

Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance

Action Plan Presentation



The Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance

- Not-for-profit partnership among municipalities, agricultural groups, educational institutions, and provincial ministries
- Alliance co-ordinates projects and efforts to support the agri-food sector in the Golden Horseshoe
- In 2012, The Alliance produced an Action Plan to set goals and guide activities over a 10-year planning horizon



Golden Horseshoe Agriculture & AgriFood Strategy
Food & Farming: An Action Plan 2021



January 2017



Action Plan 2021-2026



The Vision

The Golden Horseshoe is globally renowned as a vibrant and sustainable agri-food cluster, characterized by profitable farming operations of all sizes, a thriving hub of food processing and food retail, extensive research capacity, and innovative technology.



GOAL A:

The GHFFA is recognized as the leading organization with expertise on food and farming issues and opportunities in the Golden Horseshoe Region of Ontario.

- refine its organizational capacity
- grow influence and impact by building new partnerships,
- strengthen existing institutional connections, and ensure that members recognize the value in the Alliance's collaborative approach

Ref.	Objectives and Action Items
A.2	Advocate on behalf of the agri-food cluster in the Golden Horseshoe.
A.2.1	Collaborate with Alliance members to design and implement a series of workshops (up to 5) and roundtables (2) to elevate the agri-food cluster in the Golden Horseshoe. (See action items, B.1.1, B.1.2, B.1.3, B.2.3, C.1.5).
A.2.2	Collaborate with Alliance members to develop short, plain language position papers to be published annually to support the agri-food sector in the Golden Horseshoe (up to 5). These position papers should bring forward the latest research and examples of innovative policies aimed at supporting a thriving and dynamic agri-food supply chain. They may include papers responding to policy challenges, or proactive papers based on emerging opportunities. For example, one of the position papers should explore land tenure agreements that provide entrepreneurial opportunities for new entrants to the farm and food sector.
A.2.3	Engage with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce Agriculture and Agri-food Policy Committee , CAPI, Arrell Food Institute, Bioenterprise , the TCI Network , Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, and others to enhance the national presence of the Golden Horseshoe agri-food cluster. For example, Foodvalley in the Netherlands is a nationally-recognized agri-food cluster.
A.2.4	Organize regular Queen's Park Days to highlight how the agri-food sector in the Golden Horseshoe is an economic driver in Ontario.
A.2.5	Advocate for expanding access to high-speed internet to enhance equity in economic opportunity across rural and urban communities in the Golden Horseshoe.
A.2.6	Continue to ensure municipal partners (including single, upper and lower-tier municipalities) in the Golden Horseshoe have committed planning and economic development staff roles with a focus on the agri-food sector. Encourage interdepartmental collaboration at the municipal level beyond economic development and planning to support the agri-food cluster and continue to collaborate across municipalities.

GOAL B:

Establish the Golden Horseshoe as Canada's leading innovative agriculture and agri-food cluster.

- support and drive efforts across the region to enable economic growth in the Golden Horseshoe's agri-food sector.
- Convene knowledge sharing events, fostering relationships from diverse perspectives, coordinating data resources to inform decision making
- Encourage innovation and research to grow the cluster.

Ref.	Objectives and Action Items
B.1.5	Showcase opportunities in the Golden Horseshoe for intensive market garden, urban agriculture and urban farming business development. Begin by hosting an Alliance Board and Working Group meeting at Durham College Centre for Food.
B.1.6	Support initiatives that promote agri-food sector employment by hosting 2-4 series of Feeding Your Future career fairs within each of the Golden Horseshoe regions/cities.
B.1.7	Explore funding and/or training/skills development opportunities that exist within the Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development relevant for agri-food cluster development.
B.2	Enable municipal and other agri-food cluster stakeholders to enhance data-driven decision making across the Golden Horseshoe.
B.2.1	Develop an economic snapshot of the agri-food sector in the Golden Horseshoe that includes labour market data to attract agri-food manufacturing opportunities to the Golden Horseshoe.
B.2.2	Explore the opportunity to develop open and/or fee-based access portals within the ConnectON tool. Continue to build on opportunities for collaboration with the Agricultural System portal.
B.2.3	Host 1–2 mapping workshops by 2026 to teach interested municipal partners about the full suite of ConnectON asset mapping capabilities to foster economic development activity. Workshops may be virtual and consist of a combination of formal presentations and hands-on peer-to-peer learning opportunities. Municipal partners can include those within the Golden Horseshoe and elsewhere in Ontario.

