

# Food Systems. Climate Action. Local Government.

UBCM Panel September 15, 2022

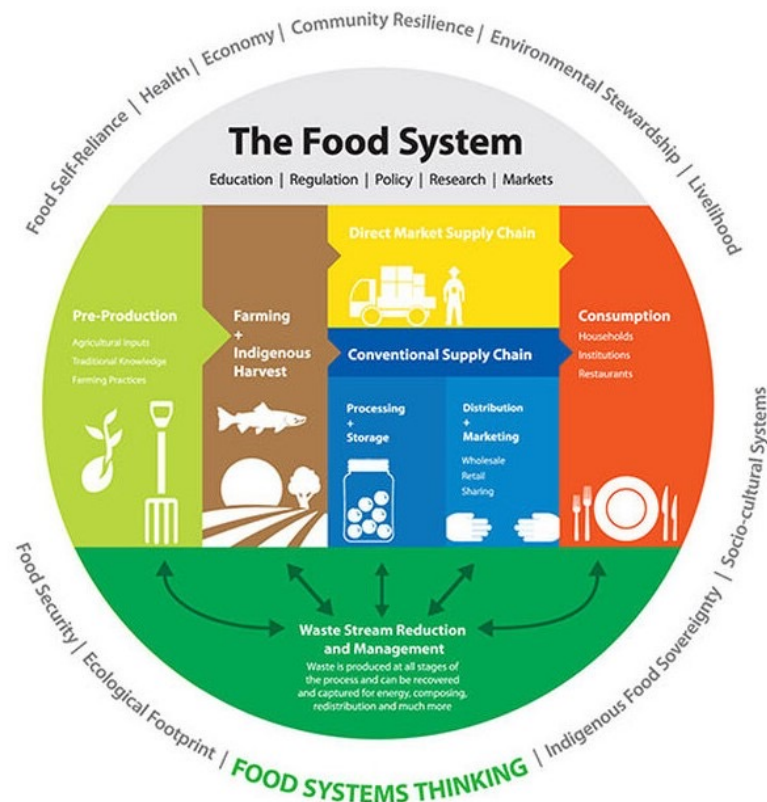


## Squamish Food Policy Council

Our mission is to ensure that all members of Squamish have access to nutritious, safe, ecologically sustainable, and culturally appropriate food at all times. Our vision is that Squamish Valley food and agricultural lands are protected, and producers, processors, growers, foragers, and knowledge holders are supported.

## Squamish Climate Action Network

Squamish CAN strives to empower our community with just and actionable solutions to the climate crisis through education, policy development and systems change.



(Kwantlen Polytechnic University, 2022)

# FOOD + AG PLANNING: **the Squamish Journey**

Squamish  
CAN  
ESTABLISHED

2009

SQUAMISH  
FOOD CHARTER  
ENDORSED

SQUAMISH FOOD  
POLICY FORMATION

VCH  
COLLABORATION  
AGREEMENT\_  
FOOD SYSTEMS  
PRIORITY AREA

2015

SQUAMISH2040  
FOOD DEEP DIVES

SQUAMISH FOOD  
SYSTEM + ASSET  
MAPPING

AGRICULTURE  
LAND USE  
INVENTORY

2016

2017

2018

SQUAMISH2040  
OCP ADOPTION  
FOOD POLICY

SVAP  
INITIATION

2019

RESPONDED TO  
COVID-19  
LET'S GROW FOOD

SVAP  
ENDORSEMENT

GOOD FOOD  
PLEDGE ADOPTION

SQUAMISH FOOD  
AND FARM GUIDE

FOOD ASSET BAILEY  
STREET GARDEN

PROMOTE YA  
LAND LINKING

LOGGERS LANE  
NEIGHBOURHOOD  
PLAN REVIEW

2020

COMMUNITY FARM  
SIGNED AGREEMENT

FARM HUB SURVEY  
CONDUCTED

LAND  
LINKING  
WORKSHOPS

NEIGHBOURHOOD  
PLANNING SUPPORT  
CONT

POLLINATION GUIDE

HOWE SOUND  
SCHOOL FARM

INCREASE GROWING  
FOOD ASSETS

\$89,100 + FUNDING

2021

# Food Policy Councils and Other Community Food Groups

- Food Security Action Plans
- Evidence Based Policy Development
- Pandemic Response
- Indigenous Food Sovereignty
- Food Justice
- Food Waste
- Responding to the Climate Crisis
- Good Food Procurement Program
- Food and Farm Planning
- Advocating collaboratively on provincial issues, such as: food insecurity, ALC regulation, national school food programs





# MUNICIPAL ROLE IN FOOD SYSTEMS

Food systems are complex, as are the communities they nourish. This infographic promotes a coherent and strategic approach to food systems engagement. It provides examples of actions for integrating food systems into existing municipal services and activities.

## FOOD SECURITY

exists when individuals and households have sufficient food to meet their needs on an ongoing basis.

