



File: 0400.04

February 26, 2019

Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Local Governments

Dear Neighbour:

RE: LOCAL GOVERNMENT SURVIVOR CLIMATE CHALLENGE

The District of Highlands Council would like to challenge all of the AVICC Local Governments to a **Local Government Survivor Climate Challenge**.

The goal of the challenge is to initiate a fun and friendly local government competition with each participating Council and Board measuring their average "One-Planet Living" footprint of the Council and Board members, who then take steps in their daily lives over the next year to reduce their average footprint. Highlands Council believes this fun competition can show community leadership while assisting in education and building local resilience in the face of a rapidly changing climate.

The calculator we are using is: <https://www.footprintcalculator.org>. This easy to use online tool gives the following data based on subjective inputs by individuals:

1. How many Earth's would be required if everyone lived like that person
2. Ecological footprint (how many hectares of land are required)
3. Carbon footprint (tonnes of CO₂)

The District of Highlands hopes to launch this competition on Earth Day 2019 (April 22) and the competition would run for one year, until Earth Day 2020.

What would be involved?

Each council or board member would determine their personal results prior to April 22, 2019 using the footprint calculator. The average results of your Council or Board for the three items above would be calculated (this responsibility could be assigned to an elected or staff member) and the averaged results would be forwarded to the District of Highlands via the Corporate Officer: tneuraute@highlands.ca. Then throughout the year participants would work towards lowering their initial results. Come Earth Day 2020 the same participants will once again take the challenge and the average for the council or board would then again be forwarded to the District of Highlands. Highlands will summarize the results and relay them back to you. Again, these are combined averages and not individual results.



Goals of the Challenge:

- to educate
- to engage community and the region in a simple fun way
- to invite information community participation by expanding the survey to residents
- to attract media coverage
- to demonstrate community leadership in responding to the climate crisis
- to build local resilience
- to gain more support for climate policies and initiatives
- to empower individuals to take action

Join our carbon footprint duel!

Two documents are attached for your reference; a one-page poster including District of Highlands Council's average figures, and the original information memo from Councillor Ann Baird.

If you have any questions regarding this initiative, please do not hesitate to contact the District of Highlands at 250-474-1773.

Yours truly,



Ken Williams, Mayor
District of Highlands



Highlands Council Challenges your Council to a carbon footprint duel with the launch of the Local Government Survivor Climate Challenge

**LAUNCH DATE
APRIL 22, 2019**

In our concern for climate change, Highlands Council would like to challenge your Council or Board in a friendly competition to take the Local Government Survivor Climate Challenge to compare ecological footprints and to strive to take steps in daily life to reduce your group's average footprint. Only Council and Board averages will be used for comparison, and no individual results will be made known. We would also like Councils and Boards to encourage their residents to take the challenge, the District of Highlands advertised the challenge in its Spring issue of its newsletter.

The calculator we have used is located at:
<https://www.footprintcalculator.org>

It takes only a few minutes to fill out. This tool gives the following data based on subjective inputs by individuals:

- How many earths would be required if everyone lived like that person
- The ecological footprint (how many hectares of land would be required)
- The carbon footprint (tonnes of CO₂)

Highlands Council average figures are:

2.4 earths

4.14 hectares

6.94 tonnes of CO₂

Bragging rights go to the Council or Board that:

- Starts with the lowest number of earths
- Has the largest reduction over one year
- Has the lowest number at the end of one year

And the fossil award would go to the Council/Board with the highest average.

The goals for this challenge are:

- To educate
- To engage community and the region in a simple and fun way
- To invite informal community participation
- To attract media coverage
- To demonstrate leadership in responding to the climate crisis
- To build local resilience
- To gain more support for climate policies and initiatives
- To empower individuals to take action

Will you accept the challenge?



