

Staff Report

DATE: February 22, 2024

TO: Chair and Directors

Regional District Board

FROM: Marc Rutten

Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Supported by Marc Rutten A/Chief Administrative Officer

FILE: 5280-01

M. Rutten

RE: Climate Action Strategy – Elected Officials Forum Summary

Purpose

To provide a summary of the Regional Climate Action Strategy Elected Officials Forum held January 25, 2024.

Recommendation from the Acting Chief Administrative Officer:

For information.

Executive Summary

- As part of the development of the Climate Action Strategy (CAS), an Elected Officials' Forum was held on January 25, 2024 to begin vision setting for the CAS. Appendix A summarizes input received during the workshop.
- Discussion topics included: rating and comments on region's climate action status; exploration of future desired state; ambition for climate initiatives and actions needed to achieve future desired state; and identification of barriers and solutions to achieving desired results.
- Recurring themes included: the need to highlight co-benefits and cost-savings
 associated with action on climate change; engaging community members of all
 ages to gather input and build buy-in for climate action in the region; and
 including sustainable and resilient building practices and nature-based
 solutions.
- Elected Officials' Forum participants input has resulted in updates to the project engagement plan with additional targeted engagement with local youth, community environmental and vulnerable population groups and non-governmental stakeholders.

Government and Community Interests Distribution (Upon Agenda Publication)

Town of Comox	~
City of Courtenay	~
Village of Cumberland	~
Comox Valley Schools	~
K'ómoks First Nation	~
Islands Trust	~

Attachment: Appendix A – Stantec Climate Action Strategy Summary

Comox Valley Regional District Climate Action Strategy (CAS)

Elected Officials Summary Report

January 25, 2024



Executive Summary

The CVRD has begun the process of developing a regional Climate Action Strategy (CAS) that builds on past and current climate action efforts (both corporately and regionally). The project aims to establish new greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions and complimentary adaptation strategies that the CVRD can undertake within its existing mandate over the next 5 years. As part of the development of the CAS, the CVRD hosted a workshop with elected officials on January 25th 2024, to align understanding of the current state of climate mitigation and adaptation, and to begin vision setting for the CAS.

This report summarizes the inputs received during that workshop and provides an initial assessment of the aspirations and key themes for climate action in the CVRD. This information will be used as an initial guide for future efforts. As such the comments and summaries here should be read as exploratory and not definitive regarding any opinions or actions of the CVRD.

Participants shared a common understanding on the complexities, burden, and urgency of climate action. There was energy and excitement at the prospect of the CVRD acting as a beacon of possibility, serving as a Canadian example of strong, committed climate action, underscored by strong grassroots efforts, and an engaged community.

The climate actions discussed with participants encompassed a wide range of themes including energy efficiency, transportation, circular economies, financing, governance models, community engagement, youth empowerment, nature-based solutions, partnerships, Indigenous knowledge/perspectives, and environmental protection.

Addressing climate change involves navigating several barriers and challenges including challenging the status quo and existing entrenched systems, both political and personal. Overcoming these challenges requires creative engagement, disrupting traditional systems, and emphasizing positive outcomes. At the heart of change lies communication and engagement, explaining how climate initiatives can yield co-benefits and new opportunities.

To effectively tackle climate change, the conversation reflected the need to shift society's mindset from viewing adaptation and mitigation as a cost to recognizing the potential savings. Urgency drives action, and acknowledging the CVRD's sphere of influence is crucial. Emergencies have demonstrated the CVRD's ability to unite and act boldly, with community members rallying and supporting one another.

1 Overview

The CVRD is engaged in developing a regional Climate Action Strategy (CAS), building on current and ongoing climate change efforts and aiming to establish new GHG reduction and complimentary adaptation strategies the CVRD can undertake in the coming 5 years. The development of the CAS involves:

- A best practice benchmarking analysis to identify the climate actions being undertaken by leading jurisdictions with similar services, infrastructure, and mandates to the CVRD.
- A GHG emissions reductions pathways / options analysis to identify a suite of GHG mitigation actions that are available to and within the CVRDs sphere of influence.
- Engagement with key regional and municipal staff and stakeholders through workshop sessions.
- Engagement with the public to provide input on the CAS.

The first step in the development of the CAS was a 3-hour in-person, interactive, facilitated workshop with CVRD elected officials, as subject matters experts in the community, to provide input on what the vision and goals could look like for the CAS. Some staff from member communities were present for the presentation portion of the workshop. The workshop was hosted at the CVRD offices in Courtenay, BC, between 1 – 4pm on Thursday, 25th January 2024.



The following sections present the structure and key findings from each workshop, with participants' inputs summarized.

Participants' inputs in each breakout session were sorted by group and can all be found in Appendix A. These were documented and transcribed from photos of the notes (Appendix B). These inputs were Lists of attendees and facilitators are presented in Appendix C.

2 Workshop Discussions

Prior to discussions and breakout groups, a presentation was delivered by Stantec setting the context and providing necessary instructions on the expectations of the afternoon.

The presentation lasted approximately 45 minutes and reviewed at a high-level the:

- Scope of CAS and level set expectations with group (e.g., CAS and CVRD sphere of influence).
- CVRD 2021 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory and forecast.
- Current state of climate action in the CVRD.
- Level and focus of climate action the CVRD should commit to in the CAS.
- Priority action areas, and associated barriers / challenges.

The presentation garnered many questions from elected officials, indicative of the level of engagement and interest to follow in the working session.

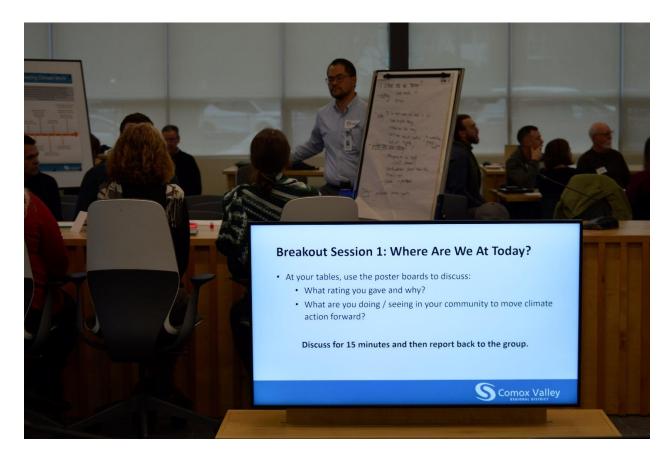
2.1 Breakout Session #1 – Rate the Region's Climate Action Today?



Initially participants were asked to use a sticky dot placed upon a thermometer gauge to rate the level of climate progress in the region.

Participants were then sorted into groups to discuss and elaborate on their rationale, answering the questions/prompts:

- What rating you gave and why?
- What are you doing / seeing in your community to move climate action forward?



2.1.1 What rating you gave and why?

What rating you gave and why?

Group 1

Group 1 were mindful of how the actions of others including predecessors and senior government led to today's emissions and the need for urgent climate action. There was also plenty of criticism of inaction and a general sense of inadequacy to date. There was positive recognition that despite the region's population, there is a need to move fast toward adaptation actions and recognise the role that small local action can have acting as a beacon and exemplar.

Group 2

Group 2 generally leaned toward a belief of positive change at the CVRD and a recognition of grassroots community-led efforts that are supporting climate action. There was general concern for a slowdown in momentum, a state of inaction and a fear of regression given all the complexities of coordinated action.

Group 3

Group 3 expressed a balanced perspective on the CVRD's areas of action and inaction, recognising that there is both an urgency and a hesitancy related to climate action. The hesitancy is partly underscored by overwhelm and gloom, and the urgency relates to breaking down silos and understanding the spaces within which the CVRD has control.

All three groups shared a common focus on the complexities and burden of climate action. They recognize the impact of past actions on today's emissions and express a sense of urgency. While Group 1 emphasizes local action as an exemplar, Group 2 acknowledges grassroots efforts. Group 3 discussed the problem of balancing urgency with hesitancy, emphasising the need to break down silos and understand areas of control within the CVRD.

2.1.2 What are you doing / seeing in your community to move climate action forward?

What are you doing / seeing in your community to move climate action forward?

Group 1

Group 1 combined their responses in Exercise 1 and thus their input is captured within the previous table.

Group 2

Group 2 recognised the existing efforts underway to address flooding, conservation, and public building retrofits. There was also recognition of the existing and supportive volunteer community in the valley.

Group 3

Group 3 noted a myriad of activities underway including action on water, buildings, green infrastructure and advocacy work across senior governments.

