



ecotrust
canada



Impact Report 2021

2021 Impact Report for Ecotrust Canada

Contents

Climate Innovation Initiative	3
Overview	3
Impacts.....	4
Key learnings.....	6
Indigenous Home-Lands	7
Overview	7
Impact	8
Key learnings.....	11
Community Fisheries	12
Overview	12
Impact	14
Key learnings.....	16
Community Energy	18
Overview	18
Impact	19
Key learnings.....	21
Northwest Food Systems Initiative.....	22
Overview	22
Impact	24
Key learnings.....	25



Climate Innovation Initiative

Overview

The problem

There are insufficient economic and policy tools to enable Indigenous and settler communities to enact opportunities to get and keep carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere while manifesting community priorities. Business-as-usual logging has economically benefitted mostly non-Indigenous communities and produced negative climate outcomes.

Program mission

We build, use, and communicate climate finance tools to empower rural, remote, and Indigenous communities to achieve community priorities for the land.

Goals:

- Empower Indigenous communities to lead successful carbon projects that enhance sovereignty.
- Provide participant communities with high quality, accurate, and supportive tools with which to develop, communicate, and fund their projects.
- Support the development of government structures for investment in Natural Climate Solutions with maximum climate, community, and biodiversity benefit.

Our strategies

- We engage all players to advance the establishment of strong carbon offset systems.
- We work directly with Indigenous communities to support successful forest carbon offset projects that increase options for less extractive economic development on the land.
- We develop and deliver tools to quantify the climate impact of nature-based climate solutions, spurring increased Canadian government investment in nature.
- Enable (alongside [Blockchain for Climate Foundation](#)) the issuance and exchange of climate mitigation outcomes at the global level and demonstrate how Canada could best integrate blockchain technology to support climate action at home.

What is your program theory of change?

If Indigenous communities are empowered to lead carbon finance projects, then they can advance better land management and therefore better climate outcomes in their traditional territories, because carbon finance provides new revenue pathways for nature protection and stewardship.



Impacts

Program Goal	Partner/Community	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
Empower Indigenous communities to lead successful carbon offset projects for enhanced sovereignty.	Wahkohtowin (communities are Missanabie Cree, Chapleau Cree and Brunswick House First Nations)	Supported Wahkohtowin in developing and submitting Nature-Smart Climate Solutions Fund application. Developed the Forest Carbon Community Toolkit (Parts 1 to 5) Stakeholder mapping/Spectrum of allies' work. Forest Carbon Offset Methodology: Analysis of Good Practices.	Letter of support for application to ECCC Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund. Webinar on the Forest Carbon Community Toolkit (Parts 1 and 2 so far).	
	NWT Northern Carbon Working Group	Delivered webinar to NWT communities on carbon project development and pathways to carbon finance.		Progress toward further webinar and capacity building, as well as in-person project exploration.
	Confidential BC First Nation	Supported Nation in developing and submitting Nature-Smart Climate Solutions Fund application. Embarked on discussions with Nation's climate team on a forest carbon offset project to protect old growth in traditional territory.	Letter of support for application to ECCC Nature Climate Solutions Smart Fund. Project Idea Document (PID) initiated and in progress.	Protection of old growth on the Nation's traditional territories, including inside and outside of the Nation's Tree Farm Licence area.
Provide participant communities with high quality, accurate and supportive tools with	Wahkohtowin (communities are Missanabie Cree, Chapleau Cree and Brunswick House First Nations)	To complete the PID we modeled 'business-as-usual' logging and the improvements a forest carbon project could produce, and we assessed potential alternative forest	- Project Idea Document (PID) - Two Wahkohtowin Youth workshops	The community holds accurate technical material with which to guide offset decision making.

