

Annual Report: July 2023-June 2024

TRANSITION SITKA

Between July 2023 and June 2024 Transition Sitka has been successful in applying for our first large-ish grant under our 501 (c) (3) tax exempt non-profit status. Our fundraising efforts for the Jarvis Street Community Garden will continue in 2025. Other projects for this year included a second electrification expo, exploring electrical trades education in Southeast Alaska, and an update of the 2014 assessment of Sitka's access to food.

All in this together

Our first big projects have given us opportunities to collaborate with the many non-profit organizations who are working on vulnerability, resilience and self-sufficiency in Sitka. Our project leads met with the municipality, Alaska's state university system, and a range of local community service organizations to complete important stages of this work! Many community members continued to show their interest in community gardening, and reducing the cost of living by making smarter decisions about managing our waste streams!

Electrification

The electrification working group continued to explore the needs and opportunities for electrification in Sitka, including the need for greater support in electrical trades training. The Electrification subgroup conducted interviews with heat pump installers and other tradespeople regarding their needs and perceptions about what they need for the clean energy transition. This information supported three meetings with stakeholders at University of Alaska Southeast, the last including union representatives from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and Plumbers and Pipefitters. At our second Electrification Expo at Centennial Hall, we added expert presentations to stakeholder tabling and tried to stimulate interest among high school students in trades apprenticeships. We held a public meeting to solicit citizen concerns about energy planning, summarizing our findings for the Sitka Assembly. We continued to inform the Sitka School Board about funding options for electric school buses and their life cycle costs.

Food Security

The food security working group continued with the development of a community garden and, in partnership with the Sitka Local Food Network, launched a 10 year update to the Sitka Community Food Assessment. Callie Simmons, University of Alaska Anchorage Masters of Public Health student, took the lead, mentored by Lisa Sadleir-Hart and worked with a broad-based steering committee. The assessment included a food security survey with 387 valid responses, 26 interviews with key informants and food producers, six focus groups with 46 attendees. The assessment was supported by two local grants from the Sitka Rotary Club and the White E. The final assessment will be available Fall 2024 with community presentations to follow. The working group would like to thank Jasmine Shaw, Chandler O'Connell, Margot O'Connell, Melanie Boord, Natalie Wojcik for their work on this project!

Counting down the days until Earth Day 2030

From July 2024 to April 22, 2030 there are now just 2488 days.

City government and the business community, have 1687 business days to identify and address the challenges facing supply chains and rising fuel costs.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

— Margaret Mead



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Our first full year as an 501 c3 non-profit - progress by June 2024

In the 139 weeks that we have been active as a group, we have made much progress on initiatives that we know are important to Sitkans. Working in small teams, and in partnership with established organizations, we have been able to bring information and opportunities to our community. In our next year we hope to work more closely with more people to find community-based solutions to the challenges we face as a remote island community.

THANK YOU: Barb Bingham, Toby Campbell, Eric Jordan, Leah Mason, Kent Barkhau, Carol Voisin, Joel Hanson, Lisa Sadlier-Hart, Larry Edwards, Suzanne Portello, Kathleen Kreiss, Tom Hart, Nan Metashvili, and Callie Simmons for their help and dedication this year! **EXTRA THANKS:** Thank also to the following people and organizations for their support for projects that we are currently working on: Jasmine Shaw, Charles Bingham, Amy Ainslie, Assembly Members and members of Sitka's many boards and commissions, the Board of the Sitka Local Food Network, all those who took part in the Sitka Community Food Assessment and supported the Community Food Summit and those who have provided letters of support for the Jarvis Street Community Garden.

By The Numbers

32 Ordinary Meetings

54 Articles Published

09 Outreach Events

- Sitka Farmers Market
- 2024 Electrification Expo
- Guest spots on 'Problem Corner!'

04 Public Events

- Electrification Expo 2024
- Community Garden Town Hall in association with CBS and SLFN
- Heat Pump Presentation at UAS Sitka
- Sitka Food Summit 2024

06 Stakeholder Meetings

- Electrical Trades Education
- Sitka Community Food Assessment Focus Groups

In Pictures



Scenes from Sitka's second Electrification Expo. Feb 2024

Transition Sitka meets by Zoom, but we come together in person for special things... like winning an innovation award for our community garden project and discussing alternative economic systems!

Community gardens and Community Food were our main topics for discussion with farmers market attendees.

President's Report - Joel Hanson

Transition Sitka was formed to begin the urgent work needed to make our community more resilient in the face of three great challenges: declines in the amount and quality of fossil fuel resources, the social, environmental and economic consequences of these declines, and the need to accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels to restore the climatic conditions that have supported people in Sitka for thousands of years.

