

Haliburton

Community Organic Farm

Plan:
Plan type:

Haliburton Community Organic Farm Society One
Planet Action Plan
Organisation

Organisation:

Haliburton Farm

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Health and happiness



Outcomes

Name	Detail
Holistic Nutrition	More awareness of holistic education and healthy diets for life. Living longer, less health issues.
H.F. - A Peaceful & Enjoyable Space for Humans, Animals & Plants	Secure these spaces on the Farm. Explore research covenant for HCOFS.
H.F. Farmers Living Low Impact Lives	Farmers living by the 10 points. Living using One Planet Living Principles in mind for HCOFS - Making mindful decisions and how they effect others and the planet.
HCOFS - An Active One Planet Stakeholder	1/ Become a 'One Planet' Stakeholder - 2018 (established); 2/ Initiate One Planet Action Plan implementation - 2019; 3/ Foster relationships with other relevant One Planet Saanich (OPS) stakeholders; attend relevant workshops - 2019 and ongoing; 4/ Work towards One Planet accreditation - 2019; 5/ Living with One Planet Living principles in mind - Making mindful decisions and how they effect others and the planet - 2019 and ongoing; 6/ Respond to requests to share OPAP.
HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE IN SAANICH	The Saanich Vision tells us where we want to go, but not how to get there. That's where our OCP and Strategic Plan come in. The OCP guides our direction. The Strategic Plan provides the priority.



Equity and local economy



Outcomes

Name	Detail
Demonstrate the Viability of Small-Scale, Local Farming Practices	Haliburton Community Organic Farm is zoned as a Rural Demonstration Farm. HCOFS also supports relevant farming-related activities across the Region.
Vibrant EcoFarm School Education Plan	Provide vision by an education Board sub-committee to advise and coordinate on-farm learning opportunities.
Creating Equal Access & Opportunities	Board policies and Memorandae of understanding reflect inclusiveness.
A DIVERSE & ECONOMICALLY VIBRANT SAANICH	Description



Actions

Name	Detail
Continue EcoFarm School Plan with Local Educators	1/ Expand education partners (instead of reinventing wheel) - 2019 and ongoing; 2/ Hire local educators - 2019 and ongoing.
Contribute to Circular Economy	1/ Purchase supplies from local businesses (supply chain, e.g., Zero Waste Emporium) - Shopping at small stores, no big box stores, supporting local purchase initiatives - 2019 and ongoing; 2/ Recommend farming business lessees hire local employees - Asking friends, co-workers for recommendations - 2019 and ongoing; 3/ Encourage sharing of resources between farmers, including equipment supplies and new markets; 4/ Recommend that each farm sell products to local or 'local-friendly' retail outlets first. 5/Educating Community on Organic Growing: There is a focus on increasing workshops and educational visits to the farm to line up with the 10 One Planet Saanich principles.
Community Purchasing from Foodstand (on-site)	Marketing to neighbourhood, schools, restaurants - 2019 and ongoing.
Create 5-Year Strategic Financial Plan	Complete a sustainable 5-year strategic financial plan for HCOFS - 2019, to include: - 'Business viability' elements (e.g., costs vs revenues); - Opportunities for increasing sales (e.g., more cost-effective farm tours and/or community/student workshops; recommend to farmers increase in CSA annual Food Box program); - New ventures - e.g., partner with other educational and inspirational farms in the area to create an agri-tourism network; - Incorporate learnings from successful small-scale entrepreneurs by means of workshops; - Support the CRD in efforts to establish a regional food and farmland trust by speaking upon request, and support Saanich in exploring the addition of a community grant category that specifically supports local food security initiatives; - Continue to explore grants/volunteering support building off past successes; - Identify need (meet with PCIC at UVic) and available funding for required HCOFS adaptation planning/'pilots'; - Work with CRFAIR and others (e.g., students) to establish 'indicators' of impact of HCOFS on small-scale farming capacity in Region.