which to develop, communicate, and fund their projects.		management objectives and activities to quantify the greenhouse gas emissions reductions equivalents in metric tonnes of CO ₂ e.	on the Forest Carbon Community Toolkit (Parts 1 and 2)	
	General Availability	Develop Forest Carbon Economy Fund's Biodiversity Assessment Toolkit.	Issue Forest Carbon Economy Fund's Biodiversity Assessment Toolkit for internal and partner use.	Forest Carbon Economy Fund's Biodiversity Assessment Toolkit is available for use by project partners, and can be built out for general use in the future.
	NWT Northern Carbon Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Northern Carbon Community Toolkit - GHG Offset Factsheet Primer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presented the toolkit - Presented the GHG Offset Project Primer 	
	Confidential BC First Nation	Feasibility assessment is in development.	Project Idea Document (PID) initiated and in progress.	
Support the development of government structures for investment in Natural Climate Solutions with maximum climate, community, and biodiversity benefit.	First Nations communities in Canada generally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Article 6 engagement with ECCC (with Blockchain for Climate Foundation) - GHG Offset Factsheet ("Implementing your GHG offset project") - Technical Expert Committee - ECCC GHG Offset Protocol development for Improved Forest Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Future rigorous federal offset protocol(s) - Future rigorous BC forest protocol - A robust Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund 	Federal and Provincial governments better able to actively support investment in Natural Climate Solutions that build community decision making, control, and foster economies that provide for life.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ECCC Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund - Internationally Traded Mitigation Outcomes Draft Policy Framework engagement with ECCC (with Blockchain for Climate Foundation) - Forest Carbon Offset Protocol (FCOP) 2.0 engagement with Government of BC 		
--	--	--	--	--

Key learnings

- 1) *Learning:* Carbon offsets are back in a big way. 2021 was a sea-change for interest, demand, price and hence feasibility for communities to better manage forests through carbon offset development.
- 2) *Learning:* Ecotrust Canada's Climate Innovation initiative is in high demand from Indigenous and regional communities eager to explore carbon project development, as well as by governments, NGOs and the business community seeking to understand opportunities in this space.
- 3) *Failure:* Even with "friendly" governments, and despite several years of contributing enthusiastically to government feedback processes on all aspects of land-based carbon offset projects led by Indigenous communities, enabling policy and financing may be long in coming. Forest carbon offset protocol development at the provincial level is in limbo, and at the federal level it's taking paths that may exclude most potential Indigenous-led projects.

What will we change or experiment with in 2022 as a result of our learning or failures?

- As the pace and imperative of climate action moves ever faster, we're focused on two improvements to our program:
 - 1) To address government recalcitrance on carbon offset policy that is beneficial to Indigenous communities, our engagement with varied Indigenous communities to establish offset project feasibility will focus on how to empower these communities to engage with the other external parties in the process, especially the provincial and federal governments, but also with other project developers and project financiers who can hold the upper hand in project negotiations.
 - 2) We will enable Ecotrust Canada's partner base to understand, engage, and thrive in achieving their community, climate, and ecological priorities. To accomplish this, we're building digital project development toolkits in partnership with the [BC Assembly of First Nations \(BCAFN\)](#) to enable communities interested in carbon projects to play a more active, deeper role in establishing carbon projects on their landscapes.



Indigenous Home-Lands

Overview

Our vision is for Indigenous groups in British Columbia and Canada to fundamentally transform housing systems in ways that respond to their self-determined plans and goals for land use and economic futures within their territories.

The problem

- There are inappropriate housing and lands governance institutions and processes in place within Indigenous communities as a result of colonialism.
- There are inadequate valuation systems in place for Indigenous economies to thrive.

Program mission

Our mission is to advance self-determination and territorial self-governance of Indigenous groups by working in partnership to implement innovative solutions that strengthen the social, economic, and institutional connections between Indigenous housing and lands governance.

Our strategies

- 1) We build long-term and comprehensive partnerships with Indigenous groups.
- 2) We develop alternative ways to implement, monitor, and evaluate housing and lands governance.
- 3) We identify practical ways to operationalize local values into economic and governance processes.
- 4) We create publicly available knowledge products, which can easily be accessed and utilized by Indigenous groups and those working with them.

What is your program theory of change?

- *If we build long term and comprehensive partnerships with Indigenous groups, then we will build trust, because trust can only be developed through close relationships, accountability, reciprocity, transparency, and humility.*
- *If we develop alternative ways to implement, monitor and evaluate housing and lands governance, then we will be strengthening the agency of Indigenous groups, because expanding the range of options available to Indigenous groups supports self-determination.*
- *If we identify practical ways for local values to manifest through economic and governance processes, then our partners will be enabled to build culturally authentic institutions, because current institutional options are not fully informed by local values.*
- *If we create publicly available knowledge products which can easily be accessed and utilized by Indigenous groups and those working with them, then we are building informational networks and capacity, because common challenges exist across communities.*

