

BRIEFING

Page 1 of 3

Item # 11.2

**Planning & Development Briefing to
Community Development Committee
2022 April 27**

**ISC: UNRESTRICTED
CD2022-0460**

CalgaryEATS! Food Action Plan 2022 Progress Update

PURPOSE OF BRIEFING

This briefing provides an update on the implementation of the CalgaryEATS! Food Action Plan.

Progress reports on the implementation of the CalgaryEATS! Food Action Plan occur every four years with previous reports in 2014 and 2017.

The CalgaryEATS! Food Action Plan is a shared plan between The City of Calgary and the broader Calgary community to create a healthy, equitable and sustainable food system. The City-led programs and initiatives that help implement the Food Action Plan are highlighted in Attachment 2, and new focus areas for 2023-2026 are included in this briefing.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Background

With direction from City Council, a city-wide food system assessment and gap analysis were completed in 2010, the results of which informed the CalgaryEATS! Food Action Plan. The Food Action Plan was endorsed by City Council in 2012 and is a shared plan between The City of Calgary and community partners with both City-led actions and Community-led actions. The Plan contains a total of 30 actions that focus on providing more places to grow food and sell local food so that more Calgarians can access local food and support our local and regional farms. Fourteen of those actions are City-led; four are a collaboration between The City and the Community; and the remaining twelve are Community-led actions.

Previous Council direction is included in Attachment 1.

CalgaryEATS! Programs and Initiatives: Progress Since 2017

Significant progress has been made in furthering City-led actions in the food system since the last progress report in 2017.

Attachment 2: CalgaryEATS! 2017-2021 Key Programs, Initiatives, and Status Update provides more detailed updates on all City-led initiatives. Attachment 2 also provides a high-level overview of the status of Community-led initiatives.

The City of Calgary monitors the number of food assets to track progress toward the Food Action Plan goals. A food asset is a place where people can grow, prepare, share, buy, receive or learn about food. The definition of food assets listed in the table below only includes assets under which The City of Calgary has an enabling or influencing role and does not include other broader and valuable assets in our food system outside of The City's influence such as grocery stores, commercial kitchen space, or spaces that could be used to convene communities around food. A map of food assets across all four quadrants of the city can be found on calgary.ca "[Access to food](#)" site. The following table highlights the growth in most food assets since 2012.

BRIEFING

Select Food System Assets	2012	2017	2022
Community Gardens	111	149	200+
Community Orchards	4	4	4
Urban Farms	0	2	3
Farmers 'Markets	9	12	11
Farm Stands	0	6	25
Breweries	5	20	55
Indoor Vertical Farms	0	3	12
Food Processors	85	104	128+
Emergency Food Services	31	46	60+
Community Food Pantries	none	none	29

COVID-19 and Food Security – The City’s Response

The City of Calgary responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by including food security in its emergency response and placed a Food Security Task Force as a subcommittee under the Community Support Task Force as a short-term measure. Traditionally, emergency food providers distribute food with little intervention by city government. The pandemic provided an opportunity to learn how The City of Calgary could assist with communication, coordination, and collaboration with emergency food providers. The Food Security Task Force has since transformed into the Food Resilience Team and continues to work on creating an Emergency Food Response Plan (timeline for completion 2025), informed by lessons learned from the pandemic.

Future Focus Areas and Next Steps

A food action plan is more than a report or set of recommendations. It is an ongoing adaptive process of identifying, building, and strengthening positive connections between multiple stakeholders to leverage partnership, collaboration, and resources. The Food Action Plan will continue to evolve to meet the city’s food needs. The following themes have emerged as priorities for 2023-2026:

- Diversity, inclusion, and culturally diverse food assets;
- Working towards greater food system resiliency; and
- Continued support for a strong local food economy.

Diversity, Inclusion, and Culturally Diverse Food Assets

It is important to take an intersectional approach in examining The City of Calgary’s existing and emerging food policies and programs, assessing who is benefitting and who is not, and adjusting programs accordingly. Future work will focus on developing engagement strategies that meet the needs of different demographics, recognizing that each group is culturally diverse, has diverse food needs, financial affordability considerations, and has different points of community connection.

Working Towards Greater Food System Resilience

Despite an increase in local food assets, Calgary will continue to have a strong dependence on the global food system. Understanding global food system vulnerabilities can help manage a response to acute crises that affect food security, as well as improve underlying food insecurity

BRIEFING

by addressing chronic inequities. The development of a Food Resilience Program will identify ways that The City of Calgary and its partners can support a food system where food is consistently available, accessible, appropriate, and healthy for Calgarians. Working with stakeholders, the program team will identify processes, regulations, and partnerships that The City of Calgary can leverage to make the food system more resilient. More detail on this initiative can be found in Attachment 2, page 7.

Continued Support for a Strong Local Food Economy

Agriculture and the agri-food sector are major elements of Calgary's food system and economy, which consists of a diverse array of businesses, not-for-profits, and other entities including urban/regional farms, food processors, farm stands, farmer's markets, distributors, retailers, restaurants and more. Working with internal partners and Calgary Economic Development, The City of Calgary will continue to support a strong local food economy by providing information, planning services, and support for new and existing food businesses.

Resource Requirements

The CalgaryEATS! Food Action Plan consists of 30 actions, 18 of which are City-led. The Climate Resilience Strategy has seven food-related actions. Currently there is one dedicated staff resource on both of these files. Although significant progress on the Food Action Plan goals has been made since 2012, the food system needs of the city continue to increase and evolve beyond the Food Action Plan and the Climate Resilience Strategy. A request for consideration will be made as part of the 2023-2026 budget process to better resource and support food system work.

Public Information and Media

Communication of key initiatives is available publicly through the CalgaryEATS! web-based information source at www.calgary.ca/food. Over the past four years, CalgaryEATS! programs and initiatives have been highlighted multiple times through media outlets such as The CBC and The Calgary Herald.

Additional information:

Kristi.Peters@Calgary.ca

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Attachment 1 – CalgaryEATS! Food Action Plan Previous Council Direction
2. Attachment 2 – CalgaryEATS! 2017-2021 Key Programs, Initiatives and Status Update