## FOOD ECONOMIES

are created by the businesses (farms, food processors, retailers, restaurants, distributors) that participate in food supply chains.

## FOOD LITERACY

(re)builds skills for growing, harvesting, storage & cooking of food, and creates an understanding of how food systems function.

Created by the Central Kootenay Food Policy Council. Find out more at [ckfoodpolicy.ca](http://ckfoodpolicy.ca)



## Sectoral Responsibilities of Municipal Governments in Canada

### ECONOMIC WELL-BEING



Collaborate with social service agencies and use the city's internal communications expertise and platforms to disseminate information on food available to those who are impoverished / hungry.



Commit to not expanding municipal boundaries, building up, not out; zone & maintain a database of land suitable for food-related businesses.



Ensure that higher density housing, particularly for those on lower incomes, is well connected to public transit and enables ready access to venues with healthy food (including emergency food services).



Establish and implement targets for local food procurement at all City venues and events that serve food.



Enable permanent location with high pedestrian traffic for the Farmers Market, with indoor option for winter markets.



Create a Food Charter; support and participate in a food policy council.



Assess and remove barriers to food gardens on private lots (front, side and backyard options); develop and pass bylaws that permit backyard flocks, meat rabbits, and beekeeping.



Establish municipal and household organic waste composting and make finished compost available at low or no cost for food production in private and public gardens.



Undertake an assessment of city-owned land most suitable for public food-related activities; lower barriers to access and use (harvest festivals, community gardens, food-based events).

**Additional Resources available at:**  
[ckfoodpolicy.ca/municipal-food/](http://ckfoodpolicy.ca/municipal-food/)



Enable & Promote



Bylaw or policy change



Repurpose internal resources (staff, infrastructure)



New investment

# RELOCALIZE FOOD ACTION GRID



## MARKET



## POLICY



## LAND / WATER / CLIMATE CHANGE



### Citizens

Ask for local food at all venues, events, institutions

Work with local food policy councils, agriculture and business organizations to lower barriers for proactive policies

Share / make land available for food production; scale back non-essential water use to privilege water use for food production and environmental protection



### Business Owners

Privilege local market outlets - "feed the family and trade the leftovers" (Brewster & Cathleen Kneen)

Connect with peers and supporters to identify priorities and provide policy solutions

Be pro-active in location - create clusters for synergies in food recovery / waste management, shared infrastructure, efficient distribution.



### Eaters

Privilege local foods and eat seasonally. Adapt food budgets to allocate larger portion to support local food businesses and save money on other items.

Endorse and support organizations working to build local food system; build knowledge of food systems and policy needs & opportunities

Plan food choices day by day and year round to minimize environmental / climate impact of choices



### Foundations / Funders / Supporters

Continue to invest in local infrastructure for which it is hard to make a business case in a sparsely populated region in a globalized food marketplace.

Support industry and civil society organizations to network, share information, build capacity to create systems change and relocalize food.

Support knowledge generation and transfer



### Local Government

Link business licences to local procurement targets, where possible

Develop and implement food security, water use, and agriculture plans.

Integrate local food production / resilience as a highest and best use in all suitable zones, official community plans.

# Takeaways

- High impacts though good policy development
- Collaboration is key
- Help contribute and fund food organizations to be able to leverage additional funding
- Explore if existing policies are creating barriers to advancing your communities food system (ex: greenhouses or farm stands)
- Make a food a priority like housing and childcare
- When developing food and farm plans, include implementation planning and ongoing funding/staff support







# Local Government Partnership Program:

Current Program Design & Ideas for Renewal  
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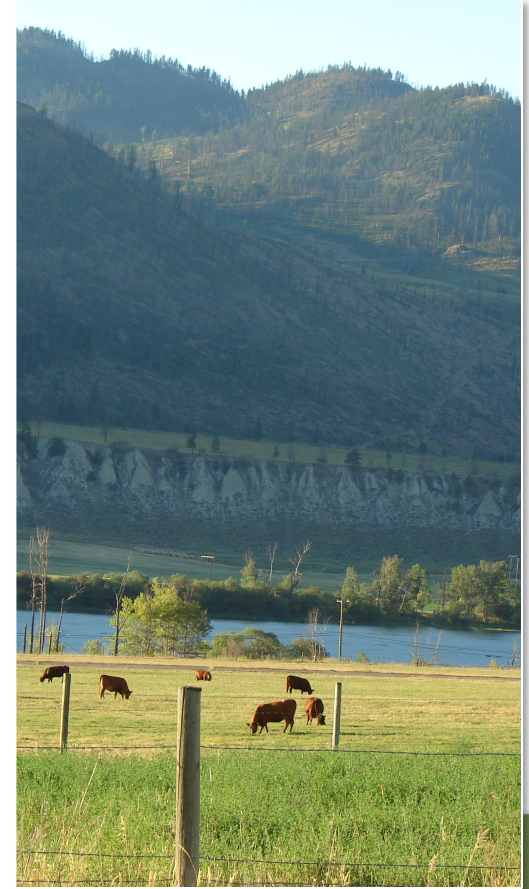
# Local Government Partnership Program (LGPP)