Impact

Program Goal	Partner / Community	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
An increase in the number of Indigenous groups utilizing integrated, systems-based approaches to housing, land use, and community economic development processes.	Huu-ay-aht First Nations (HFN) Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carried out Housing Solutions Labs with partners - Carried out Monitoring and Evaluation research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshops delivered to approximately 36 participants across 7 communities (six Tsilhqot'in communities, one HFN community) - State of Knowledge and Roadmap reports for both TNG and HFN - Public report: “A new approach to tackling complex Indigenous Housing Challenges” - HFN Solutions Lab video produced and shared publicly - Public report “Yunesit'in First Nation Project Monitoring and Evaluation Tool” 	<p>Housing solutions labs have created a sense of solidarity and awareness regarding housing issues within both HFN and Tsilhqot'in Nation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>“If I had this team when I was in housing, I probably would still been there. Having people who support you that understand the language of housing spells success.” – Tsilhqot'in Workshop 3 participant</i> - <i>“Participating opened my eyes to the unique economic challenges that our community has compared to any other community, and the solutions labs have accurately identified what issues are apparent for ongoing sovereignty within our nation, and developing a self-governing plan so that we can meet those needs.” - Huu-ay-aht First Nations participant</i>

<p>We have facilitated the development and implementation of one alternative institutional framework for Indigenous housing and lands governance.</p>	Huu-ay-aht First Nations (HFN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed housing governance tools for HFN (housing authority recommendations) - Rights and responsibilities exercises carried out with HFN. 	Report: "Establishing an Independent Huu-ay-aht Housing Authority and Associated Policy Considerations."	Allowed for important cultural priorities and values to be considered in the elaboration of a Huu-ay-aht Housing Authority.
	Yunešit'in First Nation	Developed a pilot Monitoring and Evaluation framework with Yunešit'in First Nation.	Report: " Yunešit'in First Nation Project Monitoring + Evaluation Tool "	Assisted Yunešit'in in realizing connections between locally derived values and housing-related projects within their communities that will continue to serve as a framework for project planning and evaluation moving forward.
We have enabled regional coordination and collaboration on housing and lands governance, Indigenous supply chains, and consultation and consent decision-making systems in at least two regions.	T̄silhqot'in National Government (TNG) Huu-ay-aht First Nations (HFN)	TNG Housing solutions labs encouraged collaboration between 6 communities' land tenure innovation research with both Xeni Gwet'in and TNG, and HFN housing governance tools	Multiple reports outlining collaboration opportunities on housing governance.	Offered information needed for an HFN Housing Authority to be established in a way conducive to future integration of other Nuu-chah-nulth or Maa-nulth communities.

Develop new partnerships and strengthen existing ones.	T̓silhqot’in National Government (TNG) Xeni Gwet’in Yunēsit’in First Nation Nuxalk Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed a new MOU with TNG-NEN for land tenure research. - Developed a research project with Xeni Gwet’in. - Renewed our strategic partnership with Yunēsit’in. - Early relationship building with Nuxalk Nation and Yukon communities. 	Partnership agreement with Yunēsit’in Partnership agreement with TNG-NEN.	IHL’s network of partners and practitioners has grown throughout 2021.
Advance Indigenous value-added forestry related work	Yunēsit’in First Nation	Concept and proposal development	BC Housing forest-to-frame research concept note and proposal.	IHL continues to raise awareness for alternative housing needs-based forestry models which connect forests to frames.
Achieve long term funding for Indigenous Home-Lands Initiative	REFBC McConnell Foundation Social Innovation Canada Huu-ay-aht First Nations (HFN)	Proposal writing Concept development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secured \$75k of funding from REFBC - Secured \$450k of funding from McConnell Foundation over 3 years - Received \$25k from Social Innovation Canada - Several small fee-for-service contracts with HFN 	IHL has a financial base from which we can build until 2025.



Key learnings

1. We need our partners to be excited about the work we do and see the value of a systems approach to housing. We've learned that although we have signed partnership agreements, these are often contingent on key actors who have a strong understanding of the work we're doing and see value in it for their community. Given the frequent political and leadership changes that occur within First Nations, it is vital that we learn to communicate our work better, ensure that it is producing tangible results, and make certain that real value is being created. Where community interest and buy-in has waned, we've had challenges moving projects and proposals forward.
2. Strong partnerships are everything, but we need to continuously build new bridges with new communities in the case that current partnerships lose momentum or support. This lesson speaks toward our need to continue to scale our work and ensure that multiple communities are brought into our sphere. When we partner with communities, we make a commitment to be in it for the long run even through challenges. What we've learned is that sometimes you must put partnerships and projects on the back burner and prioritize new relationships when the momentum exists. So much of this work is built upon momentum.
3. Buy-in and interest from our current partners and new ones will continue to be strong by ensuring that we are able to balance the practical with the aspirational. We've heard from some of our partners that while they see the importance of what we're doing it doesn't address their immediate challenges. We believe that it can do both, and we will be striving for that moving forward.

