

OURFOODFuture

GUELPH-WELLINGTON – Canada's
first food smart community

A Smart Cities Challenge initiative



Background Material: Guelph-Wellington Food Policy Council (GWFC)

(Draft for Discussion)

foodfuture.ca



Concept Paper for a Guelph-Wellington Food Policy Council

As part of the Smart Cities Circular Food Economy project, the City of Guelph and County of Wellington will establish the *Guelph-Wellington Food Policy Council* (GWFC).

The GWFC will be a committee that:

- is made up of 25 members who are selected for two-year terms; the members will be representatives from all aspects of the food community – business owners, neighbours, academics, farming organizations, not-for-profit organizations, professionals, gardeners, and farmers.
- meets monthly or bi-monthly to discuss food-related topics that are relevant to Guelph/Wellington; meetings are open to the public.
- is coordinated by City/County staff and housed by City/County facilities.

The purpose of GWFC will be to:

- develop ideas that improve access for Guelph/Wellington's citizens to healthy, affordable, sustainable and culturally acceptable food
- develop ideas that support food innovation and a circular food economy in Guelph-Wellington
- develop ideas that increase Guelph-Wellington's capacity to reduce our food-related carbon footprint including the reduction of food waste and maximizing the productivity of our local agricultural lands
- connect diverse people from the food, farming and community sector to develop innovative policies and projects
- provide a forum for action across the food system
- identify emerging food issues that will impact Guelph/Wellington
- promote food system innovation, and facilitate food policy development
- facilitate linkages between the community, City of Guelph, and County of Wellington
- provide a forum for City and County staff and elected representatives to engage in food issues and combine resources and efforts
- advise the City of Guelph and County of Wellington on food policy issues

Specific projects that the GWFC will take on in the first three years:

- Develop an Urban Agriculture Action Plan
- Develop a Guelph/Wellington Food Strategy
- Develop a Guelph/Wellington Food Charter

The Guelph-Wellington Youth Food Policy Council:

There will also be a sister committee called the Guelph-Wellington Youth Food Policy Council. The GWYFPC will have a similar structure and mandate as the GWFC but it will be made up of youths. There will be two seats on GWFC reserved for GWYFPC members.