



THE WAY WE EAT

**CREATING A VIBRANT & SUSTAINABLE
LOCAL FOOD ECONOMY**



Local Food System



- **Economic benefits:** Local food distribution system enables farmers to focus on farming, and increase the volume and variety of crops and livestock. This is delivered to city grocery stores, restaurants, institutions, and encourages development of more value-added processing facilities. Dollars spent on local food circulate 8 to 15 times in local economy bringing sustainable recession-proof jobs, increased tax base, and increased income. City more financially sustainable as there is less new and sprawling infrastructure to maintain.
- **Environmental benefits:** Farms and community and market gardens provide carbon sequestration, stormwater management, water filtration and maintain ecological networks and habitats for biodiversity. Reduced emissions with shorter food miles and denser urban form. Citizens walk or bike to more and more farmers' markets and locally-owned grocery stores. Fewer cars means smaller parking lots and more land for other uses.
- **Social benefits :** Increased access to high-quality, nutritious, local food lowers rate of obesity, type II diabetes, heart disease and other diet-related illnesses, reducing health costs and increasing quality of life. Farms and community and market gardens are gathering places that encourage active lifestyles. Vibrant public spaces are fostered by "picking bees" of fruit growing in parks and other green-spaces. Crime decreases as neighbourhood parks and public spaces allow for many interest and age groups to share space, interact and build relationships.



The Key to Unlocking Benefits: Government Leadership, Policy & Planning Support

Growing, planting and harvesting

Resurgence in number of small mixed family farms in the region, market gardens, and many CSAs located on agricultural land in and around the city. Surprising amounts of food produced through “Urban Agriculture” endeavours such as community gardens, spin farming, roof-top gardens, fruit trees and shrubs in parks, back-yard gardens and school-yard gardens. City compost used to renew garden plots and agricultural lands. Increased demand for urban gardening workshops and recruitment for mentors to help newcomers to Canada grow some food.

Processing

Local value added processors purchase their inputs from local farmers. Community “Incubator Kitchens” reduce start-up and overhead costs encouraging new entrepreneurs and making products competitively priced.

Distribution, shopping

Local delivery system delivers to grocery stores, restaurants and institutions. Good Food Boxes conveniently delivered directly to homes along with on-line ordered Alberta produced goods. All local public institutions purchase local food first. All publically funded schools have a farm to school program in place.

Many Farmers’ Markets offer great selection of local products while acting as neighbourhood gathering places. Inner-city price-capped markets ensure socially disadvantaged citizens have access to fresh food. “Smart shopping” tours are organised for newcomers. Local grocery stores, within walking distance of housing areas, stock clearly labelled local food.

Preparing

Collective kitchens allow neighbours to pool their resources when canning garden produce or getting Christmas baking done. Healthy food preparation classes for newcomers to Canada or busy parents looking for tips. Local radio and television broadcast regional “cooking classes”. Volunteer parents, seniors and community members share their experience and passion for food with students as hot lunches take on many local ethnic flavours.

Eating

Locally sourced restaurants in all city owned and-or operated facilities allow employees and tourists to sample local flavours. Family picnics in conserved natural areas, community garden meals, pizza making in the park, ethnic flavours in the park integrate food and public space. More families have secure access to healthy food and make the time to eat home cooked meals together with food sourced primarily locally. Hospital patients benefit from high-quality local products. Students and children in day-care broaden their taste buds by sharing locally-sourced meals and participating in municipal programs promoting local foods.

Waste-Recycling

Increased numbers of gleaning teams gather and redistribute day-old bread and wilted vegetables. All grocery stores drop off excess to charities and Food Banks. Reduced amounts of packaging and fast-food containers sorted for recycling. Local food processing industry adopts eco-friendly packaging that doesn’t have to withstand wear and tear of long distance shipping. Worm and small scale composting in schools, public institutions and neighbourhoods, organized pick-up of compost at grocery stores and restaurants, and on-the-farm composting further reduces amounts of trash to be collected. Organic waste continues to be composted at city facility.

