

City-Wide Food and Urban Agriculture Strategy

Background and Milestones

This strategy provides an opportunity to imagine how new approaches to food and urban agriculture can make Edmonton a better place to live, work, play and invest. Food matters to each of us every day. We need to consider how to make our city a more innovative and dynamic food and urban agriculture setting as we move into the future.

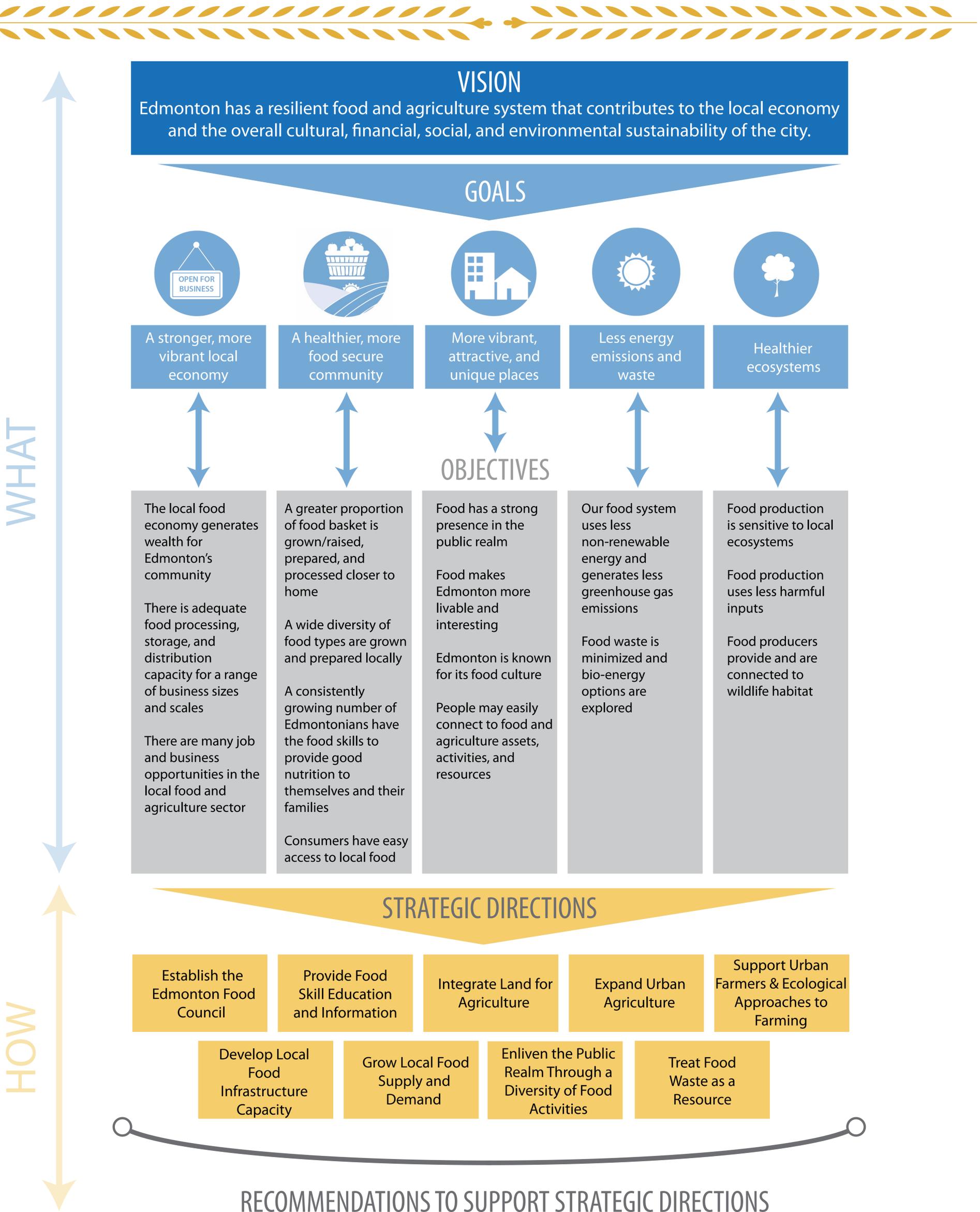


Milestones

- Nov 2009 : City Council Motion to “initiate the preparation of a City-Wide Food and Agriculture Strategy”