What will we change or experiment with in 2022 as a result of our learning or failures?

1. Building new bridges with communities who are not necessarily 'strategic partners' through specific, time-limited projects. These might lead to new strategic relationships in the future.
2. Focusing our efforts on tangible projects and outcomes for our partners as a starting place. For 2022, we want to move beyond some of the assessment and planning-related work that we've been focused on and move toward implementation. So much of what we've been working on with our partners leads us to this new place of experimenting with implementation. We recognize that our ability to do this is highly contingent upon our partners' level of readiness, as is the case with YuneŠit'in First Nation, a partner who is ready to begin construction on new housing projects in 2022, as well as putting into practice the Monitoring and Evaluation framework that has been developed.



Community Fisheries

Overview

The problem

- Policy: Fisheries bring a wealth of value to coastal communities and deliver healthy sustainable seafood. However, over several decades West Coast fisheries have suffered due to a Canadian federal policy that shifts the benefits of fishing away from the boots on the deck, on the dock, and their communities, and toward corporations and speculative investors. People on the West Coast, and across Canada, are losing access to food and wealth from their own backyard, and fish harvesters are losing their livelihoods and their identity.
- Monitoring: Fisheries monitoring may seem like an odd pursuit for a charity, but this work has proven to fit the mission of Ecotrust Canada. Our industry, community, and First Nations partners have expressed a need for better fisheries infrastructure in coastal communities. Our observer programs fit into our suite of locally-led monitoring and compliance services required by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). Typical observer monitoring programs can cost fish harvesters tens of thousands of dollars each season — a real make-or-break expense for a struggling enterprise. Not only is accurate and timely data collection an essential part of achieving environmental sustainability in the commercial fishing industry, but so is working as a third party with coastal community partners including First Nations, industry, and regulators, to collect and report information on this common resource. Through our work with fish harvesters in coastal communities, we've realized that developing locally-based fisheries monitoring programs is an opportunity for improving local economic sustainability.

Program mission

The overall objective of the Community Fisheries initiative is to build sustainable, fair, and prosperous commercial fisheries in British Columbia contributing to greater resilience and well-being in coastal communities, First Nations, and for the people who rely on these resources for their livelihoods.

Our vision is for resilient fishery systems, where fisheries and marine resource use meet the immediate social and economic needs of society without compromising ecological integrity or the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Adjacent communities are the critical locus of action and stewardship as they co-manage, and are the primary benefactors, of their fishery resources.

The premise of a resilient economy flows from three assumptions:

- 1) The environment, economy, and community are interdependent and the health of all three is best advanced by working on them simultaneously.
- 2) The local community is an important locus of action and stewardship.
- 3) Collaboration among user groups and stakeholders is essential for effective resource management.



Our strategies

Our work falls across three core strategies including:

- 1) Fisheries Policy: Advancing fisheries policy to better serve the social, cultural, and economic needs of fish harvesters, First Nations, and coastal communities on the Pacific Coast of Canada.
 - Building relationships with key decision makers.
 - Bringing people together, gathering consensus around common goals/needs.
 - Communicating consistently to inform the public about the issues through social media.
 - Networking at the community level to grow momentum for advancing fisheries policy.
- 2) Fisheries Monitoring: Enhancing community capacity for fisheries monitoring and management.
 - Providing consistent, high quality fisheries monitoring services.
 - Working closely with our fisheries monitoring clients to ensure their unique needs are met (Ha'oom Fisheries Society and North Coast Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society for example).
 - Hiring and training local people.
 - Conducting fulsome research into the fisheries monitoring landscape to review our place in it, and to understand how close we are to our goal of “working ourselves out of a job”, i.e. how close we are to our end goal of having Indigenous groups running their own monitoring companies.
- 3) Creating transparency around Illegal, Underreported, and Unregulated fishing (IUU).
 - Fostering information sharing between key government entities.
 - Providing high quality retraceable information on criminal activities and offences by fishing vessels.
 - Pursuing simplicity in data democracy through an easy-to-use web platform, [Spyglass](#).
 - Publishing high quality peer reviewed papers discussing drivers of criminality to de-criminalize the poor.
 - Continuous engagement with the media to increase engagement and raising awareness around the tool.

What is your program theory of change?

The marine resources of Canada hold immense but often unrecognized value for local communities, the country, and the world.