1.0 Our Vision : Creating a Vibrant & Sustainable Local Food Economy

Edmonton has a vibrant local food economy supporting economic diversification and prosperous communities. We know where our food comes from, that it is safe and that it will be available for generations to come.

The local and the global food system together provide Edmontonians plentiful choice in the purchase of local, healthy, green, affordable and convenient food products and services as well as access to flavours from afar. Local food is an integral part of sustainable economic health and development in our city.

2.0 Our City and The World-As-It-Is in terms of a Sustainable Food Economy

Our current food system, the way we eat now, is not sustainable.

Global:

- Almost 1 billion people are undernourished or malnourished (Patel, 2007).
- 1 billion people are obese (Patel, 2007).
- Out of concern for food security and increasing recognition of its value, foreign interests have bought 15 to 20 million hectares of farmland in developing countries. This is equivalent to 55 – 75 percent of all farmland in Alberta. (Leahy, 2009 & Coen, 2003).
- Food prices soaring due to demand surges (biofuels, changing diets in emerging economies, population increase, urbanization) and supply constraints (land and water constraints, rising input prices, climate change) (IFPRI, 2008 & Financial Times, 2000).
- Global distribution systems account for 10% of annual CO₂ emissions (Senge, 2008).
- Fertilizer run-off has created a 6,000 to 7,000 square mile dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico (Bruckner, 2008).
- Avian Influenza, H1N1 Swine Origin Influenza, MRSA, BSE are all diseases that have entered human populations from industrial agricultural operations.
- “Our ecological footprint now exceeds the world’s capacity to regenerate by about 25%” (Hales, 2006:1 see also Korten, 2006:59, Brown, 2006:6, Wilson & Anielski, 2005, Wackernagel et. Al., 2002).
- World average footprint is 2.7 hectares per person (Anielski, 2009).
- Available biocapacity in the world 1.9 hectares per person (Wilson & Anielski, 2005).
- In the event of a ‘food shock’ such as severe drought or wide-spread transport-related strike, North American cities only have only a three day supply of fresh food. (Tanaga & Monsebraaten, 2008).

Canada:

- Canadian farmers posting record losses, surpassing those of the Great Depression (McBay, 2007).
- Tens of thousands of farmers sell produce to only 1 or 2 large corporations (McBay, 2007).
- Food travels 2400 kilometres from field to plate (Pirog, 2001).
- 38% of food available for retail sale is wasted (Cryderman, 2009).
- Vast manure lagoons create environmental hazards (Pollan, 2005).
- Widespread adverse affect of our current food system on water quality (PFRA, 2000).
- Soil is increasingly depleted (PFRA, 2000 & McBay, 2007).

- Only 5% of Canada's land is not hampered by severe constraints for crop production and only 0.5% of land is Class 1 soil (City of Edmonton, 2009).
- Soil depletion and industrial farming practices linked to decline in nutritional value of food (Pawlick, 2006).
- 8 of 10 of leading causes of death in Canada diet-related (Statistics Canada, 1997).
- 47% of Canadians are overweight or obese (Donald, 2009).
- Obesity costs Canada's health care system an estimated \$ 1.8 billion annually (Birmingham, 1999).
- Increasing news reports and incidents of food contaminated with pathogens and foreign substances including listeria, E. Coli, salmonella, melamine, pieces of glass, Bisphenol A (Newser, 2007, Austen, 2008, Nguyen, 2008, CBC, 2009).
- Redundant trade where we simultaneously export and import same product (McBay, 2007).
- Canada's average ecological footprint is 7.25 hectares per person (Wilson & Anielski, 2005).

