

## For Information Only

### Position Paper on Local Food Systems and the Official Plan

Presented To:	Planning Committee
Presented:	Monday, Mar 04, 2013
Report Date	Tuesday, Feb 19, 2013
Type:	Managers' Reports

### Recommendation

For Information.

## Background

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief summary on local food systems and how it relates to the Official Plan. The report will highlight the work that has already been accomplished in the City and the importance of introducing Official Plan policies to assist and expand on the local capacity already in place. Finally the report will make some suggestions regarding how the Official Plan could be modified to support and build upon the strong local food base that already exists in Greater Sudbury.

Food is a key part of the daily lives of all Greater Sudburians. Local food systems and by extension, local food security, are issues that have been gaining traction in North America for several years. Food, and especially the production of local food, plays an important role in supporting community economic development, promoting health, conserving the environment and building strong, resilient and diverse communities. [i]

Food systems are complex and operate simultaneously at multiple scales. A food system is generally defined as a set of food related activities including agriculture, processing, distribution, consumption, and waste management, each with its attendant social, environmental and economic dimensions. Municipalities are uniquely positioned to play a significant role in identifying problems and challenges within the local food system and assist in the development of solutions. [ii]

One of the unique traits of local food systems, from a land use planning perspective, is the fact that it is an issue that encompasses a number of organizations and different interest groups. Recent research has found that there are hundreds of people who are actively working to promote local sustainable food in Ontario in a variety of capacities, from community garden organizers to farm inspectors to local economic development officers. Because they are mostly working at a very local, grassroots level, and because there

#### Signed By

**Report Prepared By**

Kris Longston  
Senior Planner  
*Digitally Signed Feb 19, 13*

**Reviewed By**

Mark Simeoni  
Manager of Community and Strategic Planning  
*Digitally Signed Feb 19, 13*

**Recommended by the Division**

Paul Baskcomb  
Director of Planning Services  
*Digitally Signed Feb 19, 13*

**Recommended by the Department**

Bill Lautenbach  
General Manager of Growth and Development  
*Digitally Signed Feb 20, 13*

**Recommended by the C.A.O.**

Doug Nadorozny  
Chief Administrative Officer  
*Digitally Signed Feb 20, 13*

is so much work to do, many of them are unfamiliar with all the other people who are working on similar or related projects, whose efforts may complement their own. [iii]

The growing interest in local food in North America is also present in the City of Greater Sudbury, as evidenced partially by the input received as part of the Official Plan review process, but mainly by the number of groups dedicated to advancing local food issues that already exist in the City, including a Greater Sudbury Food Policy Council that is in its initial stages. To further explore the potential relationships between local food and the Official Plan, the City hosted a half day workshop with local food stakeholders. Staff have also been researching how other municipalities have been addressing local food issues in their Official Plans.

## **Input into Five Year Review**

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, the City hosted a special meeting under the Planning Act to formally commence the Five Year Official Plan review process. During this meeting, one of the major issues identified by the public was local food systems.

As seen in other parts of Ontario and North America, the comments received reflected a desire by the community for stronger policies related to promoting and protecting local food systems in the Official Plan. In general, there was a desire expressed to:

- Promote local food production;
- Increase the size of the agricultural reserve;
- Support urban agriculture (i.e. community gardens);
- Encourage the creation of small mixed production farms (e.g. 10 ac);
- Allow small scale chicken farming in urban areas (in appropriate locations);
- Expand the agricultural policies to include a list of permitted processing ventures in agriculture and rural areas; and
- Allow more opportunities for local food producers to market and sell their produce.

## **City of Greater Sudbury Official Plan**

In the context of local food systems, the current Official Plan is heavily focused on the “production” aspect, or more specifically on the preservation of agricultural lands in the Agricultural Reserve. In this regard the current Official Plan is functioning as intended and at this time aligns with the current and draft Provincial Policy Statements. In addition to its strong agricultural land policies, the current Official Plan also speaks to the long history of farming in the community and the City’s commitment to a permanent farmers market in the downtown.

In the more holistic context of “Local Food Systems” it is important to recognize that agricultural lands in their capacity for food production are one piece of a larger local food system picture. Specifically, some of the comments received as part of the Official Plan Review have indicated that local food should be considered as part of larger complex system including:

- Growing it (Production Sector)
- Making it (Processing Sector)
- Selling it (Marketing and Distribution Sector)
- Eating it (Service and Consumption Sectors) and
- Returning it (Waste Use and Disposal Sectors)

Looking at local food in this context in the Official Plan would involve expanding the existing policies and programs beyond agricultural land policies to new opportunities such as urban food production, local food action plans, community gardens and commercial kitchens to name a few. Moving the Official Plan in this

direction would help strengthen the work that has already been done in the City by local groups and would show the City's commitment to the importance of local food.

