Framework for Food Systems Change (Food Lens)

Goal:
To engage City Divisions in food system transformation to improve human and planetary health.

Board of Health Motion:
City Council direct all City Divisions, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health and subject matter experts, to: develop a "food lens" for their respective work by the end of 2020 to leverage divisional work to support the objectives of eliminating food insecurity and addressing the climate emergency across the City of Toronto; and request the Deputy City Manager, Community and Social Services, the Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure and Development Services, and the Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, to report to the Board of Health in the first quarter of 2021.

Context:
- Food is the strongest level to optimize human and planetary health (EAT-Lancet Commission, 2019).
- Cities play an important role in improving food systems.
- The City of Toronto has made several food and climate-related commitments:
  - Adopted Toronto's Food Charter in 2001.
  - Signed the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact in 2015.
  - Signed the C40 Good Food Cities Declaration in 2019.
  - Signed the World Resources Institute's Cool Food Pledge in 2019.
  - Declared a climate emergency and further committed to accelerating Toronto's Climate Action Plan in 2019.

The City of Toronto is in a position to elevate and strengthen municipal policy to help achieve the climate action goals and improve human and planetary health.

Guiding Principles (Global Alliance for the Future of Food)
- Diverse
- Equitable
- Healthy
- Inclusive
- Interconnected
- Renewable
- Resilient

The following chart outlines the key domains of food work at the City of Toronto, along with definitions/descriptions and examples of on-going work at the City that align with each priority. The City has made commitments or been directed by council to complete various activities related to the priorities, which are outlined as well.

Domain	Examples may include (not exhaustive)	City Commitment/Council Directive
Economic Development This includes: • Advocating for fair jobs, safe working conditions, and fair liveable wages • Educating and training companies in best practices in human resources for the food industry (e.g., who they hire, how they pay, how they maintain facilities), entrepreneurship training, industry training and education (e.g., to improve understanding of safe working conditions) • Creation of food industry jobs, social responsibility	• Food and Beverage Sector Strategy • Energy Efficiency Workshops for Food Processors	• *Milan Urban Food Policy Pact work stream*: Social and economic equity

Food Justice and Food Security

This includes:
• Food justice, working to address systematic inequities that exist in our food system and food movements. Food justice addresses the ways that colonialism, systemic racism, gender inequity, and growing levels of income and spatial inequality in Toronto continue to animate and shape the current food system. Food justice aims to reshape the food system by ensuring that historically marginalized populations are the core of all levels of food systems decision making (Confronting Anti-black Racism Unit. SDF&A).
• Food resiliency addresses critical food access issues due to climate shocks and long-term food security stresses, as well as building a resilient local food system and supply chain.
• Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, culturally appropriate and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, 1996).
• Food sovereignty, the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. Food sovereignty highlights the need for a equitable and just food system, one that is guided by the leadership of historically marginalized groups and grassroots actors (Confronting Anti-black Racism Unit. SDF&A).

• Black Food Sovereignty Initiative   • Tkaronto Prosperity Plan
• Community Food Resilience action plans
• Student Nutrition Programs

• *Poverty Reduction Strategy Action #8.2:* Promote healthy, equitable and sustainable food systems
• *Poverty Reduction Strategy Recommendation # 9*: Increase access to affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate food
• *Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment of the Food System in Toronto report*, June 2018: City Council request the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration, in collaboration with relevant City Divisions, to develop community food resilience action plans for vulnerable neighbourhoods with critical food access issues, in order to identify strategies and best practices to increase food access and affordability in these neighbourhoods and develop emergency food response plans.
• *Milan Urban Food Policy Pact work streams*: Social and economic equity; & Food production

Food Loss, Waste, and Circular Economy This includes: • Food loss, the discarding of food that occurs from production through to processing (e.g., foods not meeting customer specifications; orders from customers being changed or cancelled; lack of farm labour resulting in fruit not being picked) (Nikkel et al., 2019) • Food waste, the discarding of food during distribution and marketing to customers through retail or foodservice and subsequently in the home (Nikkel et al., 2019) • Circular economy of food, which disrupts the linear food systems and mimics natural systems of regeneration so that waste does not exist, but is instead feedstock for another cycle. It promotes a sustainable, resilient and inclusive food system. [Ellen MacArthur foundation]	• Love Food Hate Waste campaign　　　　•　Circular Economy for Food initiative • Reducing single-use take-away items	• *C40 Good Food Cities Declaration*: Reduce food loss and waste by 50% from a 2015 baseline • *Milan Urban Food Policy Pact work streams*: Food Production; & Food Waste
Food Procurement This includes: • Purchasing food and contracting out catering services in full or in part by public bodies and agencies that are part of the city or under the guidance of the Mayor/city. (C40 Technical Note, 2019)	• Increasing procurement of local foods within City facilities • Increasing procurement of plant-based and sustainably produced menu options in City facilities • Social Procurement Program • Purchasing food from Social Enterprises	• *World Resources Institute Cool Food Pledge*: Align food procurement in the City of Toronto to the Planetary Health Diet, which includes healthier, plant-based and sustainable food options such that associated greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by 25% by 2030 relative to 2015 • *Milan Urban Food Policy Pact work streams*: Food Production; and Food Supply & Distribution

| **Healthy and Sustainable Diets**
This includes:
• Patterns of eating which support optimal human health (including physical, mental, and social well-being) and planetary health. (C40 Technical Note, 2019).
• Food culture and celebration | • Food and beverage marketing to kids
• Food literacy education and skills training
• Increasing and improving community kitchen spaces in City faclities for food literacy programmiing
• Student Nutrition Programs
• Application and implementation of Canada's Food Guide (2019) | • *C40 Good Food Cities Declaration*: Support an overall increase in the consumption of healthy plant-based foods by shifting away from unsustainable, unhealthy diets
• *Canada's New Food Guide - Implications and Opportunities for Action report*, October 2019: The Board of Health requested the Medical Officer of Health to collaborate with relevant City Divisions and organizations in the City of Toronto on working towards alignment with Canada's Dietary Guidelines
• *Milan Urban Food Policy Pact work stream*: Sustainable Diets and Nutrition |

Land-use Planning and Food Infrastructure This includes: • Green infrastructure, which relies on plants to do the work of managing stormwater, sewage, heat waves, carbon storage in the soil, beautification, recreation, urban agriculture and biophilia. • Food supply, distribution, and retail • Public markets • Transportation • Urban agriculture, which supports a food-friendly city by growing food, cultivating plants and trees and raising animals in and around city. It can be done outdoors and indoors and can be organized by various community groups, schools, public sector organizations and private sector businesses. [Toronto Urban Growers] • Zoning	• CEED gardens • City-region, Golden Horseshoe Food & Farming Alliance • Green roof by-law • PollinateTO • Toronto Official Plan	• *Milan Urban Food Policy Pact work streams:* Food Productions; Food Supply & Distribution