Alberta

- Alberta Land Stewardship Act recognizes "the need to manage activity to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of current and future generations of Albertans," and has as a purpose to "enable sustainable development".
- MDP must align with Alberta Land Use Framework Strategy 5 to "Promote efficient use of land to reduce the footprint of human activities on Alberta's landscape."
- 17% of Alberta land is good for farming, most of that is in Edmonton to Calgary corridor along with 75% of Alberta's population (Mah, 2008).

Edmonton & Region

- Within the city limits, we are gifted with prime agricultural soils (Class 1, 2, &3), a longer growing season than anywhere else in Central or Northern Alberta, and more moisture than southern Alberta. (Vanin, 2009)
- Average frost free days in Edmonton 144, only southern Alberta has as long a growing season, but does not have the moisture Edmonton has (Vanin, 2009). Average frost free days in Fort Saskatchewan 110 (City of Edmonton, 2009).
- Edmonton has lost 74% (17,000 Ha) of its Class 1 soils since 1982 (City of Edmonton, 2009).
- Edmonton's average footprint is 9.45 hectares per person (Wilson & Anielski, 2005).
- Edmonton uses 1.8 global hectares per person to meet its food needs (Wilson & Anielski, 2005).
- Edmonton average net profit per acre at \$79.68 is over double of anywhere else in the Capital Region. NE Edmonton average net profit per acre is \$270.72. 5 Counties in Capital Region range in net profit per acre from \$6.65 - \$38.07 (City of Edmonton, 2009).
- 80% of broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage produced in Alberta are grown in Edmonton Region (Vanin, 2009).
- We have only one year round farmer's market (Old Strathcona) within the City of Edmonton.
- All of the farmer's markets in the Capital Region are thriving.
- 4 local regional Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) operations are fully-subscribed.
- *Good Food Box Project* – a multi-farm CSA based out of northeast Edmonton will be piloted this summer.
- *Eat Local First* – is working with Edmonton grocery retailers to identify the products that are grown, made and produced right here in Alberta giving consumers an option to buy locally if they so choose.

3.0 Our City and the World-As-It-Could Be – The Opportunity of a Local Food Economy

The Way We Eat moves us toward a vibrant local food system that offers sustainable prosperity for our city and region. Cities across the world are recognizing the opportunity and importance of local food systems.

Environmental Opportunity

- 19% of our ecological footprint is tied to food consumption. “Purchasing locally produced food is the most significant way to reduce the food footprint” (Wilson & Anielski, 2005).

Economic Opportunity

- Many citizens are aware that buying local food helps the economy.
Respondents living within the Capital region gave top rating to “helps our economy” as reason for buying local food (GEA, 2009).
- Growing awareness and demand from consumers to eat differently for both health and economic reasons.
 - 42% of Canadians regularly purchase locally grown food (Ipsos Reid, 2006)
 - 71% of Canadians say benefit of local food is that it helps your local economy (Ipsos Reid, 2006).
 - 30% spending increase at Farmer’s Markets between 2004 & 2008 (Alberta Agriculture, 2008).
 - 90% of Alberta households indicated they had purchased local food in the past 12 months (Alberta Agriculture, 2008).
 - 1/3 of Alberta households say they will buy more local food next year (Alberta Agriculture, 2008).
 - Over 75% of respondents in the Capital region identified taste, nutrition, security, environment and economy as very important reasons for buying local foods (GEA, 2009).
- While dollars spent with large corporations almost immediately leave the community, dollars spent on local food products circulate within the community eight to 15 times, drastically improving the value of your purchase (BALLE, 2009).
- Shifting to a more local food economy creates jobs and increased output, earning and business taxes. For example, a 20% shift to local foods in Detroit and five surrounding counties results in 35,822 jobs and \$3.4 billion in increased output, \$900 million in increased earnings, and \$155 million in increased business taxes (Shuman, 2009).
- Our calculations indicate extrapolating these results to Edmonton Census Metropolitan Area would result in 21,396 jobs, increased output of \$2.1 billion, \$540 million in increased earnings, and \$92 million in business taxes.
- 20% shift of food dollars to local food in King County in Seattle, Washington would result in nearly \$500 million annual income increase (Sontag, 2008).
- In early 2009, Greater Edmonton Alliance conducted a Local Foods Survey and Pledge to assess our commitment to supporting a local food economy. 712 Greater Edmonton households, comprising about 2000 individuals, committed to shift 40% of their current food dollars to local food when the important and very important challenges to buying local food are resolved. This would result in a shift of \$2.3 million dollars annually to purchasing local foods. If 25% of Edmonton Census Metropolitan Area residents responded similarly, this would mean over \$330 million would be shifted to local foods. This would result in a total local food purchasing of \$530 million. The multiplier effect would bring the **economic impact to over \$2 billion**