## Local Food System Workshop

Given the amount of interest expressed in local food systems and related issues as part of the Official Plan review, the City coordinated a half day workshop on November 20<sup>th</sup> with local food stakeholders to identify issues and explore how they could possibly be addressed through the City's Official Plan. Approximately 40 people from a variety of backgrounds attended the workshop, including farmers, producers, restaurant owners, professors, Provincial and Federal government representatives, members of the Sudbury & District Health Unit, nonprofit organizations, Science North, City Staff and members of Council.

Following presentations by Peggy Baillie of Eat Local Sudbury on the importance of local food, and by City Staff on how local food relates to land use planning and the Official Plan, the attendees were divided into working groups to address the following questions:

1. What is currently working in the Official Plan, City and surrounding area in terms of local food systems?
2. What local food system issues need to be addressed?
3. What should the City's role be in strengthening local food systems? and
4. What changes to local food systems would you like to see happen in the next five years?

The purpose of the questions was to identify areas where land use planning tools, and specifically Official Plan policies, could be used to bolster local food systems in Greater Sudbury. The outcomes of the workshop are available in the attached report "Local Food Production Workshop Summary". Out of all of the responses, several larger themes began to emerge that could form the basis of Official Plan policy on local food systems, namely:

- Develop a local food action plan;
- Build on the local food programs and capacity already in place in Greater Sudbury;
- Increase urban food production (i.e. community gardens, greenhouses, backyard chickens, etc.);
- Recognize the impact that local food production has on the local economy;
- Preserve agricultural areas while recognizing the land issues surrounding small scale farming;
- Identify and remove barriers to local food (i.e. by-laws, zoning restrictions, abbatoirs, etc.);
- Build public awareness around the importance of local food systems;
- Build resilience and capacity in the local food supply;
- Make public lands available for urban food production;
- Use the City's GIS mapping capabilities to support local food system capacity building;
- Identify local food assets;
- Identify public lands with a capacity for food production and make them available for use as community gardens;
- Identify food deserts, and make it possible for local food to be available in all areas of the City;
- Develop programs to attract new farmers to the area;
- Set local food production targets;
- Work with farmers and educators to promote agriculture as a career choice;
- Investigate incorporating food production into the City's park system, and
- Develop a commercial kitchen for use by local food groups.

In summary, there is a large role for the City to play in terms of supporting local food systems through Official Plan goals and policies.

# Local Food System Work Completed to Date

While the concept of a local food system is a new in the context of Official Plan policy, it is not a new issue in Greater Sudbury. Many groups, organizations and individuals (including the City) have invested considerable time and resources into developing and expanding local food systems and have been very successful. The following is a sample of some of the ongoing local food system initiatives in Greater Sudbury:

## ***City of Greater Sudbury Food Charter***

In 2004 the City of Greater Sudbury, the Sudbury and District Board of Health, the municipalities of Killarney and St. Charles and the Township of Tehkummah adopted a Food Charter. The charter states:

***Given that*** access to safe, affordable, nutritious food is a basic human right of individuals and communities, and connects us to our families, our cultures, and our traditions;

***And that*** community food security is a comprehensive approach that includes all components of the food system, from producers to consumers, and promotes regional food self-reliance;

***And that*** having a food secure community is the foundation of population health, social justice, community-based economic development, and a sustainable environment;

***Therefore, the Food Security Network of the Sudbury and Manitoulin Districts, including The City of Greater Sudbury, the Social Planning Council of Sudbury, and the Sudbury & District Health Unit, will work towards the development and implementation of a community food security mandate that supports research, policies, and programs that will endorse:***

### ***1) Population Health and Wellness:***

- *Individual and household food security as a determinant of health;*
- *Adequate income, employment, housing, and transportation policies that ensure food accessibility and availability to all citizens; and*
- *Nutritional education and healthy food choices in schools, businesses and public places.*

### ***2) Community Development:***

- *An annual community food security report card;*
- *Food self-reliance through community-based food programs, such as community gardens, fresh food box programs and collective kitchens;*
- *Multi-cultural food festivals and cultural events;*
- *An emergency food preparedness plan; and*
- *The involvement of the community in developing food security solutions.*

### ***3) Investment in the Regional Food System:***

- *A regionally-based and community-driven food system;*
- *The viability of agricultural and rural communities;*
- *The development of regional value-added agricultural production, food processing and distribution systems; and*
- *The promotion of regional food products at farmer's markets, farm-gate sales and local food outlets.*

