

Vancouver Food Policy Council All Candidates' Questionnaire



The Vancouver Food Policy Council (VFPC) is an advisory group to Vancouver City Council, providing ideas and policy recommendations toward creating a thriving local food system. The primary goal of the VFPC is to examine how our local food system operates and provide ideas and policy recommendations to Vancouver City Council on how it can be improved. VFPC is comprised of passionate people from various sectors of the local food system. Members include farmers, food distributors, nutritionists, processors, waste managers, activists, and academics engaged in the food system. The VFPC functions as a bridge between citizens and civic officials, coming together to work on food policy initiatives that benefit all Vancouverites.

Candidate Name: Adriane Carr
Office Seeking: City Councillor
Party Affiliation(if any): Green Party of Vancouver
Public Website: vote.vangreens.ca

Please complete the questionnaire and send back to us at info@vancouverfoodpolicycouncil.ca. We'll post your responses on our blog, and on the wall at our All Candidates Forum Oct 15th.

General Questions:

1. Will you endorse the Vancouver Food Strategy and/or the Park Board Local Food Action Plan if you are elected?

YES. I voted for the Vancouver Food Strategy as a sitting Councillor.

2. What actions in the VFS and/or LFAP would you focus on first?

- 1.1 improve security of tenure for community gardens and community orchards on city property.
- 1.10 Create policy to enable commercial food production (urban farming) as a defined use
- 1.11 Explore possibilities for urban farmers to sell produce directly from an urban farm (farm gate sales).
- 1.13 Create urban farming business license category.
- 1.17 Encourage implementation of Green Streets and Blooming Boulevards program guidelines to allow for growing vegetables and other food plants in residential boulevards, traffic circles and bulges.
- 2.6 Explore opportunities to increase the percentage of local and sustainable food purchased by City and school facilities as a way to support local farmers and producers.
- 2.9 Encourage installation of community kitchens or retrofit existing kitchens in new developments, social housing sites or City facilities.
- 3.8 increase the number of farmers' markets in Vancouver from nine to 22 by 2020.
- 5.3 Advocate for the preservation and enhancement of the Agricultural Land Reserve to protect sustainable food production and to support local economic development.
- 5.10 Promote education and awareness about growing food in backyards, balconies, podiums, rooftops and other spaces in neighbourhoods.

3. What have you already done for food in your community?

When Leader of the Green Party of BC (2000-2006), I advocated strongly, including meeting with the Minister of Agriculture, for preservation and enhancement of the Agricultural Land Reserve, pushing for protection of Class 1 lands, even if they were in small parcels, instead of the "no-net-loss" policy that substituted tracts of lower class lands (such as grazing lands in pine-beetle-killed areas of the province) for Class 1 lands in the Lower Fraser Valley. I spoke at countless public meetings in Metro Vancouver in support of protecting ALR lands from development.

I was involved in the effort to establish Powell River as Canada's first GE-free community, and advocated successfully in Ministry of Agriculture consultations to exempt Powell River from new slaughterhouse regulations that would have required farmers send their animals to a far-distant slaughterhouses instead of slaughtering on-farm under Ministry of Health supervision. I also campaigned to continue farm-gate sales.

As a Vancouver City Councillor, I have moved motions to ensure long-term security for community gardens and to establish Vancouver as a GMO-free city.

4. Given the many priorities of a municipal government, how do you feel food can contribute to our city?
I believe that global warming is the biggest threat facing our and future generations, and the impacts of climate change on water resources and food production (including decline in fisheries) will be the single biggest issue that governments world-wide, local to national, will have to address. Local food production is essential to mitigating these negative consequences of Increasing Vancouver's ability to be food

Issues Based Questions:

5. Given the Greenest City Action Plan's goal "to ensure that the majority of residents live within a five-minute walk of a basket of fresh produce" and the Vancouver Food Strategy's goal to "improve access to healthy, affordable, culturally diverse food for all residents", what initiatives would you use to support these goals?
Expand community gardens, expand food planting in green streets' initiatives, inventory all food gardens (back/front/side yards and balconies included) and ensure planning policies incorporate protection of food growing opportunities (e.g., minimize shadowing on food growing sites), encourage more school and institutional site gardens.

6. Given Metro Vancouver's upcoming 2015 organics ban, what initiatives would you support to get us to zero food waste?
Continue support for the highly successful "Food Drop" program at Farmers' Markets and Community Centres by Recycling Alternatives; employ youth in summer youth jobs' programmes to teach people about composting and organics' recycling; intensify efforts to reach out to strata councils and provide training on how to make organics recycling and composting easy.

7. Given that Vancouver has a rich urban agriculture community (e.g. community gardens, urban farming, beekeeping, backyard chickens) what is our biggest missed opportunity to this point?
An urban farm like the Sharing Farm in Richmond.

8. How would you as a municipal politician work with other levels of government on issues that may be considered outside of Vancouver's jurisdiction e.g. ALR, raising welfare rates, GMOs, migrant farm labour, others?
I have already worked with the province on ALR issues. The key is to work with existing ENGOs and community groups, labour unions and government officials collaboratively and to increase public awareness and support.

9. What role do you think local governments play in supporting healthy and sustainable food in schools?
The City should work collaboratively with the School Board in the Food Policy Council. We can offer financial support for programs like Growing Chefs and initiate a Summer Youth Jobs programs focused on food production and organics' recycling.

10. The Vancouver Food Strategy and Talk Food To Us program engaged thousands of residents in the development of the strategy. What kind of engagement process would you utilize in food policy work?
Food policy should be better integrated with planning processes. The Green Party would initiate a city-wide plan (re-starting the CityPlan process) that engages citizens collaboratively from the start and that would include a food strategy for every neighbourhood, city wide. Engage the thousands of volunteers already active in our "green streets" program.