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Module 6

Sustainable Food Systems
Moving Toward a Better Food System

Wayne Roberts, PhD
Toronto Food Policy Council

Lori Stahlbrand
Local Food Plus
Wayne Roberts

- Writes about food and sustainability issues
- Coordinator of the Toronto Food Policy Council
- On the boards of the Community Food Security Coalition and Food Secure Canada
- Chair, Coalition for a Green Economy
- Awarded the 2002 Canadian Environment Awards silver medal for contributions to sustainable living
Lori Stahlbrand

- Founder and President, Local Food Plus (LFP)
- Co-author of “Real Food for a Change”
- Member, Toronto Food Policy Council and the Ontario Minister of Agriculture’s Strategic Advisory Committee
- In 2008 awarded the Yves Rocher Foundation “Woman of the Earth” Award for contributions to local sustainable food systems
Section A: Community Food Systems, Business, and the Green Economy: The Role of Food Policy Councils and Nonprofits

Wayne Roberts, PhD
Toronto Food Policy Council
The food movement is tied to themes that are much bigger than food

- Growth in number of food policy councils
- Fastest growing sector of new economy centered on social enterprises
- Most explosive element in NGO/non-profit sector
- Represents expansion of understanding of the basis for good health
Toronto

Photo of Winchester School Community Food Garden by Jamie. via flickr.com. Creative Commons BY.
Food Share (1998)

- A city-based food security organization
- Mandate to find alternative to food banks.
Based in government

Created to take on the challenge

Predicated on abundance

Using city assets
Backcasting

- Powerful tool for building consensus
  - Where do we want to be in 5, 10, 20 years
  - Where do we start today to get there
Purpose of the Food Charter

- Food policy charters establish that...
  - The city is in the food business
  - People have a right to food
Food is the largest
- Source of non-point pollution
- Land use in the world
- Occupational group in the world
- Source of poverty
- Employer of child labor
- Etc.
Food is Connected to Virtually Everything

- Food is about 6 billion people x 3 meals (on average) per day, or 18 billion meals daily
- Food is a health issue
- Food is an economic and poverty issue
- Food is an environmental issue
Building Social Capital

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Individuals Are Key
Paid Staff Necessary
Multi-dimensional System

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Active Civic Engagement
Travel Light Via Partnerships
Summary

- Food policy councils - primary purpose is to implement the food charter

- Seven elements of food policy councils
  - Food is an enormous issue connected to all other issues
  - Food is public policy
  - Individuals with solutions play a key role
  - Paid staff are needed; cannot rely solely on volunteers
  - Recognition that food system is multi-dimensional
  - Have active civic engagement and raises the capacity of others
  - Travel light via partnerships with others