



SnoValley Tilth

2013 Annual Report

2014 Plans for the Year

- Operate the Carnation Farmers market for its 11th season, including extended seasons in the new market shelters.
- Develop a set of meal plans to help educate Farmers Market shoppers on eating seasonally and locally.
- Continue progress on completion of the Community/Market shelters project in Carnation.
- Develop and expand the Experience Farming Project.
- Launch tool sharing cooperative
- Continue to host membership meetings year-round.
- Implement a fundraising plan for the year.
- Distribute a revised hard copy of our member directory for 2014. Maintain the online directory.
- Continue to refine our strategic plan's goals and objectives to match our mission and vision.
- Expand capacity for SVT to implement our strategic plan through staffing and membership involvement.
- Continue collaboration with gleaning Coordinator position to facilitate food bank donations of local produce.

2013 Activities

- Hired a Managing Director to oversee organizational activities.

Membership

- Hosted 12 educational membership meetings. In 2013 they ran year-round for the first time. Educational topics included hedgerows, seed saving, soil preparation, on-farm compost, history of livestock in the valley, and environmental markets. In the summer months we met on local farms and participants toured the farms and learned directly from the farmers.
- Updated and distributed hardcopies of our membership farm directory and maintained the online directory.

Market

- Operated the Carnation Farmers Market for its 10th season with increased vendors and SVT revenues.
- Hired a Market Coordinator to manage day-of activities for the market each week.
- Ran a series of educational cooking demonstrations at the Carnation Farmers Market from June-September.
- Continued to collaborate with the Hopelink Gleaning Coordinator on food bank donations and use of local produce.

New Farmers

- Offered our fourth "meet and greet" session for our New Farmer Mentorship Program.
- Established a new Mentorship Committee and developed and structured our existing land use program into the Experience Farming Project, outlined future possible goals for the mentorship committee
- Began formalizing our farm incubator program as the Experience Farming Project and soliciting participants for 2014.

Fundraising, Events, and Outreach

- Successfully applied for 4 grants for a total of \$17,000. Applied for a 5th Farm to School grant that was not funded.
- Exceeded our fundraising goals for the year with three farm dinners, two seasonal events (first annual St. Paddy's Day and fourth annual fall Farm Faire), and individual donations for a total net income of \$19,700.
- Continued to expand outreach through social media such as Facebook, Wordpress blogs, and website.
- Coordinated our second annual farm tours in September, a free event that was open to the public. Event was very successful with an estimated 300% increase in attendance from our first year in 2012 and a total of 9 participating farms (5 more than in 2012). A King County Community Service Area grant supported outreach and implementation.

Policy

- Successfully supported efforts to get basin-wide hydrologic study funded by county after legal efforts for same failed.
- Successfully supported development of the TDR project to King county council and Seattle city council
- Supported development of a local water bank in the form of a watershed improvement district