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2021 Program

Theme – Seeds of a One Planet Region

A One Planet Region is one that has an ecological footprint equivalent to one planet's worth of bio-capacity and resources and yet ensures a good quality of life and good health for all. It is thus focused on ecological and social justice.

Given that our current footprint in this region is estimated to be about 3 – 4 planets, this requires a roughly 70% reduction in our collective footprint – and it has to happen quite swiftly. But since there is much potential for inequality to be heightened in such a rapid and profound transformation, this has to be a just transformation.

Fundamentally, we need a major cultural shift, creating new values – or perhaps re-discovering older values - about what we are and what we want to be, both as a community and as individuals. In the Fall 2020 series of Conversations, we explored these new values.

Our Conversations in 2021 will be focusing more on imagining and starting to design and create a One Planet Region, exploring what local and personal and actions are needed and the policy changes needed to support those actions. We will organise this around Bioregional's 10 principles of One Planet Living, which are the basis of the work of One Planet Saanich, and the concept of a Just Transition.

Our series is inspired by the 'Seeds of Good Anthropocenes' project - <https://goodanthropocenes.net/>. Seeds "can be social initiatives, new technologies, economic tools, or social-ecological projects, or organisations, movements or new ways of acting that appear to be contributing to the creation of a future that is just, prosperous, and sustainable".

We will bring in people and organisations - we might call them the 'One Planetees' - who are actually creating the programs or taking actions that take us towards a One Planet Region. They are the seeds of a One Planet Region.

We are also developing a 'Seeds Catalogue' project that will collect local Seeds; we hope to make them available in some form of searchable online catalogue and map.



The process for our One Planet Conversations

Our Conversations will begin with brief presentations and then discussions between the presenters about the topic; we intend to include a wide variety of perspectives, including in particular the Indigenous perspective and the perspective of people of colour. This will be followed by a brief opportunity for questions only for clarification. This part of the program will last about 45 – 55 minutes and will end with one or two questions proposed by the presenters for the small groups.

For the second hour, we will break up into small groups based on neighbourhood/locality to continue the discussion of the issues raised in the first hour, and to develop, if appropriate, key points, concerns or questions to bring back to the main discussion. (This will require people to let us know their locality ahead of time, we will be setting up a process for this.) The intent is in part to encourage the creation of local small groups/networks that can continue the conversations after the meeting, perhaps evolving over time into local action nodes.

After about 40 minutes we will re-convene and hear back from groups that may have key points, concerns or questions to bring back to the main discussion and/or for the presenters to consider and respond to.

Note that while we will for now be doing this online, small local groups could also convene if they were comfortable and the provincial rules permit it. Once we are through Covid (not any time soon!) we will encourage people to attend in multiple sites across the region where they could hear the presentations and discussion online and then have local-level discussions in person.

All Conversations will be online, using Zoom. The plenary sessions will be recorded and posted to our Youtube Channel, where you can find recordings from 2020 -

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDAavk-s3mWM9cLjdDhYGbA/>

The Program in Brief – see below for details

With the exception of January and December, when they are on the third Thursday, all sessions will be on the 4th Thursday of each month, from 5 – 7 PM.

Topics and speakers for February onwards are still being developed, but will be based on the 10 One Planet Principles noted above.

January 21st – One Planet Saanich and a One Planet Region

- *Speakers: Mayor Fred Haynes, Rebecca Newlove, Cora Hallsworth,*

February 25th – T'Sou-ke Nation and Sooke in transition

- *Speakers: Andrew Moore, T'Sou-ke Nation; Michael Tacon, Transition Sooke; Councillor Tony St-Pierre, District of Sooke*

March 25th - A local economy fit for a One Planet Region

- *Speakers: Jill Doucette, CEO, Synergy Institute, Victoria and Councillor Ben Geselbracht, Nanaimo*

April 22nd - A food system for a One Planet Region

May 27th - Building for a One Planet Region

June 24th - Mobility and transportation for a One Planet Region

September 23rd



Conversations for a One Planet Region Society

Learn - Discuss - Understand - Imagine - Design - Create

<https://oneplanetconversations.ca/>

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October 28th

November 25th

December 16th

Program details

January 21st – One Planet Saanich and a One Planet Region

The District of Saanich is one of five municipalities around the world that were invited in 2018 to be part of Bioregional's One Planet Cities project – see <https://www.oneplanetsaanich.org/>

The project brings together municipalities, organisations, businesses, schools and community groups. Participating organisations use the One Planet Living Framework to create their own One Planet Action Plan.

In addition to reflecting on the work that has taken place and is underway, we will also discuss how to take this further both within and beyond Saanich; how do we use this as a springboard for a One Planet Region?

Speakers:

- Mayor Fred Haynes
- Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability for the District of Saanich
- Cora Hallsworth, sustainability consultant and One Planet Saanich lead

February 25th – Sooke in Transition

The District of Sooke – “Where the Rainforest Meets the Sea” – seeks to preserve its natural environment, while also creating affordable and accessible housing that allows families to put down roots and thrive as members of the community. Two local initiatives that have attracted interest in this region and beyond are Transition Sooke - a citizen's initiative seeking common-sense steps towards a resilient and sustainable community - and the environmental sustainability work of the T'Sou-ke Nation, which has been named “Canada's first Aboriginal solar community”.

Speakers:

- Andrew Moore, Special Projects Manager, T'Sou-ke Nation
- Michael Tacon, President, Transition Sooke;
- Councillor Tony St-Pierre, District of Sooke

March 25th - Circles and Doughnuts - Towards a One Planet economy for our region

The economy – linked to equity – is one of the 10 principles of Bioregional’s One Planet Living framework. But what sort of local economy do we need that respects both ecologically sustainable and socially just development. A number of different models are being proposed, including the Wellbeing Economy, the Circular Economy and the Doughnut Economy. What would that mean and what would it look like in our region?

Speakers:

- Jill Doucette, CEO, Synergy Institute, Victoria - host of the Project Zero Circular Economy program
- Councillor Ben Geselbracht, champion of Doughnut and Circular Economy resolutions in Nanaimo

April 22nd - A food system for a One Planet Region

When the ecological footprint of Saanich was calculated – based on household expenditure data – food was almost half the footprint. Almost three-quarters of the food footprint is due to the land used to grow food, with most of the rest due to energy use. In terms of food types, meat, eggs, fish and dairy account for almost three quarters of the footprint. On top of that, there are high levels of food waste in the system, charity food is still needed and there are concerns about unsustainable farming practices, unhealthy junk foods and toxics in the food supply. So what does a One Planet food system look like for this region, and how do we get there?

Speakers:

- Pierre Iachetti, Agriculture and Food Security Planner for Saanich
- Linda Geggie, Executive Director, Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable (CRFAIR)

May 27th - Building for a One Planet Region

Speakers: TBC

June 24th - Mobility and transportation for a One Planet Region

Speakers: TBC