- Related to Horsehills Industrial ASP: What possibilities might be there for food processing, distribution and greenhouse industry? This could boost both regional and local vegetable production and provide an economic engine for the City and region.

Social and Health Opportunity

Food security contributes to both the social and physical health of a community by decreasing social isolation and increasing the consumption of fruits and vegetables. (Biehler et al. 1999, Toronto Food Policy Council 2001, Welsh and MacRae 1998).

4.0 Making the Shift –Creating a Vibrant and Sustainable Local Food Economy

Making the shift toward a local food economy will require leadership and commitment from diverse stakeholders. There are many creative ways for all interested parties to work together to create a vibrant, healthy and sustainable local food economy. The time is now! Many examples from municipalities and groups from around the world demonstrate what is possible in terms of moving toward a local food economy in our region. (See Attachment 1)

Edmonton is already a World renowned leader in Waste Management practices and Natural Areas conservation. We have the potential to become a leader in sustainable, smart growth if it addresses the fundamental need of food. Raising the prominence of food in the Municipal Development Plan is a key way to live up to this potential.

4.1 Our Ask – Integration of Local Food, Urban Agriculture & Land-Use

*We urge that **City Council demonstrate leadership** in making the shift by integrating local food and urban agriculture into the Municipal Development Plan with the following policies:*

- **Integrate local food system impact, including productive capacity, carrying capacity, economic linkages and sustainability, into all decisions regarding conversion of agricultural lands to other uses.**
- **Develop an agricultural areas plan, including an inventory of all existing agricultural lands, and assess their potential suitability for local food production in terms of soil quality, frost free growing season, irrigation, productive capacity, and sustainability.**
- **Promote a provincial approach to food security and champion the preparation of a comprehensive food security plan by the Capital Region Board.** This begins with a Regional Food System Study that includes productive capacity, carrying capacity, economic linkages, and sustainability,
- **Ensure access to local food through a secure land supply and city-wide as well as neighbourhood level approaches to local food and food security.**
- **Adopting Greater Edmonton Alliance’s suite of proposed amendments to the MDP** that raises the prominence of food throughout the document and ensures food becomes a central pillar in our planning processes.

4.2 Our Commitment – Putting Our Money Where Our Mouths Are

Shifting to a vibrant and sustainable food system is not only a policy issue. Significant choices about the kind of food system we want are being made in the marketplace. Citizens are ready to do our part.

In early 2009, Greater Edmonton Alliance conducted a Local Foods Survey & Pledge to assess and organize our commitment to local foods. 712 Greater Edmonton households, comprising about 2000 individuals, committed to shift an additional 40% of their current food dollars to local food when the important and very important challenges to buying local food are resolved. This would result in a shift of \$2.3 million dollars annually to purchasing local foods.

