

# Common Ground

## Supporting and developing economically and environmentally sustainable community development initiatives in St. John's, Newfoundland



The mandate of Common Ground is to support and developing economically and environmentally sustainable community development initiatives in St. John's, Newfoundland, on the far eastern coast of Canada. Currently operating as an incorporated non-profit organization, we plan to restructure as a Community Development Cooperative in the near future. Common Ground currently runs the St. John's Safer Soil Project, which promotes safe and sustainable urban agriculture in areas affected by soil lead contamination. We operate an urban demonstration garden where we provide educational workshops, conduct green remediation trials, and grow organic produce for local charities. We are also operating a pilot Lead Safe Yard Project, which conducts soil testing and designs remediation plans for residential properties and community gardens. We are also branching out into other areas of sustainable agriculture. We have conducted Atlantic Canada's first field trial of biochar, an organic soil ammendment which can increase soil fertility, and reduce water and fertilizer requirements, while sequestering carbon in soil. We also have plans for a winter greenhouse that can grow food year round! In the future, we hope that Common Ground will initiate and support a wide variety of community development projects, which become member owners of the umbrella cooperative. We also studying permaculture design and have a particular interest in re-launching a local currency in our community to support these initiatives.

Project author or developer:  
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Where:  
**CA / Canada / Division No. 1**

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