- 1) *If* - Ecotrust Canada can create innovative opportunities for local communities to develop and directly benefit from this value,
- 2) *And if* - Ecotrust Canada supports the efforts of local communities to manage those values fairly and sustainably,
- 3) *And if* - Ecotrust Canada can demonstrate success at the community level and then scale that success regionally and nationally,

Then - local economies across Canada can create opportunities for meaningful work and good livelihoods, support vibrant communities and cultures, and protect the environment for current and future generations.

Impact

Program Goal	Partner / Community	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
Successful fisheries monitoring program delivery for the Five Nations Fishery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Five Nations fish harvesters - Ha'oom Fisheries Society - Five Nations fishery leadership - DFO - Ecotrust Canada Observers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deliver monitoring and observer services for the Five Nations Fishery. - Employ local community members. - Work with Ha'oom Fisheries Society to ensure monitoring services are being delivered in a culturally appropriate manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EC monitored all commercial Five Nations Fishery offloads in 2021. - EC hired 14 observers located in Gold River, Zeballos, and Tofino. - EC observers were available for a total of 238 days over the course of the fishing season. - We exceeded our Coded Wire Tag targets by 28%, for Suuhaa (Chinook) landings occurring in Tofino. - Conducted 3 observer training courses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harvesters were able to fish, supporting more financial security in the communities where they live. - 14 monitoring jobs provided for local community members. - Each year we increase our community staff retention levels. In 2021, the south coast monitoring team had a 57% staff retention level, a total of 8 observers returned for the season.
Successful fisheries monitoring program delivery for Area A Association (Dungeness crab).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area A Association - DFO - Area A harvesters - Teem Fish Monitoring - Ecotrust Canada Observers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deliver effective electronic monitoring services. - Deliver effective biosampling and softshell at-sea observer services. - Hire local community members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 biosampling trips conducted. - 11 softshell surveys conducted. - 7 local community members employed. - Provided approx. 120 crab harvesters technical support in acquiring fishing licences. - Local hub for harvesters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local community members had consistent employment and increased financial stability. - Harvesters played an active role in collecting fisheries data for the purposes of fisheries management. - Sense of connection and community felt between fish harvesters,

				community members, and staff.
Ghost gear collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area A Association - DFO - Prince Rupert community members 	<p>Conduct Ghost Gear pilot project as a collaboration between Area A Crab Association, TBuck Suzuki, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Ecotrust Canada.</p>	<p>10,436 kilos of ghost gear collected: 9,841 kilos were returned for reuse, 245 kilos were recycled, 245 kilos were repurposed, and 105 kilos were sent to the landfill.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harvesters played an integral role in cleaning marine debris from the waters where they fish. - Harvesters played an active role in collecting fisheries data to improve ghost gear collection practices.
Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TBuck Suzuki Foundation - Fisheries for Communities - Commercial Fishing Caucus - Native Fishing Association - UNIFOR/ UFAWU - Slow Fish Canada - Slow Fish USA - Slow Food - Skipper Ottos - Nature United - Codfather's Seafood Market - CPAWS - WCEL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued to produce reports and engage media to support communities and harvesters with pressing for fisheries policy reform that ends both foreign ownership and corporate consolidation, and which ensures licences and quota are owned by active fish harvesters and First Nations, while prioritizing reconciliation objectives. - Encouraged DFO to track and make ownership and socio-economic outcomes of fisheries licence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitated the two-day <i>Future of Salmon harvesters</i> gathering hosted by the UFAWU. - Submitted a report to the Federal Government in response to the Blue Economy Strategy titled: <i>No Blue Economy without Fisheries, No Fisheries without Fish Harvesters</i>. - Attended a roundtable with MP Terry Beech re: <i>Development of the Blue Economy Strategy</i> to ensure the government includes the needs of coastal communities. - Joined the <i>Fisheries for Communities</i> Network in meeting 	<p>Momentum gained in the work to bring the value of our marine resources back to the people on the deck, on the dock, and in coastal communities.</p> <p>DFO reversed their decision and will allow prawn tails to be frozen-at-sea in response to push-back from fish harvesters, industry groups and concerned citizens and organizations, including Ecotrust Canada.</p> <p>DFO implemented the FOPPO recommendation to write the <i>Comparative Analysis of</i></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ownership more transparent. - Began independent research on licence valuation and beneficial ownership. - Strategic engagement with Coastal Marine Strategy partners (provincial) - Supported the COVID-19 Active Fishermen's Committee through facilitation and note-taking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - with new Parliamentary Secretary for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Fin Donnelly, to discuss owner-operator policy and the needs of coastal communities. - Planning, scheduling, and note-taking for the biweekly COVID-19 Active Fishermen's Committee Meeting. 	<p><i>Commercial Fisheries Policies and Regulations on Canada's Atlantic and Pacific Coasts.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DFO announced that they were sending a survey to all fisheries licence owners to gather information about beneficial ownership of BC fishing licences.
--	--	--	---	---