#### **4) The Development of a Sustainable Food System:**

- *Public and institutional education on the interdependence between the food system and a sustainable environment;*
- *Scientifically proven best management agricultural practices and regional crop varieties;*
- *The development and implementation of renewable technologies in the expansion of the regional food system;*
- *The reduction of persistent toxic chemicals that can accumulate within the food chain;*
- *Sustainable waste management practices; and*
- *Support for initiatives that minimize the loss of bio-diversity, resource depletion, and climate change, and that raise the awareness of global environmental issues.*

## **Earthcare Sudbury**

In addition to the many nonprofit and community groups, the City of Greater Sudbury has also been very active in furthering the development of local food capacity in the City through its Earthcare initiatives. EarthCare Sudbury has been forging a course for local environmental action on behalf of the Greater Sudbury Community since 2000. In 2003, the City released the EarthCare Sudbury Local Action Plan, formally committing the City to becoming more sustainable. This Plan was updated in 2010 and includes a section on food.

The Local Action plan identifies the importance of local food systems and has as its overarching goal: An economically viable and ecologically sustainable local food system. The plan sets out to achieve this goal through a number of objectives and follow up actions. These objectives include:

- Increasing local food knowledge;
- Reducing the environmental impacts of food production, delivery and waste;
- Consuming more locally grown food as a community;
- Growing and processing more food locally, and
- Preserving the fertility of the agricultural reserve in Greater Sudbury.

Through the adoption of the Local Food Charter and establishment of the Earthcare Action Plan, the City of Greater Sudbury has indicated a commitment to strengthening local food systems.

## **Eat Local Sudbury**

Eat Local Sudbury Co-operative is a grocery store and distributor that connects eaters with producers. It primarily sells produce from farms within a 150 miles radius of Sudbury, secondly from the rest of Ontario. The Co-op serves as a hub for consumers and producers and is run by members for the benefit of members and the greater community. Eat Local Sudbury is a not-for-profit co-operative, where all profits are re-invested in the grocery store and programming to meet the needs of the community and to support the local food system. [iv]

## **The Foodshed Project**

The Greater Sudbury Foodshed project is another nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the City of Greater Sudbury Food Charter. They accomplish this by:

- Supporting youth-led food sustainability projects;
- Supporting community gardening initiatives;
- Educating on food security planning;
- Promoting awareness of bioregionalism and climate change;
- Educating on environmental stewardship and biodiversity;
- Supporting social equity, social inclusion, and multi-culturalism; and
- Facilitating food-based community economic development.

The Foodshed Project has also produced a number of publications related to local food and healthy eating. [\[v\]](#)

## ***Social Planning Council of Sudbury***

The Social Planning Council of Sudbury works in partnership with individuals, community agencies, government, business and the health and educational sectors to improve quality of life for all residents of Greater Sudbury.

The Social Planning Council is already involved in a number of local food initiatives, such as the Community Garden Network and the Ste Anne Community Garden. The former is an information and resource sharing initiative that supports the development of community gardens across the City. Since 2009, the number of community gardens in the City has risen from five to seventeen. The latter is a cooperative project that engages individuals and organizations in local food production. The Council also operates the Good Food Box, which is a program that promotes the healthy consumption of vegetables and fruits. It operates like a wholesale buying club, allowing people to buy a box of fresh vegetables and fruits at below market prices once a month. [\[vi\]](#)

## **Other Municipalities**

There is a growing number of Municipalities that are recognizing the importance of integrating local food systems with land use planning as part of a move towards sustainable development. Typically, the municipalities are including language and policy around local food systems in their Official Plans, and some are developing local food action plans. The following is a brief summary of some of the local food planning taking place in other municipalities.

### ***City of Calgary***

The City of Calgary contains a number of policies in its Municipal Development Plan related to local food. In general these policies include

- Providing spaces for community gardens and local food production in new developments;
- Identifying and protecting areas in existing neighbourhoods that promote food production and composting;
- Protecting agricultural lands for long term food security, and
- Identifying opportunities to use waste heat in food production (i.e. greenhouses). [\[vii\]](#)

In addition to the local food policies in the City's Municipal Development Plan, Calgary has also developed a comprehensive food system assessment and action plan entitled "Calgary Eats!" This food action plan was developed by the Calgary Food Committee with funding from the City of Calgary. This comprehensive assessment identifies potential intervention points that connect through each element of the food system. The actions that relate to regulation, legislation and advocacy, planning and land use, and transportation and logistics generally focus on provincial and municipal government leadership with support from other stakeholders. Actions related to environmental considerations, economic development, community and education programs impact all sectors of the food system. Various stakeholders were identified to take leading roles on the actions including stakeholders in the market, community, charitable and institutional food sectors. As with many of the newer policies and plans for local food systems, the Calgary Plan takes a holistic approach by looking at all the different aspects from production, to processing to distribution to access to consumption and finally waste and recovery. [viii]

