



Squamish-Lillooet Food Project

Advancing a more sustainable regional food system

Initiatives with Potential for Region-Wide Application

January 27, 2018

Objective

The objective of this review is to identify initiatives from existing plans, strategies, and programs that have the potential for a region-wide approach and application within the Squamish Lillooet Food System.

Methods

The initiatives listed here were identified by conducting a scan of existing plans and strategies, both from within the Squamish Lillooet corridor and from elsewhere in BC. Examples include:

- SLRD Area C and Pemberton Valley Agricultural Plan
- SLRD Area B, Lillooet, St'at'imc Agricultural Plan
- SLRD Waste Management Plan
- Village of Pemberton Agricultural Parks Plan
- Lillooet Agriculture Market Access Strategy
- Regional District of Nanaimo Agricultural Plan
- Metro Vancouver Food System Strategy
- District of Saanich Agriculture and Food Security Plan
- BC Ministry of Health Model Core Program Paper: Food Security
- Dieticians of Canada's Healthy Eating and Food Security: Promising Strategies for BC
- BC Healthy Communities Plan 'h' Healthy Eating and Food Security Action Plan
- Provincial Health Services Authority: Healthy Built Environment Linkages: A toolkit

Results and Discussion

The scalable actions and initiatives are listed by the eight elements/components of the food system, and links are included below to each section in the document:

1. [Food Production and Land Availability](#)
2. [Food Processing and Storage](#)
3. [Food Messaging, Marketing, Branding, Education](#)
4. [Food Moving, Distribution](#)
5. [Food Access, Retail, Markets, Food Banks](#)
6. [Food Consumption at Home, School, Restaurants, Hospitals](#)
7. [Food Waste Management and Resource Recovery](#)
8. [Food Capacity, Governance, Staffing, Financial Resources](#)

For each system component, efforts have been made to identify 5 to 10 actions. An indication of who would lead the initiative (e.g. government (provincial, local), farmers, community group, school district, health authority) as well as level of support required (e.g. staffing, funding) has also been identified. The reference for the action describes where the action was found in the literature and indicates whether any communities are currently pursuing these actions.



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Overview

This table provide a summary of the recommendations and actions from other plans and strategies that have been identified for potentially scaling-up to regional initiatives.

Production and Land Availability	Processing and Storage	Food Messaging, Marketing, Branding, Education	Food Moving, Distribution	Food Access, Retail, Markets, Food Banks	Food Consumption at Home, School, Restaurants, Hospitals	Food Waste Management and Resource Recovery	Food Capacity, Governance, Staffing, Financial Resources
1.1 Grow food in public areas	2.1 Food processing workshops	3.1 Central website	4.1 Coordinate food deliveries	5.1 Local food at all retailers	6.1 Local food in schools	7.1 Regional organics waste diversion	8.1 Regional agricultural support officer
1.2 Limit residences on ALR	2.2 More abattoirs and butchers	3.2 Food and farm directory	4.2 Regional food hub	5.2 Regional Food Policy Council	6.2 Regional procurement policy	7.2 Reduce disposable take-out packaging and bags	8.2 Re-establish Indigenous food systems
1.3 Succession planning	2.3 FOODsafe training	3.3 Regional signage	4.3 Changes to food safety regulations	5.4 Community kitchen facilities	6.3 Leverage BuyBC initiative	7.3 Reduce food packaging	8.3 Financial tools for farmers
1.4 Farmland trust	2.4 Database of processing facilities	3.4 Promote awareness of Indigenous food systems		5.5 Increase community gardens and public foodlands	6.4 Farmers market coupon program	7.4 Minimize food waste at festivals and conferences	8.4 Support farm mentorship and apprenticeship programs
1.5 Crop research	2.5 Community kitchens	3.5 Educate the Real Estate Industry and land owners		5.6 Involve libraries in food security	6.5 Cooking classes	7.5 Anaerobic digester pilot project	8.5 Maintain the SL Agriculture & Food Task Force
1.6 Demonstration farming	2.6 Zone for food processing and value-added activities	3.6 Annual Harvest Festival			6.6 Year-round indoor market	7.6 Encourage composting	
1.7 Coordinate crop production		3.7 Agriculture and Food Grant Program					
1.8 Educational opportunities for farmers		3.8 Local Food Events and Retail					
1.9 Incubator farming							