- May 2010 : *The Way We Grow* approved including a Food and Urban Agriculture Section
- May 2011 : Public launch of the City-Wide Food and Urban Agriculture Project and website
- Nov 2011 : Advisory Committee established
- Mar 2012 : Discussion Primer and Example Practice Guides released
- Apr 2012 : Start of Citizen Panels
- May 2012 : Two-day *Food in the City* Conference
- Summer 2012 : Stakeholder meetings and surveys
- Oct 2012 : Draft Strategy released and Public Open Houses
- Oct 26, 2012 : Final Strategy to Executive Committee and City Council

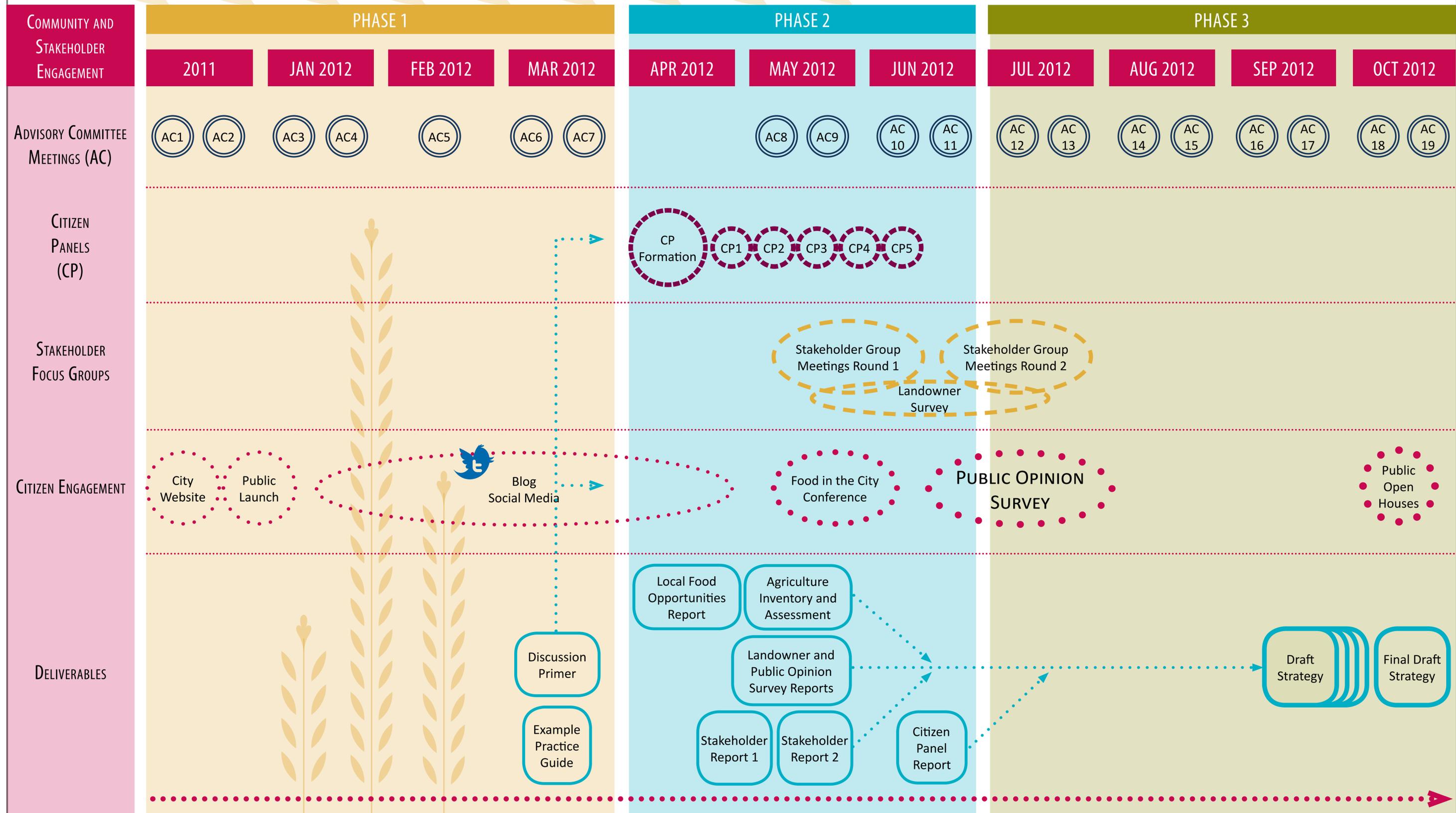
City-Wide Food and Urban Agriculture Strategy

