



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	December 4, 2017
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Food Strategy Implementation Plan BOH13001(f) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Sandy Skrzypczyk (905) 546-2424, Ext. 3523
SUBMITTED BY & SIGNATURE:	Kevin McDonald Acting Director, Healthy Environments Division Public Health Services Department

Council Direction:

The Board of Health at its meeting of August 11, 2016 approved the Food Strategy BOH13001(d) (City Wide) Recommendation Report, which included that:

- (d) The Interdepartmental Food Strategy Steering Team be directed to develop an Implementation Plan for the Food Strategy Actions to be submitted to the Board of Health. The plan will include: identification of a corporate or community lead; estimated completion timelines; establish monitoring and evaluation measures; identification where policy changes or additional financial or staffing resources would be required; and,
 - (i) Actions that have policy, financial, or staffing implications will be required to report back to an appropriate Standing Committee for approval prior to implementation.

This Information Report provides the Food Strategy Implementation Plan and an overview of highlights achieved to date on the Food Strategy; and this item can be removed from the Outstanding Business List.

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Information:

In August 2012, the Board of Health requested that a comprehensive Food Strategy be developed. In 2013, the Interdepartmental Food Strategy Steering Team formed, with representation from Public Health Services, Planning and Economic Development, Community and Emergency Services, and Public Works departments. After an extensive review of existing practices and evidence, a formal Food Strategy community engagement process was conducted in 2015, with over 2700 citizens providing input. In August 2016, the Board of Health received the BOH 13001(d) - Food Strategy Recommendation Report and endorsed the Hamilton Food Strategy: Healthy, Sustainable, and Just Food for All.

The Food Strategy provides the following vision for our community, “A city with a sustainable food system where all people at all times have economic and physical access to enough safe, nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences.” Core principles, based on Hamilton’s Food Charter, underpin the Strategy and the four overarching Goals, while 14 Recommendations and 46 Actions based on a food system framework identify initiatives to achieve the four goals. In 2016, five Priority Actions from the 46 Actions were identified to focus on first and have either been completed or are underway.

A Food Strategy Implementation Plan (attached as Appendix A) has been developed to guide the undertaking of the majority of the 46 Food Strategy’s Actions over the next several years. Implementation activities for a few actions are still being finalized at this time or remain underdetermined. Going forward, there is a strong commitment to explore opportunities within the City and the community to ensure all 46 Actions are achieved.

Highlights of Food Strategy Achievements to Date

In addition to progress on the Food Strategy’s Priority Actions, other Actions have been completed or initiated as highlighted below:

Food Strategy Goal(s)	Food Strategy Action Highlights from September 2016 to November 2017
Goal 1: Support food friendly neighbourhoods to improve access to healthy food for all residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In collaboration with Ryerson University’s Centre for Studies in Food Security, Public Health Registered Dietitians are completing a kitchen scan to assess the availability of community facilities with kitchens that may be used by groups who wish to engage in food skills programs• Public Health Food Strategy staff are providing consultation for the incorporation of a kitchen into the renovation of Riverdale Recreation Centre

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health Food Strategy staff are providing consultation support to a CityLAB project: Food Waste Recovery at McMaster University in conjunction with the Academic Sustainability Program
Goal 2: Increase food literacy to promote healthy eating and empower all residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Food Literacy Network Forum was held October 2016, bringing together 27 community stakeholders who support learning about and working with food in order to share their work, as well as their ideas about food literacy and the formation of a Hamilton Food Literacy Network (HFLN); a core group stepped forward to guide the HFLN. The core HFLN members have developed an action plan to advance the HFLN; the first priorities are to develop a communication mechanism to disseminate information and connect people involved in food literacy programs and initiatives. In the upcoming 2018 winter term, McMaster University's DeGroote School of Business MBA Health Care and Marketing course term project will focus on best practices for digital tools to facilitate communication about food literacy. Public Health Registered Dietitians developed healthy eating lesson plans and provided Train-the-Trainer in-service to Recreation Centre coordinators with food programs within their facilities.
Goal 3: Support local food and help grow the agri-food sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning staff completed Action 3.1: Create a toolkit to assist landowners to incorporate food system elements into developments. In the 2017 winter term, McMaster University's DeGroote School of Business MBA Health Care and Marketing course term project focused on Hamilton's Farm Map. Results and recommendations from the MBA students' projects have informed the next version of the Farm Map. By leveraging existing agricultural and culinary assets, staff from Public Health, Economic Development, Tourism, and IT is developing an enhanced Farm Map that will provide a more engaging web and social media experience. This will be the first phase in building a more comprehensive food-focused online portal to attract Hamiltonians and visitors to celebrate our local food and agricultural story. Economic Development and Public Health staff are collaborating in partnership with Mohawk College's Sustainability Office to reach out to local farms to participate in

