

Chatham-Kent Food Strategy



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Traditional Territory Acknowledgment

Acknowledgements



Stakeholders

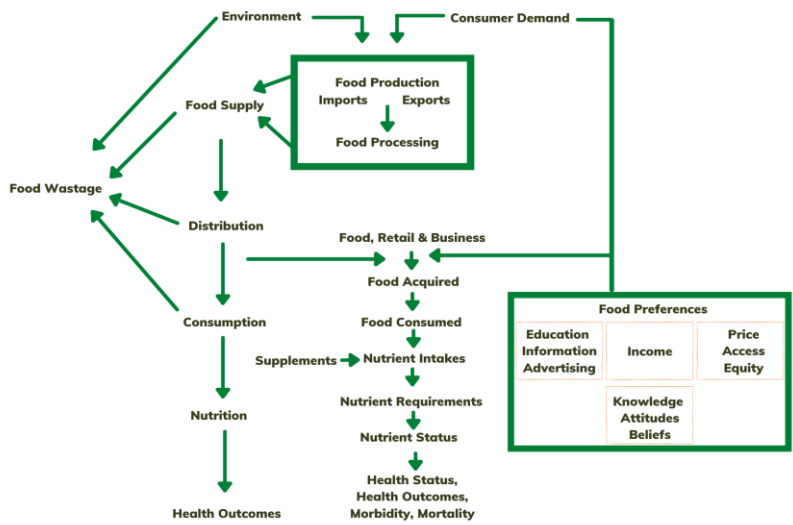
Figure 1: Core Working Group



COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS	MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CK Community Health Centre CK Food Policy Council CK Student Nutrition Program CKAD Evans Wholesale Dresden Foodland Kent Federation of Agriculture Eric St. Clair LHIN Local Immigration Partnership Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Ontario Commercial Fisheries Association Prosperity Roundtable Salvation Army Senior Advisory Council/Age Friendly Committee United Way 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Attraction and Promotion Culture, Community Outreach Employment and Social Services Economic Development Parks and Open Spaces Planning Transportation Waste Management Workforce Planning Board



What is a food system?





What's our Timeframe



Phase One: Information Gathering

In this phase, we engaged with stakeholders to gather information from food system leaders on what is currently happening in Chatham-Kent in all areas of the food system.

To do this, we brought together a core working group to have a conversation to provide direction on the CK Food Strategy vision, mission, values, and goals. Core members provided a framework for.

July 2019-September 2020



Phase Two: Community Check In

This is where we are now!

Through an online survey we will collect feedback about what we have heard so far.

October 2020-December 2020



Phase Three: Carrying out the plan

The CK Food Strategy will be a community plan to guide future work across the food system.

Regular updates to the community will be provided to track implementation over time.

January 2021-December 2030



About CK Food Strategy



Examples of food system strengths:

- Over 2000 farms and more than 70 different crops.
- In Canada, CK is number one producer for green peas, quail and field peppers.
- Contracts with large corporations provides a guaranteed income for producers.
- Wheatley is home to the largest commercial fishing port in the World.
- CK offers garden plots to anyone interested in growing their own foods for free.
- Growing public interest in local food, edible gardens, and supporting local farmers and producers.
- Food and Beverage is a tourism attraction.
- Community Stakeholders invested in activities to improve the food system.
- Programs such as gleaning, harvest and sale of second grade produce, Food Rescue help to connect people to food that would go to waste.



Some of the challenges that were identified with the food system are:

- System does not prioritize keeping foods local.
- Farmers face pressures to meet quantity demands for crops to fulfill contracts.
- Neighbourhoods have inequitable access to healthy foods.
- Food systems do not prioritize the negative impact on our environment.
- People have lost connection as to where their food comes.
- Rising food costs impact peoples ability to afford food.
- Up to 40% of the food produced is wasted and to compound the problem, food ends up in landfills instead of being composted.
- Many foods are transformed into highly processed convenient options that contribute to chronic disease.
- People working within the food system, often have lower wages compared to other employment sectors.



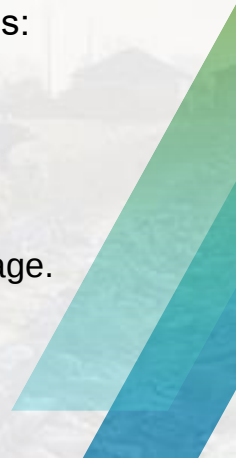
A Food Strategy can be a powerful tool to carry out the activities that will transform our community's local food system and provide significant opportunities to elevate the health, economy, environment, and culture for all.