Vision, Goals, and Objectives



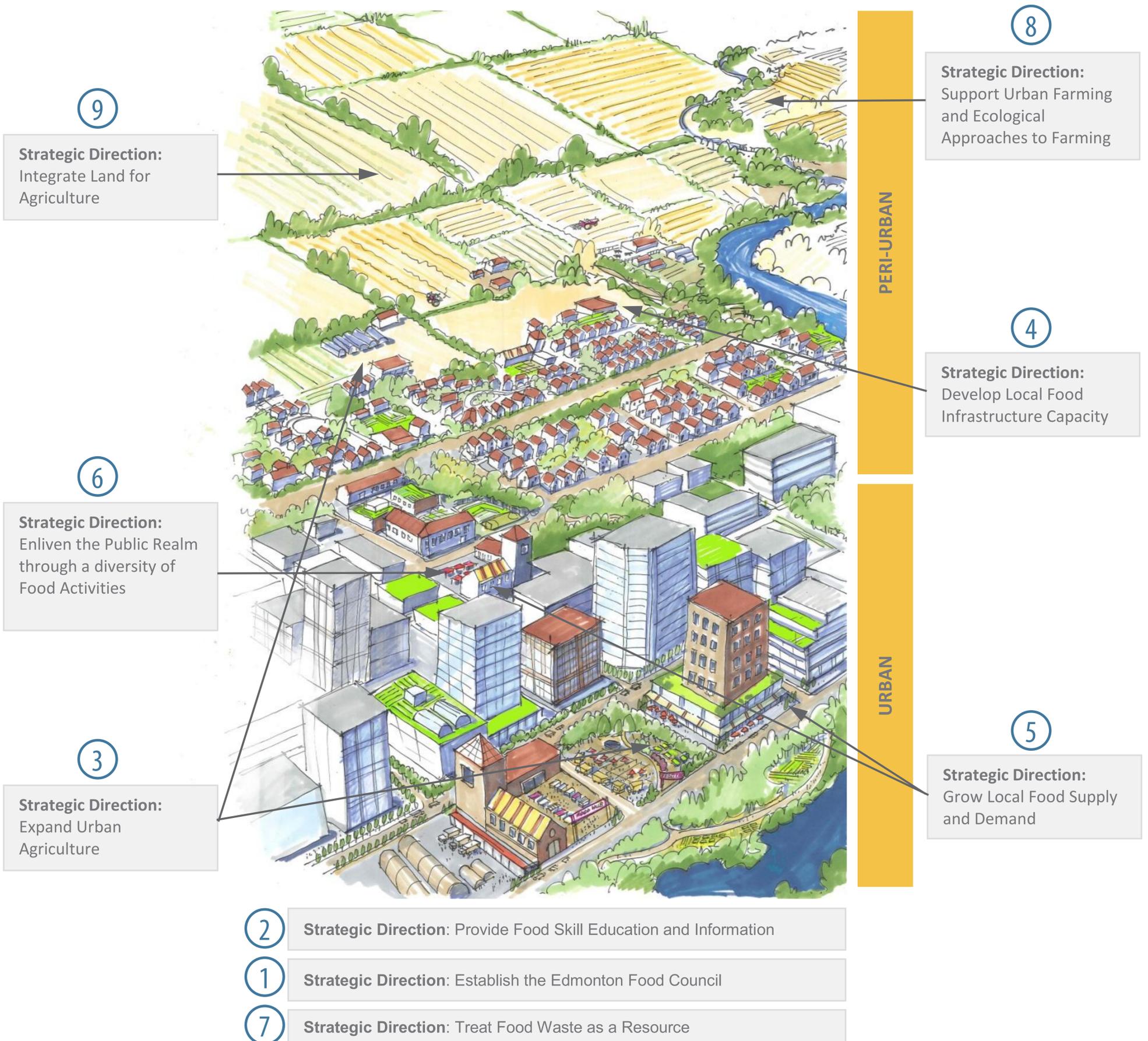
City-Wide Food and Urban Agriculture Strategy (CWFAS)

