Squamish CAN
Climate Action Network

SQUAMISH
FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

Jan 11, 2022

SVAP 2021 Implementation Presentation

Prepared by: Squamish CAN

Presented to: District of Squamish

Food and Agriculture Planning – Our Progress

2009
- Squamish CAN established

2015
- Squamish Food Charter endorsed
- Squamish Food Policy Council formed
- VCH Collaboration Agreement – Food Systems priority area

2016
- Squamish2040 Food Deep Dives
- Squamish food system and asset mapping

2017
- Agriculture Land Use Inventory

2018
- Squamish2040 OCP Adoption Food Policy

2019
- SVAP Initiation

2020
- Responded to COVID-19
- 'Let's Grow Food'
- SVAP Endorsement
- Good Food Pledge Adoption
- Squamish Food and Farm Guide
- Food Asset: Bailey Street Community Garden
- Promote Young Agrarians Land Linking
- Loggers Lane Neighbourhood Plan Review

2021
- Community Farm Signed Agreement
- Farm Hub Survey conducted
- Land Linking workshops
- Neighbourhood planning support continued
- Pollination guide
- Howe Sound School Farm
- Increase of Growing Food Assets
- $89,100 + funding

2021 SVAP Accomplishments

1.1 Continue to support and facilitate land linking programs locally

- Co-hosted a BC Land Matching Program with Young Agrarians (YA) with 45 participants including six Squamish land owners
- Met with four different community members/organizations looking for land or farmer, and provided resources
- Promoted YA land matching program and workshops
- Currently have 12-14 land seekers and 2-3 land owners registered with YA

1.2 Identify opportunities and locations for enhancing land access for agriculture initiatives and determine feasibility of a community farmland trust for the Squamish Valley

- Working with Young Agrarians to secure community farmland in Squamish for sub-leasing for small scale farmers
- Advancing a 12,000 sq ft school farm at Howe Sound Secondary
    - Established a steering community with HSS leadership, students, PAC, Indigenous support staff and leadership, Foundry staff, and Squamish CAN staff

Additional 2020/21 Accomplishments (Agri Food)

2.1 Develop an agri-food sector strategy for Squamish Valley (DOS Ec Dev lead, SFPC support)

- Agri-Food Emerging Focus Area and Sector Profile (Economic Development Green Economy Sector Series engagement and deep dives in 2020)
- Partnership with UBC Farm Feeding Growth provided local businesses with affordable craft food and beverage sector-specific education

- Craft food, beverage, and agriculture Economic Impact Study, a partnered initiative with the Chamber and Tourism Squamish (February ETA)
- Designed an Asset Sharing Tool for the business community (including Agri-Foods sector) to provide platform for exchange of business assets
- Ongoing business development support for local craft food, beverage, and agriculture companies
- New InvestSquamish website for emerging sectors in early 2022

2.4 Support local procurement initiatives

- All local and regional governments endorsed Good Food Program
- $20,000 secured to gauge interest for a virtual, regional farm hub
- Farm Hub Survey results:
    - 279 responses, 225 of which were residents, 31 farmers, and 23 food purchasers.
    - 73% of survey respondents are supportive
    - Affordability and convenience were identified as the two most important concerns from farmers, purchasers, and residents
    - 'Decreasing reliance on imported products', 'strengthening the direct relationship between producer and consumer', and 'improving the convenience of sourcing local fresh foods'