2.2 Breakout Session #2 - Where Do We Want to Go?

The second exercise focused participants attention on the future and on a path forward. Questions used to guide these discussions were:



- Articulate / illustrate this future as you see it
- Identify the actions that will need to be undertaken to bridge the gap between where we are today to the desired future state
- Identify which action areas / groups should be a focus in the Climate Action Strategy

2.2.1 Desired future state

The vision includes achieving net zero emissions by 2050 and thriving in a resilient community with a focus on food security and natural systems. The agricultural industry has transitioned to a low-carbon future, and there is buy-in from everyone thanks to the CVRD taking advantage of its small size to be nimble and creative in developing pilot programs out of necessity. Community-led efforts create a positive energy around sustainability and resiliency, with neighbours expressing healthy competition to support pollinators and let their plants die out in summer heat (water conservation). Efforts involve promoting electric transport options, transitioning away from car-centric infrastructure, and creating a 15-minute walkable city with more housing and fewer roads. The goal is to restore natural systems including marine and terrestrial habitats and shift from a local to a global mindset, with the CVRD leading climate action and empowering other communities.

2.2.2 Actions needed to bridge the gap

The climate actions outlined encompass a wide range of ideas. Themes of discussion included energy efficiency, transportation, community engagement, and environmental protection. Ideas to bridge the gap include implementing shared/district heating systems, educating homeowners about air sealing and incentivizing energy-efficient home construction.

Community engagement emerged as a recurring theme. Community involvement, youth engagement, and Indigenous knowledge were all noted as playing crucial roles. By embracing inconvenience, increasing density, and collaborating with local schools, discussions considered the initiatives needed to create resilient, sustainable communities. Building community support involves fostering buy-in from residents. Countering misinformation and emotions could involve canvassing to help align perspectives and roles. The CVRD has an opportunity to inspire interest, empower youth, and safeguard the environment.

Financial considerations play a crucial role, emphasizing the need for more funding to support climate initiatives and a shift in economic policies. Collaborating with other levels of government is essential to leverage resources effectively.

In urban planning, the focus is on sustainable transportation. Prioritizing door-to-door transit options ensures convenience and enjoyment with the need to promote carpooling, public transit use and electric vehicles. Discussion also considered the implementation of a local gas tax to fund car and bike share. Investing in transit proactively, rather than waiting for ridership, is emphasized.

Sustainable building practices, including parking and green space, are essential. Encouraging private land donations for trails and promoting philanthropy were discussed.

Mixed-use neighborhoods were advocated for to support the creation of inclusive and complete communities. Waste management strategies are a way to close the loop in a circular economy. Transitioning away from natural gas in new constructions was seen as crucial.

Partnerships were discussed in various formats, from credit units supporting home retrofits through mortgages, as well as non-profits and corporations supporting/sponsoring natural ecosystem restoration.

2.2.3 Themes / Priority action areas

Some of the most common themes discussed were:

- Building codes and standards, specifically zero carbon step code
- Retrofitting existing buildings to improve energy efficiency
- Ecological protection including natural ecosystems, habitats, and biodiversity
- Tree bylaws: Regulations related to tree preservation and planting as a means to maintain green spaces, enhancing urban environments and sequester carbon
- GHG quantification and reporting: Accurate data collection and measurement are essential for informed decision-making and effective policies (e.g., quantifying natural assets)
- Sustainable transportation, prioritizing shared transportation modes (such as public transit, cycling, and walking)
- Education: educating residents, policymakers, and professionals about sustainable and resilient practices
- Agriculture, local food production and food security: encouraging local food production and ensuring food security.
- Home energy and water conservation
- Connectivity and complete communities
- Circular economy and regenerative economy
- Green infrastructure: prioritizing nature-based solutions
- Social equity and inclusion
- Affordability and funding mechanisms: Balancing sustainability goals with affordability and exploring funding options (such as government programs or mortgages)
- Local government collaboration and engagement
- Revitalizing watersheds and marine ecosystems

2.3 Breakout Session #3 – What's in our way?

The final exercise of the day shifted groups attention toward exploring existing and potential barriers to action, and then asked participants to imagine a world of innovation and opportunities (*blue sky thinking*) to help explore what is possible.

Questions used to guide these discussions were:

- The key challenges / barriers in our way to achieving this desired future state.
- What innovative approaches are going to be required to overcome these challenges / barriers.

2.3.1 Challenges / Barriers



Addressing climate change involves navigating several barriers and challenges. Resistance often arises due to haste, and there are political consequences when telling people what to do. Convenience is a barrier and limited resources hinder progress, while time constraints affect individuals.

Apathy, fear, and burnout further complicate matters, at all levels of society. Overcoming these challenges requires creative engagement, disrupting traditional systems, and emphasizing positive outcomes.

Engagement plays a pivotal role.

We must meet people where they are, making climate action convenient and appealing. Education is key - explaining how climate initiatives directly impact individuals and communities. Providing practical tools, both carrots and sticks, empowers decision-making. Alongside this is the need to connect this work with practical issues like emergency evacuation and building codes. The path forward is not linear and climate deniers persist, with political resistance hampering progress. By focusing on co-benefits, such as financial gains, we can inspire collective action.

At the heart of change lies communication and engagement. Older generations are making decisions that will impact most the younger segments of society. The power of youth is large, and it is necessary to engage them through climate assemblies and new governance models.

2.3.2 Innovations / How to overcome challenges?

To effectively address climate change, the conversation reflected the need to shift society's mindset from viewing adaptation and mitigation as a cost to recognizing the potential savings. Urgency drives action, and acknowledging the CVRD's sphere of influence is crucial. Social division hinders the community's ability to care for the planet, emphasizing the need for self-care and meeting people where they are at – both psychologically and physically (e.g., showing up at community centres or libraries or grocery stores to discuss climate action). Using only online tools like Engage Comox Valley are insufficient. During emergencies like the COVID pandemic, collaboration becomes essential and is an example of what can be done under an emergency. Uniting at the neighborhood level, expanding frameworks, and embracing creativity are vital. Indigenous wisdom with its 1000-year horizon offers valuable insights. CVRD must consider urbanization, housing types, and renewable energy. Engaging Indigenous communities, localizing economies, and forming partnerships further enhance collective efforts.

Striking a balance between government involvement and individual empowerment is another opportunity, respecting the need to acknowledge minority opinions and remain focused on the use of positive incentives whilst prioritising affordability. Simple changes can be achieved through education, social pressure, and highlighting convenience. Engaging an already active community, focusing on co-benefits (like financial gains), and providing practical tools were discussed as the keys to success. Ultimately, painting a positive picture of a better world is what is needed to inspire collective action.



3 Summary

The workshop demonstrated a strong level of knowledge and engagement across elected officials and raised several common threads among breakout groups. The summaries presented will be used to guide but not dictate future efforts.

Participants shared a common understanding on the complexities, burden, and urgency of climate action. They recognized the impact of past actions and express a sense of urgency, noting that CVRD are commendable but fall short of the dramatic shifts needed to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to a changing climate. There was shared excitement at the prospect of the CVRD serving as a leader in committed community climate action.

Participants shared a diversity of potential climate actions across a number of sectors and themes. There was a recognition throughout the conversations of the importance of communicating with and engaging the public and youth to prioritize positive actions. Education to explain how climate initiatives directly impact individuals and communities, and how adaptation actions yield co-benefits and new opportunities is vital to shift the community viewpoint, while being mindful of the CVRD's sphere of influence.

