

TRANSITION SITKA



Between July 2024 and June 2025 Transition Sitka has been very proud to have worked with Sitka Local Foods Network to create the Jarvis Street Community Garden and complete the final stages of the Sitka Community Food Assessment. Both projects have shown us the strengths and the gaps in our community capacity to meet our own needs, and with this knowledge we can do more together.

Making Progress!

We have continued to seek out and find ways to work with our community on projects during the year and the results have been worth the effort.

Electrification

The electrification working group continued to work on understanding and developing our community's renewable electricity trades. Two of our members (Kay Kreiss and Carol Voisin) took the Rewiring America training to be 'electric coaches' who can help the Sitka community navigate the installation of heat pumps and other beneficial electrification.

The group also continued to work with local training organizations to identify and meet needs for more advanced trade skills for interested young people. Collaboration with UAS Juneau campus brought a lively presentation to the Expo on having just the right amount of air space/flow in your house. Chase Coleman (with SE Conference) informed the expo attendees about the \$38 million grant for partnering with AK Heat Smart for subsidy of heat pumps. Articles published as part of the "Climate Connections" series focused on practical electrification topics as well as opportunities for using tax credits and the inflation reduction act.

Food Security

This year has been a big year for achieving our goals for improving Sitka's food security. The final report for the update of Sitka's Community Food Assessment was launched in mid-October 2024 and copies of the report have been made available to the City Assembly and our legislators at the state and federal levels. Electronic copies of the report are available online at <https://transitionsitka.org/projects/sitka-food/community-food-assessment>. An immediate outcome of the updated assessment has been the establishment of the "Sitka Food Coalition", which includes several local organizations already spearheading initiatives that will help improve food security for low-income residents.

A recommendation from the **original** assessment (2013) has been achieved by creating the Sitka Community Gardens Association to oversee the first of a future network of community gardens! In early June 2025, Joel Hanson signed the lease on a half acre of public land that is shaping up well for the 2026 growing season. Next steps include raising our deer-proof fence and marking out the final plot plan. See more on page 2 of this report!

No time to lose

We have chosen a deadline of Earthday 2030 to recognize the urgency of our work.

From July 2025 to April 22, 2030 there are now just 1757 days left to bring our community together to answer the biggest challenges we have ever faced.

"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



Transition Sitka Annual Report: Financial Year July 2024 - June 2025

Sitka Living Locally - March 2025 Expo

Our previous expos were aimed at bringing together the expertise and information for electrifying more of our community's heating and transport. This year we wanted to put that work into the bigger picture. How do we grow more in a temperate rainforest climate? How can we improve the weather-tight aspects of our homes to use even less electricity? What is the potential for growing seaweed? How can we communicate when our usual systems are down? All of these were showcased at our third expo. Thanks to everyone who was involved in organizing and to everyone who came along!

Showing Our Support

This year we provided letters of support expanding Pacific High's farm to table curriculum, as well as to the CBS Sustainability Commission for its application for funding in the area of community composting.

Staying Involved

Transition Sitka provided recommendations to two important areas of future development in our community. The stationing of an additional USCG vessel and crew beginning in 2027, and the draft greenhouse gas emissions inventory being developed by the City as part of the ETIPP project for a Community Renewable Energy Strategy for the municipality.

THANK YOU: Barb Bingham, Toby Campbell, Eric Jordan, Leah Mason, Kent Barkhau, Carol Voisin, Joel Hanson, Lisa Sadlier-Hart, Larry Edwards, Kathleen Kreiss, Tom Hart, Nan Metashvili, and Debbie Le Veck, Callie Simmons for their company, help and dedication this year! **EXTRA THANKS:** Thank also to the following people and organizations for their support in projects that we are currently working on: Jasmine Shaw, Jud Kirkness, Charles Bingham, Amy Ainslie, Melonie Boord, Chandler O'Connor, Margot O'Connor and Natalie Wojcik, assembly members and members of Sitka's many boards and commissions, the board of the Sitka Local Food Network, and all those who have supported the Jarvis Street Community Garden and this year's Expo!

Jarvis St. Community Garden—from the ground up with your help!

The garden is now a reality, and work has begun! Volunteer help has been critical in getting this far, but with many grants being held up another 23K is needed to complete this year's construction projects. Please consider a tax deductible donation and let us know where to send the required written receipt. Email transitionsitka@gmail.com with questions, or send checks to: Transition Sitka, 417 Arrowhead St, Sitka.



