

The Role of Food in the Community Economy

By Ron Plowright

Community Developer

Food Security

Fraser Health





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What we said we'd discuss...

“We all have to eat and most of us even like it! The community economy is/will be built on relationships. Sharing food helps build relationships. When we bring the two together we create the potential for sustainable economic and community development. The panel will share stories of successes in the community economy around food and the possibilities for a vibrant food economy in Surrey and the region in the future.”



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Where I'm coming from: background on food security



“**Community** food security exists when **all** citizens obtain a safe, personally acceptable, nutritious diet through a just and sustainable food system that maximizes healthy choices, community self-reliance and equal access for **everyone.**”

Hamm and Bellows, 2003

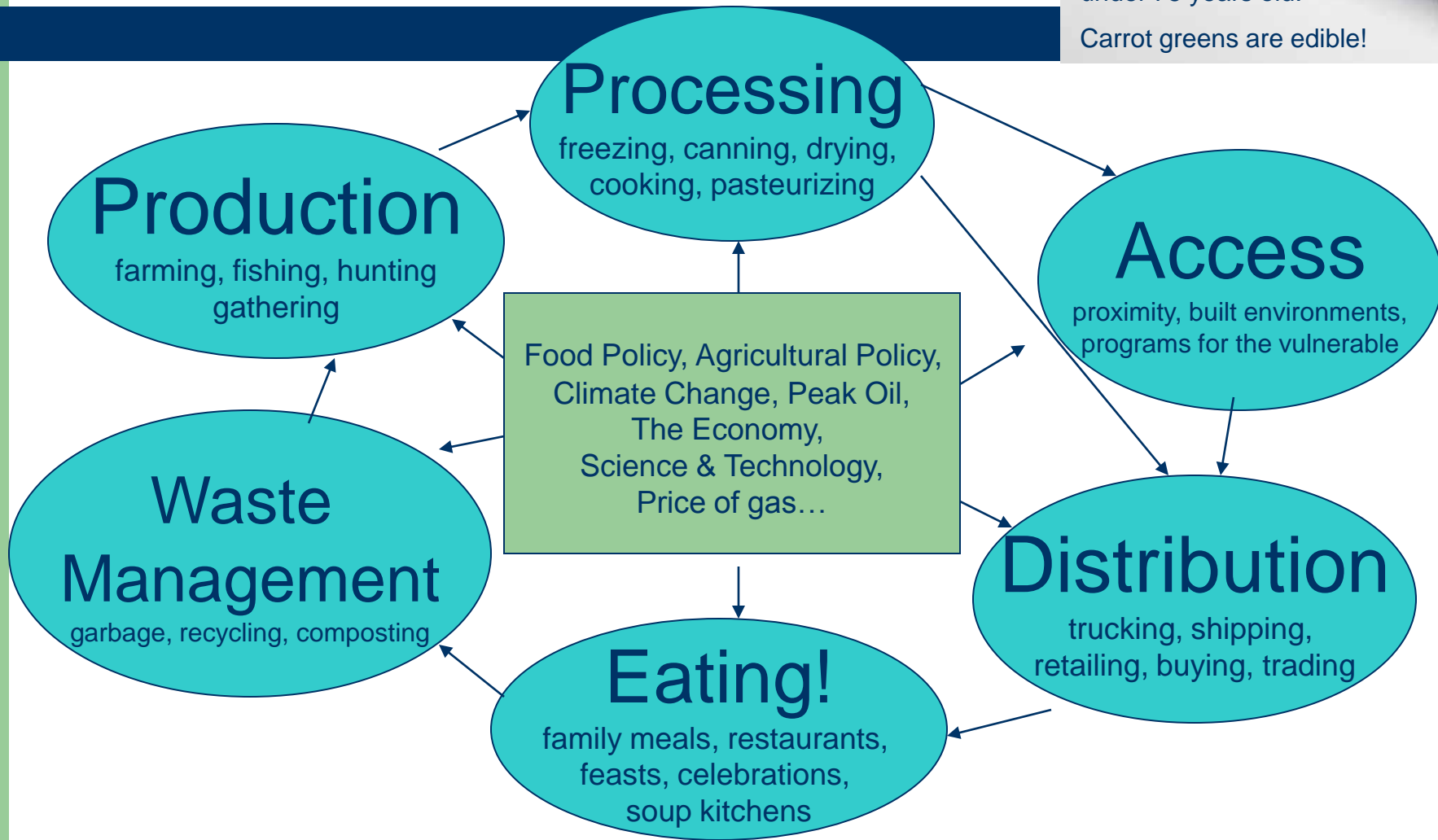


Little known fact
to those under 10
years old: cherry
is not just a
flavour of chewing
gum!

Unpacking the definition...

- People can get food or food can get to them (it's **accessible**)
- How people get food is **dignified**
- There's **enough, safe, appropriate** food
- Food is **healthy**, so we prevent disease
- The “Food System” **does not harm** the air, land or water for future generations.
 - and creates **good jobs and careers.**

So whaddya mean by Food System?





Models for change (1): The Food Security Continuum

*the “zero-mile-diet”

Stage 1
Short-term
relief

Charitable
programs:
Food Banks
Soup Kitchens
Food Stamps
Food Gleaning

(Focus on individual)

Stage 2
Capacity
Building

Community Gardens
Community Kitchens
Farmer’s Markets
Buying Clubs
Local Eating Campaigns
Food Celebrations
Breastfeeding Coalitions

(Focus on Community)

Stage 3
Food System
Redesign

Food Action Coalitions
Food Policy Councils
Municipal Food Policy
School Food Policy
Workplace Food Policy
**Community Economic
Development wrt Food**

(Focus on Society/ Government)

Community Economic Responses To Food Insecurity

(2) The Food and Economy Continuum

Charity	Community Development	Social Enterprise	Community Economy & "The New Agriculture"
-Food Vouchers		-Local food systems connected in a sustainable framework	
	-Sustainable production and preservation/processing		
-Soup kitchens	-Rooftop gardens and community gardens→	-Weekly Farmers Markets→ Permanent Daily Farmers Markets →Urban and Rural Community Shared/Supported Agriculture	
-Food banks	-Community Kitchens	-Commercial Canning Kitchens/Microprocessors	
-Gleaning Programs	-Mobile stores		-Production contracts between farmers and food businesses
	-Projects aimed at building food skills/access		-“Local Only” retailers
	-Cooperative grocery stores and buying clubs		-Private sector and Government investment
		-Industry training	-Local Product and Infrastructure development
		-Targeted marketing	-Municipal and organizational food policy
	-Store shuttles		

Moving towards a community food economy: hints of a possible future

- It seems to be about RELATIONSHIPS
- 3rd Party Certification vs. relationships
- Local labeling & “Local Only” retailers:
e.g. Home-Growin Grocer/ NOWBC
- Community Farms/farmer training, food celebrations
(Flavours of Surrey, Feast of Fields)
- Sustainability and Food Charters
e.g. Surrey Sustainability Charter, Van. Food Charter



Your friendly neighbourhood
community developer



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What does this “sustainable/secure/relationship-based food economy” of the future look like...?



We often say that
Community Development
work is “messy”

- How will we celebrate food and culture?
- Are there food banks? If so, how do they look?
- What does food retail look like?
- How much and what food is grown in urban environments? Rural? Bioregional? Imported?
- We need to paint a picture of the future so we know where we're going, not just the 'opposite of hunger'

Questions...? Roundtable begins...

