

## Islands Trust Official Community Plan Climate Change Policy Options

### Food and Agriculture



Agricultural production and food transportation is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. In North America, produce is shipped an average of 2,100 – 3,200 kms from farm to fork. Approximately half of the ingredients used in an average BC meal are produced outside provincial boundaries. To provide a local example, the Salt Spring Energy Strategy estimates that Salt Spring Island's groceries in 2002 were responsible for the diesel oil equivalents of about 41,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. Local and regional food systems reduce GHG emissions not only by reducing food transportation distances but also by using less energy-intensive production techniques. According to Salt Spring Energy Strategy estimates, 'local food production using organic techniques is estimated to use about one-tenth of the energy used to produce and transport conventional food.' Co-benefits of local agricultural production include increased food security and increased nutrient content.

Objective (Target)	Potential Policies: <i>The LTC will consider...</i>	Planning Tool(s)
To promote, support, and expand local agriculture and food production, processing, and distribution to reduce GHG emissions.	Reviewing existing policies and zoning regulations to ensure that they do not discourage local food production, processing, and distribution. (*Note: food may be defined to include produce, grains, and meat and other animal products)	Zoning
	Amending existing policies and zoning regulations to permit and promote local food production, processing, and distribution	Zoning
	Considering initiative to include additional farmland in the ALR.	Partnerships
	Allowing community gardens in all zones except natural and protected areas OR identify suitable sites for community gardens and amend zoning to permit their establishment.	Zoning
	Identifying suitable sites for community markets and amend zoning to allow for commercial use.	Zoning
	Identifying suitable sites for food processing facilities (e.g. abattoirs, cold storage, value-added processing) and amend to allow for industrial use.	Zoning
	Accepting community gardens as a community amenity when implementing density bonusing.	Density Bonusing
	Supporting and encouraging creation of community gardens, backyard gardens, and farmer's markets.	Advocacy, Partnerships