Key learnings

- Policy: There was a shorter election cycle, federally and provincially, in late 2020 and 2021, which meant that new politicians needed to be brought up to speed on fisheries policy issues at both the federal and provincial level. These shifting governments presented some opportunities, such as public pressure for more representation at the provincial ministerial level for fisheries, which resulted in the introduction of a Parliamentary Secretary of Fisheries after the last provincial election in BC. At the federal level, we now have a new Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans who is based in British Columbia and who is more aware of the unique issues facing BC's coastal communities. The sense of urgency combined with a sense of real progress has allowed rich conversations to emerge about potential paths forward.
- Monitoring: While the federal designation process for certifying dockside and at sea fisheries observers in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities can create challenges with respect to the federal government's rigid approach to conflict of interest and arm's length requirements, in 2021 we were able to collaborate with DFO to share employees, and provide more full-time work for our observers in some of the more remote communities that we work in. Observers were able to augment their part-time dockside observer work with part-time DFO Creel Survey work, providing them with more work hours throughout the summer. When the fisheries observers we train and hire can expect more work throughout the summer, they are more like return as employees in the summers to follow.



What will we change or experiment with in 2022 as a result of our learning or failures?

- Policy: Now that we have a longer runway with election cycles, we are primed to facilitate the change needed to see thriving coastal communities. Utilizing our in-house expertise, we can conduct research and analysis alongside harvester organizations and allies to create a federal and provincial road map for fisheries policy change. Specifically, Ecotrust Canada will work with community partners to develop and implement owner-operator and fleet separation policies tailored to the unique needs of BC fisheries.
- Monitoring: Building on the success of the DFO staff sharing initiative in 2021, we plan to partner with other employers in remote communities to build more reliable and fulfilling full-time employment opportunities for local community members. In 2022, we will be partnering again with DFO to provide closer to full-time work for staff in Zeballos and Gold River, and we will reach out to other employers to investigate additional partnership opportunities. Further, we will investigate opportunities to work within our own organization to identify staff sharing opportunities in the remote communities where we work.



Community Energy

Overview

The problem

There is a high energy burden (cost and well-being) in rural and Indigenous partner communities. Energy systems contribute to low comfort and health, as well as environmental and economic challenges.

Program mission

Our vision is household energy security for all — where nobody has to choose between heating their homes and feeding their families. This means that all households in British Columbia:

- Can access essential home energy services without hardship.
- Are able to live in comfortable, healthy homes with affordable heat.
- Rely on energy sources that contribute to healthy environments and are aligned with climate targets.

Our strategies

- 1) Retrofit projects - Develop and implement retrofit projects at a community scale with significant cost savings, health benefits, and positive environmental impact.
- 2) Policy change - Build awareness of the issue and its solutions among policymakers, work to improve existing policies and programs, and engage aligned groups to build momentum for strategic action.
- 3) Regional efficiency programs - Create a supportive ecosystem that addresses unique geographic, financial, and awareness gaps through the design and implementation of customized and regionally-based energy efficiency programs.

What is your program theory of change?

If we help people reduce their energy bills, then we will advance household energy security because high energy costs are a major driver of household energy insecurity.



Impact

<i>Program Goal</i>	<i>Partner / Community</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Outputs</i>	<i>Outcomes</i>
Directly advance energy security in communities that face uniquely high energy cost burdens.	Haíɫzaqv Nation Quatsino First Nation 'Namgis First Nation	Supported fundraising and project implementation across community projects.	- 77 Heat Pumps installed in Bella Bella. - \$2.5 Million in project funding raised to support installations.	- Roughly \$4 Million in estimated cost savings from 2021 installations alone, and \$6.62 Million in total impact from retrofits to date (household impact). - 450 hours of employment were generated for local community members. - 30,000 tonnes of CO2eq and 1.96M litres of diesel fuel use will be eliminated over the lifetime of installed equipment. - Positive health impacts are also expected due to the new ability to heat and cool homes appropriately as well as improved air circulation and ventilation in some homes (based on external research). - Households benefit from air conditioning, providing safety and comfort during extreme heat events.

