

Results of Public Meeting 1: November 19, 2008
King's Theatre

1. What impact has climate change had on your community?

- More diverse weeds and insects
- Tidal pool loss
- Mass overgrowth on paths because of acidity
- Increase in humidity
- Required raising of dykes
- More flooding and more severe flooding
- Less snowfall

- Anecdotally: warmer? Can you grow melons now?
- Weather more erratic, unpredictable, especially storms in spring and fall
- Drier in summer – must increase water storage in summer
- More precipitation, but concentrated in spring and fall
- Massive kill-off of red spruce – other insect problems – not killed in winter
- Coastal erosion increased
- Public health impact – increase in ticks and mosquitoes – late in year
- Turkey vultures in area – influx of southern (bird) species – cardinals, mockingbirds, woodpeckers
- Overpopulation of deer – other animal populations

- Seasonal: longer/shorter seasons
- Winter spats
- Storm intensity/frequency results in
- Cost of foods
- Storm surge in coastal areas
- Food prices are going up
- Floods somewhere else: we are dependent on food from other areas and energy

2. What do you think should be done in response to climate change?

- Reduce carbon to 350ppm
- Encourage government to encourage us
- Stop enabling status quo
- Address basements as unheated space and outside of building envelope

- Must be carbon footprint – that's the only logical response

- Questioned the question
- Reduce CO2 emissions
- Conserving energy
- Switching power source

3. What do you see as the barriers to an appropriate response to climate change?

- Status quo
- Cost of renewables
- Lack of leadership
- Cheap foreign fuel
- Abandonment of responsibility

- Economic
- Political
- Social
- Car-driven society
- Optimistically – education is changing attitudes more rapidly

- Political
- Economic
- Availability of information
- Education for individuals and industry
- Building codes
- Seasons: long winters create barriers with consumption even with buy local
- Our weather: for 8 months of the year, we rely on heavy amounts of energy
- Old farm houses need a lot of work to bring them up
- Can we afford to heat heritage homes?
- Can we afford the CO2 emissions from them?
- Is R2000 going to last?
- We need a different set of approaches for older homes
- Some less good examples of ventilation systems give them a bad name

4. What can you do on an individual and community level with respect to climate change?

- We pass on knowledge and affect and effect policy
- Buy local
- Reduce, reuse, recycle
- Resurrect train service for freight and passengers
- Bio-diesel
- Reduce consumption

- Economic and personal and/or moral decisions are made
- Consume locally (food, clothing)
- Recycling – Nova Scotia and Annapolis Royal programs
- Consumer pressure to stop using plastic bags
- Leave packaging behind in store

- Home heating systems
- Conserving energy in general
- Appliances
- Car policy/transit & bus
- Trip planning to grocery store
- Food security/local buying
- There is enough money to do it
- One man decided he would only live on what he could get at the farmers' market
- Food security is huge, catching on and really exciting: focus on our farmers
- High efficiency ventilation system will allow a tight house to breathe