Although it hasn't been the only thing that we have been working on, the Jarvis Street Community Garden has been a very big project for us. It will now be slowly moved into the management of the Sitka Community Gardens Association and the gardeners! Credit for the groundbreaking ceremony image to J. Poulson.

President's Report - Leah Mason

Transition Sitka formed a way to support each other in working locally to make our world a better place. In finding our way to the Transition Town Movement we have learned how empowering it can be to take responsibility for making something happen. As Rob Hopkins, of the international movement put it... "Nobody is coming to save us, we ARE the cavalry!"

This year has been a lot of work, but the achievement of two major goals is worth a moment to appreciate everything and everyone that helped along the way. Acknowledging and celebrating the wins are important. Current conditions present challenges that we must increasingly meet with the enormous creativity, knowledge, experience and can-do attitude of Sitkans.

We are very grateful to all of you who have stopped by and chatted at the Sitka Farmers Markets, or attended an event, or shared your own ideas for what Sitka could look and feel like in a future with little or no fossil fuels. Our community is our greatest resource! We are looking forward to more collaboration on food security initiatives, and exploring our options for creating wealth from waste - by doing more with our existing electricity and reducing our waste to landfill.

Treasurer's Report - Joel Hanson

The IRS has determined that Transition Sitka is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to us. In FY 2025 we applied for and received several grants, including from the Sitka Health Summit Coalition, White Elephant Store, Alaska Community Foundation, Alaska Pacific University and Alaska Permanent Charitable Trust. We also conducted an online SeedMoney crowdfunding campaign for the Jarvis Street Community Garden which raised nearly \$3,000 from local garden supporters. These and other income sources are shown in our balance sheet on page 4 of this report. In Fiscal Year 2025-on July 1, 2024, we have received \$10,424 from the above listed sources, with \$2,182 pending, all of which will go toward the garden project's development.

Transition Sitka has also received smaller donations from our Board of Directors and general membership, as well as from generous members of the public. We are thankful for all the support.

The Jarvis Street Community Garden program will require substantial financial support over the next fiscal year, and Transition Sitka will continue to serve as a tax exempt Fiscal Sponsor for the newly established Sitka Community Gardens Association which now holds the lease from the City and Borough of Sitka for the Jarvis Street Garden property and has assumed management responsibilities for the garden's operations.

Board of Directors 2024-2025

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

Working Groups 2024-2025

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*

Sitka Living Locally Expo 2025

*Lead (TS): Leah Mason
Barb Bingham
Carol Voisin
Toby Campbell
Kay Kreiss*

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

Accounts: Financial Year July 2024 - June 2025

Joel Hanson

Current Accounts Balance	Current	EOFY 24
TFCU Checking	\$6,346.61	
TFCU Savings	\$20.03	
TFCU 3.95% CD	\$19,423.77	
Total	\$25,790.41	\$18,849.64
FY 25 Income Summary	Current	EOFY 24
Garden-directed grants (with TS as fiscal sponsor for SCGA)	\$18,000.00	
Garden-directed non-grant donations (crowdfunding, etc.)	\$3,748.00	
Board and core member donations	\$550.00	
Other donations (AC Lakeside receipts, FM donation jar)	\$195.64	
Dividends/Interest	\$402.63	
FY 2025 Cash Income To-Date	\$22,896.27	
FY 2025 In-kind Income To-Date (Drainage Report)	\$2,423.88	
Total Income To-Date	\$25,320.15	\$22,732.62
FY 25 Expenses Summary	Current	EOFY 24
General operating expenses	\$1,559.67	
Expo program expenses	\$618.50	
Food Assessment program expenses	\$861.46	
Jarvis Garden program expenses	\$12,915.87	
Total FY 2025 Expenses To-Date	\$15,955.50	\$6,490.96
Grant Funds Under Management for Sitka Community Gardens Association		
ACF - 2024 Community Food Security Through Gardening Grant	\$5,594.11	
Sitka Health Summit Coalition	\$1,605.01	
AgWest Rural Community Grant	\$5,000.00	
AK Div of Ag, Microgrants for Food Security	\$5,000.00	
White E Grant for 2025	\$1,000.00	
ACF - 2025 Community Food Security Through Gardening Grant	\$5,000.00	
Total	\$23,199.12	