

For Information Only

Greater Sudbury Food Strategy

Presented To:	Planning Committee
Presented:	Monday, Jun 13, 2016
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Type:	Presentations

Resolution

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Finance Implications

Costs associated with developing a food strategy are minimal and will be covered within the existing budget.

Background

Through the Greater Sudbury Food Policy Council and its extensive community network, gaps in our knowledge and in the capacity of our local food system have been determined (Appendix A). A food strategy has been deemed a priority to help guide the community in our next steps towards an equitable, vibrant and sustainable food system. EarthCare Sudbury, the sustainability program housed within Planning Services of the City of Greater Sudbury, will be playing a leading role in the development of this strategy in partnership with several community organizations such as the Sudbury & District Health Unit and the Greater Sudbury Food Policy Council, which includes resources members from the Greater Sudbury Social Planning Council, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Eat Local Sudbury and Centre de santé communautaire du Grand Sudbury.

A food strategy is a document that identifies short and long-term actions to help enhance our current food system and prepare for growth and change in the future. A review of seven select food strategies from across Canada highlights elements on social justice, environmental sustainability, healthy eating and economic and community growth (Social Planning Council of Sudbury, 2015). More specific topics within a food strategy will include growing, rearing or foraging for food, processing food, preparing food for consumption for households and food service industry, eating food and composting the remains. These topics correspond to the proposed changes in the chapter dealing with local food systems in the City's Official Plan.

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The Greater Sudbury food system is very complex and will require an organized and collective approach to understand what it is now and its potential for growth.

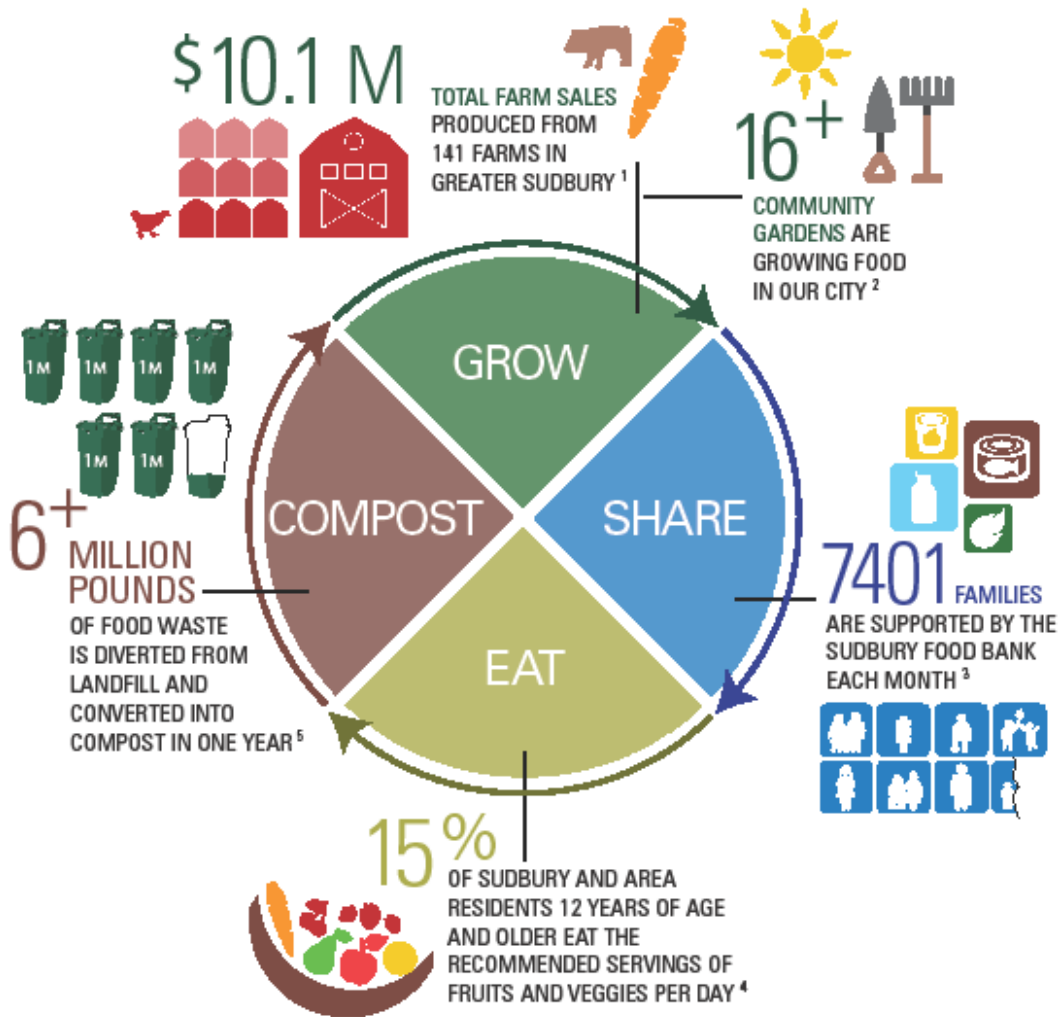
A food strategy would be closely aligned with several guiding documents for the City of Greater Sudbury that discuss our local food system. These documents include the EarthCare Sudbury Action Plan 2003, the City of Greater Sudbury Food Charter 2004, the Greater Sudbury Biodiversity Action Plan 2009 and the current recommendations for the Official Plan. A food strategy is also consistent with City Council's change agenda outlined in the 2015 to 2018 Corporate Strategic Plan.

Over the past few years, our community has seen a tremendous growth in the interest and investment in our food system. Retailers and restaurants showcase local food options, large institutions incorporate local food in their procurement policies and sign bylaws are being evaluated to help facilitate efforts of local food producers. Furthermore, there are many more opportunities to learn food skills through several organizations and our youth are being exposed to community gardens, compost programs and/or free healthy food options through the school system.

We hope to develop a Greater Sudbury Food Strategy and to continue to engage with the community to work towards an economically viable and ecologically sustainable food system that provides residents with accessible, affordable, nutritious and culturally acceptable food. We anticipate that the Food Strategy will be completed in 2017.

Growing a Sustainable Food Culture

Greater Sudbury Food System



REFERENCES

- 1 Statistics Canada Census of Agriculture, 2011
- 2 Community Garden Network, 2014
- 3 Sudbury Food Bank, 2014
- 4 Statistics Canada Canadian Community Health Survey, 2011/12
- 5 City of Greater Sudbury, 2011

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Greater Sudbury
Food Policy Council

