

Environmental Scan of Food Actions by City of Hamilton Departments December 2013, updated July 2014

Departmental Actions

Food System Component	Actions Identified on other City Food Strategies with highlighted overlay of Hamilton actions:		
	Green Lots of progress		
	Yellow Started, in initial phases or limited in activity, scope, or resources		
	Red Gaps		
	Hamilton City Departments:		
	Department	Resources (FTEs)	Funding/Cost (\$)
	Community and Emergency Services	2.0	\$ 509,590
	Public Works	0.25	\$5,000 (estimated, not specifically budgeted)
	Public Health Services	5.0 (1 FTE for BFI)	\$10,000 (\$5000 for BFI)
	Planning and Economic Development	.75	\$30,000 in 2014 (\$15K biannual map also allocated for 2015): Rezoning for Urban Agriculture \$8000
Corporate Services		\$171,240 in 2014 Hamilton Farmers’ Market (City of Hamilton Levy) \$699,170 in 2014 Hamilton Farmers’ Market Budget	
Council (e.g., grants, ward, area rating contributions)		\$100,000 Mobile Farmers Market \$16,000 Student Nutrition Programs \$30, 000 Community Gardens \$7,950 Victory Gardens \$80,000 Food4Kids 20,000 annually for the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Grants	
	Started, in initial phases or limited in activity, scope, or resources		

<p>Land & Space for Agriculture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and expand urban agricultural initiatives identifying barriers and opportunities (i.e. McQuesten neighbourhood, feasibility of community garden at Sackville Seniors Centre, school gardens) (PW, CES) • Conduct a land inventory identifying land suitable for urban agriculture (An inventory of City-owned land suitable for community gardens has been developed.)(PW) <p>Gaps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess suitability of public land for community gardening prior to sale or transfer by the city • Develop a food system review process in considering development applications, rezoning and community plans • Implement a food system toolkit to support development applicants • Preserve the affordability of industrial land reducing relocation of food processors outside of city boundaries • Create an inventory of available land and rooftops which could be used for food production • Encourage private organizations to utilize land rooftops, balconies and terrace space for food production (economic incentives – property tax reduction, charitable donation receipt) • Utilize municipal building rooftops to support urban agriculture and lead food growing initiatives • Ensure security of occupancy of community gardens & orchards on City land • Consider opportunities for year-round community gardening in City greenhouses supporting gardening and foods prioritizing ethno-cultural foods
<p>Farming & Food Production</p>	<p>Lots of progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable commercial food production as a defined use on zoned lands (PED) • Increase urban agriculture initiatives (i.e. Community garden at Station 32, and Lodges, potential for an orchard in Keith Neighbourhood, an urban farm pilot in McQuesten Neighbourhood, access to water and compost for urban agriculture) (PW, CES, PHS [.05 FTE]) • Review and update community garden policies as needed (PW) • Provide opportunities for urban gleaning (i.e. food/vegetable gardens on City properties) (PW) • Encourage charitable garden programs (i.e. Station 32 community garden, Victory Gardens, Recreation programming that incorporates gardening into the Summer Day Camp, After School program and Child Family Centre by programming visits to the garden to assist with planting, weeding, watering and harvesting) (CES, PW) <p>Started, in initial phases or limited in activity, scope, or resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote edible landscapes incorporating vegetables/food plants along residential streets, traffic circles and into landscaping plans for commercial, institutional, parks and residential areas (i.e. vegetable garden in front of City Hall in 2011, York Blvd. in front of the Farmers' Market in 2013, and planned for behind City Hall in 2014) (PW) • Encourage and support community garden/orchard development – with water access, compost (PW)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide healthy soil guidelines and contaminant protocol for urban gardeners (PHS) • Review and update land use policies, zoning and bylaws to support urban agriculture and urban farm markets (PED) • Encourage food gardens in social housing (CES) <p>Gaps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore rainwater harvesting opportunities and use as an alternative water source for urban agriculture • Encourage private landowners to support community gardening groups through land donation/land sharing • Explore a social housing garden strategy • Integrate urban agriculture into affordable/community housing infrastructure – rooftop gardens, community gardens • Establish a 3-year soil testing program providing free soil testing for community gardeners Develop plain language materials outlining City policies, regulations and bylaws pertaining to urban agriculture – ‘How to Guide’ • Introduce an urban farming business license category (OMAFRA) • Ensure security of occupancy of community gardens/orchards on city property • Support new farmers through mentorship and training (incubator farms) • Develop resources to assist departments, businesses and agencies develop edible landscapes (appropriate plant choices and design guidelines) • Increase planting of fruit bearing trees • Support children’s gardening, nutrition and nature programs through the development of children’s gardens initiatives • Develop a urban agriculture toolkit (policies, calendar, workshops, resources) • Replace dead/dying trees with fruit or nut producing trees • Participate in ‘Plant a Row-Grow a Row’ program encouraging community gardeners to donate produce to food banks or recreation centres
<p>Processing & Distribution from a Business Perspective</p>	<p>Lots of progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support small food business start-up and explore incentive devices (One Stop business development office) (PED) • Conduct a food industry capacity (completed study as part of Golden Horseshoe) (PED) <p>Started, in initial phases or limited in activity, scope, or resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight employment opportunities in the food sector (in collaboration with Workforce Planning Hamilton, OW works with employers in food industry, opportunities for social enterprise) (CES, PHS) • Review of healthy food procurement in recreation facilities (CES, PHS) <p>Gaps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support food based social enterprises • Develop a business plan, governance model, ownership structure for food hubs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a business plan, governance model and ownership structure for a food business incubator • Conduct a scan of local food procurement and distribution infrastructure • Identify opportunities for co-production (sharing of processing facilities utilizing common infrastructure for processing, packaging and distribution) (3) • Consider food access and distribution as part of the City transportation plan
Processing & Distribution from a Social Assistance perspective	<p>Lots of progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include food activities into programming delivered at recreation and community centres (CES) • Include healthy choices at Ontario Works (OW) offices (CES) <p>Started, in initial phases or limited in activity, scope, or resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand provision of nutritious foods from emergency food service providers and recreation drop-in programs (Recreation has funding to include nutrition program/programming) (CES) • Facilitate access to healthy food for those in need and advocacy/promotion of adequate income to purchase nutritious food (CES) • Coordinate and integrate emergency food distribution (Helping to establish standards for emergency food provision, supporting development of community food centres) (CES, PHS) • Continue to support food based community organizations ex Good Food Box program (Implementing and evaluating the Good2Go Food Box Pilot) (CES, PHS) <p>Gaps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the work of Community Food Animators and neighbourhood food networks in initiating community kitchens, community gardens or produce markets particularly in underserved neighbourhoods • Introduce a community food handler certification and food skills training pilot directed towards individuals on social assistance or low income strengthening employment opportunities • Develop plain language information materials outlining requirements for commercial kitchens and food-related City policies • Integrate community kitchens and food initiatives into social housing sites • Conduct an environmental scan of community kitchens, challenges and under-utilized facilities • Support community based food initiatives through the integration of community kitchen facilities into community hubs or neighbourhood networks. • Support and encourage volunteer participation in the Community Harvest Ontario program including gleaning, accessing edible surplus and farmland donation
Buying	<p>Lots of progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support marketing of local foods and food businesses (marketing and signage for farmers' markets, local food procurement for Tastebuds Student Nutrition Collaborative) (PED, PHS)