Public Involvement Plan



City-Wide Food and Urban Agriculture Strategy

Potential Application of Strategic Directions



Strategic Directions



- 1 Establish the Edmonton Food Council
- 2 Provide Food Skill Education and Information
- 3 Expand Urban Agriculture
- 4 Develop Local Food Infrastructure Capacity
- 5 Grow Local Food Supply and Demand
- 6 Enliven the Public Realm Through a Diversity of Food Activities
- 7 Treat Food Waste as a Resource
- 8 Support Urban Farmers and Ecological Approaches to Agriculture
- 9 Integrate Land for Agriculture

1 Strategic Direction

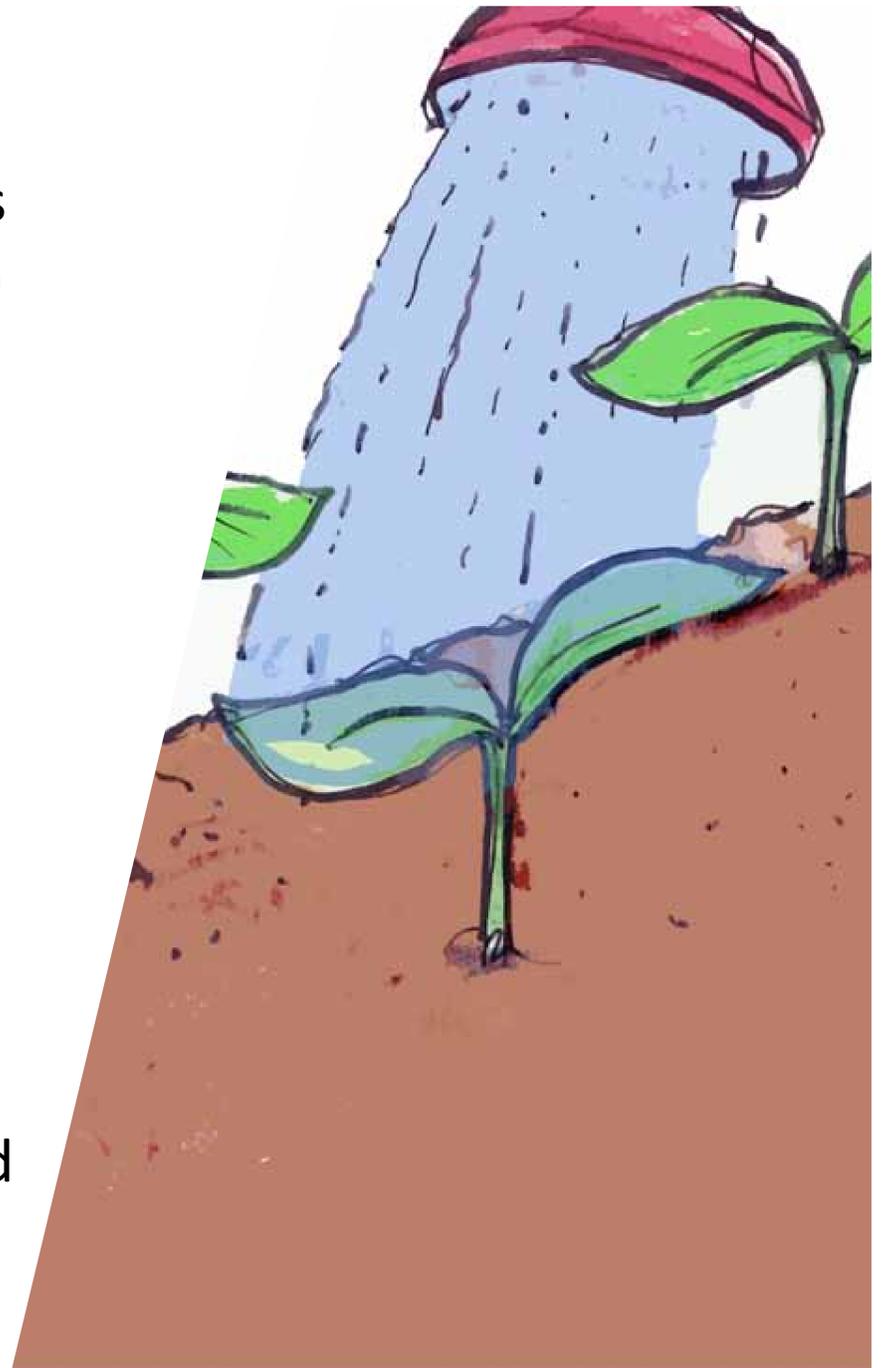
Establish the Edmonton Food Council

What is a Food Council?

The Edmonton Food Council will represent a broad set of interests with a mandate to advise on matters of food and urban agriculture and to take an active role in supporting the implementation of the Strategy.

What Does a Food Council Do?

- Proposes priorities and workplans
- Monitors and reports on progress
- Creates networking and educational opportunities
- Collaborates between the City and community



Link to Strategy Goals



A STRONGER,
MORE VIBRANT
LOCAL ECONOMY



A HEALTHIER, MORE
FOOD-SECURE
COMMUNITY



MORE ATTRACTIVE,
VIBRANT, AND
UNIQUE PLACES



HEALTHIER
ECOSYSTEMS



LESS ENERGY,
EMISSIONS,
WASTE



2

Strategic Direction

Provide Food Skill Education and Information

Food Skill Education and Information

- Growing, preserving and cooking classes with partner organizations
- Mentorship and training programs for urban agriculture



Knowledge Sharing and Awareness

- “Buy local” and “Eat local” campaigns
- Create a single web portal for food & agriculture in Edmonton
- Create a map of Edmonton’s food system and agricultural assets