In setting a target of Earth Day (April 22) in 2030, our members have confirmed a conviction that addressing these challenges cannot be kicked down the road. We have met to work on the projects of beneficial electrification, food security, energy security, solid waste reduction, and alternatives to growth driven, cash-based economies.

As much as anyone, we feel the anxiety of change that we can't control. We have found comfort and purpose in working together on the changes that we can make to create a community that will be strong and thriving under very different circumstances. This is community work and we believe that we are in the right community to be very successful in achieving this goal.

Treasurer's Report - Leah Mason

Transition Sitka registered as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization in May 2023 which allows us to offer a tax-free status for funds that are donated to us. This is particularly important success in applying for large grants.

In financial year 2023-2024 we began to build on this foundational change to our financial situation. We were successful in applying for several smaller grants from local organizations and from a state-based foundation. These are shown in our balance sheet on page 4 of this report. As at June 30 2024 we have \$12,557 from foundations, and \$5352 from local charitable organizations such as Sitka Rotary (Community Food Assessment), the Sitka White E (Community Food Assessment).

We were also the beneficiaries of the funds raised by the Sitka Chapter of the Citizens Climate Lobby, and donations from members, as well as some members of the public.

Several firsts for the organization have been a successful crowd-funding activity for the Community Garden garnered 2410, and the use of a Certificate of Deposit for unrestricted funds (1500), which has already added \$16 in interest to our account.

The Jarvis Street Community Garden and Sitka Community Food Assessment projects will be ongoing during the next financial year.

Board of Directors 2023-2024

*Toby Campbell
Larry Edwards
Joel Hanson (President)
Kathleen Kreiss (Secretary)
Leah Mason (Treasurer and
Vice President)*

Working Groups 2023-2024

Beneficial Electrification

*Kathleen Kreiss
Carol Voisin
Toby Campbell
Kent Barkhau
Larry Edwards*

Food Security

*Lisa Sadleir-Hart
Joel Hanson
Leah Mason
Barb Bingham*

Outreach

*Barb Bingham
Leah Mason*

Electrification Expo 2024

*Lead (TS): Kathleen Kreiss
Carol Voisin
Toby Campbell*

Community Garden Project

*Lead (TS): Joel Hanson
Lisa Sadleir-Hart
Joel Hanson
Leah Mason
Barb Bingham
Collaborators: Sitka Local Food
Network.*

Sitka Community Food Assessment Project

*Lead (TS): Lisa Sadleir-Hart
Researcher: Callie Simmons
Collaborators: Sitka Local Food
Network and Project Advisory
Board.*



Treasurer's Report

Leah Mason

Accounts: July 2023 - June 2024

REVENUE	FY '23 Actual	FY '24 Proposed	FY '24 To Date
Crowdfunding	\$0	\$0	\$2,410
Dividend Income	\$0	\$0	\$0
Donations - Board & Membership	\$975	\$800	\$588
Donations - Individual	\$0	\$0	\$0
Donations - Local Charitable	\$2,500	\$6,000	\$5,352
Donations - Local Non-Charitable	\$0	\$0	\$0
Endowments	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fundraisers & Events	\$0	\$0	\$0
Grants - Foundations	\$0	\$5,000	\$12,557
Grants - Government	\$0	\$5,000	\$0
Grants - Other	\$0	\$0	\$0
Interest Income	\$0	\$0	\$21
Other Donations	\$0	\$0	\$1,550
Program/Project Income	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Cash Revenue	\$3,475	\$16,800	\$22,478
In-Kind Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL REVENUE	\$3,475	\$16,800	\$22,478

EXPENSES	FY '23 Actual	FY '24 Proposed	FY '24 To Date
Advertising & Promotion	\$254	\$750	\$482
Board Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
Consultation & Professional Services	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contract Services	\$0	\$0	\$0
Cost of Goods Sold	\$0	\$0	\$0
Dues & Subscriptions	\$0	\$0	\$0
Event Expenses	\$0	\$250	\$240
Fundraising Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$25
Insurance	\$310	\$310	\$285
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
Office Equipment & Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0
Phone, Internet, Social Media	\$0	\$150	\$0
Postage & Delivery	\$0	\$0	\$0
Printing and Copying	\$250	\$50	\$0
P1: Jarvis Garden	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,125
P2: Sitka Food Assessment	\$0	\$4,000	\$2,470
P3: Electrification Expo 2	\$0	\$325	\$242
P4: Outreach	\$0	\$0	\$0
Regulatory Expenses/Fees	\$120	\$100	\$40
Total Cash Expenses	\$934	\$7,935	\$5,908
In-Kind Service Value	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$934	\$7,935	\$5,908
NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT	\$2,541	\$8,865	\$16,570