Overarching and reoccurring themes included:

- Using positive dialogue and visioning to illustrate a safer, more equitable, and healthier future
- Highlighting co-benefits of various climate strategies and exploring positive incentive programs
- Integrating climate change into all levels of decision making and governance
- Uniting neighbourhoods and communities to inspire and support grass-roots action; Engaging the youth as they will inherit today's decisions
- Developing complete and walkable communities with sustainable transportation, incentivising public transit and cleaner technologies
- Indigenous wisdom and perspectives, it is critical to engage and learn from those who have stewarded these lands for millennia
- Partnerships across all levels of government, society, and industry for funding, education, engagement, and exploring new solutions, technologies, and pilot projects
- Sustainable and resilient building practices, including zero step code, net zero
- Circular and regenerative economies
- Social equity, inclusion and affordability, meeting people where they are at physically and psychologically
- Ecosystems enhancement and protection using nature-based solutions to capture carbon, increase biodiversity, and provide access to healthy outdoor spaces
- Agriculture, local food production and food security: encouraging local food production

APPENDICES

Appendix A Participant Inputs

2.1.1 What rating you gave and why?

Group 1

- Tepid
- Slightly below middle
- Talking, not enough action
- Visual focus, appearance of action
- Our population is very low so our impact is relatively small
- Moved into adaptation phase
- Left to hold the bag
- Senior governments acting in bad faith
- Have to get real
- New climate focused staff
- Can't not act
- Bulk of emissions from cars/buildings
- Local action will add up to a lot.
- CVRD incentive programs ahead of other municipalities.
- Survival is what matters for Comox Valley regardless of numbers
- Need to support and educate the community (e.g., climate adapted agriculture)
- CVRD has done a lot of proactive work to date (e.g., incentive programs)
- Need more solutions and strategies
- Community-based education
- Need to begin implementation
- Above average on adaptation/ resilience
- Below average on mitigation
- Canada's 3rd highest per capita emissions

Group 1 were mindful of how the actions of others including predecessors and senior government led to today's emissions and the need for urgent climate action. There was also plenty of criticism of inaction and a general sense of inadequacy to date. There was positive recognition that despite the size of the CVRD, the region needs to move fast toward adaptation actions and recognise the role that small local action can have acting as a beacon and exemplar.

Group 2

• On the right track – not there yet. Not going to hit with current goals

- We have information and awareness: lack action.
- Data to support a fast change, we aren't there yet. Ambition not aggressive enough for Local Governments.
- Considerably better off than few years ago. Difficult to be as ambitious as need to be as community.
- Burden of work happening at grassroots.
- Community, neighbourhood.
- We have work to do with each other relational, generational
- Understanding that largest emitters are corps: Young people are leading
- City of Courtenay foundation to support future of climate action
- Few steps forward then steps back. E.g., worked on recycling for years, can't provide compost resources to schools, community members who want to help
- Urgency: Needs and actions known, hard to take hold.
- Why aren't residents being engaged more in sustainability discussions?

Group 2 generally leaned toward a belief of positive change at the CVRD and a recognition of grassroots community-led efforts that are supporting climate action. There was general concern for a slowdown in momentum, a state of inaction and a fear of regression given all the complexities of coordinated action.

Group 3

- So much more we need to do
- Some tangible things
- Ahead on some things
- Don't have much control: E.g., watershed / private managed forest land
- Lack of impetus
- Still in silos: GHG exercises / need more systems / inter-related
- List of plans on slides, but no list of outcomes
- Emergency to-do stuff
- COVID (example)
- Really behind: Should have done this ten years ago
- Gloom = paralyzed

Group 3 expressed a balanced perspective on the CVRD's areas of action and inaction, recognising that there is both an urgency and a hesitancy related to climate action. The hesitancy is partly underscored by overwhelm and gloom, and the urgency relates to breaking down silos and understanding the spaces within which the CVRD has control.

2.1.2 What are you doing / seeing in your community to move climate action forward?

Group 1

Group 1 combined their responses in Exercise 1 and thus their input is captured within the previous table.

Group 2

Ongoing positive work:

- Conservation partnerships, helping local groups gather and inform government
- Flood work
- Efforts on private forest lands
- Volunteerism, huge base of people willing to get involved, get hands dirty
- Public buildings being retrofitted

Group 2 recognised the existing efforts underway to address flooding, conservation, and public building retrofits. There was also recognition of the existing and supportive volunteer community in the valley.

Group 3

- Advocate senior governments
- Climate change possibilities
- Green infrastructure, Wastewater
- Tree Bylaws
- Water meters
- Buildings
- Hasn't done transportation/ active transportation
- Cradle-to-cradle (C2C)
- No functional network yet

Group 3 noted a myriad of activities underway including action on water, buildings, green infrastructure and advocacy work across senior governments.

2.2.1 Desired future state

- Net zero by 2050
- Thriving in a resilient community
- Food security
- Agricultural industry has transitioned
- Buy-in from everyone
- Everyone doing what they can

- Home heating
 - Good bye Fortis
 - Heat pumps
- Transport
 - o Electric bikes, cars, car share, better transit
- Make it easy for people to electrify
 - Not easy right now
- Electric scooters and other options
- Car ownership begins to fade
 - o Challenge for rural communities
- Hydro grid insufficient
 - o Small-scale, simple actions
- More rural bus routes (HandyDART)
- Increased population and infill
- Solve problems of municipal coordination

Group 2

- Circular lives
 - o People are in relationship with their community
 - o From individual level to community thinking
 - Circular economy (e.g., waste streams+)
- Moving away from car-centric
- 15+ minute city
- Less pavement. Repurposed for bike lanes, car-free zones
- More housing. Fewer roads, lower reliance on vehicles
- Adequate housing, neighbourhoods, no one sleeping in parks
- Driftwood mall transformed denser living environments, housing
- Parks are expanded, connected, trail networks
- Protected areas, preserved
- Stotan Falls = Natural park
- Healthy competition for personal home resilience
 - o Lawns to gardens, pollinators, natural-spirited with high buy-in, community gardens
- Urban forests, especially in new development
- K'ómoks First Nation: Thriving community, connected with transit
- Thriving marine environment, clean estuary
- Transforming how we get kids to school
 - Shifting transport routes
 - o Community or neighbourhood-level movement to school
- Kids see and have different ideas of what future looks like:
 - Role of cars, materialism, housing options
- Your neighbourhood is your home
- Implementation of Local Area Plans

- Carbon neutral/ net zero
- Cradle to cradle not enough: carbon negative
- Restoring natural systems
- Mindset shift: Local to global
- Local actions:
 - o Never underestimate
 - o Ripple effect: resonance
 - Starfish analogy
- CVRD as leader on climate change even though small population
- Do something demonstrate empower others
- Take advantage of being small
 - o Pilot
 - o Nimble
 - Creative
 - Adaptive
 - o Grassroots
- Transportation active
 - o Bike/ walking
 - o Multi-modal: secured/ covered, lock up
- Urban and rural mindset
 - o Challenges: Bike, transit
- Electric vehicles (EVs) cars and trucks
- Affordability

2.2.2 Actions needed to bridge the gap

- Heat share systems (e.g., Vanier / sport center)
- Stand behind/ stay focused on strategic drivers
- Draft agriculture plan
 - o Valley-wide water system
 - Water storage
 - Fresh water retention
 - o Make it easier for people to save water less regulation
- Fire Smart
- Education sessions for agricultural sector
- Encourage carpooling and transit
 - o Teach people how to use transit
- Implement accelerated zero carbon step code
- Ban Fortis
- Car share network developers put cars for sharing in developments (e.g., Union Bay Development)
- Incentivize people to stop owning cars

- Light rail
- Transit forward-looking to future populations
- Step code
- Air sealing programs, workshops
- Education around home energy and water conservation
- Home retrofits and behavior change
- Educate builders incentives!
- Education around what has been done and how their property works (e.g., drainage)
- Old "pioneer" and indigenous knowledge
- Leverage community knowledge
- Prepare (e.g., generators)
- Embrace inconvenience
- Increase density
- Transportation mode shift
- Mixed use developments
- Complete communities
- Collaboration with school district
- Passive house
- Lots of public consultation
- Protect forests, watershed and valuable environments to reduce erosion, ensure land
- Ask what people need

- People like small, responsive local government. Greater involvement of local people.
- High-level of buy-in from community at large
 - o Educating and bringing people together on need to act.
 - Inspiring interest
 - Not limiting choice
- More and better engagement with public
 - o Get in schools, work with youth and model civic engagement
 - Student councils asked for input, environmental groups, humanities classes in higher grades
 - Youth feel empowered, heard. Environmentalism seen as realistic field of work, climate change careers and pathways
- Antidote to anxiety is engagement
- More projects young people can get involved in, hope for all ages
- Need more money. Resources from other levels of government.
- Community support and fulsome buy-in
- Engagement to counter misinformation, emotion. Need to bring people in.
 - Deep canvassing
 - Need local people to be brought together, find what their "in" is (what project will engage them), help see role and contributions from residents
- We need to counter move away from communal projects and approaches because frameworks separating public from actual work
 - o E.g., School liability

- Transit: Make focus on door-to-door destinations. How do we make it easy and enjoyable throughout trip?
- New and larger buildings: parking, green space
- Encourage private donations of land for trails. Look at ways to promote philanthropy in-line with climate action.
- Climate lawyers: Understand tax options
- Promoting collective ownership, co-operatives, community-shared resources.
- Move away from segregated uses.
 - o More inclusive, complete neighborhoods and land use
 - Mixed-use
 - Transect zones
- Solid waste: Close the loop
- Natural gas out of new construction, zero carbon

