



August 17, 2021

Dear Mayor and Council,

RE: Climate Change Mitigation Strategy, the 7% Solution

Transition Sooke strongly supports Council's unanimous passing of the Climate Change Mitigation strategy, the "7% Solution" at its July 26 meeting. We also applaud the excellent work of the Climate Action Committee (CAC), which developed the strategy by analyzing a great deal of data from many sources.

Now staff, with the able assistance of CAC, are charged with implementation of the strategy: to create an implementation plan; prepare budget recommendations for incorporation in the district's next five-year financial plan; and investigate funding sources and partnerships required to implement the strategy fully.

We believe citizens of Sooke have a moral and legal duty to play our part in reducing GHG emissions and decarbonizing the economy in the timescales demanded by climate science and explained and communicated by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

We understand and expect the implementation of the strategy will require human and fiscal resources. In some cases, there must be a diversion and re-assignment of resources and a postponement of what was formerly regarded as normal operations.

But in an emergency there is no alternative. The costs to economies, livelihoods, cultures, human health and the natural environment of doing nothing, or proceeding too slowly, are incalculable and unconscionable. We look to Sooke Council to provide the enlightened and scientifically aware leadership to set the correct priorities, marshal the necessary resources, and engage the whole community in the effort.

Transition Sooke is ready and willing to assist in any way it can. We have well-qualified people amongst our active members — data analyzers, policy analysts, educators, communications and engagement specialists, and former elected officials.

Council must make climate the number one consideration in everything it does, with a particular focus on the plans and actions proposed in the climate change mitigation strategy to reduce greenhouse gases by 7% every single year between now and 2030.

We urge Sooke Council to proceed and act now with the urgency that a declared climate emergency demands and that our children and grandchildren have every right to expect.

Transition Sooke
(with unanimous support of its Active Members)