

SNOV ALLEY TILTH

ANNUAL REPORT
2017



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

SnoValley Tilth seeks to create a thriving, sustainable regional food economy in the Snoqualmie and Snohomish watersheds, with a strong community of successful farmers at its heart. Our primary focus is on farmers—both experienced and new farmers—but our work also benefits community members and local food consumers.

In the first part of the year, SnoValley Tilth board and staff completed the organization's first comprehensive strategic plan. The planning process gave us time to step back and have in-depth conversations with our members and supporters – providing invaluable feedback to guide our next three years of work.

Members requested more services that impact them directly – business education opportunities and access to land for farmers topped the list. As a result, our Member Services and Farmland Network Programs were born in 2017 and will continue to grow in 2018.

Our farm members emphasized the value of SnoValley Tilth serving an advocacy role. We nurtured partnerships with agencies and organizational partners over the past year with both formal and informal collaborations emerging as a result. We will be building more relationships in Snohomish County, including holding some of our workshops and potlucks there. SnoValley Tilth represents farmer interests in the King County Fish, Farm, Flood process and is participating in the Snohomish County Sustainable Lands Strategy.

We reach consumers through the Carnation Farmers Market. Our food and farm-products only market continues to take SNAP, participates in FreshBucks to double the spending dollars for SNAP recipients, and our Power of Produce kids program will grow in 2018. Watch for us at community events throughout the year to help spread the word about eating local – your passionate support as a local food eater is an essential part of our shared food system.



MELISSA BORSTING

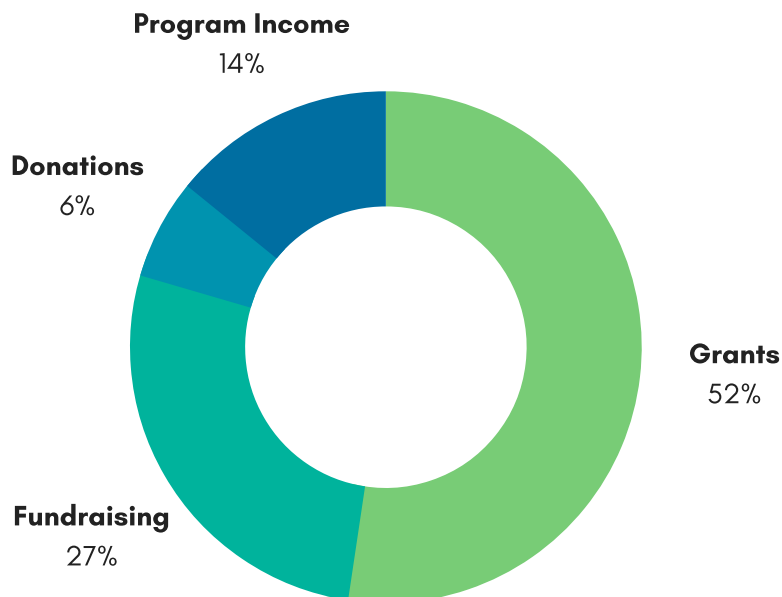
Executive Director



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

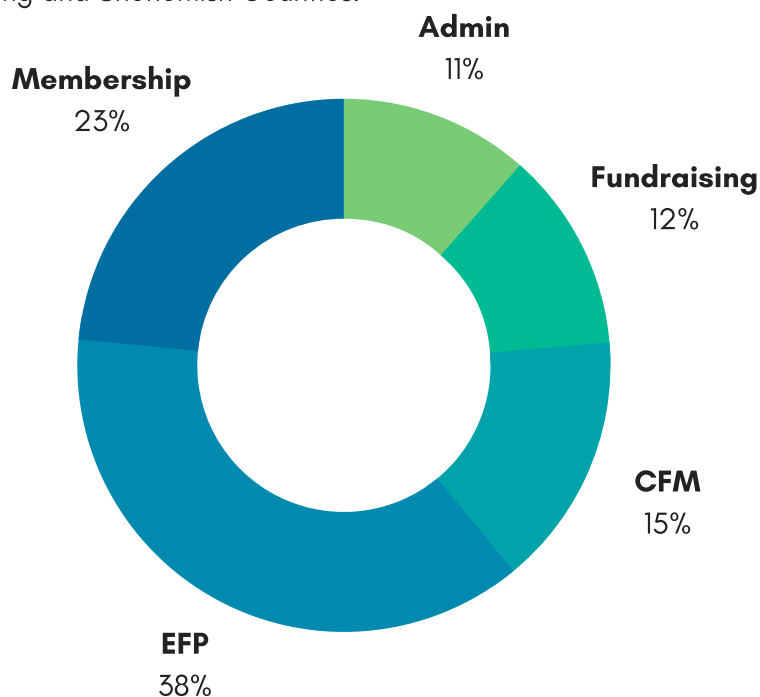
2017 Income: \$245,790.80

Program Income includes booth fees at the Carnation Farmers Market, Experience Farming Project participant fees, and workshop and outreach event registration fees.



