

**From:** [Rick Lee](#)  
**To:** [Andrew Appleton](#)  
**Cc:** [Kevin Murdoch \(External\)](#); [Lou Varela](#)  
**Subject:** Community Climate Action Group

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Chair

Community Climate Action Group of Oak Bay

Dear Councilor Appleton and committee members of the Community Climate Action Group:

I attended the first half hour of your inaugural meeting. Unfortunately, I was unable to stay to make comments or ask questions and so I hope you will accept this input, comments and questions now.

Judging by your comments as Chair and the ensuing round table discussion I appreciate this was an organizational meeting, and that you would not have drilled into the 'nitty gritty' yet, so perhaps it's a good time for my points/questions:

As a retired meteorologist, having worked for a time in the area of climate change, but not hearing any reference to the "science of climate change" in the first half hour before I left, I thought to write to you. It seems that the very foundation of any recommendations to be included in the District's Strategic Plan, must be based in the "science of climate change" and in particular how climate change will impact Oak Bay. This means understanding climate parameters, the anticipated time frame and the spatial resolution in which change is anticipated to occur:

1. I propose that there are at least two aspects: the first is any recommended actions within our Community of Oak Bay. The second is our membership as part of the broader regional community and the global community. It is clear to me that your group has responsibility to Oak Bay, but not how far beyond your mandate will take you.

2. In the former case, as a "Climate Action Group", you will need to know the anticipated climate changes here in Oak Bay. You will undoubtedly need resources describing the magnitude of change in the averages/means as well as the anticipated change in the probability distribution of extremes in parameters such as temperature, precipitation and wind. Your group will surely need to know the magnitude of changes in order to know where to place your efforts most effectively.

In this regard I would like to recommend your committee hear directly from the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium at the University of Victoria. In particular Mr. Trevor Murdock is the Lead, Regional Climate Impacts, and specializes in high resolution downscaling of the climate, present and future and would be highly qualified and thus ideal to advise your

group. I have taken the liberty of contacting Mr. Murdock and he would be pleased to address your Group. You can contact him at 250-472-4681 and at the email address in the CC section of this email. The relevant website is <https://pacificclimate.org/about-pcic>

3. If your group also participates in the broader regional and global effort, I am sure Mr. Murdock can engage you with specialized assistance.

4. I urge your group to consider without delay, how you will translate changes in the climate (e.g. temperature and precipitation), into the physical impacts on Oak Bay such as infrastructure (storm drains, Oak Bay's buildings, changes in the shoreline and parks etc). As an eventual input to the strategic plan for Oak Bay, this will surely require Oak Bay's Engineering & Public Works Department as well as Parks, Recreation and Culture Department to be involved at an early stage. They will surely be involved in determining the impacts on the physical infrastructure of Oak Bay and potential upgrades or changes needed.

Only by addressing these questions up front will the committee understand the *magnitude of change, the potential costs, the time frame in which to address the impacts* and thus the priority of your recommendations. May I emphasize the importance of being focused so as to make cost-effective recommendations in these times of tighter financial resources, rather than trying to address related issues such as air and noise pollution.

I am aware that Dr. Hebda has been invited to make a presentation on Dec. 2, and I will try to attend. In addition, Oak Bay will benefit greatly by engaging PCIC at an early stage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards

Rick Lee

CC. Mayor Murdock

Mr. Trevor Murdock, PCIC

CAO, Oak Bay for Oak Bay staff members present on the CCAG

From PC