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Theme 1: Food Production and Land Availability

Action Name	Action Description	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Resources Required	Which communities are doing this?	Reference
1.1 Grow food in public areas	Provide public space and opportunities to grow food in agricultural areas and in urban / semi-urban settings.	SLRD Member municipalities	NGOs	\$\$	Pemberton Agricultural Parks Plan	PHSA document
1.2 Limit residences on ALR	Develop guidelines for siting and size of residential uses in the ALR.	SLRD Member municipalities		\$ Staff time	Delta Kelowna Abbotsford Richmond	Most agricultural plans list this as a recommended action.
1.3 Succession planning	Assist farm families dealing with the challenge of farm succession and financial assistance by connecting them with professional support services and information.	Provincial government	NGOs Farmers institutes Commodity groups	\$	AGRI has some resources online and does a travelling workshop	RDN Agricultural Area Plan
1.4 Farmland trust	Work with the province to set up an agricultural land bank to purchase farmland from retiring farmers and sell to new farmers (Farmland Trust).	Provincial government	SLRD Member municipalities Farmland owners	\$\$\$\$	No one in BC currently. There is the American Farmland Trust in USA	Most agricultural plans list this as a recommended action.
1.5 Crop research	Explore the promotion and introduction of new crop varieties and techniques to extend the growing season.	Farmers Academic institutions	BC Agriculture and Food Climate Action Initiative (CAI)	-\$\$\$\$\$	CAI has done some of this research as has Kwantlen.	RDN Agricultural Area Plan
1.6 Demonstration farming	Promote awareness and seek support for the development of a demonstration farm.	Farmers Academic institutions	SLRD Member municipalities	\$\$\$	Pemberton Agricultural Parks Plan has received support	Pemberton Agricultural Parks Plan
1.7 Coordinate crop production	Support and improve linkages for direct sales through the coordination of production and cultivation timing.	Farms, co-op, or small business	Pemberton Farmers Institute, LAFS, SqCAN	\$\$ Could involve online and face to face meetings	Black Creek Ranch (Kamloops) Salt Spring Co-op Merville Organics	-SLRD Area B, Lillooet, and St'at'imc Agricultural Plan -Sunshine Coast Agriculture Plan



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1.8 Educational opportunities for farmers	Provide educational opportunities for farmers locally or online regarding meat processing regulations and licensing, soil and crop analysis, business development, crop diversification, marketing and pricing.	Pemberton Farmers Institute, LAFS, SqCAN	Ministry of Agriculture, Business Advisory Services	\$\$\$ Grant funding may be possible	Kootenay and Boundary Farm Advisors Program	Columbia Basin Trust strategic community planning
1.9 Incubator farming	Establish a small number of incubator farms on public (SLRD or municipal) lands to provide new farmers with a site to start their business.	SLRD Member municipalities	Farmers Academic institutions	\$-\$\$\$\$	Kwantlen's farm schools, such as the Richmond Farm School	Metro Vancouver Food System Strategy



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Theme 2: Food Processing and Storage

Action Name	Action Description	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Resources Required	Which communities are doing this?	Reference
2.1 Food processing workshops	Continue to develop connections and business development skills by promoting the farm business advisory service and associated programs.	Farmers Commodity groups NGOs Farmers Institutes	SSFPA , 4-H Clubs	\$	AGRI sponsors consultants to provide workshops around BC and has recently completed these workshops in Lillooet.	Most agricultural plans include this recommended action.
2.2 More abattoirs and butchers	Support the establishment of a local licensed red meat abattoir and/or butcher (cut & wrap) order to keep up with high demand.	SLRD Member municipalities Economic development commissions	Farmers	\$-\$\$\$	Port Alberni , Salt Spring Island , Kootenay Boundary, and others have tried to attract abattoirs and butchers with varying degrees of success.	-Salt Spring Island Mobile Abattoir -Port Alberni Abattoir -Kootenay Boundary Mobile Abattoir
2.3 FOODsafe training	Partner with VCH to advertise and provide food safety training to local producers/ processors.	VCH AGRI Farmers Inst NGOs	SLRD, Member municipalities, Economic devel. comm.	\$	FOODsafe is a practical certification program that is hosted in many communities	Most agricultural plans include this recommended action.
2.4 Database of processing facilities	Develop a database of food processing facilities in the region.	SLRD Member municipalities Economic devel commissions	Community orgs; Churches Food banks Schools	\$\$	-BC Small Scale Food Processors Society has a specialty food directory - City of Toronto in 2002.	SLRD, Lillooet, and St'at'imc Northern Territory Agricultural Plan
2.5 Community kitchens	Investigate the feasibility of pursuing community kitchen/other shared processing initiatives to encourage local value-added opportunities.	Community organizations	SLRD Member municipalities Sponsors	\$-\$\$\$	Gibsons Public Market has a community kitchen sponsored by CIBC	Community Futures Sunshine Coast
2.6 Zone for food processing and value-added activities	Allow processing, warehousing and distribution facilities for local food products as permitted uses in local zoning bylaws to enable their development.	SLRD Member municipalities		\$	-City of Surrey has specific zoning for agricultural processing. -District of Pitt Meadows.	City of Surrey Zoning Bylaw; District of Pitt Meadows Zoning Bylaw.



