

Sault & Area Food Summit - Actions

1. How can we support/foster the creation of a regional food system that is accessible for all?

- a. **Awareness:** Continue to support the promotion of CSAs and farmers' markets and encourage collaboration amongst producers and markets. Other awareness actions include:
 - i. **Market & Farm Tours**
 1. Locations for tour could include gardens, farms, orchards, u-picks, farmers' markets
 2. The tour can happen once a month in the summer months (at the beginning of the month)
 3. Staff of different service providers could be engaged in the project (i.e. Seniors Drop-in, Soup Kitchen, Indian Friendship Centre, Community Living Algoma)
 4. Marketing for the tour would go out to organizations and municipalities
 5. The program would operate on a cost-recovery, benefits would go to the farms (purchasing products)
 - ii. **Culturally appropriate foods information bank**
 1. In collaboration with library or Sault community Career Centre to have info on where culturally appropriate foods are available (local farmers, local retailers)
 2. Cooking classes that could incorporate these foods (i.e. Rome's, community kitchens)
- b. **Distribution:** Explore the aggregation and distribution of local food to meet social and economic needs
 - i. Development of an online market place for local food
 - ii. Encouraging social enterprise development for food businesses
- c. **Municipal policy:** Encourage municipalities to consider policies and activities that will benefit local food producers and businesses. Examples include:
 - i. Waive permit/vendor fees for local food, offer stall space, shared space with other community services
 - ii. Coordination with the City of SSM/Municipalities to share information about local food (Buy Algoma)
 - iii. Development of additional community gardens
- d. **Food skills:** Teach cooking skills and preserving through after school programs
- e. **Other:** Encourage convenience stores to offer fresh fruits & vegetables

2. **What are the skills/education necessary to build the capacity of individuals & families to create a sustainable food system?**
 - a. **Awareness:** Support for fun events that engage people to learn about vegetable gardening, seed saving, food skills and include students, parents and teachers
 - b. **Food education:** Develop food skills curriculum that encourages multiple disciplines (woodworking, business, science), intergenerational learning, and garden development
 - i. Workshops on seed harvesting and saving
 - c. **Food infrastructure:** Create an online food market for growers/producers and consumers
 - d. **Local food and garden development**
 - i. Provide a step-by-step guide on how to produce food (including construction raised beds, soil, rain water collection, composting)
 - ii. Encourage more gardens on balconies, backyards, boxes, and benches
 - iii. Implement a gleaning program (urban, farms, rural)
 - iv. Implement a Good Food Program with sweat equity (help garden & get produce)
 - e. **Municipal policy:** Get City/Municipality involved with community garden planning
 - i. Develop a long-term community vision for food

3. **How can we scale-up food production, and create the environment for institutions, retailers and restaurants to procure local food?**
 - a. **Food infrastructure:** Develop a central gathering distribution warehouse, which would pick-up, aggregate, organize and distribute food.
 - b. **Communication:** Define the growing practices, branding and philosophy of sourcing local food
 - i. Involve media – use media kits, press releases to educate public
 - ii. Provide resources on sustainable food systems and the value chain
 - c. **Networking:** Need more communication between growers and buyers
 - i. Host a speed dating event for farmers' & chefs/food services
 - ii. Farm & restaurant meet & greet
 - iii. Organize grower and end user get together
 - iv. Establish a resource bank – Q&A for funding, start-up
 - d. **Mentoring:** Need for farm mentorship for younger farmers that are starting up
 - e. **Municipal policy:** Zoning changes / City planning engagement
 - i. Development of a Food Charter or Food Policy Document

4. **How can we better connect the value chain of production, processing and distribution to the market?**
 - a. **Awareness**
 - i. Events that celebrate local food
 - ii. Demonstrate the economic value (current & potential) to elected officials and others
 - iii. Continue momentum with a follow up to the food summit (i.e. annual summit to review food strategy)
 - b. **Food hub infrastructure**
 - i. Shared transportation for food businesses (i.e. St. Joseph Island Coffee Roasters, Northern Quality Meats)
 - ii. Engage more locally-owned businesses in local food distribution – develop and market a strategy
 - iii. Initiate a business incubator for food processing
 - iv. Have a sustainable voice & system for connecting the value chain
 - c. **Municipal policy:** Lobby Municipal, Prov & Fed politicians to support expansion through policy reform and provide funding support
 - d. **Networking:** Have an event to match producers, processors and distributors

5. **How can we support the development of forest foods (knowledge/traditions)?**
 - a. **Learning to take care of and respect the land**
 - i. Taking efforts to reduce pesticide use
 - ii. Protect sensitive ecosystems that support natural growth / certain plants (e.g. wetlands)
 - b. **Education of forest & freshwater foods**
 - i. Providing tours on the ground to pass on knowledge of traditions
 - ii. Incorporating a fallen fruit type of program for forest foods
 - c. **Use/emulate natural disturbances to sustain plant growth/natural processes (e.g. blueberries & fires)**