Link to Strategy Goals



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3 Strategic Direction

Expand Urban Agriculture

Identify Urban Agriculture Opportunities in Edmonton

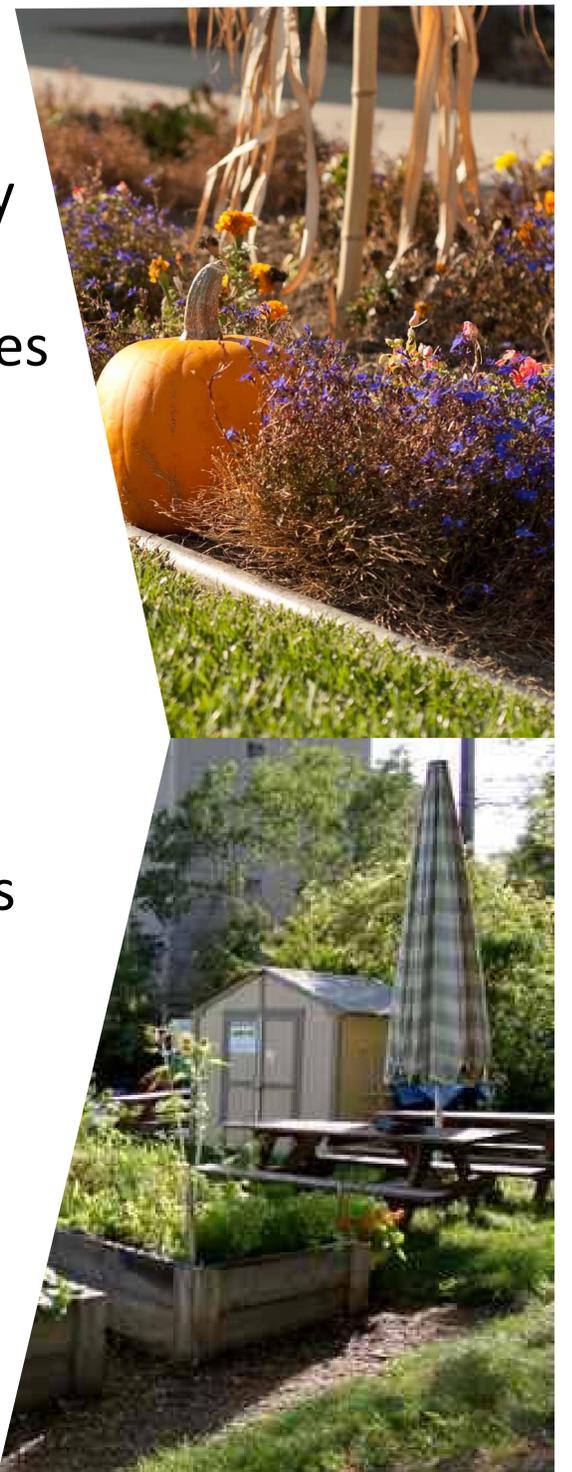
- Public/Private urban agriculture land inventory
- Community gardens/orchards & public spaces
- Edible landscaping, food forests & berry patches
- Rooftop gardens & Agri-hoods
- Market gardens, sharing backyards, greenhouses & aquaponics

Innovation in Urban Agriculture

- Innovative technologies and approaches for producing and processing food in urban spaces
- Alternative energy sources for greenhouses

Urban Beekeeping and Backyard Hens

- Partner with local non-profits to evaluate implications of bees and chickens



Link to Strategy Goals



4 Strategic Direction

Develop Local Food Infrastructure Capacity

Expand Local Private Sector Processing, Storage Distribution, Wholesale and Retail Capacity

Agri-food Hub

- Commercial kitchen
- Permanent farmers market
- Services for producers
- Aggregation
- Storage and distribution

Neighbourhood-Scale Food Infrastructure

- Neighbourhood-scale food hubs
- Community kitchens
- Processing and storage equipment for community leagues & organizations



Link to Strategy Goals



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5 Strategic Direction

Grow Local Food Supply and Demand

Create Partnerships to Strengthen and Diversify the Local Food Economy

- Local food business incubation
- Increase local food within wholesale and retail food distribution
- Expand emerging local food businesses using innovative technologies and research



Strengthen Farmers Markets

Increase Local Food Procurement within City of Edmonton

Work with Province and Industry to develop Local Food Identification System



Link to Strategy Goals



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6 Strategic Direction

Enliven the Public Realm Through a Diversity of Food Activities

Celebrate and Promote Food Grown in Edmonton

- Festivals, tourism, programming and partnerships

Convenient Access to Healthy Food

- Explore impacts of restrictive covenants on grocery stores
- Fresh food kiosks and mobile markets near high pedestrian traffic areas

