



Transition
Salt Spring

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Transition
Salt Spring



Vision

Responding to Climate Change. Restoring Ecosystems.
Reimagining Community. Together.

Mission

A thriving, diverse, fair, and engaged community, resilient
to climate change.



Director's Report

Easy to leave. Hard to forget. That's 2021 in a nutshell. New phrases like "heat dome" and "atmospheric river" got pretty real for Salt Spring Islanders who lost crops, huddled by fans, and saw serious damage to property and roads. And that's on top of what the COVID-19 experience dished out in varying portions for all of us. Last year highlighted how important it is for islanders to come together to address critical issues that affect us all like the climate crisis.


While tough to take in, none of these "weather events" is a surprise. Transition Salt Spring's [Climate Action Plan 2.0](#) laid it all out in 2021 based on existing data and science. Yet, none of us ever expected things would get so bad so quickly. And, alarmingly, acceleration is becoming a sad hallmark of the massive changes taking place everywhere.

Nonetheless, there are signs of hope. Everywhere, including on Salt Spring, attention to the climate crisis is gaining ground. [Seven out of ten Canadians](#) are now somewhat or very concerned that the climate crisis is harming them personally. At the Salt Spring Fall Fair this year, one of the things we heard most often were: "You know, with the heat dome, I am finally getting concerned." And that's reflected in the positive feedback we've received to our work in the wake of these terrible events.

Transition Salt Spring rebooted in a big way in 2021 with the release of the **Climate Action Plan** and its 250+ recommendations. To address the climate crisis head on – within the context of a plucky little under-resourced non-profit 'start-up', we developed a whole year's worth of programming to help Islanders understand what we need to do now. And the fact is, governments at all levels simply aren't acting fast enough. So that leaves the rest of us. Working together.

And while it's not all about donations and fundraising, these were key in Transition Salt Spring's 'reboot' – helping us hire amazing people whose job it is to work with the volunteer board members, volunteer Working Groups and experts to help implement the climate solutions we need now to help stabilize our ecosystems and prepare our island community for the threats we face to our health and our homes.

You've put the wind in our sails, friends! And for that we are really grateful.



Bryan Young, Chair

Here's a look at what we accomplished together in 2021

- **1000 attended 19 zoom events** covering a range of climate solutions from heat pumps and rainwater catchment systems to creating great livelihoods stewarding our forests
- **517 islanders participated in our Climate Action Coach Program** which is dedicated to help them take action to make their homes and lives more sustainable
- **1400 newsletter subscribers** – an increase of 25% over 2020
- **11 articles** in the Gulf Islands Driftwood and Salt Spring Exchange helping raise the profile of climate solutions
- **2500 hours of paid employment** created for islanders over across 5 part-time positions dedicated to fighting climate change
- **200 donors**, a 100% increase from 2020
- **250 conversations** with islanders about climate change at the Salt Spring Fall Fair
- **Interest in heat pumps shot up 100%** in response to our partnerships with Whirlwind Heating and Cooling (Tree Level), and Fresco Refrigeration (Branch Level)
- **28 islanders signed up for our Rainwater Harvesting Rebate** over 8 days
- **3 delegations to the Islands Trust**, where we helped win a deeper public consultation for the Island Trust's draft Policy Statement, incorporation of sustainable, regenerative forestry in its draft, and funding support for watershed resiliency work in the Lake Maxwell watershed
- **Raised \$125,000** for a ground-breaking project with North Salt Spring Water District to protect the Lake Maxwell watershed from fire and drought

And we are just getting started!

