



Sept 6, 2023

Transition Sooke Awarded Climate Action Grants

Two Transition Sooke Working Groups have received District of Sooke Community Climate Action Seed Funding grants — \$2,500 for Zero Waste Sooke's Swaps and Repair Cafés and \$7,000 (2023-24) for a Sooke Community Garden.

"The grant helps Zero Waste Sooke expand its series of Swaps and Repair Cafés," says spokesperson Paula Johanson. "Our really fun events keep significant amounts of useful items out of the landfill and help to reduce greenhouse gases."

"A second grant will help establish a new community garden in Sooke," says spokesperson Levi Megenbir. "The garden will support sustainable food security for Sooke residents into the future. Garden space near the core will increase in importance as Sooke continues to densify."

"Co-operation with other relevant groups including Sooke Food CHI, Sooke Food Bank, and Sooke Garden Club will be an important part of the Community Gardens," says Megenbir. "Food security is a critical part of adapting to a changing climate and making Sooke more resilient."

The grant for the Swaps and Cafés will be used for promotion, facility rental, and compensation for repair volunteers. Repair Cafés provide a place for the community to bring in appliances, clothing and other broken articles for repair by volunteers. Swaps are an opportunity to bring unwanted articles and exchange them. A Swap for school supplies was held in August, and a Tool Swap will be held later in the fall.

The grant for the community garden will help cover the initial set-up costs for fencing, soil, garden tools, irrigation, and other important aspects associated with the project. Over two phases, plans are for Sooke's new community garden to accommodate 100 or more allotment gardens for the public and a commons garden to grow food for local non-profits such as Sooke Food Bank.

"We're excited to collaborate with the District of Sooke and thank them for this generous funding to make these projects happen," says Megenbir.

Transition Sooke is a citizen-based, volunteer, public-interest group focused on co-creating a sustainable, resilient and secure community that meets the challenges of the climate emergency in the Sooke region.

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