<p>Shift the policy environment from one that holds people in energy insecurity to one that enables households to realize energy security.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Households across British Columbia facing high energy cost burdens. - Low- and moderate-income households 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Published policy report on ‘Transforming Income-Qualified Home Energy Retrofit Programs in BC’ - Engaged with policymakers directly, as well as through the BC Hydro regulatory and low-income advisory committees. - Engaged coalition to advocate effectively to policymakers about the need for stronger income qualified retrofit programs and bill protections. - Engaged media about the need for new programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Major new ‘Income Qualified’ retrofit program created by the provincial government in response to recommendations and advocacy. - Customer Crisis Fund retained after effective media and public engagement. - A number of prominent articles were published about the issue of energy poverty and related government programming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1,800 low- and moderate-income households across BC are expected to receive support for retrofits through the new income qualified program. - Customer Crisis Fund, previously slated to be cancelled, now continues to provide support for households facing utility disconnection in BC so that they can continue to receive critical energy services. - Raised awareness about energy poverty and related utility regulation, requiring ministers and even the BC premier to respond to questions from the media about programs and fairness in our current utility structure.
--	--	--	--	---

<p>Enable households in rural communities to accelerate their transition to affordable, clean home energy systems.</p>	<p>Regional District of Mount Waddington (RDMW)</p> <p>City of Powell River (qathet Regional District)</p> <p>City of Prince Rupert</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Piloted promotion of available heat pump incentives across the RDMW. - Community efficiency financing (CEF) feasibility study with Regional District of Mount Waddington and City of Powell River. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Estimated 55 heat pumps rebates supported through Regional District of Mount Waddington promotion and coordination. - CEF feasibility studies completed with RDMW and qathet Regional District. - CEF feasibility study initiated with Prince Rupert. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partner regions are equipped with clear data and recommendations about options to move forward with financing and capacity-building programs across their communities. - The ultimate outcome of these programs, once fully implemented, will be greater economic security, improved health outcomes, and reduced pollution and fossil fuel use as a result of switching to clean, affordable heating systems and more energy efficient homes.
--	---	---	---	---

Key learnings

- We were reminded about the importance of planning for backup heating systems throughout all retrofit projects.
- We were encouraged by our increasing track record of engagement with BC's provincial government and successful follow-through on recommendations.
- With the announcement of new federal government funding, we will need to ensure that households in our target communities and regions are able to access certified workers to take advantage of these programs.

What will we change or experiment with in 2022 as a result of our learning and/or failures?

We will:

- Work with partners to integrate planning for backup heating systems as appropriate in remote locations.
- Continue engaging with the BC provincial government on recommended program changes and the opportunity to continue enhancing supports for households facing high energy cost burdens.
- Initiate a program to recruit, train, and support the development of certified Energy Advisors that can serve rural and Indigenous communities across coastal BC. This will ensure access to the federal government's new Greener Homes program.



Northwest Food Systems Initiative

Overview

The problem

The Northwest Food Systems Initiative is trying to address the loss of food security and food sovereignty in remote Northwest BC communities, such as Prince Rupert on Coast Ts'msyen Territory, where the issues are especially pronounced. As food is inherently connected with culture, the food access and systems required to provide safe and nutritious food that meet dietary needs and food preferences will vary within and between communities. This is particularly complicated where the Food Systems initiative is being spearheaded on Coast Ts'msyen Territory. The food systems that have physically, spiritually, and culturally sustained Ts'msyen people for thousands of years have been disrupted through a variety of colonial and industrial mechanisms that also challenge food access for all residents.

While many local food practices and bonds persist, there are numerous challenges within the food security and sovereignty landscape in the Skeena Bulkley Valley region such as:

- Systemic and regional conditions which challenge and limit the local production and sale of food goods.
- Restrictive policy requirements that increase cost for harvesting and processing of wild and farmed goods.
- A food economy that relies on long and fragile supply chains, which too frequently results in empty grocery aisles and nutrient poor produce.
- Commercially produced and harvested foods are prioritized for export rather than integration into local food systems.
- Declining public health due to an overreliance on convenience foods, which also contributes to reduced food literacy.
- A loss of food sovereignty and traditional food knowledge due to colonialism and globalized food systems.

Program mission

The goal of the Northwest Food Systems Initiative is to address food insecurity, improve food sovereignty, and increase local food access in Prince Rupert and the Pacific Northwest of British Columbia.

Our strategies

Through the activities listed below, we hope to increase local food production, literacy, and access, while fostering greater community ownership of, and involvement in, environmentally and economically sustainable food systems.

- Community agriculture: launch of highly visible community farm in downtown Prince Rupert.
- Regenerative Ocean Farming: launch a regenerative ocean farm which supports marine livelihoods and a community food program with Metlakatla First Nation.
- Policy Change: build political will to enable the City of Prince Rupert to enact policy change in line with their Official Community Plan (OCP).
- Collaboration with area growing programs and food producers to increase community interest and investment in local food systems.