Here are some of the Climate Actions we were working on in 2021

- The **Lake Maxwell Watershed Resiliency Project** received funding from Environment & Climate Change Canada's EcoAction Program. The watershed provides water to more than 3,000 islanders. In partnership with the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, we will develop strategies to improve water retention and reduce fire risk.
- The **Climate Action Coach Program** provides residents with resources to make sustainability decisions in their homes and lives. Through monthly webinars and direct support from our Climate Coach Rob Lowrie, islanders learn about the many incentives out there to install solar power, insulate houses, or buy an electric bike or car.
- Transition also launched the **Rainwater Harvesting Rebate** to drive installations of rainwater catchment systems that reduce reliance on aquifers. The program was fully subscribed in a week and is being expanded to all Southern Gulf Islands in 2022 thanks to incentive funding from the CRD.
- The **Salt Spring Island Climate Action Network (SSI CAN!)** met quarterly with organizations ranging from the CRD and the Islands Trust to Salt Spring Community Energy and the Agricultural Alliance to develop climate action projects together. Over 100 representatives have attended the meetings, and the Maxwell Lake Watershed project is the first to emerge.
- We did lots of **community outreach** at Country Grocer and the Saturday Market discussing forests, at the Global Climate Strike Rally in the Meadow with over 90 people, and at the Fall Fair where we had 250 conversations with islanders about the importance of our forests and actions we can take to reduce our impacts.
- Through the **Digital Tools Project** and a grant from the Salt Spring Foundation, Transition implemented new communications and donor engagement software to help us better interact with volunteers, donors, funders and the public as we grow. The new system was developed by a BC tech start up that is making waves for its powerful tools for non-profits.
- This year we **built our paid team** big time, growing from one part-time contract staff person to five. In addition to volunteer directors, committee and working group members, all of us are working hard every day to make Salt Spring a leader in local climate action.
- We are proud of our growing collaboration with the **Raincoast Conservation Foundation** and the **WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council (WLC)** which represents the Tsartlip, Tseycum, and Tsawout First Nations who have called the lands and waters around south Salt Spring their home for millennia. We've built a carbon sequestration and eco-cultural land regeneration proposal with them and are currently fundraising for this important project!
- While COVID dampened public engagement activities, we struck a partnership with Graffiti Theatre and the Salt Spring Arts Council **who are working together to mount a climate action-themed arts festival** in 2022. Stay tuned for more on this exciting event.

Looking Ahead to 2022

- We owe thanks to Gayle Baker who took one for the team to shepherd TSS through a process with the **Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to secure charitable status**. Subject to a motion to be brought to the membership at our AGM on February 22nd and CRA's final approval, TSS may be able to begin issuing charitable receipts for donations! We're also working with Salt Spring Foundation and have established a Climate Action Fund.
- Ruth Waldick and Bryan Young have been working with Raincoast Conservation on an exciting new project with the **WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council (WLC)**. The project is called "ĜENENITEL", pronounced "kwaneetul", which in the SENĆOTEN language means "working and learning together". In the context of the climate crisis, this means eco-cultural restoration, and carbon sequestration.
- The **Lake Maxwell Watershed Resiliency Project** will be busy with detailed opportunity mapping, watershed and fire protection plans, and on-the-ground work. The big goals are to improve groundwater recharge and make these forests more resistant to fire.
- The **Climate Action Coach Program** key goal is to engage as many people as possible in taking actions at home that reduce emissions and increase energy efficiency. There are many incentives programs out there but all too often, folks need a little help knowing how to get started. In 2022 we'll expand the number of topic areas to help get us become One Cool Island.
- We're excited to launch the **Woodstove Upgrade Rebate Program** early in 2022. Thanks to funding from BC Lung and the BC Government, we'll provide rebates for the replacement of old inefficient woodstoves with new, cleaner burning EPA 2020 approved stoves. Smoke is smoke, and no matter what the source, it's a pollutant and health hazard. This program also encourages replacing wood heating with heat pumps with a beefy \$750 incentive that's stackable with other rebates. Helping people understand how to decrease wood stove emissions will be a key focus.
- In 2022 we'll double the **Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Program** to include the Southern Gulf Islands thanks to additional funding from the CRD. We look forward to reaching even more people to help them install rainwater harvesting systems at their homes and businesses all over the Gulf Islands, taking advantage of abundant winter rains for our increasingly dry hot summers.
- With the **Climate Arts Festival**, all of us at Transition are aching to get back out there with in person events when it's safe to do so. We're excited about our partnership with Graffiti Theatre and Salt Spring Arts Council to deliver a month-long mixed media festival aimed at engaging people from on and off the island in thinking about and feeling through what it means to be living in a time of accelerating climate change. What can we do together to help? How can we channel our grief and move to more action?

