



## Transition Activities 2015

*Building a resilient community with a reduced reliance on fossil fuels*

**7th Generation Supper Presentations:** *Fossil Fuel Exports and the Northwest – Why our thin green line of resistance is so important; Climate Change Impacts in the Pacific Northwest; Urban Stormwater – What Can You Do?; Skagit County Public Health and Community Services – The Changing Landscape; Spring Fling; This Beautiful and Hazardous World; Getting Local – Making Climate Science Relevant for Skagit County; Citizen Stewardship of the Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve; Cutting Carbon Pollution in Washington State; All in the Same Boat; Harvest Faire and Share*

**Anacortes Community Gardens:** Over 600 pounds of produce was given to the local food banks and over 150 volunteer hours logged at the Anacortes Community Garden. Currently all of the plots at the 29th garden will be renewed or have been assigned for next year; we will know more in February when renewals are actually due. If you'd like to sign up for a plot, fill out an application and you will be added to the waiting list.

**Vision 2030 Food Projects:** Much progress has been made on the food security efforts recommended in TF&F's *Vision 2030* document. Fidalgo Island and Guemes Gleaning (FIGG): this program hit the ground running toward the end of the season, giving volunteers a glimpse of what's in store for 2016. Equipment was purchased, email groups started, and the gleaning process was successfully created. All gleans were completed within an hour when there were 3-4 gleaners on board. Seed Exchange: We held a seed exchange in March and listened to requests to have it earlier in the year. As January 31, 2016 is "National Seed Exchange Day," our 2nd annual seed exchange will be January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1-3PM, at the Senior Activity Center. Alternatives to Pesticides : We collected and distributed information on alternatives to pesticides and will continue that effort at all of our events.

**Skagit Community Solar Projects:** Community Solar is a program set up by Washington State to encourage people to buy shares in systems to be installed on public facilities. TF&F provided support for local SCS projects, which began with a system installed at the Anacortes Middle School in summer 2013. The next projects – the Anacortes Library, Phase 2 at the Middle School, the Anacortes Police Station, and Maple Hall in La Conner – were installed in 2015.

**Transition Skillshare Series:** This was our 4th year of offering free community workshops to help encourage energy efficiency, local food production, sustainable transport, and ways to build health, know-how, and self-sufficiency. This year, we held 16 workshops in partnership with the Anacortes Library, the Farmers' Market, and the Potluck Kitchen Studio. 363 people had the

opportunity to learn about home berry production, sustainable pest management, medicinal herbs, growing productive gardens, electric cars, fermenting food, making yogurt, preventing cancer, raising chickens, healthy eating, mushroom gardening, tool sharpening, home brewing and more.

**4 Fix-it Days:** These events help restore broken items, reduce the quantity of waste going to landfills, and provide funds to Deception Park State Park. 8 volunteers staffed the Fix-It booth at the Depot, helping 55 people with repairs. Many brought multiple items to be repaired. Fix-It Days generated \$893 in donations received for the repaired items to Deception Pass Park Foundation. *Reduce, REPAIR, re-use, recycle!*

**Special Event: *New Energy for a New Day*:** TF&F organized and sponsored a community presentation at the Lincoln Theater in March to highlight what is happening at the state level to address climate change. Participants included Anna Fahey, Senior Communications Strategist, Sightline Institute, on “Engaging Heart, Soul, and Mind on Climate Change”; Chris Davis, Gov. Inslee’s Senior Advisor on Energy and Carbon Markets, on “Clean Air, New Jobs and Healthy Communities: Reducing Carbon Pollution in Washington”; and Rosalinda Guillen, Executive Director, Community to Community Development, on “Local Food Systems and the Color of Climate Justice;” singer Dana Lyons; and National Energy Star award-winning kids from the La Conner Boys & Girls Club.

**Sustainable Business Awards:** TF&F’s award recognizes those in our community who make business decisions that protect our environment. The first two recipients (2014) were Larry and Amber Nelson of Blue Cow Carwash, and Linda Sanford of American Dream Real Estate. This year, the award went to the Market. Ken Whisenant, store manager for the past 4 years, accepted the award. He noted the store's efforts to buy local, to offer sustainably-caught fish, to recycle (even cooking oil), and to return money from donated bring-your-own bag credits to preserve Skagit farmlands (\$4000).

**Fidalgo & Friends TimeBank:** This service exchange uses time as currency and helps stretch the budget, sharpen skills, share gifts, and build a caring community. The time bank began in June 2012 and operated through 2015. We regret to say that despite the efforts of many dedicated volunteers to keep the time bank running, the decision was made to close the time bank doors at the end of 2015.

**Produced *The Catalyst*, an Online Climate and Energy Info Newsletter:** 12 issues. Reader comments: *“Thank you for the incredible amount of relevant news and info you research and share on climate change and related topics. What a wealth of info from SO MANY perspectives.”* *“Overwhelming, but thank you for this!”* *“Fabulous as usual environmental news roundup.”* *“Another BRILLIANT issue of The Catalyst! It stirs so many passions and excitements!”* *“Thanks so much for the Catalyst - I find at least 50% of content is stuff I did not know and did not hear anywhere else - and I get a lot of sustainable site info and emails.”* *“Another sterling edition of /The Catalyst. /Thanks.”* *“The format of the Catalyst is fantastic. A great addition to TF&F goings ons.”*

Help us do even more! We are a hard-working, all-volunteer, 501.c.3 organization with little time to fund-raise. *Become a member by visiting our website at [transitionfidalgo.org](http://transitionfidalgo.org) (click the Join Us! tab)*

***Thank you for your support!***