Indicators

Name	Detail
Money Spent Stays in Community	HCOFS farm purchases are made to an agreed-upon listing of local businesses, also made available to farmers.
Annual On-Farm Revenues	Revenues from all HCOFS 'sales', breaking down sales from: - Each of five farm plots (sales by volume/type of produce); - Sales (\$) from Foodstand (supplied by farmers only at this point); - All revenues beyond sale of produce (special educational events such as farm tours, school presentations).



Culture and community



Outcomes

Name	Detail
First Nations Inclusion	Reflected in workshop material and all planning at the farm.
Better Connected Communities	Having community know about Haliburton Farm.
Mentors	Maintaining access to, and actively using, a resource mentorship list (e.g. HCOFS link to Young Agrarians).
COMPACT, ACTIVE, CULTURALLY-SENSITIVE & RESILIENT COMMUNITY	



Actions

Name	Detail
Encouraging Indigenous & Non-Indigenous Group Involvement	Connecting with schools, First Nations and others to encourage inclusiveness. Actions/events at HCOFS includes: 1/ Provision of on-farm education opportunities for the broad community, school groups, associations, First Nations (e.g., farm tours; biennial urban food garden tour); 2/ The on-farm businesses each contribute immensely to much community engagement and support for urban agriculture and biodiversity through their own networks.
Celebrate Cultural & Food Diversity	Celebrating culturally diverse foods and sharing traditions.
Farmers Sharing & Supporting One Another	Sharing tools and supplies, knowledge sharing and mentorship. Sharing HCOFS farmers' food with friends and family.
Grow Partnerships	Existing and new partners could include: - Pollinator Partnership Canada (2018), - Horticulture Centre of the Pacific, - High schools, - Hudson Market (community kitchen) teaching full/partial duplication of HCOFS model. Workshops including how to build school gardens and hosting community kitchen canning days; - Academia (for continuing education or on-site 'demonstrations'): Camosun College; UVic; RRU; UBC; Kwantlen College; UNBC; Gaia College.
Create a Strong Social Media Presence	Share 'good food' stories and photos of individual farms and Haliburton Farm as a whole to create value for the farmers, interest for the Farm in the EcoFarm School opportunities and Foodstand(s), and in good food in general. Use social media to help organize events and volunteers.
Spread HCOFS 'Incubator' Seeds	Locally - Work with Saanich and CRFAIR to expand community food garden opportunities across the District/Region; and with local opportunities such as with Woodwynne Farms or Sandown Farm (https://www.northsaanich.ca/document-store/2018-08%20-%20SandownBackgroundandDetailFINAL.pdf). Other Jurisdictions - Work with other municipalities and other organizations (including academia) elsewhere to assist in growing and/or networking with other 'incubators' the likes of HCOFS' incubator farm (e.g., Port Alberni Incubator Farm; Duncan Seed Incubator Farm).
Increase HCOFS 'Presence' at More Community & International Events	Anticipated actions/events for 2019 to 2024 could include: 1/ Annual Saanich Seedy Saturday at Horticulture Centre of the Pacific - January 2019 (completed); 2/ CRFAIR's Farmer2Farmer support; 3/ Healthy and Sustainable Food Option Day support for Claremont Secondary Institute for Global Studies; 4/ Saanich Native Plants and other workshops at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific and other parts of the Region; 5/ International Ironman Event, Run Aid Station - June 2019; 6/ CSA Food Box Program; 7/ Regional Farmers Markets; 8/ Provision of on-farm education opportunities for the community (e.g., farm tours, biennial urban food garden tour); 9/ Providing consultation and speakers upon request at - municipalities, schools, community groups, First Nations; 10/ The on-farm (5) businesses each contribute to community engagement and support for urban agriculture and biodiversity through their own networks, including sharing HCOFS farmers' food with friends and family, hosting 3 Hleketani Farm participants for a soil internship in Aug. 2019.

I Indicators

Name	Detail
# People Visiting H.F.	Increase tours. The community gets to know Haliburton Farm and farmers, and the Farm gets to know the community.



