

Salt Spring Island Climate Action Council Society - Salt Spring Island

The Salt Spring Island Climate Action Council Society was established to ensure that Salt Spring's greenhouse gas reduction targets are met. These greenhouse gas reduction targets are included in the Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan as required by the Province's Bill 27 (Green Communities Statutes). Bill 27 requires every community in BC to establish greenhouse gas reduction targets.

The greenhouse gas emissions that would be generated by operating the proposed Raven coal mine are enormous. Emissions will result from the mining operations, from the transportation of the coal, and by the burning of the coal at its ultimate destination. Our success in implementing the Salt Spring Island Climate Action Plan, thereby meeting provincial legislation, depends on the cooperation of island groups and individuals. Achieving behavior change is challenging at the best of times, but impossible when our leadership permits the opposite behavior from industry than is being asked of its citizens. Particularly so when the proposed mine brings little benefit to the region and much risk to the environment and to the health of families living close to the proposed mine and associated transportation route. We need consistent and inspiring leadership on the part of the provincial government if we are going to collectively honour the statements articulated in the Climate Action Charter and achieve the emission reductions required by law.

For these reasons, the Salt Spring Island Climate Action Council Society encourages the government of British Columbia to decide that a new coal mine is inappropriate at a time when the government is requiring British Columbians to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and has pledged to put Families First.