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Theme 3: Food Messaging, Marketing, Branding, Education

Action Name	Action Description	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Resources Required	Which communities are doing this?	Reference
3.1 Central website	Create a website for agricultural information and related issues and use it to promote a regional farm directory, including a 'operation/farmer of the month' feature, seasonal local food recipes, 'fact sheets' and videos.	NGO (could be LAFS or the SqCAN)	Farmers	\$\$	- Durham Farm Fresh (Ontario) - Regional District of Nanaimo - Metro Vancouver	RDN Agricultural Area Plan
3.2 Food and farm directory	Create and distribute a local food guide or directory.	SLRD, LAFS, SqCan	Member municipalities, farmers	\$\$\$	- Island Farm Fresh (Vancouver Island) - BC Farm Fresh Guide -Circle Farm Tours (various)	Most agricultural plans include this recommended action.
3.3 Regional signage	Develop a farm and food sign program to promote farming and reduce conflict between non-farm and farm use. Signs could identify farming areas, slow moving farm vehicles, specific farms, and crops.	LAFS, Pemberton Farmers Market, SqCAN	Farmers, SLRD, member municipalities	\$\$\$\$	- Boundary Country: Taste Unlimited - True North Fraser	-Boundary Area Agriculture Plan -Ridge Meadows Economic Development Plan
3.4 Promote awareness of Indigenous food systems	If the opportunity arises, partner with St'at'imc and Squamish Nation to develop a speaker series, interpretive signs, and demonstration gardens for indigenous food systems.	St'at'imc Squamish Nation	SLRD Member municipalities	\$-\$\$\$\$	Osoyoos Indian Band	District of Saanich Agriculture and Food Security Plan



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3.5 Educate the Real Estate Industry and land owners	Develop and execute a communications and education program to engage the real estate industry and landowners regarding the <i>Right to Farm Act</i> . This could involve producing a brochure and communicating with realtors, and lobbying for disclosure statements to be included for property sales adjacent to farms.	Pemberton Farmers Institute, LAFS and SqCAN	Regional realtor organizations	\$\$	- Pemberton Farmers Institute -Ministry of Agriculture's Countryside and You brochure	Many agriculture plans include this recommendation
3.6 Annual Harvest Festival	Host an annual regional Harvest Festival or other similar event to promote agriculture (could rotate between Squamish, Pemberton, and Lillooet).	Pemberton Farmers Institute, LAFS and SqCAN	SLRD	\$\$\$ Grants may be available	Apricot Tsaqwem Festival in Lillooet	RDN Agricultural Plan
3.7 Agriculture and Food Grant Program	Provide funding for an annual agriculture and food grant for local non-profit programs raising awareness about local food.	SLRD and member municipalities		\$\$\$ Through local government tax levers	Metro Vancouver's Agricultural Awareness Fund provides several annual grants to local organizations	Metro Vancouver
3.8 Local Food Events and Retail	Create zoning and permitting opportunities for direct marketing and sales of local foods throughout the region (e.g. vendors and food trucks in parks, at main intersections).	SLRD and member municipalities	Farmers and food businesses	\$\$ Will require bylaw update and business licencing	-City of Vancouver Vending Policy -FoodRoots Victoria -Grab Some Good, Toronto	Metro Vancouver District of Saanich City of Kelowna



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Theme 4: Food Moving, Distribution