Food Connects Us

The food system work is guided by the following principles:

- We all deserve nutritious food.
- Food creates healthy and vibrant neighbourhoods.
- Local food employs people and keeps money local.
- Food attracts people and is part of CK's culture and heritage.





Our VISION

A healthy food system for a healthy community

Our MISSION

Partnering to create a coordinated, vibrant, sustainable, and local food system that is accessible to and affordable for everyone in Chatham-Kent.

Our VALUES

Sustainable

Safe

Affordable

Nourishing




GOALS

- Increase access to local, nourishing, traditional, and culturally diverse foods.
 - Improve food literacy and skills.
 - Increase the opportunities that support a safe and prosperous local food system.
 - Strengthen partnerships to increase capacity for collective action within the food system.
 - Reduce the environmental impact and improve climate resilience across all parts of the food system.
 - Increase the integration of local food to support cultural identity and social interaction.
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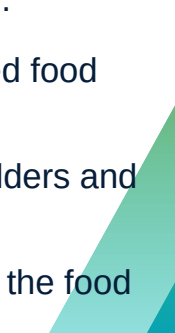


RECOMMENDATIONS



1. Strengthen supply, demand, and access to local, traditional, and culturally diverse foods available to all markets.
 2. Promote innovation and incentivize market access of local, traditional, and culturally diverse foods within our local food system.
 3. Encourage and support training programs and opportunities within the agriculture and food and beverage sectors.
 4. Enhance public awareness of the cultural, health, ecological, and economic value of forest and freshwater foods (FFWF).
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RECOMMENDATIONS

5. Promote physical access to nourishing, local foods in all neighbourhoods, prioritizing neighbourhoods that have the highest need.
 6. Improve individual and household food access and security.
 7. Improve confidence, knowledge, and skills to make informed food choices.
 8. Enhance the visibility and promotion of community stakeholders and programs that support the local food system.
 9. Reduce food waste and food-related packaging throughout the food system.
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Action Plan

ACTION	RECOMMENDATIONS				
Advocate for provincial and municipal policies to protect land for agriculture, freshwater foods, and forest foods.	1, 3, 4, 6	X			
Support the development of a purchasing and distribution system of local foods into public facilities and local markets.	1, 2, 5	X	X	X	
Provide support and resources for edible landscaping within community organizations and, businesses and on municipal land.	1, 5, 6, 7	X		X	
Provide resources and support for existing and development of additional community gardens in neighbourhoods across CK.	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	X		X	
Advocate for and support initiatives that focus on training programs, job creation, and fair wages in agriculture and the food and beverage sectors.	3	X	X		
Partner with education sector and colleges to raise awareness about jobs in agriculture and the food/beverage sector.	3, 8	X	X		
Strengthen access and opportunities for farming as a living particularly for new farmers and new farm enterprises.	1, 2, 3	X			
Enhance the promotion and marketing of local food branding to include an education and awareness campaign (why is it important, how to identify local products, what is the value of supporting local).	4, 7, 8	X	X	X	

QUOTES

"There are a wide range of native plants that can provide plentiful, edible crops in CK. Hazelnuts, cranberries, raspberries, persimmons, plums, and cherries are all examples of native plants that can support both humans and wildlife."

"Government co-op programs are needed to help small farmers sell processed goods. High capital costs are keeping small farming operations from doing minimal amounts of processing."

"More farmers markets! Local markets strengthen communities, make produce and goods easily accessible, and help members of the community feel more connected to farmers and food."

"I would love to see a farmer-consumer partnership when it comes to food waste and CK could absolutely lead the way. Why are we not making efforts to get properly composted food waste back to farmers to put on their fields?"

"[A living wage] would decrease the need for and investment put into food banks. No one wants to go to a food bank."

"[There should be] an enhanced, centralized website with more information than currently exists about farms, local food, and opportunities to buy from farmers in general."



NEXT STEPS



- Prioritize the action work
- Support the action plan implementation
- Develop a tool to monitor impact
- Develop communication modes



CK Food Strategy Prioritization Survey

- Help prioritize the 23 action items in the CKFS
 - Open to feedback from the group(s) you represent
- Stakeholders may already be working on action items
- Indicate level of involvement with action items
- Survey timeline: Feedback collected by end of July 2022

[Survey Link](#)