Land and nature



Outcomes

Name	Detail
Habitat Restoration Importance Understood	Being mindful of nature at home and community - Preserving nature in their own backyard. Appreciation through education.
Balanced Ecosystems & Natural Habitats	Restoration project community engagement opportunities.
VIBRANT LAND, NATURE & ENVIRONMENT	Identify, reduce and prevent impacts of development on the natural environment, includes - bylaws and policies, covenants, streamside protection, stormwater management - pesticide reduction (banned cosmetic pesticide use in Saanich) Recreation, arts, heritage, culture, social programming and services to the local community through parks and trails, a golf course, four recreation centres, archives and an arts centre. Also, parks, trails & amenities: Guidelines & Policies - From park and sport field permit rules to our Urban Forestry Strategy.



Actions

Name	Detail
Encourage Permaculture	Letting leaves lay, seeds self sow, native plant species propagate. Increase permaculture education.
Growing Native Plants	Supporting and encouraging Saanich Native Plants with the work they do at Haliburton Farm.
Creating Natural Infrastructure	Barns, bird houses, and snake habitat.
Maintain Certified Bee-Friendly Farm	Maintain certification since being established - IPP. Encourage bee-friendly drinking stations and native hedgerows. Avoid cleaning up possible pollinator habitat during winter. Support annual mason bee pupae cleanup and storage.
Urban Biodiversity Enhancement & Restoration (UBER) Project (continuing)	Goal 1: Continue to preserve and restore the natural areas within the Farm area. Goal 2: Continue to enhance biodiversity features within the farmed and natural areas of the property. Goal 3: Continue to develop the site as demonstration and teaching site for urban biodiversity enhancement techniques. The centrepiece of the Haliburton Biodiversity Project is the restoration of a degraded wetland and meadow that began in 2009. Pacific Chorus Frogs breed in the wetland and are found throughout the farm. Other species like garter snakes, swallows, and dozens of native bee species help with pest control and pollination. Encourage farm practices that integrate into natural ecosystems. A dedicated monthly work party hosts a large committed biodiversity volunteer group (in the wetland, along the many native plant hedgerows, in common area gardens, in the forested area and in a start-up Garry Oak meadow serve as valuable learning ground). Host Work Party the first Saturday of every month from 10am to 12pm - 2019 and ongoing. Guided farm tours are available - ongoing.
Natural Backyard Habitats	HCOFS volunteers, farmers, students and tour participants are encouraged to preserve nature in their own backyards.



Indicators

Name	Detail
Red Winged Black Birds are Returning	Recorded on eBird (https://ebird.org/home). A volunteer from the biodiversity group walks around periodically to record. Also, farmers could sign up and record when noticing birds on their farms.
Barn Owls are More Common	This bird's habitat - a barn - was restored and continues to provide habitat.

Bee Population at HCOFS

Estimate the population of bees at future hives. Suggest study to determine estimate of native bee population.

#/Growth/Stability of Indicator Specie(s)

Continue to use 'indicator species' for the area to monitor the vitality of the habitat. These could include salamander, pacific chorus Frog, bird, and bee numbers and their habitats.



Sustainable water



Outcomes

Name	Detail
More Water Retention/Less Water Waste	This Outcome speaks to making the best use of available water sources, both those from the District and from nature. Wetlands are a natural source of standing, filtered water. Research could be undertaken to determine if aquifer could possibly provide water to HCOFS plots to reduce their reliance on the District of Saanich's water piping system. Biochar is one application approach to retaining water on site/in soil.
SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLY & USE	Description



Actions

Name	Detail
Setting Timers for Watering & Using Aqua Tape Irrigation	Timed watering allows farmers to water earlier in the morning and late in the evening. This gives them flexibility in their lives and guarantees crops aren't over watered. Also, continuing to use Aqua Tape Irrigation provides water at the root source and minimizes evaporation.
Conserving Water at HCOFS Farmhouse/Farm Plots	Using less water to do daily activities.
Harvest Rainwater & Grey Water to Reuse	This Action primarily focuses on the rainwater pouring off of the HCOFS Farmhouse's metal roof.
Conserving Water at Farmers' Homes & Farms	Using less to do daily activities.