<p>& Selling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review farmers' market policy (permit process, fees, licensing, fresh food retail) (PED) • Develop a strategic plan for farmers' markets identifying distribution, relationship with larger markets, current gaps and infrastructure (PED) <p>Started, in initial phases or limited in activity, scope, or resources</p>
<p>Buying & Selling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of farmers' markets (PED) • Support for purchasing of healthy, local and sustainable food in city facilities. (Supplements for the healthy food and beverage policy that is currently being implemented) (CES) • Aid in the mapping of food related assets such as food stores, restaurants, food banks, markets, gardens, recreation centres (PHS Food Access Guide, PED mapped locations of food processing, distribution centres, and grocery stores, Farm map) (PHS, PED) • Improve access to healthy food options through pilot programs such as mobile food vending and healthy corner stores initiatives (PHS) • Identify neighbourhoods where access to healthy affordable food is an issue and identify opportunities for enabling greater access (CES, PHS) • Celebrate local food and promote food tourism – festivals, food showcases (PED) • Develop strategies to attract food retail (PED) • Consider opportunities for supporting farmers markets on sites providing access to electricity and water (PW) • Consider food access in reviewing health impacts of the built environment (PHS, PED) <p>Gaps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a standardized training and certification program for individuals responsible for purchasing, preparation and sale of food in schools • Explore opportunities for direct urban farm sales, food distribution hubs and pre-approved CSA distribution sites located in community centres/schools • Connect producers with consumers • Remove zoning bylaw barriers to establishing markets/farm stands and mobile vending in community centres, schools, parks • Pilot a healthy and fresh food retail point at one of the transportation stations where there is high traffic flow and lacks healthy food retail options • Support purchasing of local, sustainable food in park facilities • Increase purchasing of local and sustainable food in community centres, childcare centres and community housing • Examine opportunities for integrating community food markets into community centre programming • Establish community food markets as an alternative food sales point and develop the necessary application process
<p>Consumption</p>	<p>Lots of progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the local school board(s) to monitor/evaluate the provincial school food and beverage policy, and with child care centres to

	<p>increase access to food resources and healthy sustainable foods (PHS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor adherence to food and safety regulations pertaining to food growing, process, selling (community gardens, kitchens, farm gate sales etc.) (PHS) • Strengthen the food skills and literacy of city residents (buy, grow, prepare) (i.e. Promoting healthy food choices in the Community Food Advisor Program, Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program, Healthy Babies Healthy Children program, Ontario Early Years Centres programs, teacher workshops, and through NutriStep screening, and designating city facilities as Baby Friendly) (PHS) <p>Started, in initial phases or limited in activity, scope, or resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand student nutrition programs and support local food procurement (PHS) • Develop a student nutrition strategy identifying best practices, administrative structures, children's health outcomes and cost (PHS) • In collaboration with school boards integrate food activities into school programming (PHS) • Increase access to food resources and information supporting and celebrating healthy, sustainable foods (PHS) <p>Gap at municipal level, but currently being filled by community agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support newcomer nutrition programs identifying issues of access to culturally appropriate foods, navigating supermarkets, adapting recipes, food market messaging
Waste	<p>Lots of progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate food composting in City facilities and for community residents (Green cart collection program, backyard/worm composters) (PW) • Expanded food scrap collection (PW) <p>Started, in initial phases or limited in activity, scope, or resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce food waste – monitor, recover for animal consumption/composting/bio-energy Support strategies to reduce food packaging (i.e. City supports various EPR initiatives and comments on proposed provincial legislation.) (PW) <p>Gaps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage proper disposal of contaminated soil and hazardous waste (remove soil disposal fee for sites that are being converted to gardens)
Overall	<p>Lots of Progress Provide staff support to Community Food Security Stakeholder Committee (PHS, CES, PED, PW)</p>