- Knowledge sharing: connect with community members and local food knowledge holders in various ways to learn and engage in knowledge sharing to enhance food literacy and collective capacity.
- Food systems research projects: work with the Mitacs program to bring graduate students to Prince Rupert to form and carry out research projects in the food space.

What is your program theory of change?

Ecotrust Canada's Food Systems Program is in its early and experimental stages. We are pursuing strategies that have shown promise in other jurisdictions, knowing that only a made-in-Northwest-BC solution will yield the impact needed. We've drafted the following theory of change for 2022 knowing that our learning will show us quickly which are viable, and which are not.

- *If we produce more food locally then we positively impact food insecurity because our community becomes less reliant on fragile supply chains and poor-quality convenience foods and produce.*
- *If we co-launch a regenerative ocean farm then we will support marine food systems because we will support marine ecosystems, livelihoods, food access and infrastructure while providing opportunities for community collaboration.*
- *If we help venerate community voices into food policy, then we will improve food sovereignty through creating a political environment that supports, rather than inhibits, self-determined and community led food systems.*
- *If we facilitate collaboration, then we will positively impact food sovereignty because we improve collective capacity to overcome local food systems barriers while galvanizing community interest in local food systems.*
- *If we build relationships and spaces for connecting, learning, and sharing then we will improve food literacy because we are bridging fragmented knowledge systems.*
- *If we facilitate regional research projects, then we will improve the direction of our food systems work through better understanding the landscape in which we are operating.*

Impact

Program Goal	Partner/Community	Activities	Outcomes
Launch of demonstration community farm in downtown Prince Rupert.	Metlakatla First Nation City of Prince Rupert Prince Rupert based community organizations	- Navigate municipal process to enable community agriculture. - Secure site, build infrastructure, carry out growing season.	- Worked with local food organizations for donation of community farm produce, which totaled 130kg. -Prince Rupert Indigenous Housing -United Way Seniors Centre -Salvation Army Food Bank
Launch of Regenerative Ocean Farm.	Metlakatla First Nation GreenWave	- Partnership development and fundraising.	- Secured funds to start up and maintain a two-long line kelp farm for the first year of operation and training in 2022. - Intro to Regenerative Ocean Farming presentation.
Connect, collaborate, and share knowledge with local growing programs, food producers, knowledge holders and community members.	Farm to School BC Charles Hays Secondary School	- Connect school gardens in School District 52 with a community farm to create a collaborative growing plan network for 2023 season. - Work with Farm to School BC to procure funding for launch of Northwest BC seed bank.	- Collaboration effectively uses resources, space, and capacity to prevent overlap of effort/planning (i.e. using heated greenhouse at Charles Hays Secondary School to start seedlings for all). - Knowledge sharing to yield best growing results. - Funds procured and partners identified for launch of seed bank in 2022.
Advance change within municipal process with the City of Prince Rupert to enable urban food production.	City of Prince Rupert	- Navigate and track municipal process to obtain permits, present to city council, and launch a community farm.	- Relationships formed within Prince Rupert City Council and City Hall. - Presentation of the project to City Council in March, 2022.
Increase local food access.	- Fukasaku of Prince Rupert - Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a Society - Hecate Strait Employment Development Society	- Research Pacific Northwest food distribution network. - Identify local food producers and harvesters. - Investigate farmer's market for 2023.	- Fukasaku Market launched.



Key learnings

- Food is entangled in systemic, environmental, and human relationships. We cannot create systems change without local relationships and leadership. In 2021, we failed to form proactive, trusting, and meaningful relationships with the communities we hoped to work with to create more resilient and relevant regional food systems.
- Revitalization and reform within local food systems is a top priority for residents of Coast Ts'msyen Territory, outlying communities, and the region.
- Concrete, on-the-ground projects can be a galvanizing force for the community and bode well for a projected permanent food hub.

What will we change or experiment with in 2022 as a result of our learning or failures?

- Community engagement and relationship building need to come into central focus to ensure long term success of local and regional food systems. We may drop some of our loftier goals in 2022 in order to prioritize this.
- Long term and diversified partnerships within the region should be investigated to make project more sustainable and less dependent on outside funding.



Vancouver Office

312 Main Street
Vancouver, BC V6A 2T2

Prince Rupert Office

200 – 515 Third Avenue West
Prince Rupert, BC V8J 1L9

ecotrust.ca