- Smaller bus: specific destinations
 - Comox Lake
 - o Rural Attractions
 - o Seal Bay park
- Scooters: No parking concerns
- Think of future generations
- Example: Not wanting to get a car or license
- Accommodating seniors: Senior clubs
- Invest in transit: frequency of transit
- Diversity transportation: car share
- Example: No one complain if we built highway with no traffic vs "empty" bus
- Regional gas tax (Example: 1-2 cent/L provided to car share/ bike share)
 - O: Authority to do this?
 - o A: Yes, talk to Province
- Community forests: Add \$\$ for special events, Regenerate the forest
- EVs: GHGs down
 - o 25% EV goal: supply? Incentives?
 - o We can advocate/ push senior government to do this (federal)
- How to sell this: Economic development
- Green practices (solar panel)
- Regenerative economy: Forestry
- Battery recycling
- Advocating for change (systemic) as a region to higher levels of govt
- Investing in transit instead of waiting for ridership to drive it
- Carshares (electric)
- Neighbourhood planning for emergency and resilience (+ building, connect our community)
- Partner with credit unions to retrofit homes via mortgages
- Listen to youth: What do they need to live at net-zero?
- Biodiversity conservation plan

- Host inclusive policy forums for more diverse input
- Partner with non-profit and corporations to restore natural systems

2.2.3 Themes / Priority action areas

Group 1

- Buildings/ homes
 - o Net zero/ passive house building code
 - o Retrofit existing building stock
- Ecological Protection
 - o Tree bylaw
 - o Quantification of carbon sequestration potential
- Transportation
 - o Multi-faceted transportation that focuses on sharing
- Education
 - o Agriculture
 - Food security
 - o Home energy and water conservation
 - o How to use buses
 - o Local governments educated by residents what are the barriers?

Group 2

- Buy-in from community with targeted engagement
- Connectivity: Trails, complete communities
- Circular society
- Planning: use tools like the transect zones, improve land use planning
- Community energy and resource systems

- Circular economy
- Regenerative economy
- Planting: for sustainable
- Transportation/ buildings (high GHG emissions)
 - Big bang for buck
- Building: Step code: percentage is too small
 - o Potential for retrofitting
- Retrofitting buildings and zero step code for new builds
 - o Advocate senior governments to facilitate
 - Design with people in the know (Subject matter experts)
- When house for sale, require to go through retrofit?
 - o Who pays?
 - Government funding

- Mortgage
- Home Energy navigator: funding to homeowners to be in this program
- What's the role at local governments?
- Collaborate effort among all local governments
- Transportation: Take care biodiversity/ restoration
- GHG emission report
- Affordability: barrier to think about this
 - Survival mode
 - o Mechanism to help them to think about this
 - Social equity tax: increase funding
- PACE program: Increase funding
- Create a climate action task force
- Revitalize watersheds and marine ecosystems
- Build transit for multi-modal transit more room for bikes
- Support local food production that is locally available
- Prioritize nature-based solutions and green infrastructure
- Building social inclusion and connection in everything we do
- Local food policies that encourage small-scale food production both urban and rural

2.3.1 Challenges / Barriers

Group 1

- Negative response/ pushback if we are too hasty
 - o Political consequences of telling people what to do
- Barriers of convenience and limited resources
- Barriers to individuals: Time constraints
- Unengaged populations
- Accountability and perspective (entitlement)
 - o People are apathetic

- Funding
- Climate deniers
- Political resistance/ lack of political support
- Burnout: discouragement over systems failing.
 - o Present in community and national level.
 - Antidote is engagement
- Disrupting traditional capitalistic system needed. Economy has been major driver, held most weight
- Siloing of environmental/ economy / social

- We keep using what we already have in place
 - o E.g., Natural gas. Converting is a tough sell
 - o Keep using existing infrastructure even if it's not serving climate interests
 - o "New flavours" of climate action
 - E.g., Natural gas was supposed to be a clean fuel, touted as a solution. Now we are trying to get it out.
- We don't have all the solutions or information, uncertainty
- Overcoming a sense of fear, overwhelmed from living through this era
- Behaviour change is <u>hard</u>.
- Fear of unknown
- Policies that governments make for society can be hard. People are burnt out, exhausted, busy.
- Gathering in-person is rare. Lack of venues to support convos and personal decisions to be part of solution.
- Generational disconnect what is the role of all people based on position in society?
- Reality-grounded: How do these ideas impact on-ground issues like emergency evacuation, building codes, etc.
- Action plans needed to fit into existing plans, regulations, and policies already in place

- Complete communities
- Focus on the systems
- Day trips
- Rail out to/ from rural areas
- Decision-making piece: demographics. 40+ making decisions that impact younger cohorts (<30 years)
- Need to know trends / education
- Youth climate assembly / governance model / intervention
- Public outreach piece: funding to support
- Adaptation/ monitoring/ empowering
- Time commitment: personal, family vs climate action
- Go to schools elementary, secondary, post-secondary
- Micro/ macro factors
- Policy changes: carbon tax, EVs
- Not on the same page of influences of change
- How motivated are we to advance climate adaptation?
- Need to do more
- Private managed forest land (PMFL)

- Challenges/ barriers:
 - Provincial legislation changes (e.g., forestry activities)
 - o Be cautious though
 - Need funding to go along with changes
 - o Local governments: close to the ground
 - Affects our infrastructure
 - Our residents

2.3.2 Innovations / How to overcome challenges

Group 1

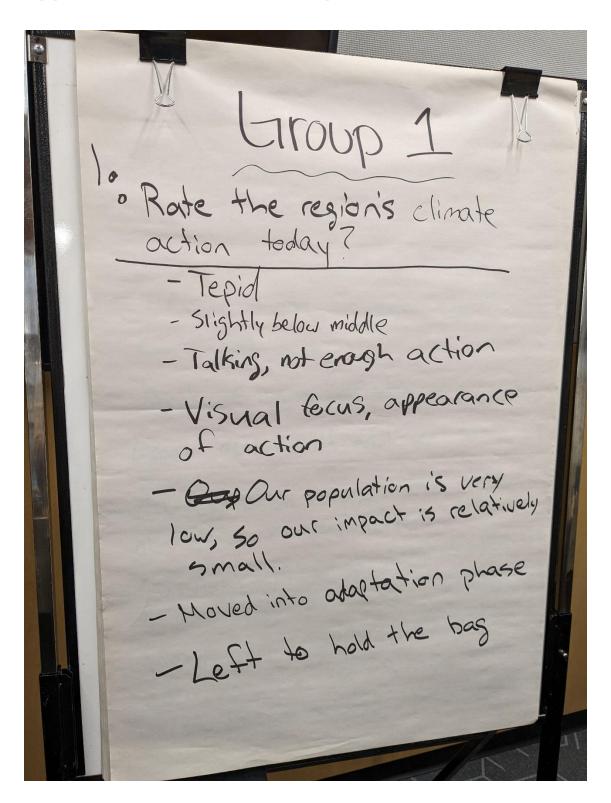
- Less government overreach
 - o Acknowledge minority opinions
 - o Carrots not sticks where possible
 - Bring everyone along
- Prioritization
- Make it easy to make changes (e.g., through education) and social pressure
- Go to meet them where they are, make it more convenient, focus on co-benefits of climate action
 - o E.g. Financial benefit
 - Prioritize affordability
 - Ask residents what barriers exist
- Education around co-benefits
 - o How this will directly impact individuals and communities
 - o Suite of tools for each action
 - Carrots and sticks
 - o Focus on positive benefits
 - o Sell people on a better world
 - Paint a picture