Examine Possibility of Sidewalk Patios

Build on the Success of Street Vendors (Food Trucks)



Link to Strategy Goals



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7 Strategic Direction

Treat Food Waste as a Resource

Redistribute Healthy, Fresh, High-Quality Surplus Food

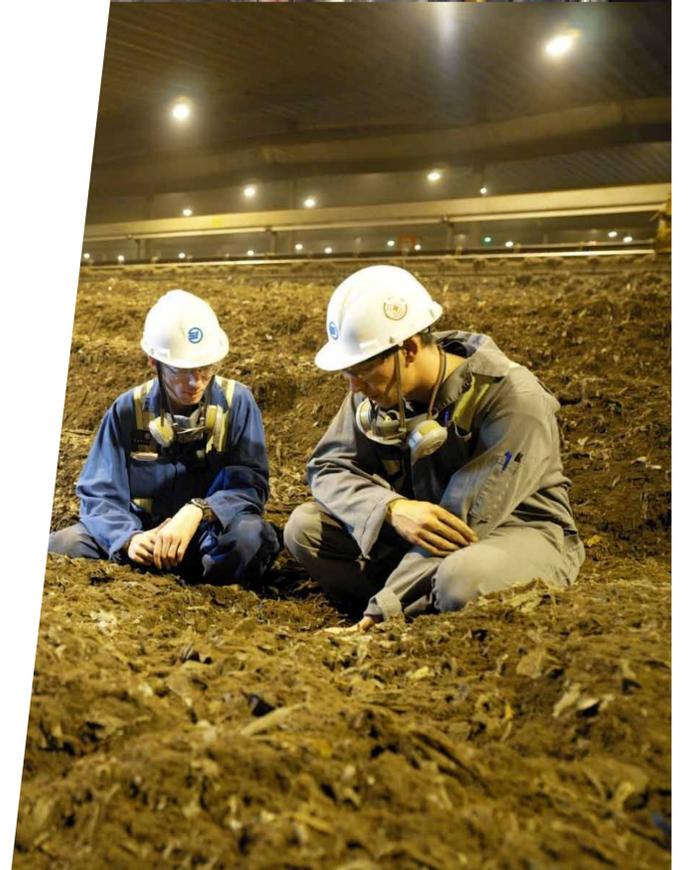
- Expand existing gleaning initiatives
- Process and redistribute surplus foods to those in need
- Develop business opportunities for surplus food

Reduce Food Packaging

- Reduce throughout City of Edmonton operations
- Recycled and Biodegradable packaging in commercial processing & packaging

Reduce Food Waste

- Public education for households and businesses
- Tracking tools to monitor and divert food waste
- Business opportunities for food waste (i.e. energy, compost)