Thanks to our amazing partners!

- North Salt Spring Waterworks District
- Salt Spring Island Conservancy
- WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council
- Salt Spring Solutions
- Graffiti Theatre
- Salt Spring Arts Council
- Salt Spring Water Preservation Society
- Agricultural Alliance
- Farmland Trust
- Chamber of Commerce
- Community Economic Sustainability Commission

Working Groups Achievements

Transition Salt Spring deeply believes in empowering individuals to come together in groups to develop their own initiatives that move us closer to a fair, low carbon future. We help them do that by providing volunteer groups with the services they need to get the job done. This includes the provision of insurance to cover volunteers, bookkeeping services, marketing, communication services, and even a little funding to get going. This saves groups the need to incorporate a new non-profit on their own - time and energy which takes them away from building a better Salt Spring! If you are interested in starting a new working group, or to find out more, reach out to info@transitionsaltspring.com.

Here's a list of our active working groups. See our website for more information and contacts. They provide real leadership in our community on key issues like the electrification of transportation, planting native and removing invasive species, providing residents space to grow their own food, and raising awareness about the need to protect our oceans.

- EV Group
- Native Plant Stewardship Group
- Rainbow Road Allotment Gardens
- Marine Stewardship Group
- Plastic Free Salt Spring
- Ecological Research Network

Thanks to our amazing donors and volunteers!

There is so much to be grateful for, and so many people who have gone above and beyond to make 2021 a great year for Transition Salt Spring and climate action. Donors and volunteers are the heart of Transition. We give you our sincere thanks for your steadfast support.

- **Jeannette Newton:** For 2.5 years Jeanette has collected and tabulated the receipts contributed to the Save a Tape program at Country Grocer which brought in \$500 to TSS in 2021. Save yours and consider putting them into the TSS box as you leave the store.
- **Cary Debenham:** For her awesome volunteer graphic design work that made so many of our events and social media posts look amazing and capture attention.
- **Gayle Baker:** For her hundreds of hours of help as a member of our executive committee and board helping Transition through a big transition of its own – along with her leadership on our charitable status application.
- **Andrea Palframan:** For her service on our board, for the abundant creative spark she ignited with the super positive *One Cool Island* campaign that's now a part of our public programming, and for her monthly articles in the Driftwood.
- **North Salt Spring Waterworks District:** For their amazing partnership with us on the Lake Maxwell Watershed Resiliency Project. We look forward to working with you to protect this precious watershed from drought and fire in 2022.
- **Salt Spring Island Conservancy:** For the great partnership in co-delivering our best attended webinars of 2021 on forests, climate change, and other timely topics on our ecosystems.
- Over **200 donors** stepped to help TSS this past year. We are incredibly grateful for each and every one of you. Many of you are monthly donors, which is the best way to help us map out our programming, even at small amounts. To support our work on climate action, go to transitionsaltspring.com.

Thanks to our Funders and Sponsors!

- The **Salt Spring Island Foundation** has been a steadfast supporter of our work right from the beginning of our reboot. They saw the need, trusted the team, and loved our proposals. We love our community foundation! They've supported our reorganization by giving us funding for the tools we needed, supporting the development of our Climate Action Network, and our Climate Action Coach Program.
- The **Philip & Muriel Berman Foundation** has provided TSS with core funding to help stabilize the organization and ensure our capacity to grow. We would not be where we are without them.
- **VanCity** loved the concept behind the Climate Action Coach Program because it aligned closely with their focus on lighter living and became the program's lead supporter with a grant from their *enviroFund*.
- The **Victoria Foundation** has been an enthusiastic supporter of our work two years running – first with support during our start-up year, and then another round this past year. They helped us make it through the pandemic downturn and continue to be eager supporters of this climate work.
- We landed a big fish with the **Government of Canada, EcoAction Fund's** grant for our Lake Maxwell watershed resiliency project. The EcoAction Fund has provided millions of dollars in financial support to thousands of non-profit and non-government organizations across Canada taking action on local action-based environmental projects.
- Where would we be without the **Institute for Sustainability Education and Action?** Thanks for your partnership on several TSS/ISEA programs in 2021!



