

# METROPOLI AGRICOLE

La sostenibilità dei sistemi alimentari nelle aree metropolitane

## Sustainable transformation through city-region food systems

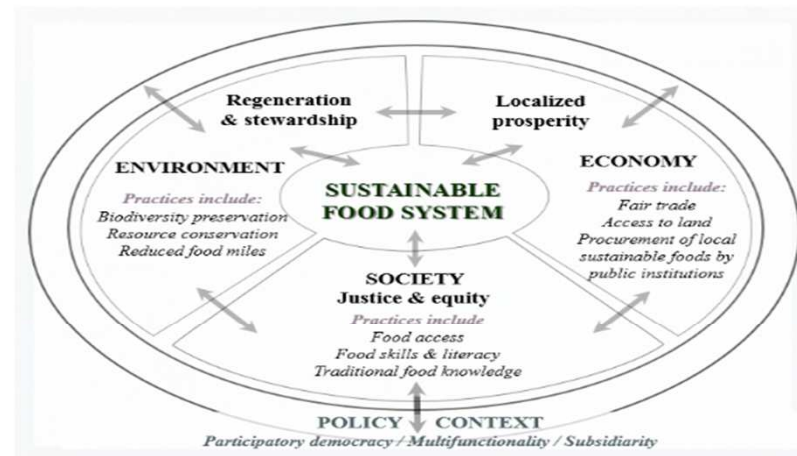
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*Centre for Sustainable Food Systems*

*Wilfrid Laurier University*





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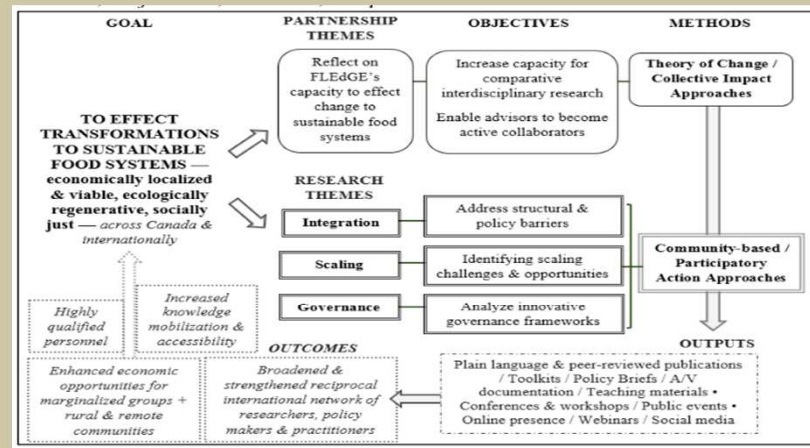
# FLEdGE

## Food: Locally Embodied Globally Engaged

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## Food Hub Case Studies and Survey



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## What is a food hub?

- Big picture definition
- “Networks and intersections of grassroots, community-based organisations and individuals that work together to build increasingly socially just, economically robust and ecologically sound food systems that connect farmers with consumers as directly as possible” (Blay-Palmer et al., 2013)



## What is a food hub?

- Survey (practical) definition (2015):

*“Food hubs are actual or virtual places through which food is collected and resold to processors, retailers or restaurants. Food hubs can also provide space for other food-related activities including food preparation, handling and/or processing. This survey is interested in local and/or sustainable food.”*



## Purpose of Our Study

- To better understand existing and potential capacity/resiliency of food hubs
- To provide an opportunity for stakeholders to share first hand experiences/observations.
- To identify tangible barriers/challenges both operative and entry level.
- To identify potential policy recommendations, areas for additional funding and or logistical support.



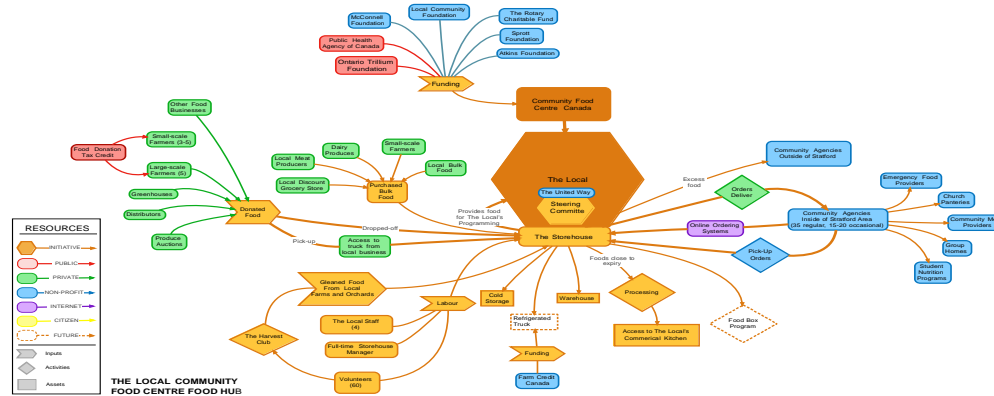


## Desired Outcome

- A more vibrant and robust local food distribution system.
- Shorten the gap that exists between eaters and growers.
- Elevating the visibility of the importance local food plays in our society.
- Adding resiliency to the value added food chain.



# Food Hub Case Studies



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## Impacts & Benefits

- Economies of scale
  - Efficiencies and cost savings
- Local economic development
  - Support for local businesses
- Facilitating local/regional food distribution
- Building partnerships & relationships
- Increasing access to fresh, local food
- Increasing food system knowledge



## Challenges & Limitations

- Access to capital
- Insufficient supply
  - Local food, organic food, processed goods
- Transportation and distribution problems
- Dependence on volunteer labour
- Competition from conventional retailers and distributors



## Keys to Success

- Build/expand gradually
- Integrate work across food chain
- Engage with the local community
  - Build relationships across different sectors
- Creativity
- Persistence



## Opportunities for Innovation: A Student Nutrition Program Pilot Project in Windsor-Essex

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This report was prepared by Erin Nelson for the VON Canada,  
Erie St. Clair District.