## ***Region of Waterloo***

The Region of Waterloo is another municipality that has introduced land use policies aimed at strengthening local food systems. The Regional Official Plan recognizes that there are many health, economic and security reasons to having a strong local food system in place. The Plan policies designed to achieve this are:

- Policies to preserve agricultural lands for agricultural uses;
- Providing for a mix of land uses which allow food destinations within close proximity to residential areas;
- Allowing temporary farmers markets where appropriate in existing and newly planned neighbourhoods;
- Encouraging community and rooftop gardens, and supporting community gardens by granting access to Regional lands;
- Working with stakeholders to develop a strong regional food system, and
- Supporting food system planning as a means of improving the regional food system.[ix]

The Region of Waterloo Public Health Department has also developed a Food System Plan, as part of the implementation of the Regional Growth Management Strategy. The Plan contains a number of recommendations and action plans related to strengthening the local food system. [x]

In summary, there are a number of municipalities in Canada and Ontario that have recognized the importance of building and strengthening local food systems. In many cases, these municipalities use their Official Plans to recognize this importance and to introduce policies to support and improve local food systems. Typically these policies include:

- Protecting agricultural land and agricultural uses;
- Developing local food action plans;
- Recognizing the importance of urban food production and supporting the establishment of community gardens on public property;
- Recognizing the importance that local food production plays in the local economy;
- Supporting farmers markets, and creating opportunities for access to local food markets within neighbourhoods;
- Supporting community and commercial kitchens;
- Considering the permitting of backyard chickens in an urban environment, and
- Creating a permanent farmers' market.

# Policy Options for the Official Plan

Given the interest in local food systems expressed as part of the Official Plan review and the amount of work already completed and underway in the community by various groups, it is clear that developing a secure local food system is important to a growing number of Greater Sudburians. It is also clear that building and improving local food systems is vital not only to physical health of the community, but its economic health as well. This can be facilitated by recognizing Local Food Systems as a priority in the Official Plan. A number of potential Local Food System policy and programs directions have been identified through the Official Plan Review process, the Local Food System Workshop and a review of what other municipalities have been doing in this regard. Some of the policy and program directions that Council may consider are:

- Introduce a new section into the Official Plan dealing with Local Food Systems based on the concept of:
  - o Growing it (Production Sector)
  - o Making it (Processing Sector)
  - o Selling it (Marketing and Distribution Sector)
  - o Eating it (Service and Consumption Sectors) and
  - o Returning it (Waste Use and Disposal Sectors)
- Recognize the important role that local food plays in the physical and economic health of the City;
- Consider developing a Local Food Action Strategy in conjunction with local partners that focuses on the production, processing, marketing, distribution, service, consumption, waste and disposal of local food;
- Continue to identify and protect agricultural land from development and incompatible uses, while considering innovative approaches to encourage small scale farming;
- Continue to support a permanent farmers market in downtown Sudbury;
- Consider policies to permit temporary farmers markets and fresh produce stands, wherever appropriate, in existing and newly planned neighbourhoods throughout the City, particularly in areas where access to locally grown food and other healthy food products may currently be limited;
- Encourage and support increased urban food production through the establishment of community gardens, roof top gardens and greenhouses in residential areas and grant access to City lands for these purposes.
- Commit to working to with community partners and other levels of government to strengthen and expand the local food system, including identifying and removing barriers to local food systems where feasible (i.e. sign by-laws, zoning restrictions, etc.);
- Develop programming to identify:
  - o Local farms and food processors
  - o Food deserts in the City
  - o Food assets
  - o Public lands with a capacity for food production, etc.



- Work with local partners to educate the public on the benefits of local food systems and to promote agriculture as a career choice and to attract new farmers to the area;
- Examine existing zoning by-laws to ensure that they provide for a mix of land uses including food destinations, within close proximity of each other to facilitate residents' access to locally grown and other healthy food products.
- Consider programs to create and support commercial and community kitchens in strategic areas of the City in order to provide opportunities for residents to prepare local food and learn cooking skills from each other.
- Foster connections with regional agricultural producers
- Consider a by-law that would permit the raising of backyard chickens in an urban environment; and
- Look to establish a community food hub in a central location to provide a community meeting place where people of all incomes can access nutritious food.

## Conclusion

Local food systems are complex and involve a great number of people in terms of employers and consumers in the many steps along the way from food production, processing, marketing and distribution, service and consumption to finally waste and disposal. In this regard, the local food system represents a major component of the physical and economic health of the citizens of Greater Sudbury.

The City of Greater Sudbury has already made commitments to supporting and building the local food system through its adoption of the Food Charter in 2004 and the local food initiatives in the Earthcare Sudbury Local Action Plan. While this is a great beginning, there is more that the City can do to support the local food system.

