

Summary of Discussion Themes from Table Matters ... A Community Discussion about Food Security and Urban Agriculture

November 5, 2010

Summary of Round Table Discussion Action/Strategy Areas:

This document provides a summary of Round Table Discussion Action/Strategy Areas. There are many opportunities to build a sustainable and healthy food system on the North Shore. This summary will be useful in developing a local food system strategy. For now, it outlines potential areas of focus for projects.

Food Production, Recovery and Processing

1. Increase capacity to produce food on the North Shore and close to home

- a. Support the development and operation of urban farms that produce local food in a variety of ways on vacant, park or private urban land
 - Working with municipalities and MetroVancouver to access underutilized land
- b. Encourage and Support Residential Food Production
 - Support home-owners and multifamily developments in cultivating front/backyards
 - Working with municipalities and developers (ie. tax incentives)
 - Use existing networks to promote (Community Associations, PAC)

2. Improve access to nutritious food among vulnerable groups.

- a. Food Recovery
 - Inventory mapping to identify points where food could be recovered from the waste stream:
 - Storage Facilities, Drop off points, Available processing equipment, Organizations, Skills (volunteers)
 - Mechanisms for taking action wrt resources identified by the inventory
 - Reduce waste in the food system by processing recovered food as a social enterprise or food skills education

3. Increase commercial food production

- a. Finding and using under-utilized kitchen capacity and local fruit and vegetables to create food processing social enterprises or food skills educational opportunities.
 - Asset mapping: identify existing resources

Food Distribution and Marketing

4. Increase marketing opportunities for local/regional food on the North Shore

- a. Improving the distribution system to enable local/regional food on the NS
 - Increasing direct sales from farmers at farmers markets, farm gate sales and/or through a distributor to pocket markets at locations such as community centres or through a commercial distributor like SPUD, etc. (food social enterprise)
- b. Secure markets for local/regional food through institutional food purchasing (farm to school; farm to hospital)
 - Connect schools, local governments, hospitals with regional farms that provide salad bar ingredients or other foods
- c. Address the lack of capacity for warehousing and distributing local/regional foods
 - Permanent, covered market to act as a distribution hub for farmers, CSA's, pocket markets, good food boxes (via Food Hub and Precincts)

Education and Awareness – support food friendly neighbourhoods

5. Neighbourhood scale resource centres

- a. Develop locations where food (ie. recovered local, community garden or back yard grown) could be donated and/or sold
- b. Educational centres (demonstration gardens or farms) in all neighbourhoods

6. Promote agricultural education for adults

- a. Encourage home owners to convert lawn for urban agriculture
- b. Create and support garden mentoring programs
 - “Call-A-Gardener” free gardening hotline modeled on NSRP ‘Compost Hotline’
 - Facilitate mentorship in community gardens
- c. Educational centres in regional parks

7. Promote agricultural education for children/youth

- a. Promote agricultural education in schools
- b. Mentoring Model
 - Promote food gardening in existing mentorship programs (school volunteerism, Big Sisters/Brothers)
 - Integrate gardening as part of school curriculum

8. Enhance Residents Food Skills and Food Literacy

- a. Identify under-utilized kitchen spaces for community use; information on liability
- b. Promote community kitchen leadership training
- b. Promote and increase development of north shore community kitchen programs
- d. Educate residents how food choices support sustainability (promote buying local/regional)