

Calgary Eats! Food System Assessment and Action Plan Highlighted Progress

Progress towards the Action Plan has involved all eight of the Action Plan's intervention areas. Sample highlights include:

1. Governance:
 - Since the adoption of Calgary Eats! (CPS2012-0087), the Calgary Food Committee has transitioned to an implementation and monitoring committee with a new terms of reference and membership strategy and is reviewing its communication strategy to better provide resources to the public.
 - The City of Calgary's Office of Sustainability acts as a partner and secretariat for the Calgary Food Committee.
2. Regulation, Legislation & Advocacy:
 - Initiation of a Calgary Food Committee sub-committee dedicated to addressing municipal and provincial regulation and legislation for proposed changes.
 - Preliminary work has been undertaken by The City to identify municipal regulations for alignment with the food vision and principles. The City has worked with several community groups to explore opportunities and existing barriers within the scope of municipal responsibility for the food system. Areas being explored include ecological design concepts that use stormwater on-site and address contamination of lands with the ultimate goal of food production; a community gathering space that incorporates urban forestry, orchards, gardens, performance and art venues; and urban agriculture opportunities.
 - Food regulation education for Farmers' Markets operators provided by Alberta Health Services.
3. Planning & Land Use:
 - The Calgary Regional Partnership has become a member of the Calgary Food Committee and is initiating food policy work regionally including the addition of food-related recommendations in the Calgary Metropolitan Plan.
 - The City of Calgary continues to support the Community Garden Program and Orchard Pilot, while also exploring options for integrating urban agriculture into existing parks, and on underutilized lands.
4. Logistics and Transportation:
 - The Calgary Food Committee has worked closely with multiple community groups and Explore Local (Alberta Agriculture) to better understand opportunities for a Food Hub.
5. Environment:
 - The City of Calgary and Green Calgary continues to provide education programs and campaigns on food waste diversion and composting.

6. Economic Development:

- The Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association's Community Food Program includes a range of economic development programs including: Farmers' Market, Local 301: Urban Agriculture Workshop Series; and Food Skills Cooking Program.

7. Community Programs:

- The Calgary Poverty Reduction Initiative included a Food Dignity constellation to address food security and work is ongoing to flush out implementation.
- CUPS has recently joined the Calgary Food Committee and is providing skill-building community kitchen programs.
- Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association has initiated a Community Food Program Network that connects Calgary communities that have an interest in food programming and facilitates sharing of information.
- The Calgary Urban Harvest Project continues to collect fruit from trees on private property that are donated by the owner, with some of the harvest going to organizations and markets who can make use of the fruit, including charitable organizations.
- Community gardens have increased to 75 public community gardens, 64 private community gardens and 32 proposed community gardens. 5 years ago there were 11 garden projects.

8. Education Programs:

- Food education and awareness events hosted by a variety of organizations throughout the food system. The Calgary Food Committee directly participated in 12 events with attendance ranging from approximately 25 to 500 people.
- SAIT's has an ongoing culinary program that supports the food system vision and is exploring brownfield urban agriculture and urban farming opportunities.