During the Official Plan Review process, it has become evident that there is a desire amongst the citizens of Greater Sudbury to have access to locally produced food, which echoes the situation currently taking place in North America, Canada and Ontario. There is an element of food security that needs to be addressed in terms of how climate change and rising fuel costs may impact the availability and cost of food in the future. Finally, there are a number of local organizations and groups that are currently working diligently to increase the supply and access to local food, while at the same time raising the profile of local systems in the community. These groups could benefit from additional support in the Official Plan.

In conclusion, there is a large opportunity for the City of Greater Sudbury to build on the work that is already being done in the community by acknowledging the importance of local food systems and introducing policies and programs to further build local food system capacity in the City's Official Plan.

## References

[i] City of Calgary. The Calgary Food Committee and Serecon Management Consulting Inc. *Calgary Eats! A Food System Assessment and Action Plan for Calgary*. By Committee and Serecon Management Consulting Inc. Calgary: City of Calgary, 2012.

- [ii] Ontario Professional Planners Institute. *Planning for Food Systems in Ontario*. Tech. Toronto: Ontario Professional Planners Institute, 2011.
- [iii] Metcalf Foundation. *Food Connects Us All Sustainable Local Food in Southern Ontario*. Rep. Toronto: George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation, 2008.
- [iv] *Eat Local Sudbury/Mangeons Local Sudbury*. Eat Local Sudbury, n.d. Web. 28 Jan. 2013. .
- [v] *The Foodshed Project*. The Foodshed Project, n.d. Web. 6 Feb. 2013
- [vi] *The Social Planning Council of Sudbury*. The Social Planning Council of Sudbury, n.d. Web. 6 Feb. 2013. .
- [vii] City of Calgary. *Municipal Development Plan*. Tech. Calgary: City of Calgary, 2012. Print.
- [viii] City of Calgary. The Calgary Food Committee and Serecon Management Consulting Inc. *Calgary Eats! A Food System Assessment and Action Plan for Calgary*. By Committee and Serecon Management Consulting Inc. Calgary: City of Calgary, 2012.
- [ix] Canada. Region of Waterloo. *Regional Official Plan*. By Region of Waterloo. Kitchener: Region of Waterloo, 2010. Print.
- [x] Canada. Region of Waterloo. Planning and Evaluation Division. *A Healthy Food System Plan for Waterloo Region*. By Judy M. Miedema and Katherine Pigott. Waterloo: Region of Waterloo Public Health, 2007. Print

# Local Food Production Workshop Summary

*November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012*



Revisit. Review. Revise.  
Revisitez. Réexaminez. Révissez.

Official Plan Review ★ Révision du Plan officiel





Table of Contents

1. Background..... 1

2. Purpose..... 1

3. Workshop Agenda..... 1

4. Initial Presentations..... 2

5. Working Group Session Results ..... 3



## 1. Background

The City of Greater Sudbury is conducting a five year review of its Official Plan. At the beginning of the review process, a special meeting was held under the Planning Act to hear all interested persons with respect to the Official Plan Review. A number of people spoke on the importance of local food systems to the City of Greater Sudbury. This attention to local food issues was echoed by a recent call to action by the Ontario Professional Planners institute as well as the inclusion of support for local food in the draft Provincial Policy Statement.

In order to properly explore the issue of local food systems as part of the Official Plan Review, the City of Greater Sudbury held a workshop on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and invited local food stakeholders to attend and provide their input on this important topic. Workshop invitees represented the full range of the local food production cycle, including production, processing, marketing, service and consumption and waste and disposal.

## 2. Purpose

This summary report documents the presentations and results of the working group sessions on how local food systems can be incorporated into the City of Greater Sudbury Official Plan.

## 3. Workshop Agenda

The workshop was structured as follows:

8:00 am	Registration	
8:30 am	Welcoming Remarks	M.Simeoni
8:40 am	Kick Off Presentation	Peggy Baillie/K.Longston
9:00 am	Group Questions/Discussions	All
9:15 am	Directions to Break Out Groups	M.Simeoni
9:20 am	Local Food System Break Out Groups	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Production</li><li>▪ Processing</li><li>▪ Marketing and Distribution</li><li>▪ Service and Consumption</li><li>▪ Waste and Disposal</li></ul>	



10:30 am	Report Back and Discussion	All
11:45 am	Wrap up and Next Steps	M. Simeoni
12:00 pm	Lunch	

## 4. Initial Presentations

### Welcome

Mark Simeoni, Manager of Community and Strategic Planning, welcomed the guests and provided a brief overview of the agenda and group tasks for the morning. He then introduced the kick off presenters, Peggy Baille and Kris Longston.

