

**From:** Zachary Tofias  
**To:** Board of Health  
**Cc:** Barbara Emanuel  
**Subject:** C40 Letter - Toronto's Leadership on Good Food Cities Declaration  
**Date:** October 23, 2019 7:58:49 AM  
**Attachments:** C40 Letter - Toronto Food Leadership.pdf

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Dear Councillor Cressy and Members of the Board of Health,

It is my pleasure to share with you this attached letter, where I applaud the leadership of Toronto in joining the Good Food Cities Declaration, with 13 other global leading cities, Barcelona, Copenhagen, Guadalajara, Lima, London, Los Angeles, Milan, Oslo, Paris, Quezon City, Seoul, Stockholm, and Tokyo who have made the impressive commitment to promote and preserve the health of citizens and the health of the planet.

My team at C40 looks forward to working with the City of Toronto's Food Strategy team who will lead the actions necessary to successfully deliver the Good Food Cities Declaration.

Sincerely,  
Zach

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OCTOBER 23, 2019

Councillor Joe Cressy  
Chair of the Board of Health  
City of Toronto

Members of the Board of Health  
City of Toronto

**Re: Toronto's Leadership on Good Food Cities Declaration**

Dear Chairman Cressy and all Members of Board of Health,

I write this letter to applaud the leadership of Toronto in joining the C40 Good Food Cities Declaration, which was launched recently at the C40 World Mayors Summit on October 10th. Toronto has joined 13 other global leading cities, Barcelona, Copenhagen, Guadalajara, Lima, London, Los Angeles, Milan, Oslo, Paris, Quezon City, Seoul, Stockholm, and Tokyo who have made the impressive commitment to promote and preserve the health of citizens and the health of the planet.

This is such an important area of work, and we are excited about the potential of bringing food, climate and health together to deliver nutritious, balanced low carbon solutions. Research published by C40 Cities in June 2019, showed clearly that food is amongst the biggest sources of consumption-based emissions from cities. Eating a sustainable diet and avoiding food waste could cut greenhouse gas emissions from the food we eat by more than 60%. Research by The EAT-Lancet Commission published in January 2019 found that if adopted universally, the 'Planetary Health Diet' would dramatically reduce emissions, provide a balanced, nutritional diet for 10 billion people, and save 11 million lives each year.

Through this declaration, Toronto has shown a clear understanding of how the global food system is a major driver of harmful greenhouse gas emissions, responsible for around a quarter of all emissions which are driving the global climate emergency. Without substantial changes to the ways in which we produce, transport, consume, and dispose of food, C40's research shows that emissions from the food sector are set to increase by nearly 40% by 2050. As emissions grow from producing, consuming and disposing of food, the accelerating climate crisis threatens our ability to feed the world's growing population. Currently, more than 820 million people around the world suffer from hunger. At the same time, global diet trends also contribute to increased rates of heart disease, diabetes, and cancer; rising healthcare costs; and millions of premature deaths each year. The overconsumption of red meat, a major driver of greenhouse gas emissions, and ultra-processed foods heavy in sugar, fat, and salt are making our communities sicker and less productive.

As urbanization brings more people to the world's cities, 80% of all food produced globally is expected to be consumed in cities by 2050, and because food insecurity and rising obesity are increasingly urban problems, C40 is working to support cities take the imperative to act in the best interests of their citizens.

C40 very much looks forward to working with the City of Toronto's Food Strategy team who will lead the actions necessary to successfully deliver the Good Food Cities Declaration.

Sincerely,



Zachary Tofias

C40 Cities Program Director, Food, Water & Waste

cc. Medical Officer of Health, Dr Eileen de Villa



**CONTACT**

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