

# Living Systems - Beyond Growth

## North Saanich, 20-22 May 2026

### Conference Preamble

In an era defined by rapid ecological shifts and evolving social needs, the traditional metrics of policy success must innovate. This two-day policy and planning conference brings together a multi-disciplinary cohort of municipal and regional planners, government officials, public health professionals, and academics to bridge the gap between visionary theory and institutional practices. Attendees will share their experiences of implementing the Doughnut Economics framework to policymaking and discuss the development of implementation-ready tools for local government policy.

Emphasizing applied learning over advocacy, the program pairs international and Canadian practice-based expertise with locally rooted panels. Participants will explore how to convert high-level policy objectives into measurable Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), data catalogues, and policy workflows. These tools are designed to be embedded in Official Community Plans (OCPs) and municipal reporting while simultaneously building community trust.

The conference aims to accelerate cross-regional and cross-sector collaboration to build regenerative, inclusive, and future-ready communities through the development of tools, metrics, and partnerships embedded within planning implementation processes.

### Executive Summary

*Living Systems Beyond Growth* aims to build local government capacity to design and implement practical and innovative tools of community planning using the Doughnut Economics framework. The combination of panels and workshops will bring together practitioners and academics to share and develop their expertise in designing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), data catalogues, and monitoring approaches aligned with Official Community Plans.

Drawing on applied expertise from the Doughnut Economics Action Lab and several municipalities, the conference emphasizes hands-on learning focused on three themes:

- i. **Sustainable Food Systems**
- ii. **Age-Friendly Wellbeing, and**
- iii. **Circular Economy practices.**

This conference directly supports the District of North Saanich's Official Community Plan (OCP), which embeds Doughnut Economics at its core, and the implementation plans that align with the OCP objectives. By translating policy into actionable and measurable tools, the conference aims to promote evidence-based decision-making, strengthen municipal reporting, and accelerate cross-sector collaboration within the framework of existing council-adopted policy.

### Intended impact:

- Equip planners and decision-makers with concrete measurement tools of policy governance to reduce ambiguity and support transparent evidence-based decisions.
- Build cross-sectoral capacity and networks across BC (and Vancouver Island communities) to accelerate scalable pilots and shared measurement approaches.
- Ensure municipal planning advances in resilience, social wellbeing, and long-term ecological stewardship in ways that are actionable within existing policy cycles.

### Target Audience

- Municipal and regional planners PIBC members
- Local government policy staff members
- Public health professionals and staff
- Academics, practitioners, experts, and graduate students.

# Workshop/Conference Programme

## May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Wednesday Afternoon

Meet and Greet – *bring along your story of inspiration and your go-to-recipe*

## May 21, 2026 Thursday

### Concept to Implementation

Session 1 (7:45 - 8:00)

*Welcome & OCP Context*

Session 2 (8:00 - 10:30)

*Doughnut Economic Action Lab  
- Leadership Panel –  
Kate Raworth & Lenora Grcheva  
& Ilektra Kouloumpi*

**Break (10:30 - 11:00)**

Session 3 (11:00 - 13:00):

*Systems Thinking & Capacity Building*

**Lunch (13:00 - 14:00)**

Session 4 (14:00 - 16:30):

*Food Systems within the Doughnut*

**Break (16:30 - 16:45)**

Session 5 (16:45 – 17:45):

*Rebuilding Community Trust -  
In Conversation with Felice Mazzoni*

**Dinner (18:05 - 20:30)**

## May 22, 2026, Friday:

### Practice to Innovation

Session 6 (8:00 - 10:00)

*Global & Local Perspectives on the  
Implementation of the Doughnut Economics*

**Break (10:00 – 10:30)**

Session 7 (10:30-12:30):

*Circular Economy Systems as Engines of  
Economic Growth (SIPP)*

**Lunch (12:30-1:30)**

Session 8 (1:30-3:00):

*Age-Friendly Communities & Quality of Life*

**Break (3:00-3:15)**

Closing Session (3:15:4:00)

Summary

Next Steps

Vote of Thanks

## Conference Committees

*Conference Chair:* Mayor Peter Jones

*Co-Chairs:* Cllr. Irene McConkey and Stephanie Munro

*Programming and Organizing Committee:* Felice Mazzoni & Cllr. Sanjiv Shrivastava

*Academic experts and advisors:*

**Accommodation:** It is recommended that attendees book their own accommodation. The town of Sidney has four hotels.

**Registration Fees:** Nil

**Contact email:** [LivingSystem2026@protonmail.com](mailto:LivingSystem2026@protonmail.com)