

Local Food Hubs: Filling the Gaps in the Local Food System



Farmers Markets = Basic Food Hubs

- Economic impact VFM 2013: \$7.1M
- Land-use & enviro impact: 16, 000 acres
- Economic multiplier: Farmers Markets: 1.5
- Total economic impact: \$10M+
- *Farmers Markets filling a gap, but not enough...*



BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Large BC crop growers supply export markets
- Loss of supply chain infrastructure
- Significant gaps in distribution & buyer access
- 21,000+ small family farms lack scale to distribute
- 45% food wasted pre-retail



Opportunity

Much of BC's ALR is farmed by **21, 000 small** scale farmers who lack connections to food supply chains

- ✓ ALR protection = City & regional investment in farmland, farmers & farm-direct infrastructure

**Viable Small Farms = ALR Protection = Greater
Public Access to Local Food
= Stronger BC Food Economy**



Urban & Rural Food Hubs



**Distribution & Marketing Infrastructure
Re-Connects Urban Demand to Regional Supply**

Urban & Rural Food Hubs

“Skyrocketing consumer demand for local and regional food is an economic opportunity for America's farmers and ranchers...Food hubs facilitate access to these markets by offering critical aggregation, marketing, distribution and other services to farmers and ranchers. By serving as a link between the farm or ranch and regional buyers, food hubs keep more of the retail food dollar circulating in the local economy. In effect, the success of regional food hubs comes from entrepreneurship, sound business sense and a desire for social impact.” – US Sec. of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack

US: 220 Food Hubs

Economic multiplier: 2 – 4

Job creation in Agri-food sector



Vancouver Food Hub

Broad range of partners

Greater Vancouver Foodbank, Potluck Café Society,
Vancouver Farmers Market

Vancouver City Council Motion (March 11, 2014): Assist Foodbank with move to City-owned land by June, 2017 and explore development of Food Hub with community food partners



Vancouver Food Hub Facilities Program

**Foodbank,
Storage &
Distribution**

**Value-added
Processing &
Teaching
Kitchens**

**Farmers Market &
Direct Marketing**



Vancouver Food Hub

Funders & Supporters

- Vancity
 - Real Estate Foundation of BC
 - JW McConnell Family Foundation
 - Vancouver Foundation
 - City of Vancouver
- Vancouver Foodbank, Potluck Café Society, Vancouver Farmers Markets