To: Council Members
From: Councillor Ann Baird

File: 0530.01
Date: December 13, 2018

Subject: Municipal Survivor Climate Challenge

Introduction:

Create a friendly competition between municipal councils challenging them to decrease their ecological footprint with the goal of education, community leadership, and building local resilience in the face of a rapidly changing climate.

Background:

The new report of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) (Nov 2018) focuses on the emission pathways to keeping global average temperatures under a 1.5 degree Celsius rise AND the implications of not doing so. The consequences are bad enough even at the 1°C rise we have already experienced, but almost unspeakable if we don't meet this 1.5°C target. The IPCC findings state that global emissions must reduce 45% by 2030 and 100% by 2050. The good news is that scientists and economists say this is possible. The bad news is that we need to change everything immediately. https://report.ipcc.ch/sr15/pdf/sr15_spm_final.pdf

Quote from Sir David Attenborough at COP24 (UN Climate Summit in Poland) on Dec 3, 2018.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-46398057>

"Right now we are facing a manmade disaster of global scale, our greatest threat in thousands of years: climate change. If we don't take action, the collapse of our civilisations and the extinction of much of the natural world is on the horizon."

"The world's people have spoken. Time is running out. They want you, the decision-makers, to act now. Leaders of the world, you must lead. The continuation of civilisations and the natural world upon which we depend is in your hands."

Quote from António Guterres, the United Nations secretary general on Sept 10, 2018.
<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2018-09-10/secretary-generals-remarks-climate-change-delivered>

"If we do not change course by 2020, we risk missing the point where we can avoid runaway climate change, with disastrous consequences for people and all the natural systems that sustain us."

Details for The Municipal Survivor Climate Challenge:

To initiate a fun and friendly municipal competition with each participating council measuring their **average** "One-Planet Living" footprint **of the mayor and council**, who then take steps in their daily lives over the next year to reduce their average footprint. Suggested calculator:
<https://www.footprintcalculator.org/>

This tool gives the following data based on subjective inputs by individuals:

1. How many Earth's would be required if everyone lived like that person
2. Ecological footprint (how many hectares of land are required)
3. Carbon footprint (tonnes of CO2)

Bragging rights and possible award would be for the council that:

1. Starts with the lowest footprint (how many earth's)
2. Has the biggest reduction over one year
3. Has lowest at the end of the year
4. And perhaps the fossil award to the highest average footprint council

Goals:

1. Education
2. Community and regional engagement in a simple and fun way
3. Invite informal community participation or expand to a community footprint survey
4. Media coverage
5. Leverage existing pathways of inter-municipal interactions to expand climate awareness
6. Demonstrate community leadership in responding to the climate crisis
7. Shift the cultural story around climate action
8. Build local resilience
9. Gain more support for climate policies and initiatives
10. Empower individuals to take action

Many people say that individual actions don't make a difference. To this we can say:

1. Individual actions add up. Think of a drop of water, a puddle, a pond, a lake, a river, an ocean.
2. It's about ethics and doing the right thing. Demonstrate climate leadership to our community and to our region.
3. People that take personal action are more likely to take political action and support/request meaningful changes locally, provincially, federally, and globally.
4. Personal changes now will make us more resilient to climatic, ecological and economic shocks.

Other Comments:

- Requires very little staff time and has no financial costs
- Easy to use and no individual footprints are shared...only council average
- Individuals who are feeling hopeless or are negatively impacted by the enormity of the climate crisis suffer more health and stress related issues. Offering examples of actions and opportunities can help individuals begin making changes. Personal actions often lead to a sense of control; connection and hope which help reduce stress, anxiety, and fear, thereby leading to a healthier community.

NOTICE OF MOTION for January 7, 2019 regular council meeting:

That council initiates the Municipal Survivor Climate Challenge AND perform our individual global footprint calculations, AND allow the Chief Administrative Officer to average our individual footprint results (including number of planets, CO2e, and number of hectares of land), AND send a letter with Highlands Council averages challenging other AVICC municipalities to do the same.

Respectfully Submitted,



Councillor Ann Baird