- Support BC communities to integrate agricultural strategy into community planning decisions
- Cost-shared funding to develop, update and implement agricultural planning tools
- Successor to Local Government Agricultural Planning Program
- Relaunched as LGPP in April 2021
- Funding from the Agri-Food Futures Fund



# LGPP: Program Design

- \$500K cost-shared funding available
- Up to \$40K per project
- 15 projects approved
- Applicants were local governments
- Demonstrate political support and plans to implement
- Compliments and supported by Provincial Strengthening Farming Program



# Key Lessons from Program

- Broad community support needed to implement
- Flexibility in project time-frame
- Strong interest and uptake in First Nations
- Continued need for this support for updating and implementation



# Future Program Design

- We propose shifting the focus away from short-term competitiveness towards long-term resilience, especially with regards to climate change
- Support targeted activities
- Partnership and sharing across regions and between different levels of government





Thanks!

Any questions?  
[www.iafbc.ca](http://www.iafbc.ca)  
[info@iafbc.ca](mailto:info@iafbc.ca)





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## **Vision**

Sustainable food systems where people and planet thrive.

## **Mission**

We connect, empower, and inspire people to strengthen BC's sustainable food systems.

# CLIMATE SOLUTIONS THROUGH FOOD SYSTEMS

B.C. food lands are transformed to provide climate solutions—reducing agriculture emissions and sequestering carbon—while offering co-benefits of local food production, biodiversity protection, and climate resilience.

## Supporting Farmers & Ranchers

### Engaging Eaters



### Influencing Policy





A photograph of a field filled with white wildflowers, likely Queen Anne's lace, under a clear blue sky. A wire fence runs across the middle ground, and a line of trees is visible on a hill in the background. Two black vertical poles are in the foreground, framing the field.

# BC Seed Security Program

# Food Systems & Local Government

- Local governments have creative options for addressing the current and long term food needs of citizens.
- Water, soil fertility, transportation, zoning, business licences are some of the means that can be leveraged to bolster a community's food security and resilience.

## Where Food Systems and Local Government Coalesce

Sectoral Responsibilities of Municipal Government in British Columbia

			Responsibility	Access	Economics	Literacy
Social Development	Health	Hospital / Health Care	PT			
		Hospital Capital	PM			
		Public Health	PM			
	Social Services	Social Assistance	PT			
		Social Housing Assistance	PM			
	Housing	Immigrant Settlement	PT			
		Regulations	M			
	Local Democracy	Public Consultation & Equity	PM			
		Managing Local Elections	M			
	Public Safety	Police	PM			
		Fire Protection	M			
		Ambulance Services	PT			
		Emergency Response	PM			
Environmental Sustainability	Transportation	Highways, Primary Road Systems	PT			
		Urban Streets	M			
		Rural Roads	PT			
		Public Transit	PM			
		Road Lighting Systems	PM			
		Airports	FM			
		Harbours	FM			
	Environment	Air Quality	PT			
		Drinking Water Quality Standards	PT			
		Water Supplies	M			
		Sewers & Storm Drains	M			
		Wastewater Treatment	M			
		Garbage Removal & Disposal	M			
	Land Use Planning & Development	Planning & Zoning By-laws	M			
		Preservation of Agricultural Land	PT			
Economic Well-being	Finances & Taxation	Property Assessment	PT			
		Preparation, Approval & Auditing of Budgets	M			
		Borrowing Approval	PM			
	Local Economic Development	Economic Development	All			
		Community Income Generation	NA			
		Poverty Reduction Programs	FP			

M  
PM  
FM

Municipal  
Provincial/Municipal  
Federal/Municipal

FP  
PT  
All

Federal/Provincial  
Provincial/Territorial  
All Jurisdictions

NA

Not Applicable or  
Available

Figure 2: Local government and food systems. Adapted from the *Guide to Municipal Institutions in Canada*, FCM.<sup>18</sup>





# Food Systems & Local Government - UBCM

## UBCM Resolutions

- Food Security for BC - Peace River - 2010
- Ensure Food Security - Victoria - 2013
- Food Security - Port Coquitlam - 2019
- Cumulative Effects of Land Use Decisions - Sunshine Coast RD - 2020
- Provincial Action to Enhance Food Security During Emergencies - Comox Valley RD - 2020
- Community Climate Action Plans - Comox Valley RD - 2021
- Local Government Incentives for Climate Change Resiliency - Gibsons - 2022
- Stormwater Management - Sunshine Coast RD - 2022



# Group Break-Outs

## DISCUSSION:

- What are you currently doing?
- What are the gaps?
- What additional supports do you need?

## REPORT OUT:

- Significant successful project or partnership
- Major support required





# Thank-You!



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