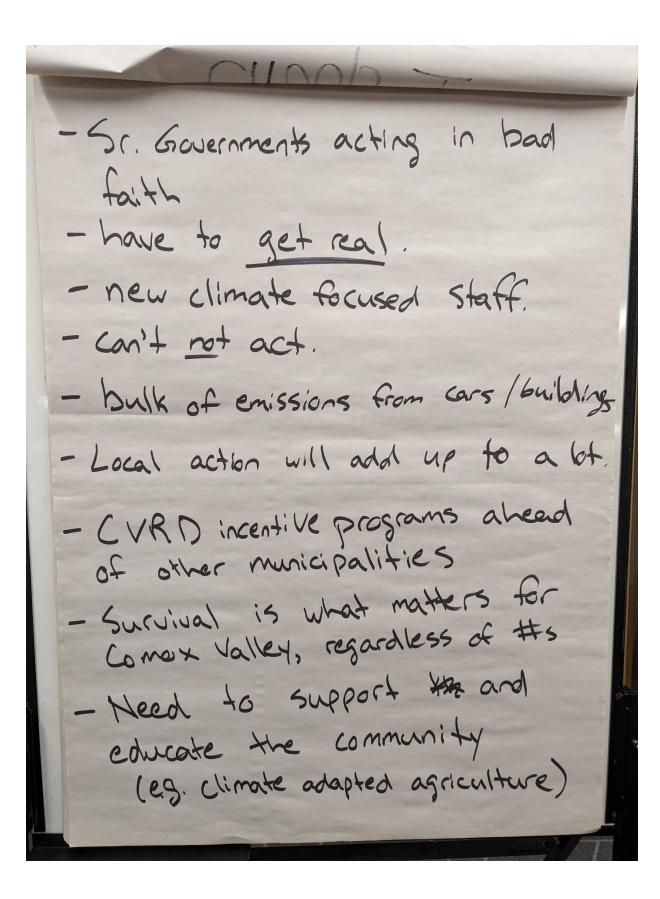
- Dialoguing with corporations and groups to work together and influence
- Make spaces to have vulnerable collective conversations over changes needed
- Meet people where they are at
- Proactive with communication and engagement
 - Engage CV insufficient
 - o School engagement, non-profits have excelled. Need to look to the. Use arts & culture
 - Regionally find shared and united issues (E.g., watershed, Comox glacier)

- Incorporate climate engagement in existing community events, music fests, sporting events
- o Share + engagement on benefits of action
- o Better public education and understanding of local governments
- Dedicated resources for more innovative communication

- Think about <u>savings</u> rather than costs to mitigate/ adapt to climate change
- Have to do something
- Sphere of influence: muddy
- Social division: if we are unable to look after ourselves then we can't look after our planet
- During times of COVID: emergency time work together to collaborate
- Unite under emergency times
 - Neighbourhood help
 - Expand the framework for this
 - o Challenge of creativity and fear of making mistakes
 - Change of governance
 - o Indigenous ways of thinking: 1000 year horizon
 - Climate change reconciliation (circular)
 - Growth mentality (capitalism, colonial mindset)
 - Conservation
- Urbanization
- Housing type: Multi-storey vs single family dwelling
- Carrying capacity of the land: infrastructure constraints
- Geothermal and solar
- Establish indigenous advisory council
- Support indigenous-led environmental projects
- Incorporate traditional knowledge into research + solutions
- Localize economy as much as possible
- Form partnerships with Indigenous communities for co-management of parks/natural areas

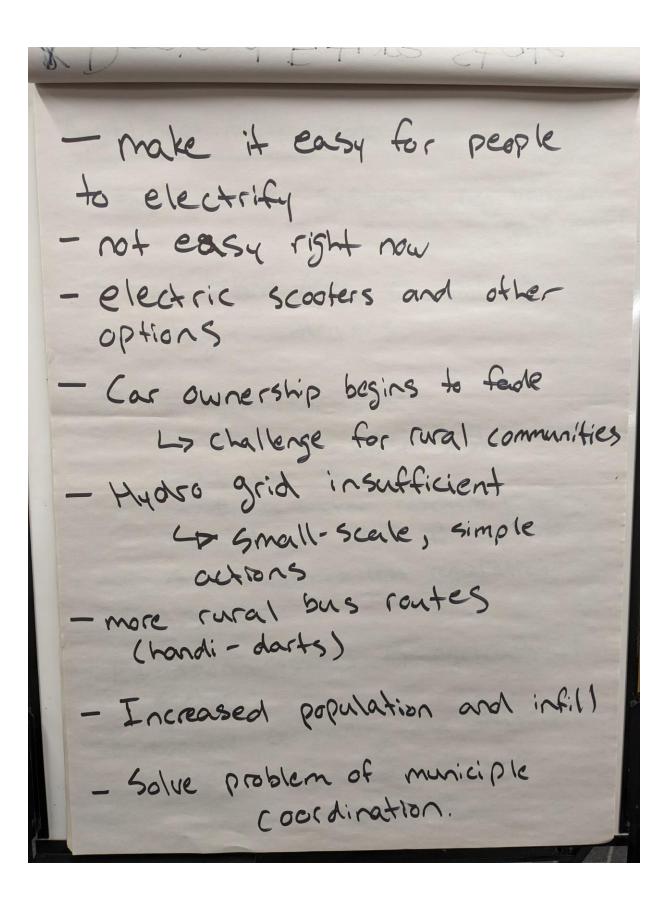
Appendix B Breakout Group Discussions - Notes



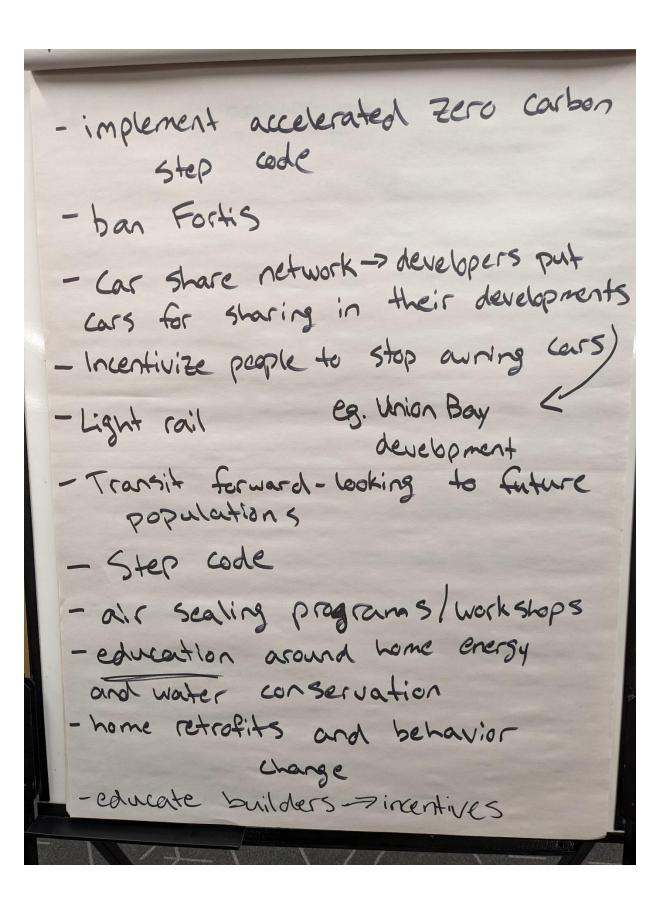


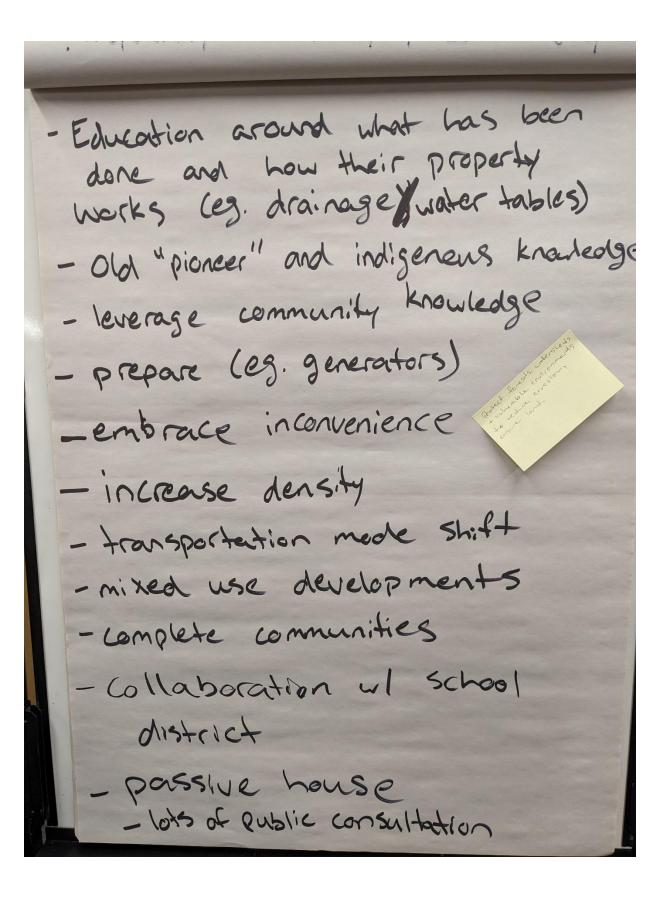
- Sc. Governments acting in bad - CURD has done a lot of Proactive work to date (eg. incentive programs) to - need more solutions and Strategies Lo Community-based education - need to begin implementation - above average on adaptation/ - below aug. on mitigation - Carada 3rd highest per capita emissions

