

Why a Food Strategy?

Food connects us.

A sustainable food system protects natural resources, strengthens communities and increases physical, social and mental well being.

- 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.



Vision / Mission & Values

VISION:

A healthy food system for a healthy community

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



Components of a Food Strategy



FOOD PRODUCTION, PROCESSING & DISTRIBUTION
(Agriculture, Forest & Freshwater Foods)



FOOD RETAIL, BUSINESS & TOURISM



HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS & LITERACY



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY & FOOD WASTE



What We've Done & Next Steps

WHAT WE'VE DONE:

- ✓ Engage with stakeholders across the food system
- ✓ Establish a working group
- ✓ Complete a current state of CK's Food System
- ✓ Define Our Vision, Mission and Values
- ✓ Identify goals
- ✓ Draft recommendations and an action plan
- ✓ Community Check In

NEXT STEPS:

- Finalize the recommendations and actions based on feedback
- Prioritize the work
- Support the action plan implementation
- Develop a way to monitor success
- Communicate progress to stakeholders and community

CK's Goals & Recommendations



GOALS:

1. Increase access to local, nourishing, traditional and culturally diverse foods.
2. Improve food literacy.
3. Strengthen partnerships to increase capacity for collective action to promote a sustainable and just food system.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Strengthen supply, demand, and access to local, traditional, and culturally diverse foods available to all markets.
2. Encourage and support training programs and opportunities within the agriculture and food and beverage sectors.
3. Promote physical and economic access to nourishing, local foods in all neighbourhoods, prioritizing neighbourhoods that have the highest need.
4. Enhance the visibility and promotion of community stakeholders and programs that support the local food system.
5. Reduce the environmental impact and improve climate resilience across all parts of the food system.
6. Improve individual and household food insecurity.



CK's Food Action Plan

ACTION	Recommendations				
Develop a public awareness strategy of the economic, cultural, health, and environmental value of local foods (forest, freshwater, and agricultural foods) i.e. local food branding, as part of community festivals, tourism and other events.	1, 4	X	X	X	X
Support opportunities for local businesses to divert food or reduce food waste.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	X	X		X
Support the development of a purchasing and distribution system of local foods into public facilities and local markets (local food hubs)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	X	X	X	
Advocate for and support initiatives that focus on training programs, job creation, fair wages and decent work in agriculture and the food and beverage sectors.	2, 4, 6	X	X	X	
Partner with education sector and colleges to raise awareness about jobs in agriculture and the food/beverage sector.	2, 4	X	X		
Strengthen access, skills and opportunities for farming as a living, particularly for new farmers. (renting Mun land for urban farming)	2, 3, 4, 5, 6	X	X		
Advocate for provincial and municipal policies to protect land for agriculture, freshwater foods, and forest foods.	2, 3, 4	X	X	X	
Create awareness and advance policy to reduce food waste at home (including multi-unit dwellings), work, school, and other public facilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composting • Food Recovery i.e. divert edible food • Single Use Plastics and Recycled Packaging 	1,3,4,5	X	X	X	X
Provide resources and support for community gardens and edible landscaping throughout the MoCK.	1,3,4	X	X	X	
Ensure people have access to nutritious, local foods in neighbourhoods/communities by prioritizing the areas of highest need.	1, 3	X	X	X	
Work with local stakeholders and partners to advocate at all levels of government for secure and adequate incomes.	6	X	X	X	
Increase community capacity to provide food literacy opportunities within Chatham-Kent i.e. education and training for youth and priority populations.	2			X	
Create a food program/services directory.	1, 2, 3, 4	X	X	X	X