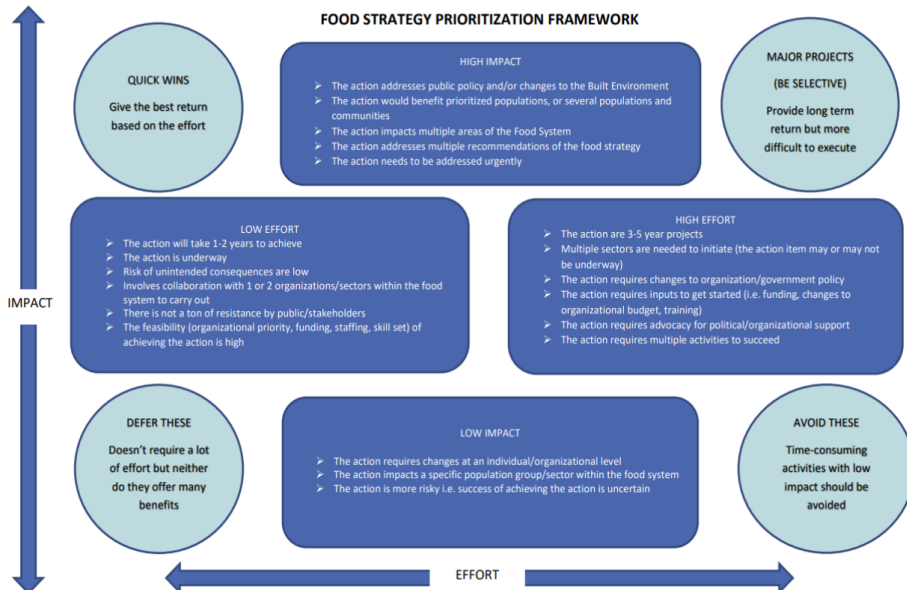


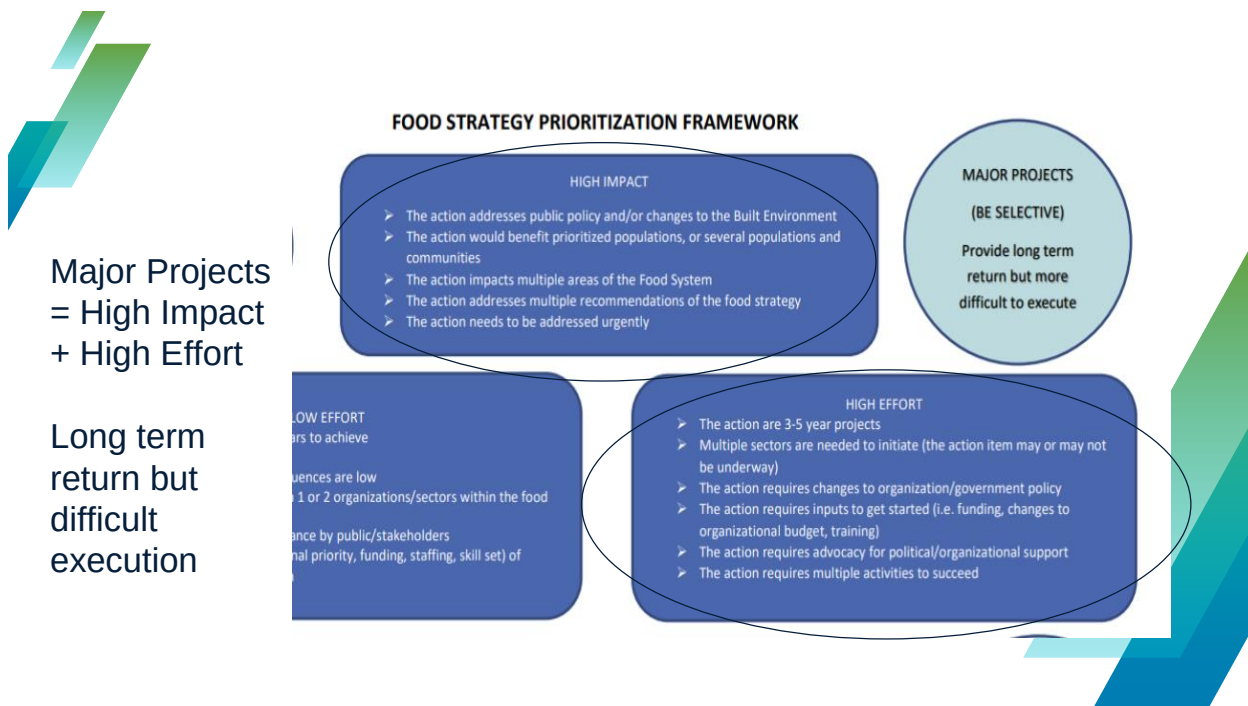