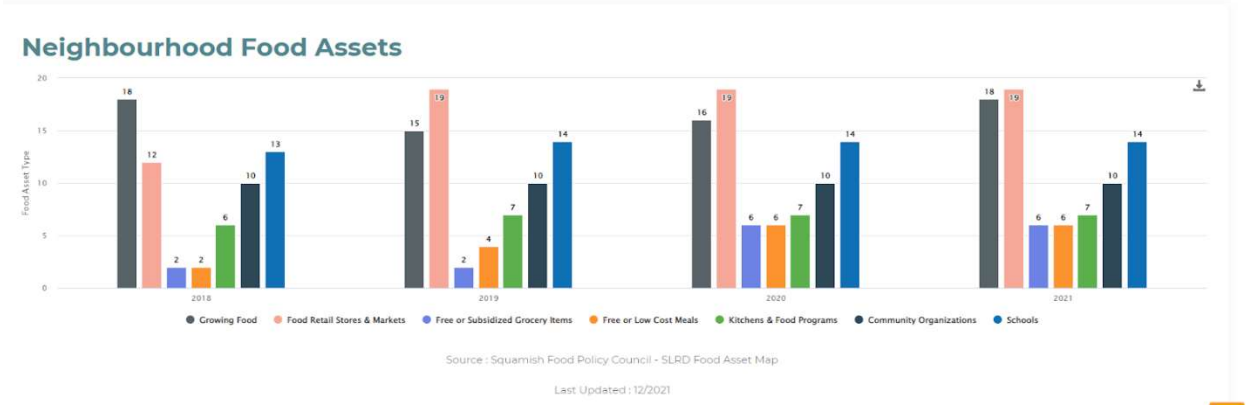
- Recently secured another $20,000 for a feasibility and operational study to be completed by Ione Smith from Upland Consulting

3.1 Continue to encourage policies and practices for maintaining and increasing pollinator health

- Designed and developed Sea to Sky Pollination Guide (500 copies printed, text created for website access)
- Ongoing support for downtown boulevard 'Pollinator Patch' garden demonstrator (Pemberton & 4th Avenue)
- Demonstration project at the Bailey St. Community Garden with signage developed outside the welcome gate

6.1 Continue maintenance of the Regional Food Asset Map

- Maintained and further developed Regional Food Asset Map, promoted amongst regional partners
- Squamish Farm Guide and Seasonal Calendar 1000 copies and distributed (update annually)
- Co-hosted a workshop with food policy council members to assist in planning food assets and farming within the Garibaldi Estates Neighbourhood Plan



6.2 Work with Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) to integrate Indigenous food system and resource management perspectives and knowledge within food plans and initiatives

- Received $5,000 from VCH to support growing food, harvesting and donating back to Squamish Nation Family and Food programs at Chief Billy Waterfront Gardens

6.5 Identify and support opportunities for school-aged children to learn about and engage in the food system

- Increased two new edible schoolyard programs at Valleycliffe Elementary and Don Ross

1.4 Disseminate information about range of crops that can be grown in the Squamish Valley

4.1 Continue to support wildfire risk reduction initiatives with agricultural stakeholders

- Distributed invites for April 2021 webinar by Climate and Agriculture Initiative BC to Squamish farmers and Squamish Valley Residents

Plans for 2022 - SVAP Implementation

- **Continue to support:**
  - Collaboration on neighbourhood plans and new developments (Dos/SLRD)
  - Agriculture Zoning Update (DoS) and Wildfire risk reduction
- Host workshop on Indigenous Food Sovereignty and Food Systems
- Engage and educate the financial sector and real estate industry in agri-sector land use issues
- Facilitate educational workshops for farms and agri-foods (As part of the IAF Funding)
  - Integrated pest management

    - Sustainable Farming Practices
    - Soil fertility and nutrient management, crop planning and climate adaption on your farm
    - Farm-business planning
- Develop and launch Good Food Program, including pilot project (phase two & three)
- Support Farm Hub Feasibility and Operational study
- Advance Community Farm in Squamish
- Continue to pursue additional actions as additional funding is secured

Funding

2021 Confirmed Funding - $89,100 K
$40,000 Pilt Funding (SLRD/DOS)
$6,000(ish) - Carry over from 2020
$20,000 Vancouver Foundation
$2,000 Vancouver Coastal Health
$5,000 Vancouver Coastal Health (one-time only)
$3,600 Community Gaming Grant
$12,500 Eco Canada

2022 Confirmed Funding - $146,120 K
$40,000 Pilt Funding (SLRD/DOS)
$40,000 Investment Agriculture Foundation
$12,500 Eco Canada
$20,000 Vancouver Foundation
$10,000 Farm to School BC
$8,800 VCH One-time only
$6,720 Youth Employment Skills Program
$3,600 Gaming Grant
$2,500 Squamish Savings
$2,000 Vancouver Coastal Health

2022 Planned Grant Applications $55 K +
$20,000 United Way (Community Farm)
$15,000 Lush Charity Pot (Community Farm)
$25,000 Real Estate Foundation of BC
$5,000+ BC Community Gaming Grant and more