Climate Change Adaptation Recommendations Report Public Consultation Comments

As part of the development of the Climate Change Action Plan, Islanders were invited to provide comments on the Climate Change Adaptation Recommendations Report produced by the UPEI Climate Lab. All on-line comments received prior to the closing date of October 20, 2017 are posted below. The names of contributors have not been disclosed.

If you believe an error has been made with one of the postings, please contact pnishimura@gov.pe.ca.

October 20, 2017

Several suggestions for mitigation, all long overdue:
1) A twice-daily trans-island bus or van service linking to shopping areas and downtowns.
2) Help converting agriculture to carbon-capturing methods.
3) Help for home insulation and energy conversion (e.g., to solar, wind, geothermal, or whateverare determined to be the most cost-efficient carbon emission reduction methods.
4) Strict energy efficiency (ideally carbon-neutral) criteria for new home construction and for permitting on renovation projects that readily allow for wall insulation.

False climate solutions to avoid: biochar, geoengineering, natural gas conversion

October 16, 2017

As part of a shift to renewable energies the GST tax should be removed on photovoltiac energy production and it should be included for oil based energy use.

October 6, 2017

Trucks and buses contribute a high percentage of air pollutants. Poorly maintained and inadequately retrofitted trucks and buses can be seen emitting clouds of pollutants. I could find no recommendation aimed squarely at this visibly significant cause. Every time I see a truck or bus emitting black smoke, I will think of this omission.

September 28, 2017

For homeowners with sea-front property, rising sea-levels present a serious financial challenge.

Home constructed in the past with insufficient set-back are subject to
- Destruction

- Increasingly reduced set-back of septic tile beds

To ameliorate the effects of rising sea-levels engineers and contractors have developed, on an apparently ad hoc basis, systems of coastal erosion protection. Their primary concern is devising systems that allow them to competitively bid on contracts for public funds. Systems approved by the Provincial Government are extremely expensive and present homeowners with a substantial financial burden.

I would recommend that the Province undertake a serious and in-depth approach to coastal soil erosion by establishing a focused coastal erosion commission for the purpose of studying a variety of cost-effective options to ameliorate erosion and expand on the number of available approved systems.

Coastal erosion can be reduced cost-effectively by

- Employing new materials or old systems in new ways based on sound engineering.
- Developing different systems for different kinds of coastal topography. (The strength of prevailing winds, ice conditions, soil conditions and storm surges vary greatly. Systems need to be devised to deal with these variables so that satisfactory results are achieved cost-effectively.)

Coastal home owners need to be provided with up-to-date and complete information on the options available to them to ameliorate erosion. These options need to be broadened, cost less and be site specific. At the present it appears that systems have been developed with the sole purpose of protecting public land – roads, historic sites etc. – where cost is unlikely to be the primary consideration. The idea that a coastal erosion system is a “forever” proposition needs to be rethought. Perhaps systems that require periodic maintenance and upgrading might be a better way to deal with private property.