

sustainable cowichan

12 big ideas for a strong, resilient Cowichan

<p>01</p>  <p>Get real about climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan for the uncertainty ahead (more winter rain, summer drought, violent winds) Make new development and redevelopment designs 'climate smart' 	<p>02</p>  <p>Eat local because food security matters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support small-scale agriculture (rural and urban) Develop a regional agricultural plan 	<p>03</p>  <p>Be energy smart.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve energy wherever possible by using efficient systems and appliances Produce our own power (solar, geothermal, excess heat from industry) 	<p>04</p>  <p>Get up to speed on the new green economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote green businesses like agro-forestry, alternative energy and eco-tourism Account fully for the cost of products and services, shift taxes to reward low-impact activity
<p>05</p>  <p>Clear the air to reduce carbon emissions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant carbon-eating vegetation, upgrade wood burning stoves Pass air quality bylaws, regularly monitor and enforce air quality 	<p>06</p>  <p>Don't hog water so there is enough for all.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Price water to encourage conservation, use efficient systems and appliances Manage industry and green infrastructure to protect aquifers and wetlands 	<p>07</p>  <p>Grow up, not out.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put people, jobs and transportation closer together Establish and enforce urban containment boundaries and add natural values (shade trees, rain gardens) Adopt a green building code that reduces water and energy use and site impacts 	<p>08</p>  <p>Revive biodiversity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore and protect valuable habitat and ecosystems Eliminate invasive species; allow only zero impact development Acquire key tracts of land, forge land partnerships like farms with cluster housing or community forests
<p>09</p>  <p>Get serious about zero waste.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make use of unused resources and minimize environmental impacts Rethink how we handle our sewage and other wastes Say no to plastic, and avoid excessive packaging 	<p>10</p>  <p>Be carbon neutral.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create better ways to get around (light rail, bike lanes, more buses), set up a regional carbon trading system Reforest our communities and watersheds to capture carbon and create jobs 	<p>11</p>  <p>Audit and protect our assets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess sensitive areas, species at risk, wetlands, watercourses and air and water quality Undertake a connectivity analysis to make sure species have room to adapt to climate change 	<p>12</p>  <p>Lead the way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenge government to embed a sustainable future in every rule and regulation Support local government to help us make real changes Do your part: join a committee, be a watchdog, voice your concerns and priorities

If we carry on living for today and not thinking about tomorrow, we run the risk of losing some of our natural assets forever. Which is why the Environment Commission has come up with 12 big ideas for a strong, resilient Cowichan. Now we are asking for your help to turn these big ideas into a solid plan that gives local government clear direction for the future.

Are we on the right track? Let us know at 12things.ca



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Big vision. Little footprint.

