

Candidate: Rob Wickson

Riding: Saanich

- 1. Many communities don't know how much climate change is costing them at present, and will cost in the future. Will you commit to putting systems in place to identify and track those costs?**

Yes, Saanich has already done some of this work and I will follow former councillor Vic Derman's lead on this.

- 2. Will you work to develop and implement climate adaptation plans to reduce the harm that climate change causes in your community? How will you fund climate adaptation?**

Again Saanich already heading down this road but there are many other things to do that do not necessarily mean more money but simply changing the way we make economic decisions. For example, we could cash out free parking for staff. Give everyone a \$100 a month, charge the same for a parking spot and let staff decide how to spend the money. They might decide to car pool, buy a bike, or take transit. They might even decide to locate closer to work so they can walk.

- 3. Will you commit to protecting taxpayers by seeking to recover a fair share of climate costs from the fossil fuel companies who profit from selling products that result in greenhouse gases? Specifically, if elected, would you ask your Council to:**

- a. Send Climate Accountability letters from your community to major fossil fuel producers demanding that they pay their fair share of local climate costs caused by their activities and products?**

Yes. The more pressure we can bring to companies that are not doing their share the better. As an economist I understand the need to internalize these external costs so that companies can make better decisions for the planet. That is why in 2006/07 as chair of the BC Chamber of Commerce I championed a policy supporting a price on carbon which was passed at their 2007 AGM by a majority of members BC wide.

We must start down the road of seeking compensation for harms caused by the inaction of others.

- b. Press the province of BC to enact Liability for Climate-related Harms laws to give municipalities and others greater legal certainty, lower costs and timely resolutions if they sue to recover climate damages from fossil fuel companies?**

Yes. The court process can be long and slow but once a precedent is set, the need to seek court remedies will be reduced.

- c. Explore legal action against fossil fuel companies to recover a share of local climate costs?**

Yes. This is an important step that will need to be considered by the larger Union of BC Municipalities group as the costs might be out of the range for individual municipalities.

4. In your view, why is it important (or not) to hold fossil fuel companies accountable for your community's climate costs?

Again, it long past the time that all businesses realize that the environment is not free to use and abuse. External cost must be internalize and we will find that our old way of doing things is not as cost effective as say building wind farms or getting more solar panels on the roofs of every building.