



The Facts about British Columbia's Greenhouse Agriculture

The Fraser Valley provides one of the world's best combinations of sunlight and air temperature for greenhouse farming. British Columbians win three ways:

Economic contribution

- 8,000 jobs.
- One-half billion dollars in farm-gate sales mean over \$1½ billion in BC business activity.
- Accounts for 21 percent of the total value of BC agriculture – on only 0.01% of BC's ALR farmland.

Environmentally responsible farming

- Environmental stewardship through voluntary environmental farm planning.
- Conservation of land and water.
- Conservation of nutrients – Re-using water protects natural watercourses and reduces the reliance on fossil-fuel based fertilizers.
- Conservation of energy – Greenhouse operators utilize heat storage systems, efficient boilers, thermal blankets and fossil fuel alternatives.
- Responsible emissions – Biomass systems include state-of-the-art emission controls that meet or better provincial and federal standards. They help Canada and BC achieve their climate change goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Our greenhouses have the potential to save 500,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents – 37 times the CO₂ savings forecast for the Canada Line. The greenhouses also collect and recycle carbon dioxide emissions to grow crops.

Health-smart crops

- Locally produced vegetables and flowers.
- Strict and audited food safety practices provide food that can be trusted to be safe, nutritious and of highest quality.
- Minimal, if any, pesticides used for growing vegetables because of world-leading biological pest control methods.

Greenhouse farming produces 21 percent of British Columbia's total farm gate value on less than .01 percent of the province's ALR farmland while contributing less than 1 percent of the Lower Mainland's particulate air emissions. What other human activity that directly meets a basic human need can claim so much?

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