How food connects to global challenges

**Global:** Food travels an average 2,400 km from field to fork

**National:** 900,000+ households in Canada are food insecure

**Provincial:** BC’s rich agricultural land is threatened by development

**City:** Over 50% of the world’s population now lives in cities
Vancouver’s food policy history and current context

- City of Vancouver food policy mandate (2003)
- Vancouver Food Policy Council (2004)
- Vancouver Food Charter (2007)
- Food Systems Steering Committee (2009)
- Local food goal of GCAP (2010)
- Park Board Local Food Asset Task Force (2012)
- Inter-departmental technical teams (current)
- Unprecedented citizen interest and robust civil society organizations
Strong partnerships

- Vancouver Food Policy Council
- Vancouver Coastal Health
- Metro Vancouver
- Neighbourhood Food Networks
- Urban Farmers Society
- Farmers Market Operators
- Community Garden Coordinators
- Street Food Vendor Association
- Vancouver School Board
- Universities & Businesses
Food policy supports City sustainability goals

**Social / Health:**
- Healthy City Strategy

**Environmental:**
- Greenest City Action Plan

**Economic:**
- Vancouver Economic Action Strategy
Notable advances

- Farmers markets contribute $15 million/year to the local economy
- 700 new garden plots were created from 2010-2012
- Land area of urban farms has increased from 2.3 acres to 8.28 acres since 2010
- 103 street food vendors offer a variety of cuisines
- In 2011, 20,000 residents were involved with the neighbourhood food networks
Select food assets by type
Select food assets + density

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2011 (Density)
COV Food Policy (Food Assets)
Neighbourhood Food Networks (NFNs) are grassroots coalitions of citizens, organizations and agencies that work collaboratively to address food system issues with the goal of improving access to healthy, affordable and nutritious food for all. They were first funded by Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH).

Adapted from Carr and Fodor, 2012
Challenges remain
MAJOR COMPONENTS OF VANCOUVER’S ECOCLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

- FOOD
- CONSUMABLES AND WASTE
- TRANSPORTATION
- BUILDINGS
## Unequal food access

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WESTSIDE</th>
<th>DTES &amp; STRATHCONA</th>
<th>SOUTH VANCOUVER</th>
<th>GRANDVIEW WOODLAND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High proportion of isolated seniors and newcomers</td>
<td>High levels of food insecurity</td>
<td>High population of newcomers, low income and lone parent families</td>
<td>“Food deserts”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High child poverty rates</td>
<td></td>
<td>Barriers for retailers wanting to carry healthier foods</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Policy response: Lack of coordination

- City Council Motion
- Greenest City Grants
- 2010 by 2010 plots exceeded
- Backyard Hens
- Farmers Markets
- Street Food Program
- Neighbourhood Food Networks
- Food Waste Collection
- Community Kitchens
- Urban Agriculture Guidelines
- Food Policy Council
- Food Charter
- Bee Keeping
- GCAP Local Food Goal
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Neighbourhood Food Networks
- Greenest City Grants
- City Council Motion
- 2010 by 2010 plots exceeded
- Backyard Hens
- Farmers Markets
- Street Food Program
- Neighbourhood Food Networks
- Food Waste Collection
- Community Kitchens
- Urban Agriculture Guidelines
- Food Policy Council
- Food Charter
- Bee Keeping
- GCAP Local Food Goal
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
Vancouver Food Strategy

Aim: Integration and Alignment

- City Council Motion
- Greenest City Grants
- Housing and homelessness strategy
- Land use planning
- 2010 plots by 2010
- Transportation Plan
- Waste management
- Economic Action Strategy
- Street Food
- Farmers Markets
- Community Kitchens
- Healthy City Strategy
- Bee Keeping
- Food Charter
- Food hub
- Backyard Hens
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Local Food Goal
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
- Food hub
- Greenest City Action Plan
- Healthy City Strategy
- Food hub
- Food Waste Collection
- Food Policy Council
- Urban Farms
Policy directive for food strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ZERO CARBON CO₂</th>
<th>Climate Leadership</th>
<th>Lighter Footprint</th>
<th>Green Economy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green Transportation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Building</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ZERO WASTE</th>
<th>Zero Waste</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HEALTHY Ecosystems</td>
<td>Access to Nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Food</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>SAN FRANCISCO</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>• Focused and action-oriented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ownership across City departments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Director of Food Systems</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vancouver’s consultation process