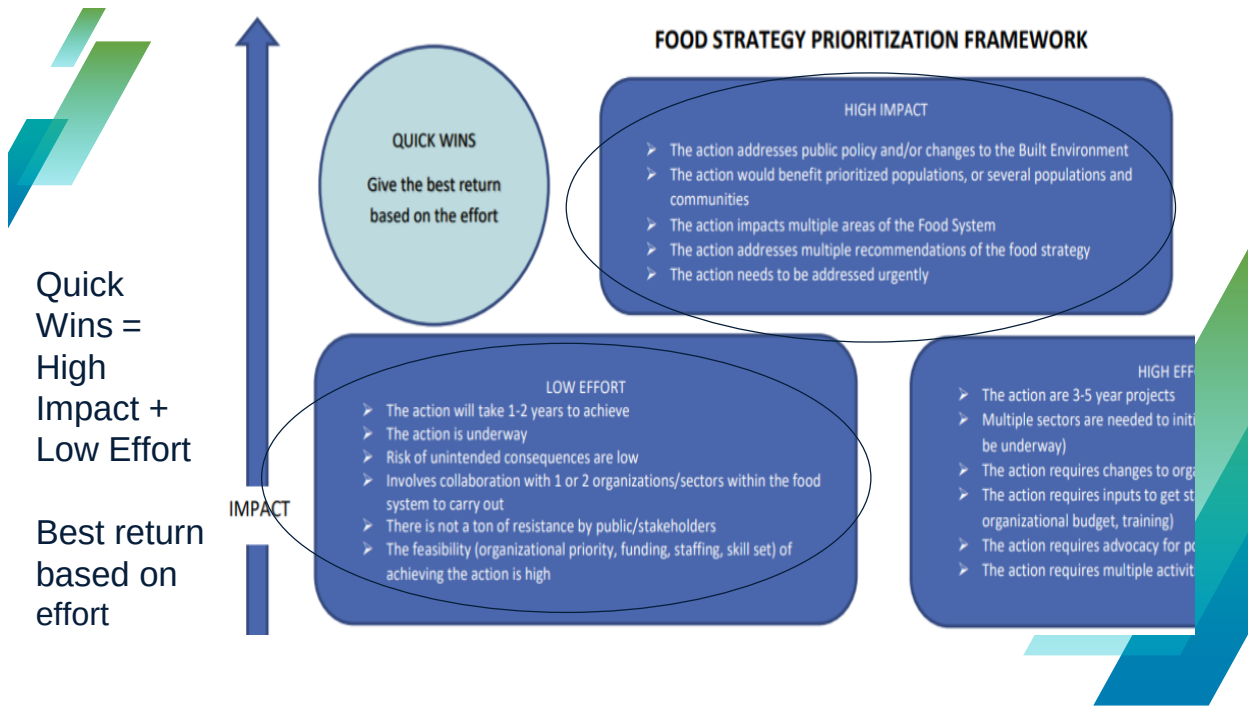
CK Food Strategy Prioritization Survey