- **Current citizen pledge to shift \$2.3 million of annual food spending to local foods**
- If 25% of Edmonton Census Metropolitan Area residents responded similarly, this would mean **over \$330 million would be shifted to local foods**
- This would result in a total local food purchasing of \$530 million
- The multiplier effect would bring the **economic impact to over \$2 billion**
- If the entire population of Edmonton responded this way, including the multiplier effect the economic impact of a local food economy would be \$8 to \$10 billion

5.0 Conclusion

The City of Edmonton is positioned to take a leadership role in creating a vibrant and sustainable Local Food Economy. Edmonton has demonstrated its ability to be innovative, at the forefront of technology and its commitment to sustainability through its very progressive and advanced approach to waste management and nature. Now is the opportunity to build on that as we continue on our journey of building and growing our great city.

We have demonstrated the need, the demand for and the many benefits of a strong, vibrant local food economy. A local food system as we have described is a key driver of strong economic growth as well as healthier, safer, and more environmentally friendly food.

Attachment 1: Initiatives from other jurisdictions that support the development of a Local Food System

<i>Food System Issue addressed</i>	<i>Initiative</i>	<i>Description</i>
Growing	Green Hectares, Strathcona County	Focused on supporting family farms to thrive through education and demonstration initiatives around sustainable farming practices, and providing agricultural experience opportunities for urban and rural residents of Strathcona County.
Policy and Planning	Calgary Food Policy Council	Vision is to develop food policies in the best interests of Calgarians. They have a Food Charter whose preamble states - The Calgary Food Charter presents a vision for a food system which benefits our community and the environment. It sets out the City of Calgary's commitment to the development of a coordinated municipal food policy, and animates our community's engagement and participation in conversations and actions related to food security in Calgary.
Growing	Calgary Food Policy Council 2011 by 2011 Project	Encourages the use of industrial, commercial and private land for growing food, increasing the number of growing spaces by 2011 by 2011.
Processing and Distribution	Brazeau County 100K Kitchen Party - Drayton Valley	Developing a local food data base and directory and providing non-financial support for local canners and farmers to set up cooperatives and community kitchens and to help citizens eat local.
Production, Access, Distribution	Toronto Food Policy Council	Served as a catalyst for numerous food security initiatives ranging from Community Shared Agriculture, breast feeding, farmers markets, good food box programs, incubator kitchens, community restaurants, community gardens, rooftop gardens, and school food programs. Outcomes included decreased social isolation, increased consumption of fruits and vegetables, increased community food self-sufficiency and increased sustainable food production. The organization has developed a number of discussion papers and in 2001, the City of Toronto adopted a food policy charter.
Production and Land Use	Agricultural Area Plans	Have been developed by several British Columbia municipalities, including, Langley, Kelowna, Penticton, Pitt Meadows, Surrey, Richmond and North Cowichan (City of Edmonton, 2009).
Growing	Linking Land and Future Farmers	Matches small-scale organic farmers with landowners who want their land to be farmed.
Distribution and Access	Local Food Plus	A Toronto non-profit has developed standards to recognize sustainable local food producers and processors. When certified, producers and processors are entitled to use the Local Food Plus logo on their produce and benefit by being linked to local purchasers. In 2006, University of