Link to Strategy Goals



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8 Strategic Direction

Support Urban Farmers and Ecological Approaches to Farming

Education and Training on Urban Farming/Agriculture in Edmonton

- Incubator farm where new farmers receive mentorship and training

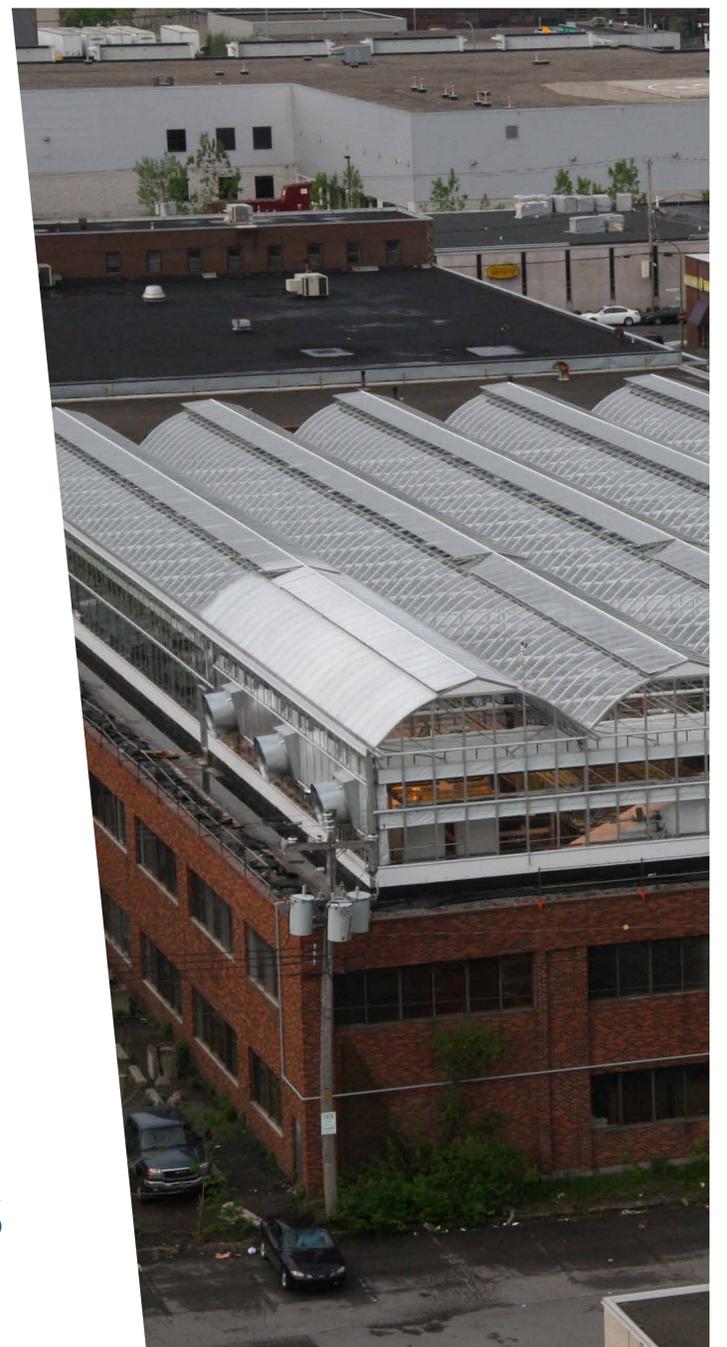
Incentives for New and Emerging Urban Farmers

Regulations and Guidelines for Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture

- Health and safety, buffers and transition areas, limit chemical applications, noise, dust and odour

Protect and Maintain Healthy Ecosystem Connected to Peri-urban Agricultural Lands

- Links to the River Valley system and natural areas



Link to Strategy Goals



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9 Strategic Direction

Integrate Land for Agriculture

Municipal Agricultural Land Reserve

- Potential to include private farmlands, provincial government lands & land trust
- New land use designation to identify urban agricultural lands

Land Trust

- To acquire and retain urban farmland
- Examine costs and benefits

Integrating Land for Agriculture Framework

- Principles, criteria & mechanisms
- Use to guide future decisions about agricultural land uses in the Urban Growth Areas
- evaluate land use plans and large-scale development proposals

Regional Agricultural Land Use Policy

- Work with Capital Region Board

Link to Strategy Goals



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9 Strategic Direction

Integrating Land for Agriculture Framework

Principles

- Fairness
- Priority
- Certainty
- Viability
- Proximity
- Public Benefit
- Foresight & Adaptability

Criteria

- How much land should be protected in Urban Growth Areas?
- Where and in What Form?
- How? (Ways to Acquire Land for Agriculture)
- Risk Assessment and Other Considerations

Mechanisms

- Zoning and Land Use Designations
- Cluster Developments integrating development with farmland
- Land and financial contributions from developers
- Community Investment
- Transfer of Development Credits
- Land swaps
- Land Trust
- Conservation Covenants