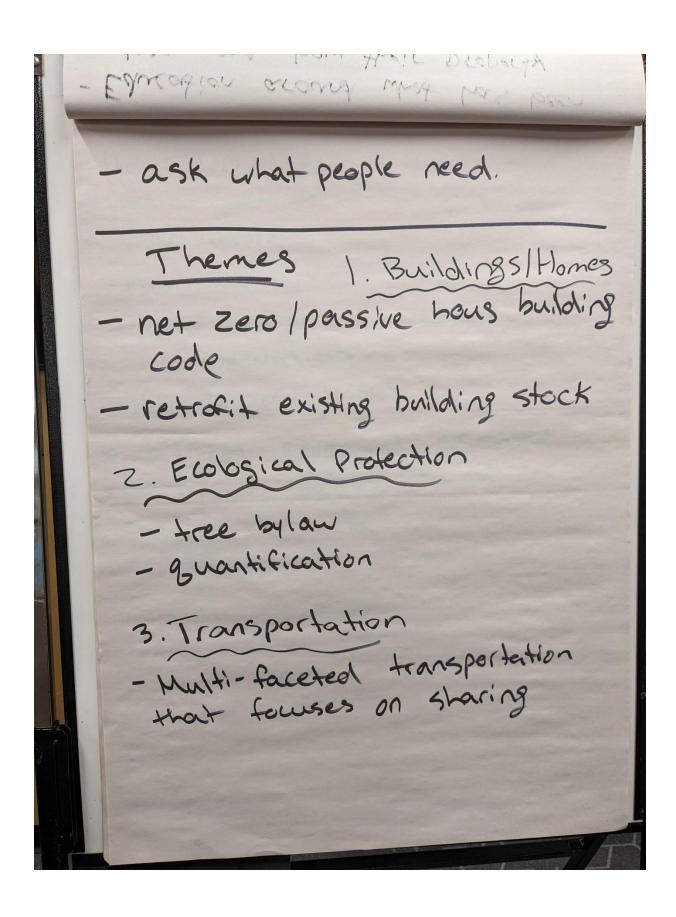
* Desired Future State For Region - Net zero by 2050 - thriving in a resilient community - Food Sccurity - Agricultural industry has transitional - Buy-in from everyone - Everyone doing what they can. - Home heating is good bye Fortis - Transportfric biles, cars, car stare Lo better transit



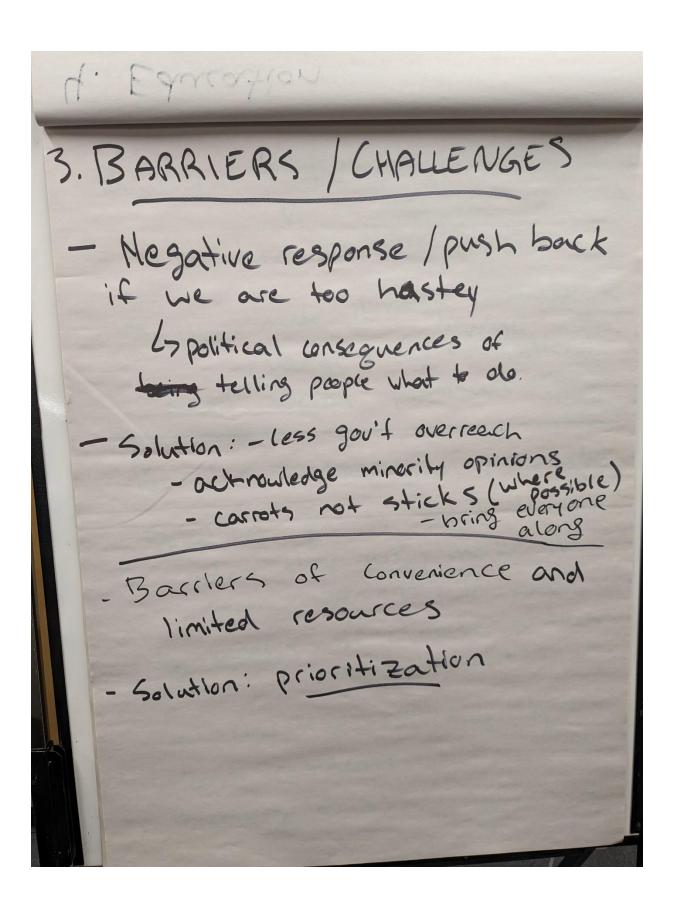
Actions required - heart share systems (eg. Varier / sport Centre) - Stand bekind / Stay focused on Strategic drivers - Draft Agriculture plan L>valley-wide water system Lo water storage Lo fresh water retention L7 make it easier for pp1 to Save water- less regulation - Fire Smart - Education sessions for agricultural - Encourage car pooling and transit Ly teach people how to use







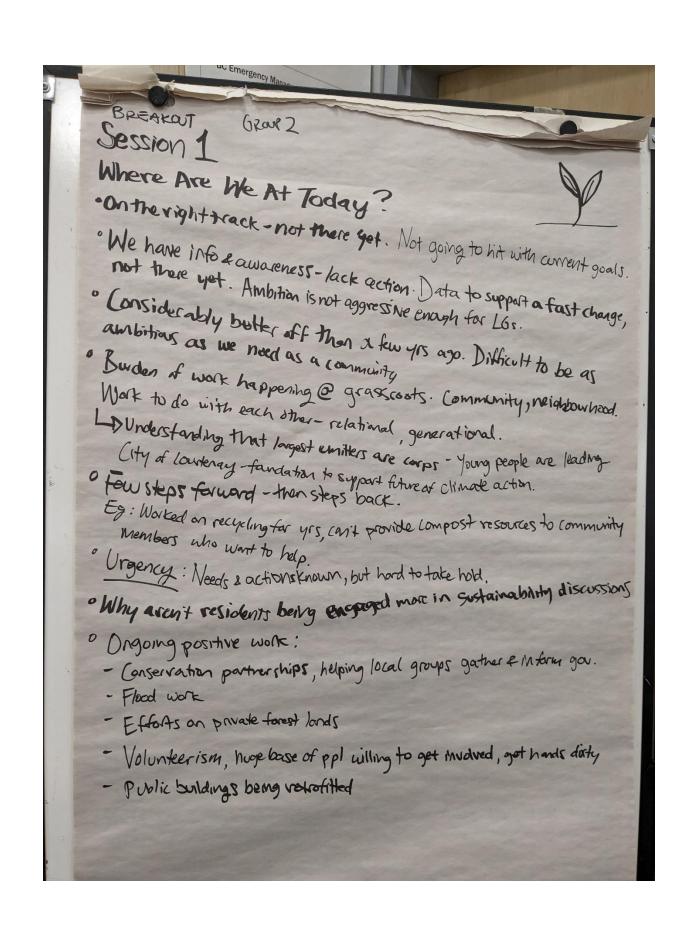
4. Education - Agriculture - Food security - Home energy and water conservation - How to use buses m - Local governments educated by residents. - 7 what are the barriers

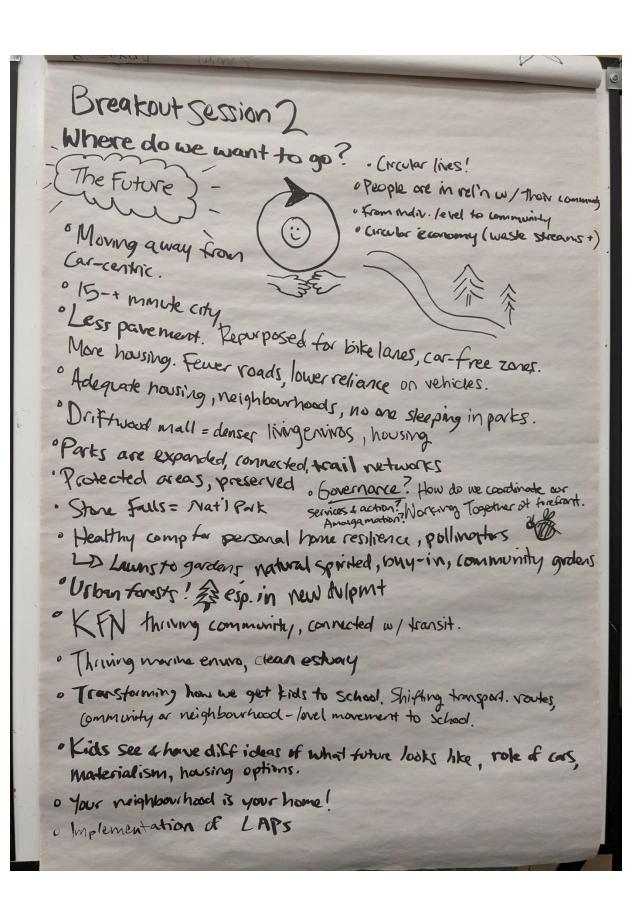


20001FBC - Barriers to individuals

Vine constraints - Solution: make it easy to make changes (eg. Education) owner social pressure Barrier -> unengaged populations - Solution: go to meet them where they are; make it more convenient; focus on co-benefits of climate action (eg. financial benefits) - prioritize affordability - ask residents what bacriers exist.

