

Food System Security

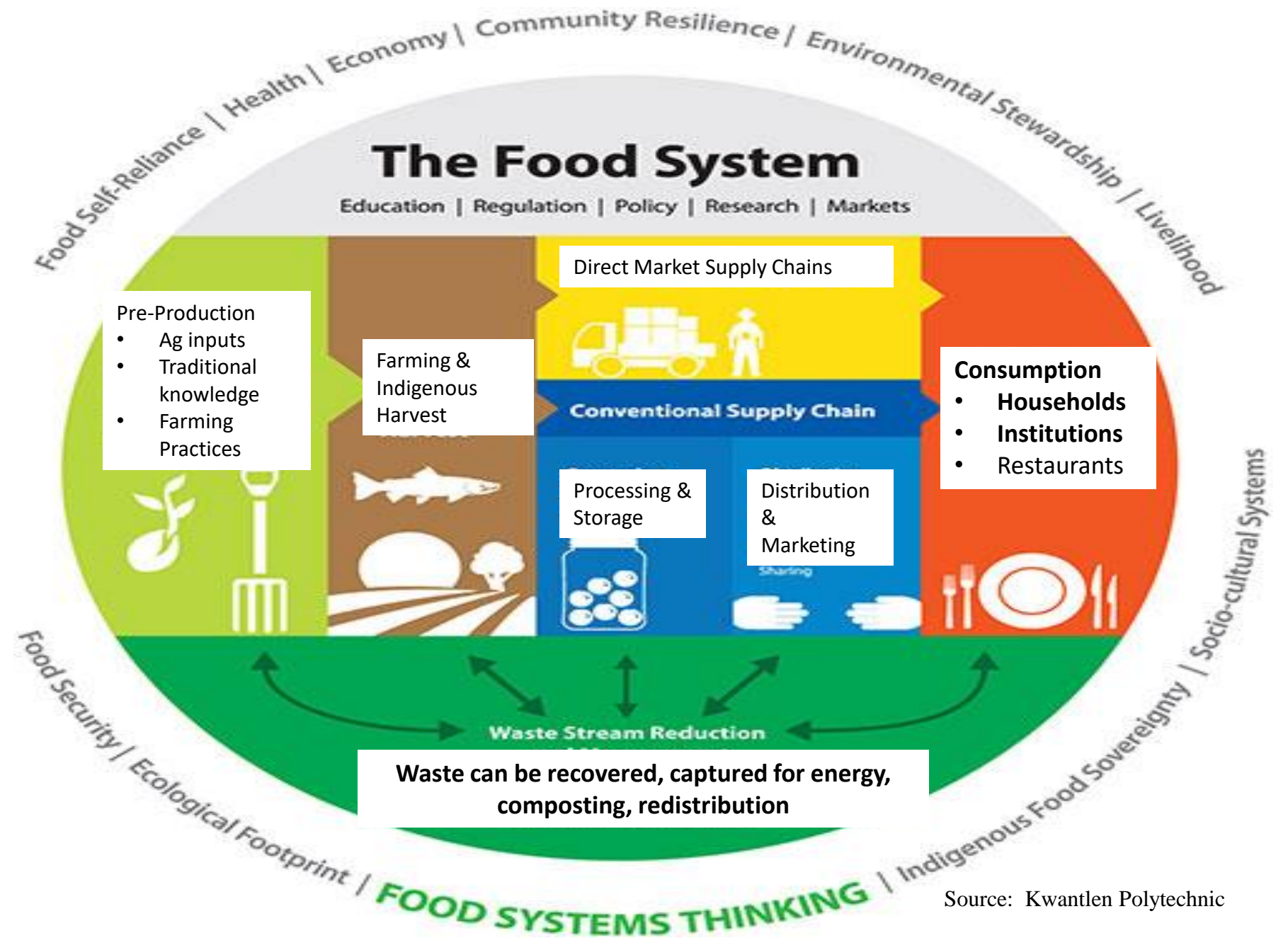
in the

Comox Valley

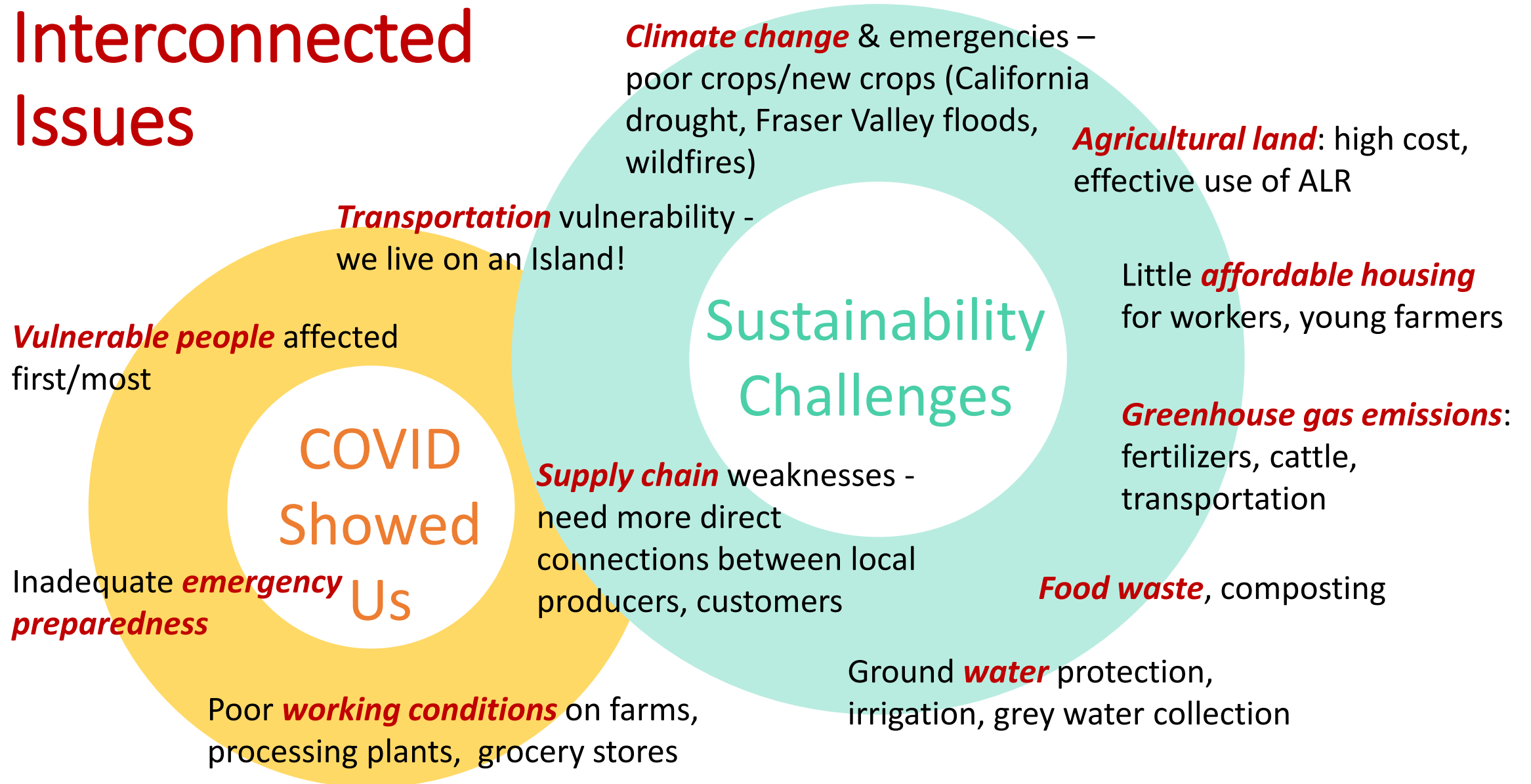
October 3, 2022
6:30 PM Pacific



What is a food system ?



Interconnected Issues



Comox Valley Regional District (2016)

Population: 66,000; growing; aging:

- spent \$287 million/year on food

How much land? 170,000 hectares:


- 23% (5,400 hectares) actively farmed; 14% in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).
- 86% of active farms produce forage and pasture, 4% (218 hectares) produce vegetables and 3% (172 hectares) produce berries.

416 farms generated \$33.6 million from:

- forage & pasture, vegetables, fruit, honey, meat, dairy, nuts, wine, eggs
- 50% of BC shellfish; most oysters in Canada



Could we feed ourselves?




½ hectare farm can produce
enough food for one person/year

+

5,400 hectares could feed about
10,300 people

=

If all Comox Valley ALR was
actively farmed, it could feed
almost 45,000 people.



Resources

- **2022. *Seven Practices for Food Systems Solutions.*** Lynnette Hornung, Maurita Prato. Lush Valley
- **2022. *Local Food for Comox Valley K – 12 Schools,*** Ministry of Agriculture.
- **2021. *Comox Valley Food Hub Feasibility Study,*** de la Salle, Comox Valley Regional District.
- **2021. *Growing a Movement: Farm to School in the Comox Valley.***
- **2020. *Food Security, Poverty, Housing and the Local Food System: Closing the Loop in the Comox Valley,*** Prato & Cupelli, Lush Valley.
- **2013. *Growing Knowledge: Land use inventory report, Comox Valley.*** Summer 2013. BC Government & CVRD.
- **2010. *Comox Valley Regional Growth Strategy.*** CVRD
- **2006. *BC's Food Self Reliance: Can BC's Farmers Feed Our Growing Population,*** BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, 2006.
- **2001. *Comox Valley Agricultural Plan.*** CVRD. Update in process.