### Presentation by Peggy Baille

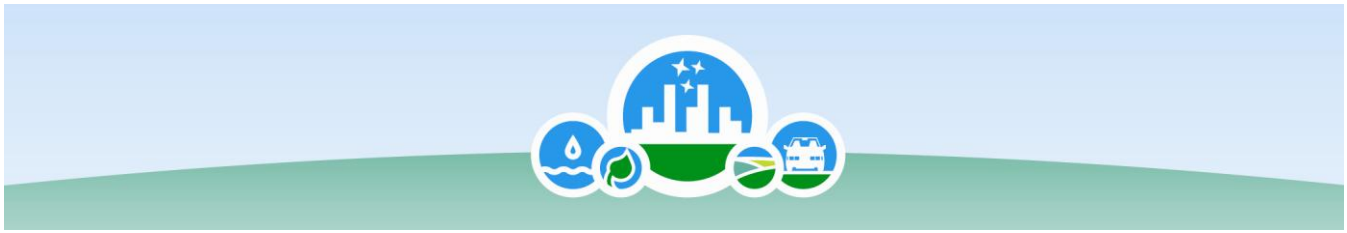
Peggy Baille, Managing Director of Eat Local Sudbury, provided a presentation on the importance of local food, specifically:

- What constitutes local food and why it is important;
- How local food production contributes to the local economy;
- How Greater Sudbury does not come close to producing the amount of food it consumes locally;
- Examples of local food production projects in North America; and
- Examples of local food production initiatives and studies in Ontario.

### Presentation by Kris Longston

Kris Longston, Senior Planner, City of Greater Sudbury provided a presentation on the how land use planning and specifically the Official Plan relate to local food systems, specifically:

- How the Official Plan fits into the land use planning hierarchy in Ontario;
- How the draft Provincial Policy Statement now makes reference to Local Food;
- How there has been considerable interest from the public on local food as part of the Official Plan Review;
- How the Official Plan currently addresses local food production, mainly through the agricultural land policies;
- How Greater Sudbury has a history of local food production; and
- How there is room for improvement in the Official Plan with respect to local food production.



### Working Group Sessions

The attendees then split into 4 working groups to address the following questions and report back to the group:

1. What is currently working in the Official Plan, City and surrounding area in terms of local food systems?
2. What local food system issues need to be addressed?
3. What should the City's role be in strengthening local food systems?
4. What changes to local food systems would you like to see happen in the next 5 years?

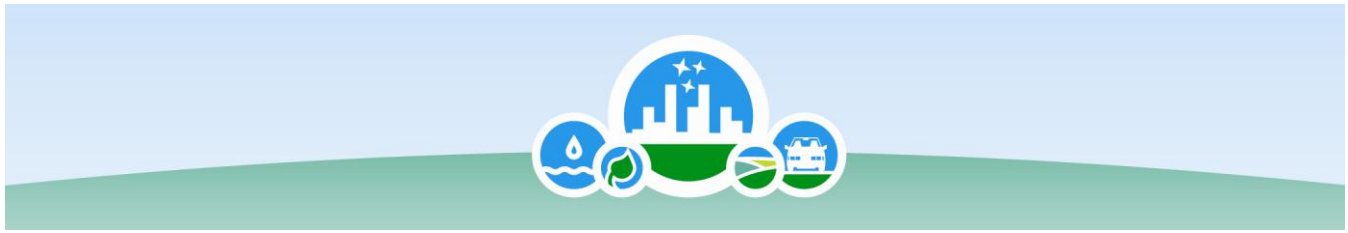
## **5. Working Group Session Results**

The following is a summary of the issues identified by the working groups.

### Group #1 Results:

- More decentralized system of local food production. Increase accessibility of local food, identify food deserts;
- Is there a zoning issue that can be addressed?;
- Food prices are inflated by rising fuel and transportation costs. Food system planning equals food security and affordability;
- Need to increase availability of food year round and have a place to market it;
- Build capacity by:
  - Preserving land;
  - Supporting farmers and attracting new farmers;
  - Connecting supply and demand;
  - Developing procurement policies; and
  - Develop direct marketing initiatives.
- Develop pilot agricultural programs focused on education and training;
- Local food system planning involves building self sufficiency (resistance to externalities) there is a role for local economic development;
- Marketing – Producers need certainty that market outlets are available (dispersed network of public markets);
- Bio security – As local food system grows there will be a need to ensure effective quality control;
- Build awareness of Provincial and Federal legislation through the OP to ensure compliance;
- Build awareness in City to promote good farm practices;





- Protect the agricultural land base and facilitate the introduction of new crops;
- Energy production = food production;
- City should set local food production targets along with economic targets:
  - Short term (2019) 10%;
  - Medium term (2023) 50%; and
  - Long term (2033) 80%.
- Identify public land with potential and lease land for food production – rural and urban;
- Identify a rationale to clear land – biofuels, in some cases incentives may be required;
- Promote aquaculture – connection to greenhouses;
- Have an agricultural point person; and
- Develop a community food assessment plan.