For our first sponsorship program ever, Transition got off to a great start by offering Tree, Branch or Leaf level sponsorships to island businesses aligned with our **Climate Action Coach Program**. We are grateful to all of you for your support and leadership in our community, helping islanders lower their footprints!

Tree level

- Whirlwind Heating and Cooling
- The Home Design Centre
- Mouat's Trading

Branch level

- Fresco Refrigeration

2021 Board of Directors and Staff

- Our board is Bryan Young, Deborah Miller, Gayle Baker, Ruth Waldick, Patti Baral, and Oonagh Duncan
- Our staff team is Darlene Gage, Erinanne Harper, Natasha Kong, Robert Lowrie, and Karen Clark



TRANSITION SALT SPRING SOCIETY
PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT
DECEMBER 31, 2021

REVENUE

41000 · Transition Salt Spring Revenue

41100 · Donations	
41110 · Donations - One Time	20,178.55
41120 · Donations - Monthly	5,221.48
41130 · Donations - Other	659.99
41140 · Sponsorships	10,000.00
Total 41100 · Donations	<u>36,060.02</u>
41200 · Grants	
41210 · Private Foundation Grant	23,750.00
41220 · Biotalent Grant	5,265.00
41230 · CRD Grant	15,000.00
41310 · Island Trust Grant	4,982.77
41410 · Salt Spring Island Foundation Grant	18,003.45
41510 · Vancity Grant	9,867.53
41520 · Victoria Foundation Grant	10,475.00
Total 41200 · Grants	<u>87,343.75</u>
41800 Events	
41810 · Event Revenue	2,075.49
Total 41800 · Events	<u>2,075.49</u>
41900 · Other Revenue	
41910 · Interest Income	80.47
41930 · Administrative Fees	880.09
Total 41900 · Other Revenue	<u>960.56</u>

Total 41000 · Transition Salt Spring Revenue 126,439.82

45000 · Working Group Revenue

45100 · Electric Vehicle Group Revenue	3,081.90
45200 · Rainbow Road Pool Allotment Gardens Revenue	2,552.00
45400 · Native Plant Stewardship Group Revenue	2,561.30

Total 45000 · Working Group Revenue

8,195.20

TOTAL REVENUE

134,635.02

EXPENSES

61000 · Transition Salt Spring Expenses

61100 · Advertising & Promotion	
61110 · Climate Action Plan Implementation Committee	232.96
61120 · Coach Program	287.35
61130 · Communication Committee	2,584.17
61140 · Engagement Committee	382.03
Total 61100 · Advertising & Promotion	<u>3,486.51</u>
61200 · Amortization of Capital Assets	1,094.20
61300 · Bank Charges	111.00
61350 · Bank Payment Portal Fees	796.21
61400 · Contract Services	
61410 · Administrator	19,050.00
61420 · Bookkeeper	7,725.39
61430 · Program Manager	22,000.00
61440 · Other Contract Services	
61441 · Climate Action Coach Contractor	5,301.52
61442 · Coach Contractor	15,015.00
61449 · Miscellaneous Contractors	1,209.91
Total 61440 · Other Contract Services	<u>21,526.43</u>
Total 61400 · Contract Services	<u>70,301.82</u>
61500 · Digital Tools	5,489.69
61600 · Event Expenses	
61610 · Transition Salt Spring General	1,202.40
61620 · Climate Action Plan Implementation Committee	500.00
61640 · Engagement Committee	110.00
Total 61600 · Event Expenses	<u>1,812.40</u>
61700 · Insurance	1,639.00
61800 · Meeting Room Rental	
61810 · Transition Salt Spring General	570.14
Total 61800 · Meeting Room Rental	<u>570.14</u>
61900 · Membership, Licenses & Dues	257.50
62100 · Office Expenses	263.55