Indicators

Name	Detail
Year-Over-Year HCOFS Farmhouse & Farm Plots Water Use	This could be gathered from Saanich's water bill(s).



Local and sustainable food



Outcomes

Name	Detail
Producing Certified Organic Food	Producing certified organic food is central to the efforts behind HCOFS and its farmers; a key part of practicing sustainable farming practices. These practices not only directly support a local sustainable food system, but provide the demonstration site for farmers to learn and continue these practices after leaving Haliburton Farm.
Established Local Food Distribution Network	There are a number of ways to get local food "from farm gate to dinner plate", depending on how consumers wish to purchase their food. Consumer education can be part of that distribution process.
Applied Research & EcoFarm School Program	Build off of longstanding education/outreach workshops/training events with partners such as Gaia College and Royal Roads University, the Haliburton EcoFarm School courses, tours and workshops, with classes like: Organic Master Gardener; Ecological Landscape Design; Growing Food; Ecological Plant Knowledge for Organic Gardeners. The HCOFS Ecofarm School started at H.F. in 2018 and it has expanded into incorporating all education happening at the farm, such as: hosting students from learning partners Gaia College classroom hands-on courses, Royal Roads University continuing studies, Claremont Secondary Institute for Global Studies, Camosun College practicum placements, HCP practicum placements, numerous requests from students for assistance with dissertations (e.g., UVic) and study projects, educational tours and biodiversity project tours.
A THRIVING, ACCESSIBLE & ENV'LY RESPONSIBLE FOOD SYSTEM	By 2030, Saanich is home to a thriving, accessible, and environmentally responsible food system, which is renowned for its vibrancy and resiliency. Our food is celebrated and recognized for its role in nourishing people, livelihoods, and relationships. Saanich is seen as a leader in advancing food security, including initiatives toward greater food self-sufficiency on the South Island, as well as dignified access to affordable, healthy food for all people. Ecosystems flourish as a result of responsible land and water stewardship on both urban and rural agricultural lands, which form the centre of our community. We protect and support our farmland and are proud to provide a vibrant agricultural legacy to future generations.



Actions

Name	Detail
Utilizing Local, Organic Produce	Having better food available to the community. Supporting and encouraging all farms at HCOFS with the work they do. Actions could include: 1/ Certified Organic Farm (IOPA) - Certified organic farm status continues to be renewed annually by IOPA, the Island Organic Producers Association certifying body (using organic growing principles, including using organic seeds and non-invasive growing techniques, mindful harvesting) - 2019 and updated annually; 2/ Educate and promote organic growing principles on-site with each and all HCOFS plot lessees; 3/ Cooking organic food at home - Better food provided to power farmers, their families and the community - 2019 and ongoing; 4/ Increasing organic matter in soil (for soil enhancement, water retention, carbon sequestration): applying compost onto HCOFS plots (established); and applying biochar onto HCOFS plots. 5/ Use surplus HCOFS food - Identify key waste hotspots (through collaborative partnerships): farmers selling #2 vegetables (already donate and redistribute unused food after their market sales and on farm to volunteers, fellow farmers and target non-profits so that food waste is avoided. The individual farm businesses leasing at HCOFS track the value of surplus food they distribute, in return receiving CRA rebates); and/or process extra food into baby food.
Mentors Support During Transition Periods on Farms	Provide more on-farm mentors on individual farming parcels between former farmer and future farmer by providing resource lists to tap into.

Offering Many Outlets for Food Access

Multiple outlets allow consumers to have more flexibility depending on how they like to purchase their food: 1/ Continue to supply local, organic foods at established grocery market outlets and restaurants using farm logo labels on produce - 2019 and ongoing; 2/ Continue to sell directly to community - Have on-site farm stand in operation more often, especially when workshops and public events are going on, and consider expanding to additional sites around community; 3/ Continue to advise farmers how to promote selling produce at: grocery stores, restaurants, farmers' markets (e.g., Moss Street Market), special events - ongoing; 4/ Encourage coordination (e.g., social enterprise) using one delivery provider to distribute HCOFS food produced. "The lessee farms sold produce through two on-farm farm food boxes, a farm stand, wholesale to restaurants and grocery stores, provided to farm markets and offered direct farm sales. Two farms on site provided for the first time ever to the Saturday January Moss St. Market this year: Pointing to viability of growing produce through the winter in Victoria, BC. Community events upon request."