### Group #1 Summary

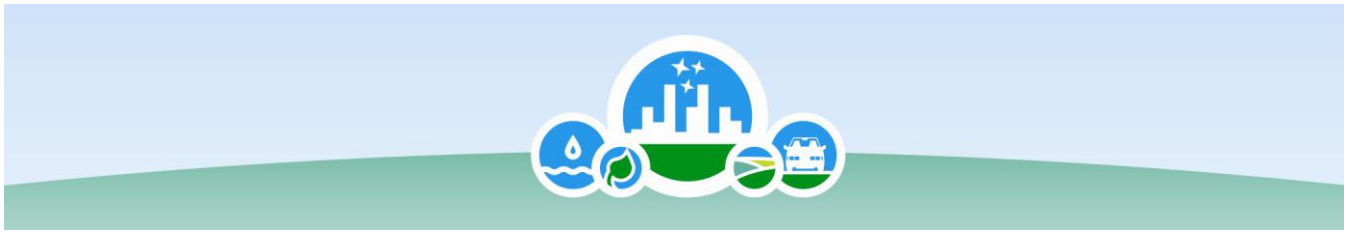
1. Connections – Health + sustainability, Resiliency + Food Security, Economic Development;
2. Set Local Food Consumption Targets:
  - a. 2018 – 10%;
  - b. 2023 – 50%; and
  - c. 2033 – 80%.
3. Food System comments:
  - a. Production:
    - i. Preserve existing/future landbase;
    - ii. Attract and support farmers;
    - iii. Infrastructure and incentives; and
    - iv. Reduce costs – transportation and energy.
  - b. Processing:
    - i. New infrastructure to stimulate and to increase supply (abattoir).
  - c. Distribution:
    - i. An effective distributed network of public/private places that increase accessibility to food.
  - d. Future Programs:
    - i. A new agricultural program;
    - ii. Regional colleges; and
    - iii. Community food assessment plan and strategy.

### Group #2 Results

#### *Production:*

- Agricultural Reserve is good as it protects the land base;
- Community gardens could expand with strong community partners (MNR/LU/Vale);
- Use permission in designation;
- Can these gardens be for profit?;
- \$10 Million is a huge production increase, plus jobs;





- Local food production is an economic engine, both direct and indirect;
- It combines the economy and the environment;
- There will be a shortage of skilled workers 10 years from now. Agriculture is a career opportunity for youth;
- Local colleges and universities should offer education and training in local food system production;
- Restore food production related infrastructure (i.e. community pasture);
- Regulate “chickens”; and
- City parkland could be viewed/used differently.

#### *Processing:*

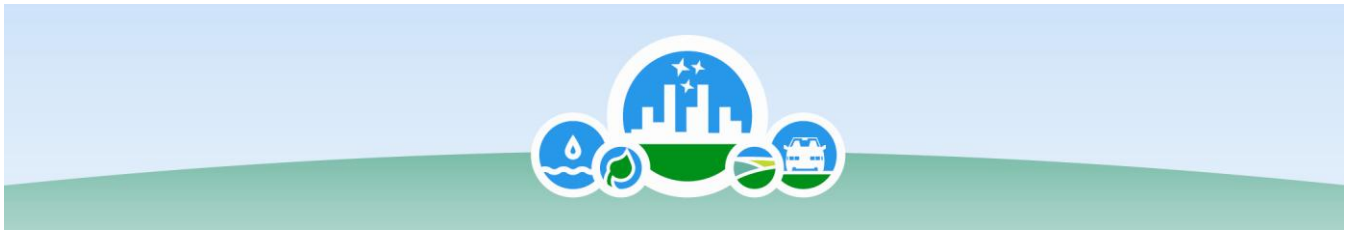
- Broad land use definitions “allows vs. promotes”;
- Provincial Regulations may need to change;
- City’s procurement policy can influence change (what/where we buy);
- Local Food Act will set targets;
- There are some gaps in processing infrastructure;
- Develop and enhance programs like good food box, food business incubator, and shared space initiatives; and
- Develop a commercial kitchen and allow people to use it.

#### *Marketing & Distribution:*

- Map food resources such as:
  - Retail locations;
  - Food deserts;
  - Distribution issues;
  - Affordable farmland in the area;
  - Vacant City properties;
  - Farms; and
  - Promote where these things are.
- Partner with big food stores to feature local food;
- Focus on making local food more appealing 10 years out;
- Work with an interested retailer/restaurant and go;
- Changes to social program policy (city or other); and
- City needs more people working on it.

