

Nanaimo Food Policy Council

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What is a Food Policy Council?

A Food Policy Council is an innovative **collaboration between community organizations, local government, and community members** who work together to:

- Facilitate networking and information sharing
- Coordinate stakeholders response to community food and nutrition security
- Act as a food and nutrition security advisory for local government and others
- Support official community plans, municipal planning, and regional growth strategy as needed

What is a Food Policy Council? Cont'd

Areas of coordination and action can include:

- Healthy food access
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Local food economic development
- Reconciliation
- Food waste reduction
- And other food and nutrition security issues

Why a Food Policy Council? Cont'd

Create opportunities for coordinated and strategic food security planning and action among stakeholders, which will:

improve efficiency, maximize existing resources, and reduce redundancies among community organizations

Establish a group of qualified and interested stakeholders who can assist the City of Nanaimo “to create resilient food systems and implement policies that support local food and nutrition security” (City of Nanaimo, Official Community Plan) on an ongoing basis

Why a Food Policy Council? Cont'd

Improve Nanaimo's community response to food and nutrition security

- The value of Food Policy Councils is demonstrated in other communities. Community organizations in the Comox Valley and Victoria were able to mobilize their emergency food response quickly and effectively during the COVID-19 pandemic as they were already connecting and collaborating via the previously established Food Policy Councils

Food Policy Councils support City policy

Help fulfill the City of Nanaimo's food security goals and policies outlined in the City of Nanaimo's Official Community Plan, including:

- “The need to protect farmland and increasing food growing opportunities;
- The need for local food infrastructure;
- The need for more and better access to fresh healthy food and community food assets;
- The potential to expand the value of the local food economy”

Food Policy Councils support city policy

“Work with the Regional District of Nanaimo and other community organizations to develop food security for the region ” City of Nanaimo 2019-2022 Strategic Plan

- “Encourage local food production through urban agriculture techniques and education opportunities” **Harewood Neighbourhood Plan**
- “Support the...development of a sustainable food system that promotes food self sufficiency through education, engagement and land use activities.” **Harewood Neighbourhood Plan**
- “Encourage local food production” **Newcastle + Brechin Neighbourhood Plan**

Relationship of NFPC with City of Nanaimo

- The Food Policy Council is its own entity (not a committee of council)
- The Food Policy Council provides input to all municipal/regional governments and staff about issues of concern
- The Food Policy Council considers any matters which may be referred to the Policy Council by Councils or staff
- The Food Policy Council may take positions on policy initiatives from other levels of government within the mandate of the Policy Council

Relationship of NFPC with City of Nanaimo

- The Food Policy Councils are funded through diverse sources of funding

Nanaimo Foodshare is willing to dedicate \$5000/year towards staff time to contribute to the coordination of the FPC

Nanaimo Foodshare is willing to work with community partners and the City of Nanaimo to obtain additional funding to fully support the FPC

Our Proposal

In partnership with Nanaimo Foodshare and local community organizations, the City of Nanaimo establish a Nanaimo Food Policy Council (NFPC) to lead the work on a sustainable food system in a multistakeholder manner

Council direct City of Nanaimo Staff to identify sources of funding to support the NFPC in being established

Council to commit to 1 City Council representative and 1 City of Nanaimo staff representative to participate at NFPC meetings once the NFPC is established

Food Policy Councils in Action

Examples of communities that use this model are:

- Comox Valley, BC
- Kamloops, BC: <http://kamloopsfoodpolicycouncil.com/>
- Squamish, BC: <http://www.squamishfoodpolicycouncil.com/>
- Hamilton, ON