

## Food Systems Transformation Toronto Food Strategy











### Toronto Food Strategy

VISION: Create a healthy and sustainable food system that meets the needs of all Toronto residents







## C40 Good Food Cities Declaration

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CITIES

CLIMATE LEADERSHIP GROUP

At the C40 world Mayors Summit on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019, in Copenhagen, Denmark, the Mayor of Toronto signed the Good Food Cities Declaration, along with mayors from 14 cities across the world.



# C40 Good Food Cities Declaration

Under the C40 Good Food Cities Declaration, cities commit to:

- C40 CITIES CLIMATE LEADERSHIP GROUP
- Align **food procurement** policies to the Planetary Health Diet ideally sourced from organic agriculture
- Support an overall increase of healthy plant-based food consumption in our cities by shifting away from unsustainable, unhealthy diets.
- Reduce food loss and waste by 50% from 2015 figures; and
- Work with citizens, businesses, public institutions and other organizations to develop a joint strategy for implementing these measures and achieving these goals inclusively and equitably, and incorporating this strategy into the city's Climate Action Plan.





### Vulnerability Assessment of Toronto's Food System

#### **RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS, RESILIENT CITIES:**

A High-Level Vulnerability Assessment of Toronto's Food System

Kimberly Zeuli, Austin Nijhuis and Zachary Gerson-Nieder

July 2018







"Food is the single strongest lever to optimize human health and environmental sustainability on Earth"



### C40 Cities: The Future of Urban Consumption in a 1.5 CWorld



"Adopting dietary change is the consumption intervention with the greatest potential for emissions reductions"

C40, Arup, University of Leeds. (2019). The Future of Urban Consumption in a 1.5°C World.



- The City of Toronto can support sustainable food systems and reduce GHG Emissions by addressing the following areas:
  - Food Procurement
    Food Consumption
    Food Loss and Waste
    Resilience



### Bridging Gobal Targets, Food Metrics and Local City goals









Aligning food procurement in the City of Toronto to the Planetary Health Diet, which includes healthier, plant-based and sustainable food options

- Altogether, the City of Toronto influences the procurement of approximately 7 million meals per year.
- Toronto has the potential to reduce its food-related GHG emissions by taking steps towards providing more sustainable and healthy menu options through its own procurement.



WORLD RESCURCES INSTITUTE

COOL FOOD DELICIOUS CLIMATE ACTION

The Cool Food Pledge helps cities:

- Pledge to a science-based target for diet-related ("Scope 3") GHG emissions reduction and to calculate those emissions
- 2. Develop a **plan** to bring about change, and
- 3. Promote Success Stories

#### **DI Toronto** Public Health

# Food Purchases and food-related GHG emissions based on carbon calculator modelling an organization that feeds 10,000 people a year



*Note:* Data are illustrative for one Cool Food Pledge signatory serving approximately 3.5 million meals per year with food purchases proportional to the average U.S. diet in 2013.



### **Proposed Strategies for the City of Toronto**

- Toronto Public Health to work with City of Toronto Divisions to align their food procurement to the Planetary Health Diet, which includes healthier, plant-based, and sustainable food options
- Sign the World Resources Institute Cool Food Pledge and leverage capacity for conducting Greenhouse Gas calculations to inform EED's TransformTO food-related consumption-based emissions reduction efforts.





Supporting an overall increase in the consumption of healthy, plant-based foods by shifting away from unsustainable, unhealthy diets

- The EAT-Lancet Commission suggests a global transition to a "<u>planetary health diet</u>", a diet that favours increasing consumption of a variety of fruits, vegetables, nuts and legumes alongside small portions of meat and dairy.
- Shortly after the release of the EAT-Lancet report, Health Canada released the new <u>Canada's Food Guide</u> in January 2019.



# Consumption







### **Proposed Strategies for the City of Toronto**

- Toronto Public Health in collaboration with other City Divisions, community and institutional partners to support an overall increase in the consumption of healthy plant-based foods in the City of Toronto by shifting away from unsustainable, unhealthy diets
- Food that is good for People and Planet





Reducing food loss and waste and creating a circular economy for food

- A 2019 study conducted by Value Chain Management and Second Harvest found that 58% of all the food produced is lost or wasted in Canada (approximately 35.5 million metric tons).
- City of Toronto is a Partnership City with Ellen MacArthur Foundation's Circular Economy for Food. TPH working with Solid Waste Management Services and external partners on this.



# Strategies must be developed to decrease food loss and waste in each part of the supply chain



Food loss and waste across the system. Reprinted with permission from The Avoidable Crisis of Food Waste<sup>®</sup> Second Harvest (p.4), by Nikkel, L., Maguire, M., Gooch, M., Bucknell, D., LaPlain, D., Dent, B., Whitehead, P., Felfel, A., 2019.



### Developing Toronto's vision for a Circular Economy for Food



#### **Toronto** Public Health

# Critical role of Food Systems for a Livable Toronto

- Food Systems transformation links to multiple City of Toronto strategies:
  - Resilience Strategy
    - Efforts to build resilience and adapt to changes while reducing GHGs all influence the health of residents
  - Also linked to Poverty Reduction, Climate Change (TransformTO), Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy

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- Cities play a leadership role in setting policies and guidelines and taking action for food procurement and consumption, promoting resilience and supporting population health
- Can take concrete steps to reduce food waste and loss
- Alignment of food system transformation, climate change action and resilience builds synergies, strengthens networks and partnerships and facilitates new connections