		Toronto starts to source 10% of food locally (Local Food Plus).
Access and Distribution	Garderie Bio: manger et grandir Quebec	Over 25 organic farms (providing fruits, vegetables and meat) are linked with 34 child care centres. This relationship supports sustainable local agriculture, improves the children's diets, and increases the farmers' production, incomes, employment, and hectares devoted to organic food. Additionally, a number of these child care centres provide access for local organic food to neighbourhood residents, parents, and employees. This initiative became self-funding.
Leadership and Planning	Local Food Action Initiative, Seattle, WA	The Initiative expands resources for food banks; strengthens local farmers' markets; develops solutions that will reduce the cost of food for urban consumers by making stronger connections between our rural and urban areas; plans for better management of the food system in emergencies and disasters; and more. The City will now develop a Food Policy Action Plan to identify policies, programs and opportunities to promote local food system sustainability and security. In addition, the City will begin working on a Regional Food Policy Council that can bring the City and the County together to develop policies that contribute to these goals.
Leadership and Planning	Capital Region Council of Governments, Connecticut	Have included a four page document in their Master Regional Plan that includes: An explanation of the food system and its importance to planning. A description of current conditions as related to food production, consumption, distribution and waste management. A set of goals and policy recommendations related to preserving farmland, improving access to healthy food, improving the health and nutrition of residents and reducing environmental impacts of the food system. In cooperation with the Hartford Food Policy Commission , they have created a map of the City of Hartford's food resources, including food pantries, WIC sites, farmer's markets, community gardens and grocery stores. Indirectly the plan has contributed to the passage of the Community Investment Act which created a state fund to support open space, farmland and historic preservation through a \$30 assessment on real estate transactions. Leading to \$1 million/year in grants for on-farm improvements.
Leadership and Planning, Access and Distribution	Action for Wildlife and Groundwork - UK	Have created habitat and species plans that describe management strategies for areas of biodiversity concern, including farmland areas. Also working to promote the consumption of local produce (labels are placed on all local products for easy identification), thereby promoting the long-term sustainability of the farming community and preserving land for biodiversity.
Growing and Land Use	Transfer of Development Credits (TDC) or Rights (TDR)	Have been used to provide a win-win solution to the protection of agricultural land and to preserve value for landowners. By the end of the 1990's over 40 TDR programs were adopted in 13 states.
Growing, Access	Richmond Poverty	Proposes innovative designs that would enable CSA farmers, urban community gardeners, food bank users, farmer's market growers and

and Distribution	Response Committee – Richmond B.C.	consumers to interact within a living, working park.
Growing and Access	Sharing Backyards – Victoria, B.C.	Program designed to link people that have space to grow food but don't have the time or inclination to do so with people who are interested in growing but do not have access to space for growing.
Leadership and Planning, Distribution	Local Food Procurement Policies - UK	Government support for local food procurement policies is credited as a key factor in developing a local food supply chain throughout the UK.
Distribution and Access	Mini Markets - Minneapolis	Located in neighbourhoods with limited access to healthy food. They sell only locally grown food.

Attachment 2: Government Leadership & Impact – Other things the City of Edmonton Can Do

1:0 Compile data on the existing local food system, (see food system diagram page 2). It is difficult to get where you are going if you do not know where you are starting from. This would allow us to build on our existing strengths.

1:1 Establish a Food Policy Council and a Food Charter - Hundreds of municipalities in North America and around the world, including Calgary, Toronto, and Ottawa have established Food Policy Councils as an integral part of addressing issues of food security and sustainability.

1:2 Initiate local procurement policies for all municipally owned facilities - The City of Edmonton can demonstrate leadership by initiating local procurement policies throughout the city. Our public buildings, catering, facilities (Zoo, Muttart, Fort Edmonton etc), events etc. can all have their food supplied locally. There are many farm to school (in the U.S. 400 school districts in 22 states), farm to university, farm to hospital initiatives around the world. Senior's Centres, daycare centres, prisons and the food bank could all participate in local institutional buying initiatives.

1:3 Implement innovative and proven policy and legislative instruments to protect prime agricultural land and compensate landowners – Of great concern to the City of Edmonton is the financial impact to current land owners, Transfer of Development Credits (TDC's) are a very promising vehicle for managing this (**Attachment VI -**). While TDC's are relatively new to Alberta and Canada they are being explored in Red Deer County, Bighorn County, Canmore and the Beaver Hills initiative to name a few. And several examples exist of their use in the U.S. For more information see Attachment II: Other examples of policy options include:

➤ *LEED Certification Standards – The U.S. Green Building Council's Neighbourhood Development Standards suggest reserving 5% of all residential development land for community farms and gardens.*

➤ *Include standards for access to and availability of community gardens in land use policies*

➤ *Create zoning use category specifically for urban farmers and community gardens on public land.*

1:4 Educate our population about food system issues and the value of eating local - Conduct a comprehensive "Eat Local First" education campaign along with the adoption of Eat Local First labelling system.