CKFS Prioritization Framework

- Defines action items based on level of impact and effort

[Survey Link](#)

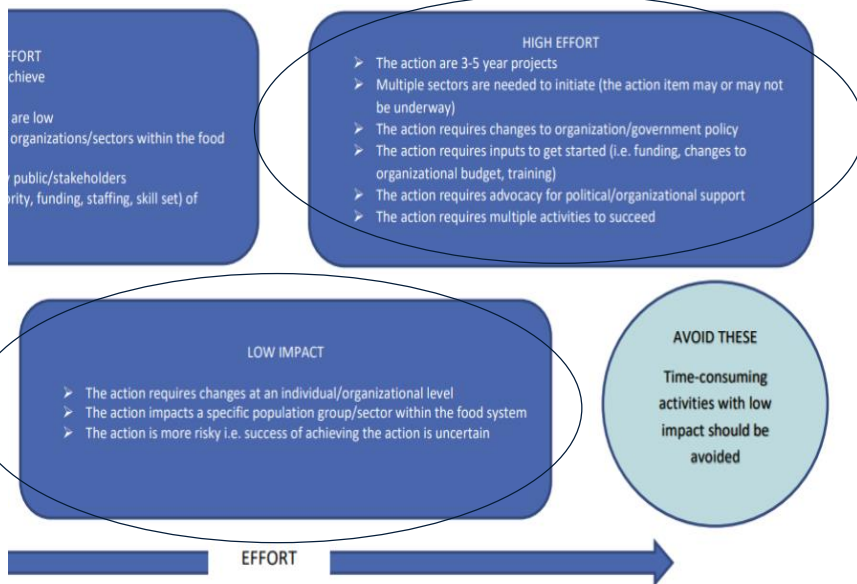






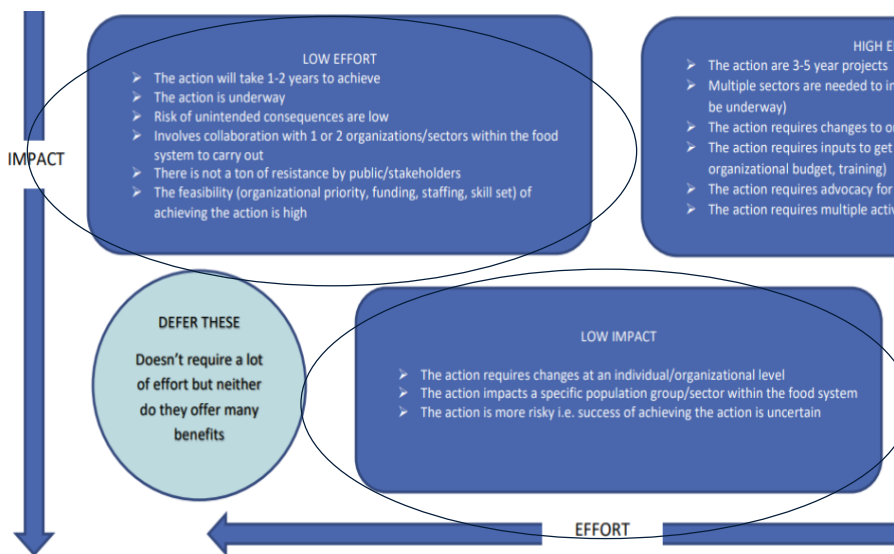
Avoid these =
Low Impact +
High Effort

Time consuming
with low
impact

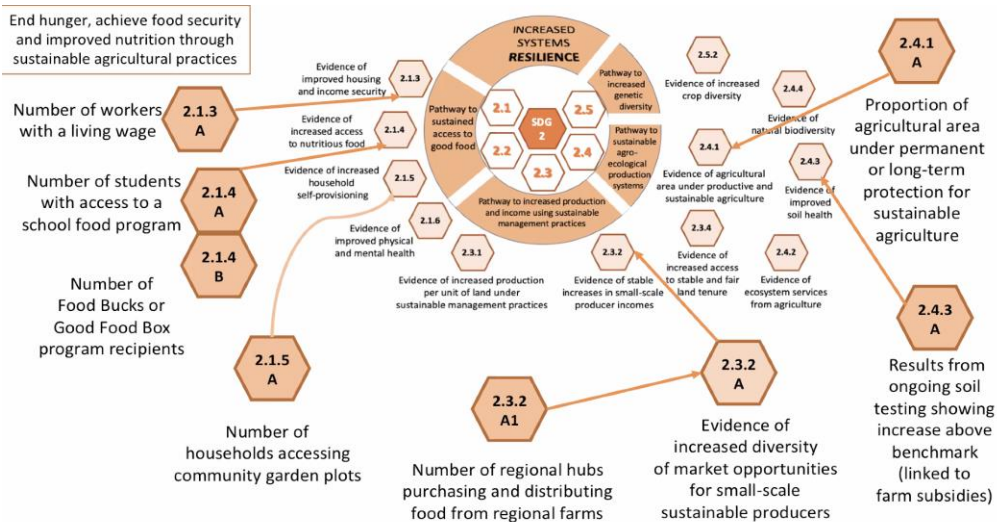


Defer these =
Low Impact +
Low Effort

Less effort
but not
many
benefits



Develop a tool to Monitor Success



NEXT STEPS



- Complete Prioritization of action items and do further Community Consultation (July-August)
- Communication Priority Actions and provide Update on the Actions currently underway (August)
- Begin the work towards the Priority Actions
- Develop the Food System Communication Resource i.e. Report Card (September-December)
- Redesign the Let's Talk Food Website (September-December)
- Create Monthly Newsletter (September)





Helpful Resources

Local

- www.letstalkfood-ck.com

Provincial

- [Sustain Ontario](#)
- [Durham Local Food Solutions | dfpc \(durhamfoodpolicycouncil.com\)](#)
- [Toronto Food Strategy – City of Toronto](#)
- [Food Strategy in Hamilton | Engage Hamilton](#)
- <https://tbfoodstrategy.com/>

Federal

- [Food Secure Canada](#)
- Food Policy - agriculture.canada.ca

International

- [Home - San Diego County Food Vision 2030 \(sdfoodvision2030.org\)](#)
- [Introduction to the Toolkit | Food for the cities programme | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(fao.org\)](#)



Questions?



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