Barrier: Accountability and perspective (entitlement) - people are apathetic Solution: education around co-benefits - how will this directly impact individuals and communities - Suite of tooks for each action Ly corrots and sticks - focus on positive benefits - Sell people on a better world -> paint a picture

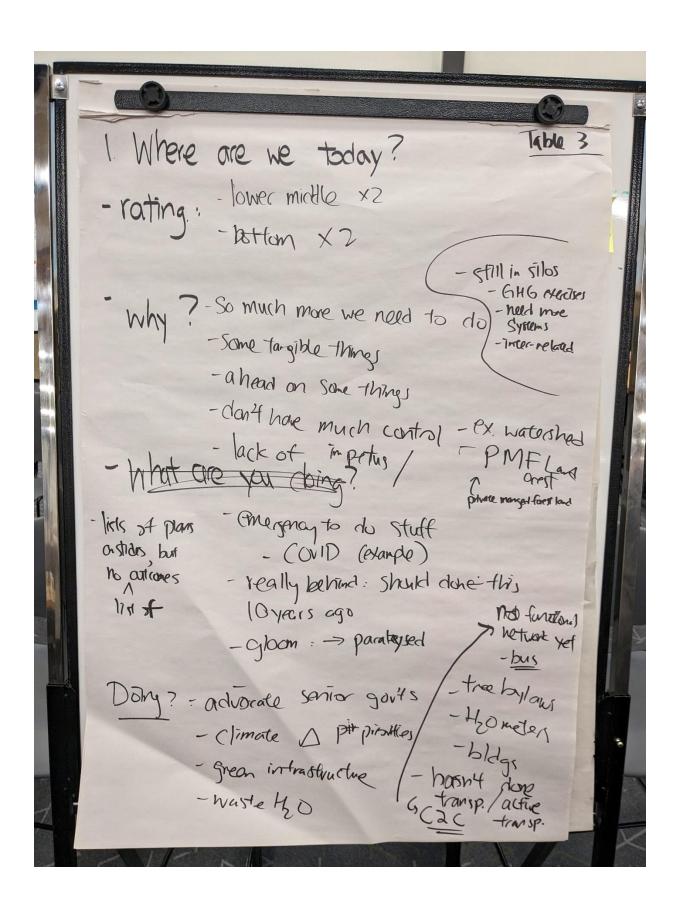


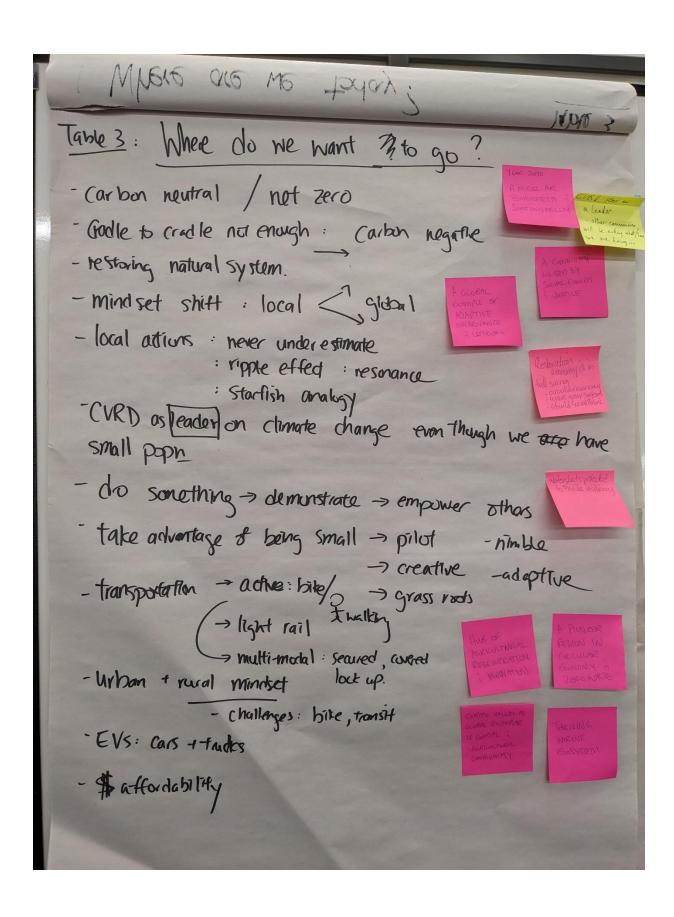


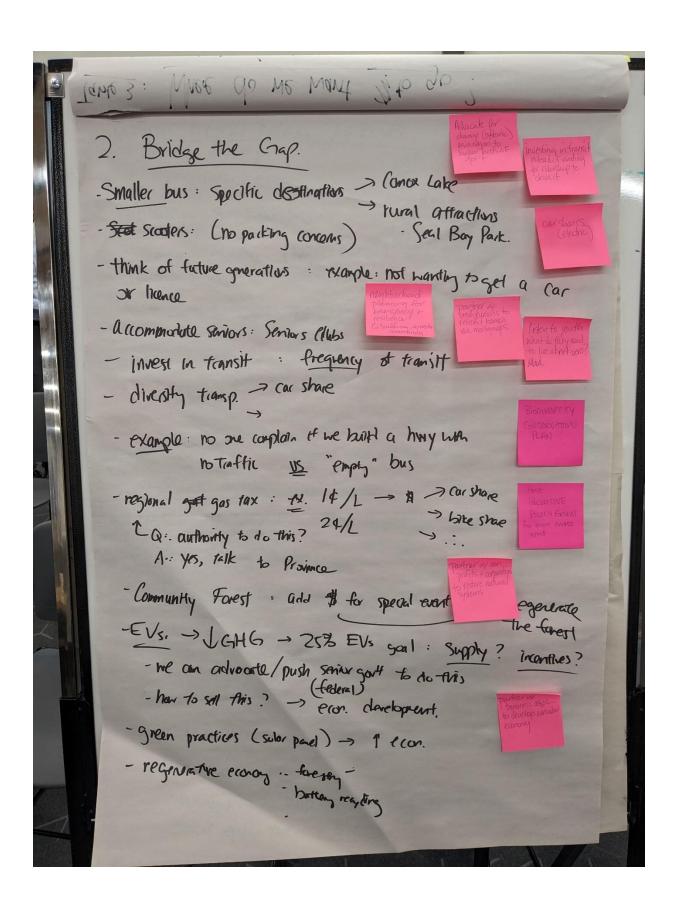
THEMES: · Buy-in from community w/targetted engagement · Connectivity: Trails, complete communities · Circular society Planning: Use tools like transect zones, improve land use planing · Community energy + resource systems o PPI like small, responsive local govit. Greater involvement of local people. " Higher-level of buy-in for community at large. Educating & bonging pp) together on need to act. Inspiring interest. Not limiting Choice · More + better engagement w/public Det in to schools to work up youth I model civic engagement LD Student Councils asked for most, environ groups, humanities classes in highergras Ly Youth feel empowered heard. Emmonmentalism as realistic field, climate charge ANTIDOTE tO ANXIETY IS ENGAGEMENT -· More projects young ppl can get mobiled in, hope for all ages. · Need more & Money. \$ Resources for other levels of govit "Community Support + fulsome buy-in. Fragagement to counter mismformation, emotion. Need to bring ppl in . " Deep convassing" We need local people to be brought together, find what their "in" is, help see role+ contrib. fr. residents · Moving away fr. communal projects & approaches b/2 frameworks Separating public fr. actual workleg: school liability). Need to counter this. · Transit: Make focus on door to destination. How do we make it easy + enjoyable. o New + 19x buildings: porking, gr. spaces, · Encourage private donations of land for trails. Look at ways to promote philanthropy in line w/ (lim Action. · Climate lawyers! o Promoting collective ownership, co-operatives, community - shared resources. · Move away fr. segregated uses, M. inclusive + complete neighbourhoods 4 land use. Mixed-use. Transact zones o Solid Waste-Close the loop 03 . Natigas but of new construction.