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	<p>the Farm Map, which is expected to be available in Spring 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOSH is in its second year. This week-long celebration of Hamilton's culinary scene took place during National Small Business Week from October 16 to 22, 2017. • Public Health staff support the Mohawk College's Sustainability Office's local food procurement initiative. • Public Health Registered Dietitian responded to provincial consultations on land use planning documents (October 2016) highlighting the need to preserve agricultural land for growing nutritious food and improving access to local, healthy food.
<p>Goal 4: Advocate for a healthy, sustainable, and just food system with partners and at all levels of government</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Action 1 (Funding Criteria and Process) was completed and endorsed by Board of Health in June, 2017. • To address food insecurity/poverty reduction, PHS and CES staff on the Food Strategy Interdepartmental Steering Team have attended monthly meetings of Hamilton Basic Income to provide support and collaboration on activities where it aligns with our work. This has included <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - participation in the consultations related to the Ontario Basic Income Pilot (November 2016; January, June, August 2017) - responding to federal consultations on poverty reduction (February 2017) - joint coordination with the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction of a Town Hall meeting on Basic Income on May 29, 2017 - planning and coordination of a community event "Basic Income: What Hamilton Homeowner Should Know" on October 23, 2017 • In November 2017, the BOH17041 Report recommends the continuation of Public Health Services' monitoring of the cost of the Nutritious Food Basket (NFB). PHS uses the NFB data as an education tool to increase awareness among the Board of Health, community partners, and the general public about health issues associated with food insecurity and to support health equity work by generating local evidence of food insecurity and the impacts of limited incomes.

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Resources: Funding, Policy, and Staffing

Currently, identified implementation activities within the Food Strategy Implementation Plan are being carried out within existing allocated funding, policies, and staffing. Any future actions that have policy, financial, or staffing implications will be required to report back to an appropriate Standing Committee for approval prior to implementation.

Measuring the Food Strategy's Success

The availability of data impacts establishing baseline measures and indicators. Measurement tools change over time and the resources required to gather and update local data is not always available. With these factors in mind, attention has been given to creating indicators to help inform the monitoring and evaluation of the Food Strategy.

As work progresses throughout the implementation of the Food Strategy, modifications of the indicators may be required to ensure relevance to the current context. Indicators to track progress and evaluate effectiveness are outlined in the Food Strategy Implementation Plan.

Supporting the Implementation of the Food Strategy

The Food Strategy provides a single policy framework that integrates the full spectrum of the food system to coordinate existing and emerging food issues and actions. Active involvement of the City, citizens, and community partners strengthens coordination and collaboration, which results in better services, better use of resources, and better decision-making. Strong partnerships and collective responsibility ensures that food actions happen holistically across our local food system.

Everyone who has a stake in food systems initiatives, such as rural and urban agriculture, social enterprise, food procurement, food retail, etc., is instrumental in sharing their knowledge, learning and talking about, contributing to, and participating in the implementation of the Food Strategy.



The Interdepartmental Food Strategy Steering Team acknowledges that the successful implementation of the Food Strategy is dependent upon the efforts and cooperation of many people. Since the Board of Health endorsement of the Food Strategy in August 2016, several community stakeholders have connected to staff to explore and contribute to the Food Strategy Actions. Moving forward, staff is committed to keeping up this momentum by strengthening their engagement of the broader community, stakeholders, and partners in the implementation of Food Strategy. To guide this undertaking, any new Food Strategy implementation activities will be identified based on where there is existing momentum, opportunities for partnerships, and potential to add capacity.

Like any strategy or plan, the Food Strategy is considered a living document that is open to review and consideration of new opportunities with strong potential to ensure Hamilton has a healthy, sustainable, and just food system. In turn, the Food Strategy Implementation Plan is also a living document that is expected to evolve with changing needs and opportunities in the community. It will be regularly reviewed by the Interdepartmental Food Strategy Steering Team, with input from the Food Advisory Committee and other community partners. We acknowledge that the Food Strategy vision can only be met with the ongoing participation of all those who have contributed to date and new partners not yet realized.

Annual updates on the Food Strategy's progress will be provided to the Board of Health and the broader community on the Food Strategy's progress in creating a healthy, sustainable, and just food system for all.

Appendices/Schedules Attached:

Appendix A to Report BOH13001(f) – Hamilton Food Strategy Implementation Plan