2017 Expenses: \$244,071.64

Experience Farming Project (EFP) expenses include infrastructure improvements at our farm site. Membership includes workshops, monthly potlucks, outreach activities, and growing collaborations in King and Snohomish Counties.



2017 RESULTS: MORE FARMERS ON MORE FARMLAND

12

Farm tours and guest speakers, free and open to the public



43

Farm Members in 2017. 96 total members



14

Farmers participating in the Experience Farming Project



11

Site visits to landowners interested in leasing to farmers



146

Kids learning about local food in our Power of Produce Program.



30

Participants in our first workshop: *Managing Labor on the Farm*



2017 RESULTS: MORE FOOD FOR OUR COMMUNITY

20,000

Shoppers

at the
Carnation Farmers Market
over 25 weeks

2,551

Dollars

of fresh fruit and vegetables
bought by families receiving
food assistance at the
Carnation Farmers Market

95,000

Dollars

of food grown by our
Experience Farming Project
participants

>16,000

Vegetable Boxes

delivered to regional
consumers by one of our CSA
member farms



2018 GOALS

Member Services

Enhance and add new business support services including one-on-one consultations, workshops, and a mentoring program.

Pilot a bulk-buying program for farm supplies and soil amendments.

Expand our work in Snohomish County by networking with agencies and other organizations in the area. Host some of our events in Snohomish County.

Continue to sub-lease ¼-2 ½ acre parcels to new farmers on two different sites in the Snoqualmie Valley as part of our Experience Farming Project.

Participate in the Beginning Farmer Support Collective, a formal collaboration with the other land-based farmer training/land access programs in King County.

Expand on our Farmland Network program by actively recruiting landowners who have farmable land available to lease or sell.

Participate in the Working Farmland Partnership, a collaboration of agencies and organizations working to address technical, regulatory, and financial challenges that limit the farming options on select pieces of property.

Advocacy

Represent farmers in King County's Fish, Farm, Flood process and serve to bring a farming perspective to long-term land use planning.

Participate in Snohomish County's Sustainable Land Strategy.

Engage both counties in problem solving around limited farm-worker housing by gathering information about regulations, demand, and opportunities.

2018 GOALS, CONTINUED

Consumer Outreach and Education

Continue to operate the Carnation Farmers Market as both an outreach opportunity for the regional community and a sales outlet for local farmers.

Develop a staff position with time dedicated to outreach at community and business events.

Expand the Power of Produce Kids Program at the Carnation Farmers Market.

Continue SNAP outreach at local food banks, service centers, churches, and doctors' offices.

Serve as a farmer-focused liaison to the Savor Snoqualmie Grown branding program, encouraging local restaurant market opportunities.



2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hannah Cavendish-Palmer, President

Advocacy Committee Chair

Snoqualmie Valley Farmers Cooperative General Manager

Doug Teakell, Vice President

Mentorship/EFP Committee Chair

Community supporter

Claire Foster, Secretary

Community supporter, Stuart Landing Farm,
Mountain View Organic Gardening

Nancy Marshall, Treasurer

Education and Outreach Committee Chair

Community supporter, CPA Marshall Accounting

Christeena Marzolf, Director at Large

Livestock Committee Chair

Porter's Pride, Marzolf Meats

Erin Ericson

Tractor Farm

Baj Kochar

Community supporter

Meredith Molli

Development and Events Committee Chair

Goose and Gander Farm

Neil Subhash

Carnation Farmers Market Committee Chair

Present Tense Farm



THANK YOU TO OUR 2017 FUNDERS

The Bullitt Foundation
King Conservation District
King County Best Starts for Kids
King County Community Services Area
King County Department of Natural
Resources and Parks
Human Links Foundation

The Norcliffe Foundation
Rotary Club of Duvall
Rotary Club of Snoqualmie
The Satterberg Foundation
Seattle Foundation
The Tulalip Tribe
USDA National Institute of Food and
Agriculture
USDA Rural Development
WSDA Specialty Crop Block Grant