Establish students terms at HCOFS	Internships, practicum placements, student placement requests and requests for dissertations.
Educating Community on Organic Growing	Posting and educating farmers on organic growing principles, such as using organic seeds, natural fertilizers, non-invasive growing techniques, mindful harvesting. Build off of longstanding education/outreach workshops/training events with partners such as Gaia College and Royal Roads University such as the Haliburton EcoFarm School with classes like: Organic Master Gardener; Ecological Landscape Design; Gaia College/RRU Growing Food course; Ecological Plant Knowledge for Organic Gardeners; Claremont IGS learning by volunteering, workshops presented by SNP, others. Also, school career paths and employment, volunteer creation for young growers (e.g., students and other groups asking to be placed); HCP practicum exchange or workshop partnerships with HCP; Camosun Horticulture Field trips; practicum placements and activities (e.g., pear, berry and apple orchard pruning; educational tours to schools and all other requests); learning through volunteering open days such as Glenlyon Norfolk Round Square Program, Volunteer Victoria Project Serve, Green Team; Open Day for on-farm volunteering every first Saturday of the month from 10 - 12 followed by potluck; Internship program after EcoFarm learning for students wanting to be placed.
Demonstrate Potential for Island Food Security	HCOFS and its farmers directly contribute to the District of Saanich's leadership in advancing food security, including toward greater food self-sufficiency on the South Island, as well as dignified access to affordable, healthy food for all people.

I Indicators

Name	Detail
Annual # Participants at HCOFS classes	Discuss amongst HCOFS and farmers the ability to keep a record via visitor log.
Annual # Schools Participating in EcoFarm Classes	Discuss amongst HCOFS and farmers the ability to keep a record via visitor log.
Area of biochar applied annually	This could be 'area', or 'weight', or 'volume' based.
# People Visiting the Farm	More foot traffic, community feels connected to the farm via tours, farm stand, events, workshops, food boxes and courses. Registration book and/or purchasing records at on-site food stand/individual farmers' plots. As with other indicators above, to discuss amongst HCOFS and farmers the ability to balance security and recordkeeping (i.e., without some form of 'gatekeeping', it may not be possible to get an accurate number of individual visitors.
Volume (by type) of HCOFS food sold off-site	Aggregated IOPA records from the five farm lessees.



Travel and transport



Outcomes

Name	Detail
Fewer Vehicles on the Road	Achievement of this outcome would be a result of encouraging both travel coordination amongst HCOFS farmers, students and volunteers, and active transportation by customers to and from HCOFS.
Efficiently Traveling to/from H.F.	HCOFS Board and farmers coordinate travel to and from H.F. This could also include farmers coordinating one distributor to deliver produce to various markets (wholesale food markets, restaurants, off-site food stands, special events), as well as creating awareness of HCOFS Board, farmers and others switching to zero emission vehicle transportation.
NET ZERO CARBON TRANSPORTATION	Walking, cycling and transit are safe, convenient and enjoyable ways to move around Saanich, and are a common part of everyday life for all residents and visitors. Saanich has a complete network of walking and cycling facilities that is universally accessible and comfortable for people of all ages and abilities and connects all Centres, Villages, Neighbourhoods, and other key destinations including transit facilities. Walking, cycling and transit are key contributors to Saanich's economic vibrancy, cultural and recreational experiences, social wellbeing, natural environment, physical beauty, and neighbourhood and social connections.