Action Name	Action Description	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Resources Required	Which communities are doing this? Progress or status?	Reference
4.1 Coordinate food deliveries	Set up a system of coordinated distribution for local food products to reach retailers and restaurants.	Farms, co-op, or small business		\$\$\$	Greater Vancouver West Coast Vancouver Island	-Vancouver Local Food Hub -Tofino Ucluelet Culinary Guild
4.2 Regional food hub	Investigate options for a food hub business model for the region that would provide for synergies amongst farmers for distribution purposes.	Farmers LAFS, Pemberton Farmers Inst.	Farmers market Funders SLRD, member municipalities	\$-\$\$\$\$	Maple Ridge food hub initiative Vancouver Local food hub	City of Vancouver
4.3 Changes to food safety regulations	Advocate for revisions in food safety and traceability regulations and requirements so that collective distribution and redistribution of produce from small farms is possible.	Pemberton Farmers Institute, LAFS, SqCAN	Retailers, consumers	\$		Lillooet Agriculture Market Access Strategy



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Theme 5: Food Access, Retail, Markets, Food Banks

Action Name	Action Description	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Resources Required	Which communities are doing this?	Reference
5.1 Local food at all retailers	Encourage grocers and retailers of all sizes to carry local products.	Consumers, Farmers, Commodity groups	Chambers of Commerce, Grocers	N/A		PHSA
5.2 Regional Food Policy Council	Continue to support the establishment of a Regional Food Policy Council to explore initiatives to connect food production, recovery, and food emergency services.	SLRD	NGOs, farmers, food security advocates	\$\$	Central Kootenay Food Policy Council	Sunshine Coast Agricultural Area Plan
5.4 Community kitchen facilities	Work with tenant or residence associations, seniors' centres, to establish community kitchen facilities.	SqCAN Residence Associations VCH	School District NGOs Churches	\$-\$\$\$\$	- Shelbourne Community Kitchen - Gibsons Public Market Kitchen	-City of Kelowna Agriculture Plan Update -District of Saanich Agriculture and Food Security Plan
5.5 Increase community gardens and public foodlands	Identify both private and public lands suitable for community gardens and develop the gardens.	NGOs Community associations	SLRD and member municipalities	\$-\$\$\$\$ Depends on if land needs to be purchased or modified	- Pemberton Agricultural Parks Plan -Metro Vancouver	-Metro Vancouver Food Strategy -Pemberton Agricultural Parks Plan
5.6 Involve libraries in food security	Work with local libraries to provide space for a Seed Library and to offer workshops on beekeeping and food production.	Libraries	Seed saving groups NGOs	\$\$	- BC Seed Libraries	-Sunshine Coast Agricultural Plan -District of Saanich Agriculture and Food Security Plan



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Theme 6: Food Consumption at Home, School, Restaurants, Hospitals

Action Name	Action Description	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Resources Required	Which communities are doing this?	Reference
6.1 Local food in schools	Support local schools in providing healthy food programs such as fresh school lunches, food literacy and access to educational or demonstration food gardens.	School District(s)	Farmers Teachers Parents Farm to School BC	\$\$ Grants available	McLeod Elementary School in Vanderhoof	- District of Saanich Agriculture and Food System Plan -PHSA report
6.2 Regional procurement policy	Develop and implement a regional food procurement policy. Such a policy would allow the SLRD and local governments to demonstrate their commitment and support for locally produced foods and services. It would require them to purchase local products for meetings, conferences, etc.	SLRD Member municipalities	Businesses, Schools Health care centres	N/A Staff time for policy development	District of Saanich Local Food Procurement Policy	District of Saanich
6.3 Leverage BuyBC initiative	Leverage the province's BuyBC initiative to promote the use of local food in regional civic institutions that are regulated by the province (e.g. hospitals, senior's centres, colleges).	LAFS Pemberton Farmers Institute	QUEST School districts Ministry of Agriculture	N/A	BuyBC is being revitalized by the Ministry of Agriculture	Ministry of Agriculture
6.4 Farmers market coupon program	Partner with the BC Association of Farmers Markets (BCAFM) to continue to expand the farmers market coupon program to Lillooet (it already exists in Pemberton and Squamish).	BCAFM Regional farmers markets	Community services society VCH	N/A	In 2017 the program operated in 54 communities	This program is conducted in several BC communities
6.5 Cooking classes	Partner with VCH dieticians and nutritionists to promote and offer cooking classes for targeted sectors of the public (e.g., seniors, young parents, young people)	VCH	Community organizations	\$-\$\$		PHSA report
6.6 Year-round indoor market	Assess the feasibility of a year-round indoor farmers market for the Squamish Lillooet region, outside of Whistler.	BC Farmers Market Association	Pemberton Farmers Institute SqCAN, LAFS	\$\$ Grants may be available	Gibsons Public Market Victoria Public Market	Town of Gibsons City of Victoria



