



NEWS RELEASE

January 12, 2023

The RDN and the City of Nanaimo Launch New Climate Action Program

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) and the City of Nanaimo (the City) are pleased to announce Acting for Climate Together (ACT) will be launching on January 13, 2023. This volunteer engagement initiative was created to inspire, educate and empower individuals and community groups to work together to reduce our climate impact. Partially funded with a \$15,000 Canada's Agents of Change grant from the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), ACT complements regional programs in place to support 2050 greenhouse gas emission targets. The RDN and the City invite local groups to get involved and to apply to the ACT initiative by February 10, 2023.

Participants will receive staff support to develop innovative climate action projects or choose from off-the-shelf options that reflect the needs and values of our communities. Through participation in ACT, groups will complete designated actions to earn climate action badges in the following categories: transportation, food and waste, buildings and energy, nature and climate knowledge. Groups can also pursue their own project-based action to earn a Big Action badge. With each badge earned, groups are eligible for incentives such as prizes and award recognition.

Acting for Climate Together is designed for individuals looking to join a group or established groups looking to make a positive environmental impact in the region. Groups of two or more can include but are not limited to:

- Neighbourhood associations or block watch groups
- Community groups, such as environmental or streamkeeper groups
- Recreational organizations, clubs and sports teams
- Non-profits and service organizations
- Religious groups
- School, university and college classes, groups or clubs
- A group of your own making

Businesses are encouraged to participate in the program. Their teams will be eligible to earn recognition badges.

Applications for ACT will be accepted until 4 p.m. on February 10. Groups can apply even if they have not yet decided on a project. A toolkit with numerous project ideas, from small actions to large neighborhood-scale projects, is available for groups looking for a project to do.

Groups and individuals interested in participating in ACT can visit getinvolved.rdn.ca/acting-for-climate for more information, to apply to participate and to register for the information session which will be held on Thursday, January 19.

Quotes

“Responding effectively to climate change requires the participation of many -- including residents, community groups, businesses, institutions and all levels of government. Through Acting for Climate Together, our collective actions will have a greater impact on reaching community emission targets and building climate resilience.”

Leonard Krog, Mayor, City of Nanaimo

"Acting for Climate Together is an exciting opportunity to directly engage residents in meaningful environmental action. We look forward to seeing the collaborative, community-led projects that will help us reach our climate action goals while contributing to a livable region for all."

Vanessa Craig, Chair, Regional District of Nanaimo

Quick Facts

- The RDN has committed to reducing community greenhouse gas emissions to 80 per cent below 2007 levels by 2050.
- The City has committed to reducing community greenhouse gas emissions between 50 per cent and 58 per cent below 2010 levels by 2030, and between 94 per cent and 107 per cent below 2010 levels by 2050
- The 2050 greenhouse gas emission targets are included in the RDN's official community plans and Regional Growth Strategy, and the City of Nanaimo's City Plan.
- The RDN and City of Nanaimo have several programs available to residents and community groups who are taking direct action on climate change including green building and water stewardship rebates, green building outreach, water stewardship programs and wildfire risk reduction programs.
- For more information on the Regional District of Nanaimo's action on climate change, green building and other sustainability resources, visit rdn.bc.ca/energy-and-sustainability.
- For more information on the City of Nanaimo's response to climate change, visit the Green Initiatives section on nanaimo.ca.

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