do we establish a community that has a secure future?
Opportunity for local employment?*

QUICK WINS (Low Effort/High Impact):

1. Food forests rather than clearing land for gardening
2. Rewilding education programs - biodiversity
3. Investigate Value-added Development
 - Local homes
 - Local supply
4. Local Sales of Logs
5. Inventory of Quadra Island Old Growth Trees
6. More Local Quadra Island Sawmills

WILL TAKE SOME PLANNING (High Effort/High Impact)

1. ***Relationship building with First Nations
2. Decade of Reforestation to 2030 - 6 year ban on clear cuts globally
3. We Wai Kai doing water and stream inventory
4. Endangered species inventory
5. Multi-stakeholder discussions on land development and forest protection
6. Ground Truthing
 - ESA's/Biodiversity
 - Wetlands/Riparian
 - Old growth/tree cover
 - Listed species
7. Data informed decisions
 - Updated maps
 - Reassessments
8. Tree Protection By-law
9. Stand-enhancing Intermittent Tree Selection Logging
10. Community Forest
 - Investigate the process
 - Approach the We Wai Kai re: co-management
 - Create and acquire tenure

CONSIDER (Low Effort/Low Impact):

1. Transparency
 - Infractions by logging companies
 - Compensation
 - Enforcement!

2. Review 1990's "Forest Practices Code" for better forest practices

LIKELY NOT WORTH IT (High Effort/Low Impact):

No cards

NOTE: Post Session, concern was expressed that while this work is highly important, it may not be a good idea for ICAN to take it on due to its limitations as a charity. To be discussed further.

Education/DIY Group

(Opportunities to partner: Society of GRIT, local businesses, Quadra Island Recreation Society)

Priorities 2024:

1. Trades/Career Fair for Youth - Partner on this with ?
 - Understanding what local work sustains here
 - Understand local needs
 - Succession planning
 - Networking
 - Job shadow
2. Skill Sharing
 - Continue workshops
 - Courses
 - Bring a youth to work
 - Needs at different age groups:
 - Youth - launching, vocation
 - Mid - access, income, opportunity, resilience
 - Senior - sustain, succession
 - Complimentary strengths/weaknesses between older and younger generations
3. Maker Space (with tool and knowledge sharing)/Tool Library/Free Store
 - Advertise medical equipment
 - New tech e.g. 3D printing, CA Milling, lasers
4. Craft Collective/Co-op
 - Permanent space or more swap meets/market days
5. ICAN advertising in Newsletter/Website/Column in the Bird's Eye - CDO
 - Initiatives underway - ideas, updates, next steps
 - List of tools/lending library items - printed and posted/website
 - List of workshops
 - Call-out volunteers /ideas
 - Community resources/senior resources
 - Brochure in welcome package for newcomers
6. Fundraising for Maker Space, Tools, Free Store

Knowledge Sharing Ideas:

- Boat maintenance

- Local foraging
- Life skills
- Budgeting - youth, seniors
- Cooking
- Preserving
- Financial - “living small”
- Electrical
- Plumbing
- Technology - how to use: phone, email, computer, scams, Zoom, etc
- Remote Living, older ways of living here
- Hands on skills not taught in schools
- CPR
- Babysitting course
- Small business skills and start-up, software, permits (how to get)

Emergency/Fire (ESS/QUIEPP) Group

(No action items for ICAN)

1. ***Self Support and Prep
 - Shelter
 - Food
 - H2O
2. ***Awareness Pamphlets and Education
3. Fire Smart
4. Permanent Assembly Point Signage (like artist Studio Tour)
5. Earthquake Improvement
6. Evacuation
7. Structural Protection
 - Sprinklers
 - Pools

Next Steps

1. Everyone in ICAN get together on a regular basis e.g. 4x/year
2. Team Leads attend Board meetings
3. How to ensure ICAN collaborates with other groups/organizations?
4. ICAN present at a Chamber of Commerce meeting
5. Partner with First Nations