#### *Consumption:*

- Health focus;
- Infrastructure/programming;
- Employers who think about this from a “lunch perspective”;
- Local food is often more expensive?; and
- Rock of Fame should include farmers as champions.



#### *Waste and disposal:*

- Household side looks good – need to celebrate this;
- Institutions and composting there is room to grow;
- Wastewater options? Biosolids? Retail/Restaurant Waste?;
- Revisit current practices to improve;
- Look at eliminating waste upstream; and
- Work with Earthcare.

#### Group #2 Summary:

- Assess financial or physical impacts of healthy life choices;
- Preserving Agricultural land is very important;
- Celebrate accomplishments to date; and
- Improve access through zoning/other land use policies.

#### Group #3 Summary:

- City should support CSA programs (locations for delivery);
- There are 16 community gardens in Sudbury;
- Farm gates sales need to be targeted;
- Farm coordination – Drop off, marketing, distribution (need to facilitate purchasing);
- Community garden coordination/coordinator;
- Need to increase education on local food issues (i.e. school gardens, donations, recipes, best start hub, youth group);
- Need licensed kitchens;
- Need large scale processing, egg grading (Massey), chickens (Huntsville), Abbatoir (Hagar);
- Small scale farm land opportunities (renting, minimum lot size, incubator farms);
- Protect agricultural land, severances;
- Incubator farms, greenhouses;
- 6.2.1 #3 additional dwellings for farm hands; and
- Develop food network.

#### Group #4

*What is currently working in the Official Plan, City and surrounding area in terms of local food systems?*

- Local food coop is important, Eat Local Sudbury is working;
- Farm gate sales are successful through word of mouth;
- CSA is working;



- There is a general interest from the public in getting involved with local farms;
- Lots of success with travelers coming to work on the farm in exchange for food and lodging;
- The Soils Report/Study is helpful;
- The OP is working at protecting agriculture;
- There are ways of improving marginal land to make it more productive; and
- Map out soil conditions.

*What local food system issues need to be addressed?*

- Cost of traditional agriculture is expensive;
- Ag squared computer program can help small farmers
- Micro farms need to be explored
- City needs to map out where farms exist and where residents can access locally grown food.
- There needs to be more resources for eat local grass roots movement;
- Need to promote farm and community garden tours
- Need to work on getting new farmers established in Sudbury, especially young farmers and immigrants.
- Need to work at getting young people involved in food production
- Need to explore long terms leases instead of farm severances
- Need to review sign by-law to make it easier for temporary signs and to get highway exposure for farmers.
- Look at the costs to set up businesses
- Cost of rent at farmers market is high compared to Ontario. Also time commitment and hours of operation are not conducive to business. The excessive infrastructure results in high costs.
- Commit farmers market to supporting local agriculture
- Farmers market is limited to larger Sudbury operations, makes it hard for smaller operations:
- Farmers market caters to downtown people;
- Need to recognize/promote restaurants that serve local food;
- Need education and promotion to support restaurants;
- Need to support a local food hub; and
- Help communicate to population when different foods are in season. Have a local food report.

*What should the City's role be in strengthening local food systems?*

- Zoning to allow more urban food production;
- Working with other municipalities to lobby OMAFRA regarding regulations (i.e. transportation of ungraded eggs);
- Look at options to let people rent/lease backyards to grow food;



- Make it easier for people to set up community gardens on city property;
- Leasing City land for orchards;
- City should make underutilized city owned lands available for urban food production;
- City should get involved in the Food Policy Council;
- Farmers Market should aim to be designated a true farmers market with 51% primary producers;
- Provide a certified community kitchen for food production;
- Develop a kitchen incubator;
- Requiring a portion of new food stores be dedicated to local food;
- List farmers and locations on website;
- Be cognizant of Health Unit requirements;
- Facilitate a workshop between local food producers and Health Unit;
- It is easier for restaurants to buy processed food due to regulations;
- More promotion of the use of local food in restaurants;
- More information on the market for local food (demographics, income groups);
- Strategies to promote land uses that support local food;
- Training kids on traditional farming;
- Insurance to sell local food is expensive;
- Develop a local food hub and learning centre; and
- Protect spaces for abattoirs.

*What changes to local food systems would you like to see happen in the next 5 years?*

- Making City lands available for food production;
- Flexible zoning;
- Designated Farmers Market;
- Food Policy Council established;
- Recommit to the food charter;
- Resolve temporary signage issues;
- Help attract new farmers;
- More support for the local food movement;
- Mapping and data support from the City;
- Expansion of community gardens and explore rental arrangements;
- Workshops with the Health Unit; and
- Small business incubator.

