

Chris Hildreth – TOPSOIL – Innovative Urban Agriculture

<https://www.topsoileatlocal.com>

Chris Hildreth graduated from the University of Victoria in 2015 with a minor in business and a double major in environmental studies and sociology.

He focused his entire academic career towards the pursuit of creating a sustainable business that would merge environmental sustainability with economic profitability.

In 2013, Chris began visualizing an urban agriculture business that would walk fresh local produce straight into local restaurant kitchens.

The idea quickly grew from a 400 square foot pilot project, to a 20,000 square feet urban agriculture business which has produced thousands of pounds of produce for over 30 local restaurants and hundreds of community members.

Chris will be discussing why he started TOPSOIL and his journey on building the first modular commercial urban agriculture business on Vancouver Island and the many possibilities of growing food in containers in any city. With nearly 3,000 containers currently on his urban agriculture site at Dockside Green, he has been able to grow thousands of pounds of produce for over 30 restaurants and hundreds of community members.

Chris is focused on maximizing yields and systematizing his farming operation to prove that farming can be environmentally and socially responsible while being economically viable.