Engaged 2,200 people

TALK FOOD WITH US

Food
Farming
Land
Language
Diversity
Food Security

Food + Cultural Diversity
means
We speak different languages, what the common ground?
Multiple consultation formats

- Translated outreach materials
- Website
- Articles and advertisements
- Twitter & blog
- Storytelling and dialogue events
- Tabling and facilitating events
- Presentations
- Fairs
- Focus groups
- Stakeholder roundtables
- Toolkits and exercises
- Educational workshops

Engaged 2,200 people
Components of Vancouver’s Food Strategy

Vision and Principles

5 Goals

71 Actions

Food Charter

Food Strategy
Component 1: Vision and principles

**Vision**
- Economic, ecological, social well-being
- Local production
- Resource protection
- Food access
- Retaining cultural food traditions
- Dialogues between sectors and groups

**Principles**
- Enable community economic development
- Improve ecological health
- Promote social justice
- Encourage collaboration and celebration
Component 2: Five goals

1. Support food friendly neighbourhoods
2. Empower residents to take action in their own neighbourhoods
3. Increase access to healthy, affordable, culturally diverse food
4. Make food a centrepiece of Vancouver’s green economy
5. Advocate for a just and sustainable food system with partners and all levels of government
Goal 1: Support food-friendly neighbourhoods

Key focus:
- Food assets / infrastructure
- Built environment
- Scaling up
- Build on unique context of each neighbourhood
Goal 2: Empower residents to take action in their own neighbourhoods

Key focus:
- Human capacity
- Community development
- Access to resources, skills and knowledge
- Participation and inclusion
Goal 3: Improve access to healthy, affordable, culturally diverse food for all residents

Key focus:
- Vulnerable populations
- Affordability
- Healthy food options
Goal 4: Make food a centrepiece of Vancouver’s green economy

Key focus:
- Localizing food supply chain
- Economic multiplier effect of local food
- Innovative models: e.g. social enterprises, food hub, food business incubator
- Green food jobs
Goal 5: Advocate for a just and sustainable food system with partners and all levels of government

Key focus:
- Advocacy at all levels of government
- Partnerships
- Leverage tools
Component 3: Actions

Vision and Principles

Five Goals

Actions

FOOD SYSTEM

FOOD PRODUCTION

FOOD PROCESSING/DISTRIBUTION

FOOD WASTE MANAGEMENT

FOOD ACCESS
## Five priority focus areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus Area</th>
<th>Priority Action Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Growing food</strong></td>
<td>- Support urban agriculture (community gardens &amp; urban farms)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Empower residents</strong></td>
<td>- Enhance participation in community-based food programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Food access</strong></td>
<td>- Improve access to local, affordable food retail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. Food processing and distribution</strong></td>
<td>- Address infrastructure gaps in local food processing, storage and distribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Increase percentage of local food purchased by City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5. Food waste</strong></td>
<td>- Expand food waste disposal programs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Integration with Food Strategy Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal 1</th>
<th>Goal 2</th>
<th>Goal 3</th>
<th>Goal 4</th>
<th>Goal 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neighbourhoods</td>
<td>Empower Residents</td>
<td>Increase Access</td>
<td>Green Economy</td>
<td>Partnerships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop urban farming policy</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support neighbourhood food networks</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish community food markets</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase food processing and distribution opportunities</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand food waste disposal programs</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Benefits and Outcomes:

✓ Become a global leader in urban food systems
✓ Meet/exceed our GCAP targets
✓ Integration and alignment
✓ Build a healthier city
✓ Improve socio-economic outcomes and create green jobs
✓ Strengthen community capacity