

We face two big challenges

1. We act as if we have several planets to sustain us when in reality we only have one.

So we have to learn to live within the limits of the one small planet that is our only home, in a way that is socially, culturally and ecologically just.

2. We are not talking about our local and global crisis, or what it means for us, our children, our communities and future generations.

If we don't learn, share and work together, we won't understand the challenges or opportunities we face, and we won't be able to imagine, shape and create a better future for all.

We want to engage, educate and empower people across the Greater Victoria Region to discuss the challenges and strengths of becoming a One Planet Region.

Who we are and what we do

Our vision is that the Greater Victoria Region achieves social and ecological sustainability, with a high quality of life and a long life in good health for all its citizens, while reducing its ecological footprint to be equivalent to one planet's worth of biocapacity.

Our mission is to establish and maintain community-wide conversations on One Planet living and a One Planet Region.

The Conversations for a One Planet Region began in 2017 as a series of public conversations organized by UVic in the Anthropocene, leading up to a UVic IdeaFest event on the concept of a One Planet Region.

The idea of a program of conversations on this concept proved popular and took on a life of its own, eventually becoming a registered non-profit society in BC. We hosted monthly public discussions that continued until Covid in 2020. The conversations then moved online for a year or two, but that format proved unsustainable. However, [links to past presentations](#) and a link to [our YouTube channel](#) can be found on our website.

After a prolonged absence due to Covid and a process of reflection and consultation, the Conversations resumed activity in 2023. In October 2023, with funding support from the Victoria Foundation's Spark Funds, the Saanich Legacy Foundation and individual donors we hosted Joe Brewer from the Design School for Regenerating Earth.

We currently (early 2025) have two small initiatives underway, involving convening meetings of small groups in Saanich and in the West Shore as the first steps towards the larger project.

- In Saanich, we are working to bring local environmental organisations together to consider the formation of a Saanich Environmental Network. Such a network could strengthen environmental action and advocacy in Saanich by bringing together organizations and people working to improve the environment. An organized network could help create mutual support in this important work and provide a cohesive strategy to support initiatives at Saanich Council. The network could also facilitate joint action with counterparts in other CRD municipalities and lay the groundwork for an eventual Greater Victoria Environmental Network.
- In the West Shore, building on interest in the idea of a Bioregional approach seeded by Joe Brewer's visit, we are working to convene a multi-sectoral group to consider the interest in holding a West Shore Bioregional Summit. This idea is inspired and informed by the work of the Saanich Peninsula Environmental Coalition, which held a Bioregional Summit some years ago, resulting in the development of a Bioregional Framework, the principles of which have been adopted by all three local municipalities on the peninsula.

For the longer term, we are working to initiate a participatory futures process for this region, provisionally titled "Conversations on the Shared Future of Our Bioregion".

Conversations on the Shared Future of Our Bioregion

We hope to establish, catalyze and coordinate a program of region-wide Conversations to explore with as many residents of this region as possible this question: ***What will be the legacy we pass on to our children and generations yet to come?***

With such a community-wide conversation we can arrive at a shared vision, an overarching set of common goals and principles-that will guide us and the community's decision-makers in creating a shared future in which people live well together within planetary boundaries.

In doing so we recognise the traditional territories of the local First Nations and their inherent rights, and will work in the spirit of reconciliation towards our shared future.

We recognise that there are many ways to bring about engagement and change, and that we need a process and a range of opportunities to meet all levels of interest and action. Our program of Conversations will be multi-year, multi-nodal and multi-modal.

- **Multi-year:** While time is short, we can only move at the 'speed of trust', as the Reciprocity Trust recently put it. If we are to involve as many of the 400,000 residents of this region as possible in one or more conversations, it will take time.
- **Multi-nodal:** We need to have conversations in as many different places as we can; homes, schools, workplaces, libraries, faith centres, service clubs, boardrooms, Council chambers and anywhere else you can think of, including of course in the many virtual meeting spaces so many people now use.
- **Multi-modal:** There are so many ways of engaging people in conversation, which the Oxford Dictionaries define as "a talk, especially an informal one, between two or more people, in which news and ideas are exchanged". While our preference is for in-person, face-to-face conversation, we also recognize the value of virtual conversations and conversations via social media.