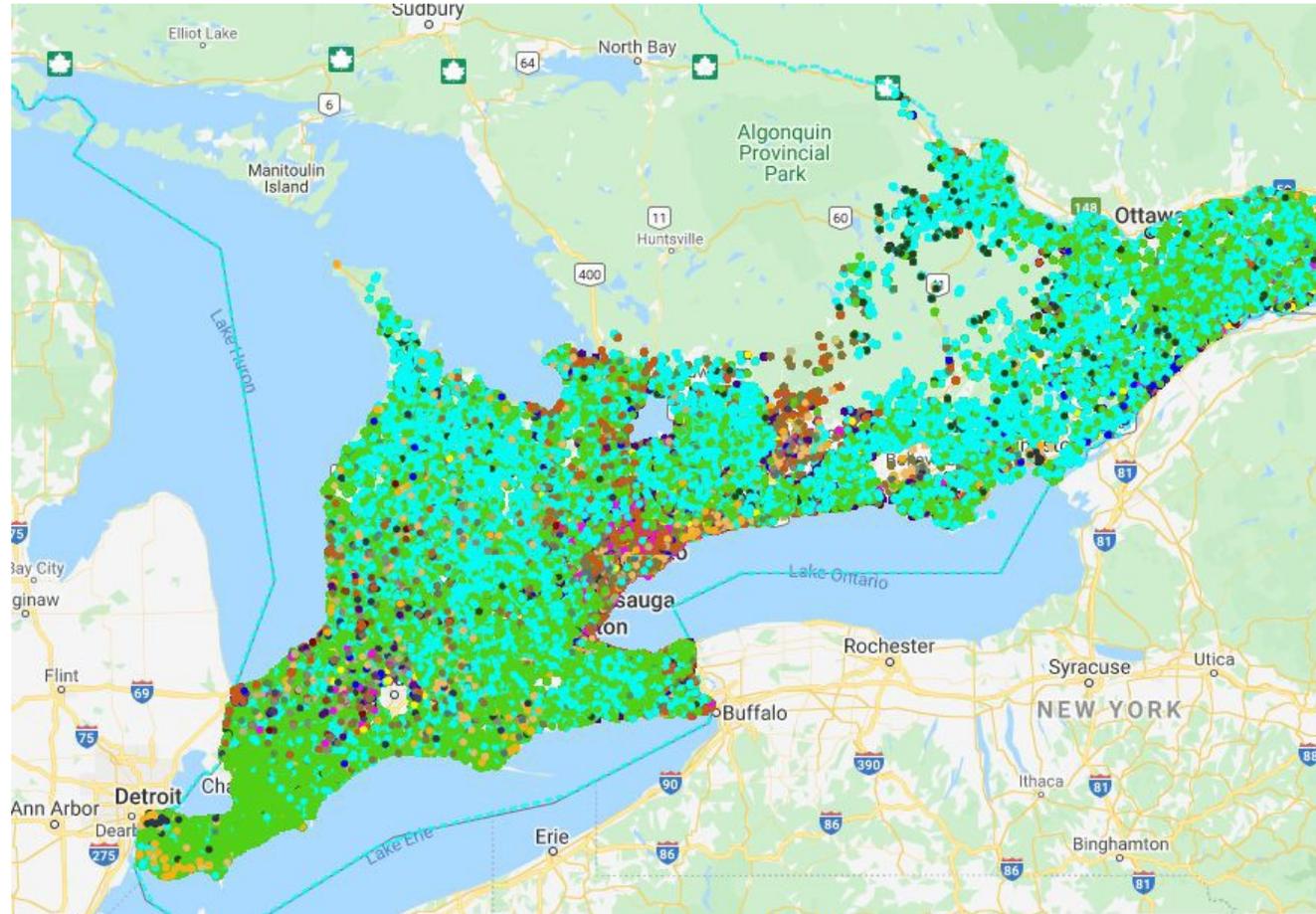
ConnectONDataOverview



50+
Municipalities



200+
Users



Total Number of Assets in ConnectON: 102,079



ConnectON

GOAL C:

Enable the agri-food cluster to support sustainability outcomes.

Sustainability outcomes include

- long-term environmental stewardship
- participation in climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts
- ensuring inclusive and socially responsive agri-food sector

Critical to support the three pillars of sustainability—economy, society, and the environment—to achieve a truly vibrant, inclusive, and equitable agri-food cluster.

Ref.	Objectives and Action Items
C.1	Enhance the economic capacity of agricultural land in the Golden Horseshoe.
C.1.4	Share best practices and lessons learned to encourage consistent treatment of the on-farm diversified uses as defined in <i>A Place to Grow</i> , the <i>Greenbelt Plan</i> , and OMAFRA guidelines across the Golden Horseshoe.
C.1.5	Identify a partner to host 2–3 educational workshops to address farm and business succession/transition issues.
C.1.6	Support cross promotion of agritourism activities across the Golden Horseshoe and explore opportunities to develop regional agritourism activities such as “Farm Fresh” initiatives and “Culinary Trails.”



Read the full report at
www.foodandfarming.ca