62200 · Publications& Resources	
62210 · Transition Salt Spring General	500.75
62220 · Climate Action Plan Implementation Committee	<u>1,938.32</u>
Total 62200 · Publications& Resources	2,439.07
62300 · Travel	138.95
62400 · Wages & Benefits	
62410 · Canada Pension Plan	350.22
62420 · Employment Insurance	161.49
62430 · Vacation Pay	280.80
62440 · Wages	<u>7,020.00</u>
Total 62400 · Wages & Benefits	7,812.51
62500 · Website	
62510 · Communication Committee	<u>4,336.30</u>
Total 62500 · Website	4,336.30
62600 · Projects	
62610 · Water Rebates	<u>2,500.00</u>
Total 62600 · Projects	<u>2,500.00</u>
Total 61000 · Transition Salt Spring Expenses	103,048.85
65000 · Working Group Expenses	
65100 · Electric Vehicles Group Expenses	931.10
65105 · Electric Vehicle Group Asset Write-off	1,804.11
65200 · Rainbow Road Pool Allotment Gardens Expenses	587.17
65400 · Native Plant Stewardship Expense	<u>1,695.14</u>
Total 65000 · Working Group Expenses	<u>5,017.52</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>108,066.37</u>
NET INCOME	<u><u>26,568.65</u></u>

**TRANSITION SALT SPRING SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET
DECEMBER 31, 2021**

ASSETS

Current Assets

Chequing/Savings

1010 · Petty Cash Transition Salt Spring	58.00
1020 · Petty Cash RRP Allotment Gardens	200.00
1100 · ISCU Chequing	133,743.20
1110 · ISCU Term Deposits	
1111 · Transition Salt Spring Term Deposit	20,000.00
1112 · Electric Vehicle Group Term Deposit	5,000.00

Total 1110 · Term Deposits	25,000.00
1120 · Island Savings Credit Union Shares	5.72
1130 · PayPal Balance	2,871.65
1140 · Stripe Balance	1,284.04

Total Chequing/Savings 163,162.61

Accounts Receivable

1200 · Accounts Receivable	8,345.95
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Total Accounts Receivable 8,345.95

Other Current Assets

1310 · Membership	100.00
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Total Other Current Assets 100.00

Total Current Assets

171,608.56

Fixed Assets

1510 · Electric Vehicle Group Equipment

15102 · Donation Boxes	584.65
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Total 1510 · Electric Vehicle Group Equipment 584.65

1520 · RRP Allotment Garden Buildings

15201 · Gazebo	894.89
15202 · Garden Shed	963.39

Total 1520 · RRP Allotment Gardens Buildings 1,858.28

1521 · RRP Allotment Gardens Equipment

15203 · Composter	571.08
15211 · Water Tanks	2,809.50
15212 · Water Pump	587.13

Total 1521 · RRP Allotment Garden Equipment	3,967.71
1600 · Accumulated Depreciation	-2,654.20

Total Fixed Assets

3,756.44

TOTAL ASSETS

175,365.00

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

2600 · Revenue received in advance	97,700.00
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Total Other Current Liabilities 97,700.00

Total Current Liabilities 97,700.00

Total Liabilities

97,700.00

Equity

3130 · Restricted Net Assets

3133 · Electric Vehicle Group Fund	9,331.64
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3134 · RRP Allotment Gardens Fund	3,930.50
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3136 · Native Plant Stewardship Group Fund	940.22
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Total 3130 · Restricted Net Assets 14,202.36

3200 · Unrestricted Net Assets 36,893.99

Net Income 26,568.65

Total Equity

77,665.00

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

175,365.00



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**Responding to Climate Change.
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Reimagining Community.
Together.**