1:5 Municipal Supported Agriculture (MSA) and an urban farm business incubator to promote sustainable, green jobs and access to healthy foods - Make available, at cost effective rates, municipally-owned lands (of various sizes, shapes and locals) for agriculture enterprise. This could provide incubator farm plots. Small tracts could be favourably leased to trainee producers so that they can gain critical crop-specific knowledge and experience before committing significant capital and other resources in the development of speculative agriculture enterprises. Similarly, an incubator kitchen for exploration into, or start-up production of value-added agriculture products could be a part of the overall model. Those wanting to experiment with, or develop a processed value-added agricultural product could rent commercial processing/kitchen facilities for product development and business start-up. This could be launched on a city-university-private partnership model.

1:6 Increase access to farmer's markets - Increasing the number of markets in the city, streamlining the process, establishing mini-markets on the Minneapolis model, and helping connect food insecure populations with local farmers through a farmer's market voucher system would all go a long way to increasing access to local foods.

1:7 Create an edible landscaping position in the Parks and Landscaping Division – This position would help community groups identify community garden sites, and develop and tend edible landscaping, berrylands, community gardens, and orchards on City-owned or other public land. The City could provide incentives for development of edible gardens.

1:8 Create edible landscaping in public spaces - Integrate ornamentals with edibles, bio-remediation, fiber and medicinal plants in city landscape planning.

1:9 Explore ways to support establishment of commercial and community foodshed development in Edmonton – Look at permitting and funding opportunities and partnering with other organizations (i.e. jointly fund an urban farm business incubator, partner with school boards to start a “Garden Bed for Every Child” Campaign, work with school boards to start a market-garden business program in schools.)

1:10 Support and facilitate the development of value-added processing and distribution infrastructure - This could include **Co-op commercial kitchens** and **incubator kitchens** are one of the small-scale food processing models that could provide small entrepreneurs with opportunities to build their businesses and develop job skills.

1:11 Encourage development of a “non-retail” wholesale market that may include not-for-profit activities designed to serve low-income communities. This type of wholesale market would purchase local produce and distribute it to a range of customers and clients, from high-end restaurants and specialty food processors who require top quality produce and farm products, to corporate clients who wish to invest their food dollars in a socially responsible way, to schools and other institutions that operate under extremely limited budgets. This model balances the costs and benefits of local food markets, reducing prices for consumers while continuing to pay producers a fair price.

Glossary

Biocapacity

Refers to the capacity of a given biologically productive area to generate an on-going supply of renewable resources and to absorb its spillover wastes. Unsustainability occurs if the area's ecological footprint exceeds its biocapacity. (Source: GreenFacts)

Carrying Capacity

The finite ability of a watershed, airshed, and/or landscape to sustain activities and development before it shows unacceptable signs of stress or degradation. Our future well-being will depend on how well we manage our activities so that they do not exceed the carrying capacity.

Ecological Footprint

A measure of how much biologically productive land and water we use to produce the resources we consume and to absorb our waste. Global trade means that our footprint includes land and water from all over the world

Food Security

A state when all people, at all times have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. The foundation of a food secure region is maximising local food system capacity.

Multiplier Effect

Buying local products at locally owned businesses keeps money circulating closer to where you spend it. This creates a ripple effect as those businesses and their employees in turn spend your money locally. Corporate chains send most of your money out of town. For every \$1 spent at a local store \$0.45 is reinvested locally vs. For every \$1 spent at a chain \$0.15 is reinvested locally.

Productive Capacity

The amount and type of food that can be produced by a given area of land in a given period of time.

Sustainable

Development which meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Contemporary land use decisions will balance current economic, environmental and social benefits with the consequences for future generations. This principle of inter-generational responsibility applies to all forms of human land use (residential and industrial, agriculture and forestry, energy and transportation). – Alberta Land-Use Framework

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