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Theme 7: Food Waste Management and Resource Recovery

Action Name	Action Description	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Resources Required	Which communities are doing this?	Reference
7.1 Regional organics waste diversion	Support a regional approach to organics waste diversion as outlined in the SLRD Solide Waste Management Plan.	SLRD Solid Waste Management	Member municipalities	\$\$-\$\$\$\$	Sunshine Coast organic waste diversion	RDN Agricultural Area Plan Sunshine Coast Regional District
7.2 Reduce disposable take-out packaging and bags	In alignment with the SLRD's Zero Waste targets, initiate a campaign to reduce the use of non-biodegradable take-out food and beverage packaging in the food service sector.	SLRD Solid Waste Management	Member municipalities	\$\$	Victoria Bring Your Own Bag program	Metro Vancouver Food System Strategy City of Victoria
7.3 Reduce food packaging	Continue to advocate for a bylaw or guidelines that would require restaurants and food services to minimize food packaging through <i>Extended Producer Responsibility</i> programs.	SLRD Solid Waste Management	Restaurants and food service Academic institutes	N/A	SLRD Love Food, Hate Waste campaign	SLRD Solid Waste Management Services
7.4 Minimize food waste at festivals and conferences	Work with event organizers to minimize food waste at meetings, festivals, and conferences.	NGOs Community organizations AWARE Zero Waste Heroes	Hotels Caterers Academic institutes	N/A		Metro Vancouver Food System Strategy
7.5 Anaerobic digester pilot project	Implement pilot projects for farm-based anaerobic digestors to provide alternative energy sources for farms and other uses.	SLRD Member municipalities Farmer institutes	Ministry of Agriculture	\$\$\$\$	BC Dairy Farmers Association	Metro Vancouver Food System Strategy
7.6 Encourage composting	Provide educational information to encourage composting in bear smart communities.	NGOs Community organizations	SLRD Member municipalities Sea to Sky Soils	\$\$	Compost Education Centre	District of Saanich Agriculture and Food Security Plan



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Theme 8: Food Capacity, Governance, Staffing, Financial Resources

Action Name	Action Description	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Resources Required	Which communities are doing this?	Reference
8.1 Regional agricultural support officer	Secure funding for and create the position of Agricultural Support Officer. The role would involve one-on-one support to businesses, and responsive and focused assistance to the agriculture sector.	SLRD	Member municipalities	\$\$\$	Kootenay and Boundary Farm Advisors Program	RDN Agricultural Area Plan Central Okanagan Agricultural Plan
8.2 Re-establish Indigenous food systems	Support St'at'imc and Squamish Nation in their efforts to re-establish local indigenous food systems.	St'at'imc Squamish Nation	Community organizations	\$-\$\$\$	BC Food Systems Network Indigenous Working Group	District of Saanich Agriculture and Food Security Plan
8.3 Financial tools for farmers	Encourage Farm Credit Canada and other lending agencies to create financially supportive tools (loans, credits) for agricultural innovators.	Farmers Institutes LAFS	Farmers	\$-\$\$\$	Community Farms Program FarmFolk/CityFolk Farm Credit Canada	Kootenay Boundary Agriculture and Food Security Plan
8.4 Support farm mentorship and apprenticeship programs	Support apprenticeships, mentoring, and other farming experience programs. This could include: industry-based training programs, academic, and provincial programs.	Farmers Institutes LAFS	Farmers	\$-\$\$	Stewards of Irreplaceable Land (SOIL) Young Agrarians	RDN Agricultural Area Plan District of Saanich Agriculture and Food Security Plan
8.5 Maintain the SL Agriculture & Food Task Force	Through the task force, bring SL agriculture and food security groups together several times a year to determine where goals and objectives align and minimize redundancy.	SqCAN LAFS Farmers institutes VCH	Community organizations	\$\$	CRFAIR Collective Impact BC Food Systems Network Gathering	