



News Release

200 - 1627 Fort Street Victoria BC V8R 1H8

Telephone **250.405.5151** FAX: 250.405.5155

Toll Free via Enquiry BC in Vancouver 604.660.2421. Elsewhere in BC

1.800.663.7867

information@islandstrust.bc.ca www.islandstrust.bc.ca

September 8, 2020

2020-20-IT

Islands Trust Climate Action Speaker Series Launching This Fall

Lək ʷəŋən, METULIYE/Victoria, B.C. – As a follow up to joining other governments around the world in declaring a climate emergency, Islands Trust is launching a free Climate Action Speaker Series.

This three-part online webinar series involves a variety of organizations and individuals, including the Ecological Research Network, SeaChange Marine Conservation Society, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance, and Embrio Consulting. Through the webinar series participants will learn how they can support climate change adaptation and resilience at home and in their communities.

Webinar topics will focus on rainwater harvesting, the critical role that the marine plant eelgrass plays in climate action, and ecosystem-based adaptation.

“Trust Area ecosystems and communities are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change,” shared Peter Luckham. “Drought, extreme weather events, temperature change, and sea-level rise are significant concerns, and science provides evidence that action can't be delayed. We're creating a Climate Action Plan, and the Climate Action Speaker Series is the first step in bringing people together to explore what can be done at home or in the community.”

The Climate Action Speaker Series topics and dates are:

Rainwater Harvesting, September 29

Ecosystem-Based Adaptation, October 27

Eelgrass: A Climate Hero, November 24

The series, which will be delivered at no cost to participants using Zoom video conferencing, will feature an engaging set of speakers, including islanders. Presenters will share knowledge, provide practical ideas, and offer an opportunity for questions and answers.

All are welcome to attend and can register at the Islands [Trust Website](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/trust-council/projects/stewardship-education-program/) (<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/trust-council/projects/stewardship-education-program/>).

– 30 –

Webinar details are attached.

Preserving **island** communities, culture and environment

Bowen, Denman, Gabriola, Galiano, Gambier, Hornby, Lasqueti, Mayne, N. Pender, Salt Spring, Saturna, S. Pender, Thetis

The Islands Trust is a federation of special-purpose local government bodies representing 26,000 people living within the Islands Trust area and another 10,000 non-resident property owners. The Islands Trust area is located within Coast Salish territory and is the homeland to over 28,000 Coast Salish Peoples who have called this place home since time immemorial. The Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the Islands Trust Area's unique environment and amenities by planning and regulating land use, development management, education, cooperation with other agencies, and land conservation. The area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island. It includes 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5200 square kilometres.

Contact:

Peter Luckham, Chair, Islands Trust Council 250.210.2553

Russ Hotsenpiller, Chief Administrative Officer, via Vicki Swan, Communications Specialist 250.405.5156

Backgrounder: Islands Trust Community Climate Action Speaker Details

Rainwater Harvesting

When: Tuesday, September 29, 2020, 6:30 – 8:00 pm
Where: Online via Zoom Videoconferencing
Presenters: Shannon Cowan, Coordinator, Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance
William Shulba, Senior Freshwater Specialist, Islands Trust
Cost: FREE
All are welcome

Across the Islands Trust Area, water shortages are a concern, which rainwater harvesting can help solve. During this webinar, participants will learn about non-potable rainwater conservation and harvesting, and collection systems that can be how to put in place.

Presenters, William Shulba, of Islands Trust and Shannon Cowan, of the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance, will profile climate impacts on water sustainability, showcase rainwater harvesting systems, and provide a tour of different types of rainwater harvesting systems.

Register: <https://bit.ly/3jGf17t>

Ecosystem-based Adaptation

When: Tuesday, October 27, 2020, 6:30 – 8:00 pm
Where: Online via Zoom Videoconferencing
Presenters: Ruth Waldick, Ecosystem-based Adaptation Specialist, Ecological Research Network
Tine Rossing, Ecosystem-based Adaptation Specialist, Ecolibrio Consulting
Cost: FREE
We encourage climate action planners and practitioners to attend. All are welcome.

The climate emergency requires new approaches to climate action that recognize the interconnectedness of humans, ecosystems, and species. Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) is gaining traction internationally as a way to use nature-based approaches, which enhance human and ecosystem climate change resilience.

This webinar will provide community members, engaged in climate action work, with valuable information about practical EbA approaches that can be applied in their communities.

Presenters Tine Rossing and Ruth Waldick will profile the impacts of climate change on the Trust Area and show how EbA approaches can lead to stronger climate resilience for humans, other species, and ecosystems.

Register: <https://bit.ly/2Z7Ggjw>

Eelgrass: A Climate Hero

Tuesday, November 24, 2020, 6:30 – 8:00 pm
Where: Online via Zoom Videoconferencing
Presenters: Aimee McGowan, Blue Carbon Researcher, SFU, Resource and Environmental Management
Victoria Postlethwaite, Blue Carbon Researcher, SFU, Resource and Environmental Management
Nikki Wright, Eelgrass Conservationists, SeaChange Marine Conservation Society
Cost: FREE
All are welcome.

Within the Salish Sea lies an unsung climate hero named *Zostera marina*, commonly known as eelgrass. This underwater plant has many benefits, including the storing of 'blue carbon' (carbon absorbed by oceans) and shoreline protection.

During this webinar, participants will learn about the climate action role eel grass plays and why it's important to protect and restore this hard-working marine plant.

Presenters and eelgrass/blue carbon specialists, Aimee McGowan, Victoria Postlethwaite, and Nikki Wright will talk about the ecosystem contribution of eelgrass and discuss what we can do to protect and restore this important plant.

Register: <https://bit.ly/3IPzjNK>