

SCiT Newsletter August 2015 post

Water Restrictions, Empowerment & Transition Streets Project

Gratitude:

You could feel a collective sigh of relief and smell the new freshness in the air after the rains fell last week! When the most severe Stage 4 water restrictions seemed inevitable, Nature and the collective efforts to conserve water by individuals in our community gave us some reprieve. Fire fighters were heroic. In addition, an agreement of sorts was reached between our local government and the farm- status, metered farmers. So, we have a breather and some time to reflect.

Honouring our Pain:

It can be scary when we wake up to lots of ash falling on our gardens and an eerie, orange, smoky sky. And it's very sad when a much loved and respected local firefighter loses his life while protecting people and their homes and vast areas of green forest. It also feels frustrating when there are still the farmers, seed savers and backyard food gardeners who don't have exemption if stage 4 comes into effect. Clearly our priorities for water restrictions in the earlier stages need to change so we can continue to grow our own food and save the seeds that are adapted to our community.

Looking through New Eyes:

What would it look like if we didn't close our eyes to the challenges we face, but instead came together to face them and make positive changes at the neighbourhood level?

Going Forth:

Twelve Sunshine Coast families have attempted to answer that question. They have just completed a pilot project called Transition Streets that offers practical, money saving actions to conserve water, as well as decreasing their carbon footprint in other areas. But they all agree that the best thing is the sense of empowerment gained by coming together to affect change.

Ref: Joanna Macy