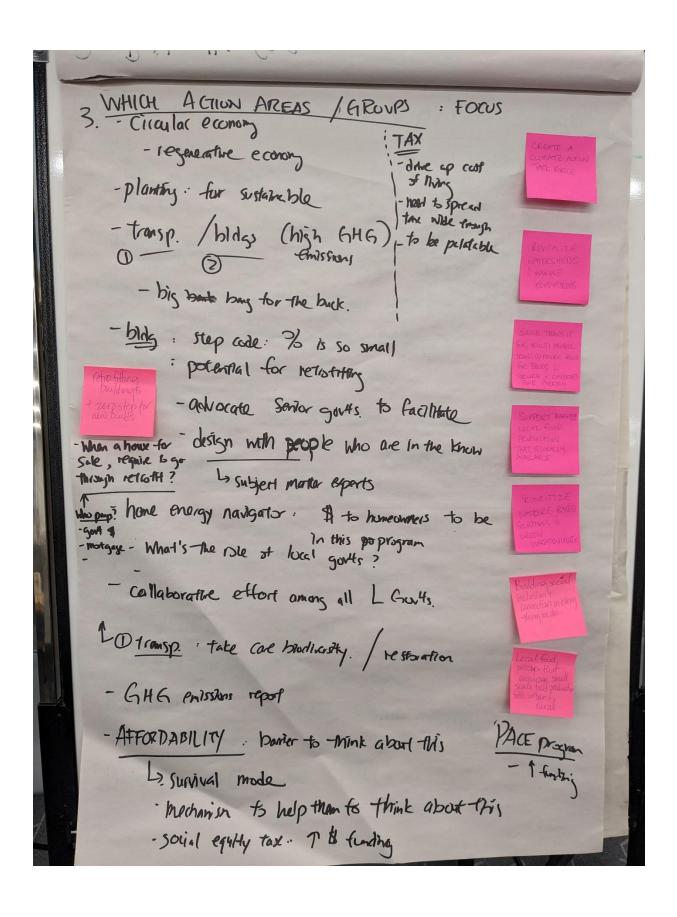
Trails, complete communities. THEMES: OBUY-IN FROM COMMUNITY WI + ANDROHED ENGRYPME Breakout Session 3: What is in our way? BARPIERS · Funding Climatedeniers · Political resistance / lack of political support · Burnout: discouragement over systems failing. Present in community + natil-level. Disriphing traditional capitalistic System needed. Economy has been major driver/ · Silo-ing of envivo. /economy/ social · Keep using what we have in place. Ey: Natl gas. Converting is a tough sell. Existing infrastructure—we keep using even if it's not serving climate interests. "New Plavours" eg: Nat'l gas was supposed to be a sol'n. " We don't have all the solins or info. *(Wercaming a songe of fear, overwhelmed from living in this era. Behaviour change is IMARD. Four of unbnown. Policies gov's make for society can De hard. People are buint out, exhausted, busy. · Gathering in - person rare. Lack of venues to support convos & personal decisions to be part of solin. "Generational disconnect - what is vole of pp) based on posttonality? · Pealty-granded. How do these ideas impact on-ground issues like emergency evacuation, building codes, etc. · Action plans need to fit into existing plans, regulations, policies.

Gratust Cercion 5: BARDIERS: Political restatince, burnout, Silo-ing of economy In novations: vs. enviro, mertia, uncertainty over bost paths (eg: nat. gas) behavioural change is hard. Overcoming Fear, overwhelmedness ppl are busy + TIRED. · Dialogung w/ corps/groups to work together & influence o Make spaces to have vulnerable collective convos over changes needed. · Meet people where they are at. Proactive w/ communication + engagement. - Engage CV insufficient School engagement, non-profits have excelled. We need to look to them. Use orts 4 culture. o Regionally-find shared & united issues (eg: watersheds, Comox glacrers) · Incorp. Clim. engagement in existing community events, music fests, Sporting, · Share + engaging on BENEFIT of action · Better public education + understanding of local govs. LD Dedicated resources for m. innovative communication









3 Citatlac economy (TAX
Table 3: What is in our very? Challerys/Darriers - Conflicte communities - focus on the systems - day taps - rail out fis rural areas - decision mating place: demographics. 40th inching to go along with - head funding to go along with - be continued that the ground - be close to the ground - be close to the ground - be affects our infratactive - hour te sidents - head to know the teends / education/ - Climate assorbly / governance model / Intervettion. - adaptation / markering / enpowering. - time committeent - personal, thursty, / enpowering. - time constituted - personal, thursty, - go to schools - elem. - go to schools - elem. - go to schools - elem. - policy charges: cartain tox - micro / moore factors. 1 - policy charges: cartain tox - micro / moore factors. 1 - policy charges: cartain tox - mod a the same paye it influences at charge - how motivated are we to advance c timate adaptation? - need to do more. - Direct Managed Forest Land (PMFL)

- think about savings rather than costs to mithogre/adage (Imate change - have to its simething) - Sphere of influence: muchly - Social division: torrate it we are unable to look ourselve. than look after our planets - during times of COVID: theory time work together collections. - Unittle under EMERGENCY TIMES - heighbourhood help - Papard This framework for this: - Chellage of creativity and fear of making mistakes - indiqueous way of thenking - Change of governance - indiqueous way of thenking - Change of governance - indiqueous way of thenking - Change of governance - indigueous way of thenking - Change of governance - indigueous way of thenking - Change of governance - indigueous way of thenking - Change of governance - indigueous way of thenking - Change of governance - indigueous way of thenking - Change of governance - indigueous way of thenking - Change of governance - indigueous way of thenking - Change of governance - indigueous way of thenking - Change of governance - indigueous way of thenking - Change of governance - indigueous way of thenking - Change of governance - indigueous way of thenking - Change of governance - indigueous way of thenking - Change of governance - indigueous way of thenking - Change of governance - indigueous way of thenking - Change of governance - indigueous way of thenking - Change of governance - indigueous way of thenking - Change of governance - indigueous way of thenking - Change of governance - indigueous way of thenking - Change of governance - indigueous way of thenking - Change of governance	ESTABLISH (ADIGENDUS ANYISBY CONICIL
- Whanization - Conservation - Conservation - housing type: multi-storay vs. Single family dwelling - Carrying capacity of the land. : infrastructure constraints	ONA WINCH-FRAME SUPPLET NOTIFICATION TO THE PROJECTS INCOCPURATE TRANSTONAL KNOWLEDGE
localize eunomy as nuclearystyble trimatch the carrying capacin of	INTO RESERVERI I SULTIONS FORM APPRICABILIS WITH HISTORIANUS COMMUNITIES FOR RECOGNAN A HOMBER ACCORDAN A HOMBER ACC

Appendix C List of Attendees

Table A.1 Workshop Breakout Groups.

Name	Association			
Breakout Group #1				
Jennifer Steel	CVRD Facilitator			
Mike Barnard	CVRD Scribe			
Will Cole-Hamilton	Courtenay/CVRD			
Edwin Grieve	CVRD			
Maureen Swift	Comox			
Cristi May Sacht	Schools			
Troy Therrien	Cumberland			
Daniel Arbour	CVRD			
Breakout Group #2				
Mike Zbarsky	CVRD Facilitator			
Monica Whitney- Brown	CVRD Scribe			
Melanie McCollum	Courtenay/CVRD			
Dan Seal	K'omoks			
Doug Hillian	Courtenay/CVRD)			
Evan Jolicoeur	Courtenay			
Nicole Minions	Comox			
Shannon Aldinger	Schools			
Breakout Group #3				
Matt Bell	CVRD Facilitator			
Brian Chow	CVRD Scribe			
Jonathan Kerr	Comox/CVRD			
Jenn Meilleur	Comox			
Vicky Brown	(Cumberland			
David Frisch	(Courtenay			
Wendy Morin	CVRD/Courtenay			