Actions

Name	Detail
Purchase Lower Emission H.F. Delivery Vehicle	To minimizing greenhouse gas emissions from deliveries, purchase EV through fundraising - 2019+ fundraising
Encourage Neighbours to 'Buy Direct'	Create designated parking spots on HCOFS grounds and to improve traffic flow from and onto Haliburton Road, minimizing annoyances to neighbours - by 2019.
Encourage Neighbours to 'Buy Direct'	Encourage neighbours/community residents to walk, cycle (active transportation) or bus to farm to buy direct.
Coordinating H.F. Travel	Farmers continue to coordinate travel to and from H.F. This could include: 1/ continuing to use one distributor to deliver produce to various markets (wholesale food markets, restaurants); 2/ HCOFS Board and farmers coordinating car sharing/carpooling; 3/ H.F. volunteers and farmers switching to zero emission vehicle transportation.



Materials and products



Outcomes

Name	Detail
HCOFS contributing to CRD circular economy	Conscientiously providing HCOFS, its farmers and consumers with options to include reusing and recycling materials and products as part of the local economy.
A VIBRANT CIRCULAR ECONOMY	Description



Actions

Name	Detail
HCOFS Consuming Locally & Recirculating Materials & Products	Shopping at small shops and keeping money spent in the community.
Explore Alternatives to Plastic	This Action includes: 1/ Start active research for alternative(s) to salad plastic bags, and share initial results by 2019; 2/ Encourage others within HCOFS' 'reach' (e.g., farmers, distributors, farm markets) to adopt alternatives to plastic bags.
Liaise with the Zero Waste Emporium & Victoria Public Market	Create awareness to farmers of actively liaising with the Zero Waste Emporium to mutually support the circular economy in the Region. Consider purchasing local materials from the Emporium and/or market. Also, continue encouraging farmers to consider supplying produce again to the Victoria Public Market.



Indicators

Name	Detail
Annual # of plastic/mesh bags given out/sold by Haliburton Farmers	Consult with HCOFS farmers in order to determine ability to track plastic packaging decrease.



Zero waste



Outcomes

Name	Detail
Less Waste in Landfills	Composting allows food not suitable for sale to be decomposed back to the earth. This decreases the amount of "garbage" and increases the organic matter and nutrition going back to the earth. Non-compostables can be diverted from the landfill and into the local circular economy.
ZERO WASTE	organics recycling



Actions

Name	Detail
Diverting Materials from the Landfill	1/ Standard procedures for HCOFS recycling posted in basement (established); 2/ Suggestions for Board and farmer recycling at home - by 2019; 3/ Food categorized as not "market quality": offered to individual farm employees and volunteers; or made into baby food; or composted - by 2019; 4/ Non-perishable (e.g., farm/garden tools) fixed or donated to local skilled artisans for reuse; 5/ Chore wheel for farmers and Board members to take HCOFS trash home - by 2019.



Indicators

Name	Detail
HCOFS Waste Types/Amounts Diverted From Landfill	Choose either measuring or anecdotal stories of the waste types and/or amounts diverted annually from the landfill.



Zero carbon energy



Outcomes

Name	Detail
Low Carbon, Efficient Heat & Power Stewardship	Achieving this Outcome requires HCOFS farmers and volunteers to enact cost-effective measures on-site and in their own homes/farms to make energy use (heat & power) more efficient and/or from more renewable sources.
NET ZERO CARBON	Description



Actions

Name	Detail
HCOFS Home Energy Stewardship	HCOFS Board, farmers and volunteers consume less energy (heat & power) as well as consider renewable energy opportunities at home. Sign up for BC Hydro challenge (and look into EfficiencyBC.ca incentives).
Explore HCOFS Communally-Owned Renewable (e.g., Solar) Energy	Potential for solar/anaerobic digestion (with backup, e.g., propane) to warm greenhouses individually or collectively on-site amongst HCOFS farmers.
Improving Energy Efficiency On-Site	HCOFS farmers and volunteers consume less energy (heat & power) at the Farmhouse and on individual plots by, in part, signing up for BC Hydro challenge and incentives through EfficiencyBC.ca.



Indicators

Name	Detail
Average Home Energy Use	Annually monitor BC Hydro and FortisBC bills, as well as recognizing any 'net metering' or use of 'renewable natural gas'.
H.F. Energy Use (Farmhouse/Farm Plots)	Annually monitor BC Hydro and FortisBC bills, as well as recognizing any 'net metering'.