## Creative Public Procurement for Sustainable Food Systems



University of  
Toronto



Nottingham-Trent  
University



University of the  
Arts, London



## Creative Public Procurement

- **Integration** – How can university procurement help integrate sustainable “infrastructure of the middle” into the food system?
- **Scale** – How can university procurement help scale up sustainable local food systems?
- **Governance Models** – What governance models can embed sustainable local procurement practices into university policy to reduce reliance on individual champions?

*What is the role of the non-profit sector in supporting creative public food procurement?*





# Project SOIL

Shared Opportunities on Institutional Lands



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# Project SOIL

## Integration

Food / Health nexus opens doors to conversations, partnerships b/w

- 1) Civil society, gov't, private sectors
- 2) Natural, social, health sciences

## Scaling Up and Out

Demonstration value of food-growing projects

Replication of lessons: what factors allowed for increased scale?

Inter-scalar influence of regulations

e.g. food safety

## Innovative Governance

New forum for conversations, negotiations b/w Public, private, third sector — and 'no sector' — e.g. over appropriate use, control of land and resources



# Food Share

Increasing Access, Knowledge and Consumption of  
Vegetables and Fruits through Community-led Projects



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## FoodShare

### Integration

Non-profit hub and community food centre  
\*demonstrates, \*animates,  
\*trains and  
\*advocates  
through produce distribution, growing, cooking and school programs

### Scaling Up and Out

From 40 Good Food boxes/month in 1994 to \$2.1 million sales in 2014, Mobile and Good Food Markets, Good Food Box and Bulk Produce to School & Communities now replicated across Canada

### Innovative Governance

New third sector supply chain, with civil society lead partnering with public and private sector including strong farm coop sector relationships and innovation

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## Guelph Centre for Urban Organic Farming



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## Lessons

- Diversity
- Flexibility
- Innovation
- Sharing, communications
- Realism



# Understanding City Region Food Systems Planning for a more food secure and resilient city

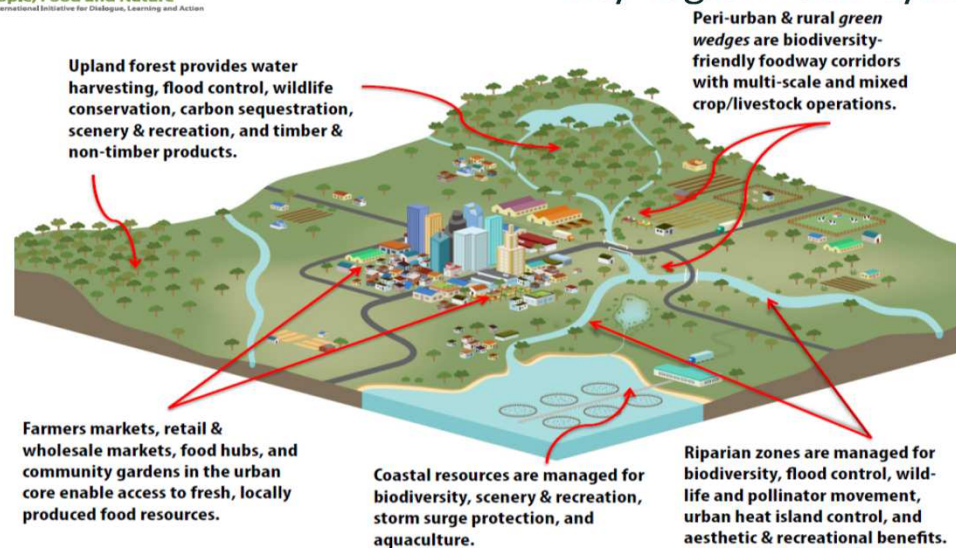


FAO Food for the Cities Programme:  
Building food secure and resilient city  
regions



RUAF Foundation  
CityFoodTools project

## Bridging the rural-urban divide through city region food systems





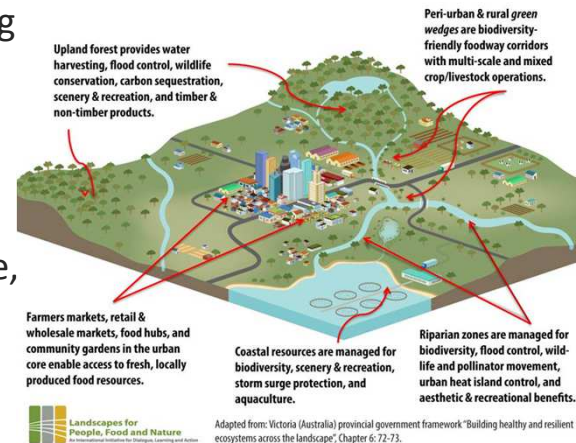
## Overall purpose of the programme:

- ❖ Strengthen capacity of local authorities and other stakeholders within a local food system to improve food and nutrition security of urban dwellers
- ❖ Reinforce urban-rural linkages for more inclusive, efficient and resilient activities of small scale agriculture within a local food system



## Focus and scope: looking beyond urban boundaries

- ❖ production, processing, marketing and consumption
- ❖ urban centres, surrounding peri-urban and rural hinterland
- ❖ exchange and flow of food, people, goods, and ecosystem services
- ❖ urban and rural linkages; nexus between people, agriculture, biodiversity, water and energy



## Integrated approach: Components of a Food System

Food and Agriculture

Agro-  
biodiversity  
Livestock and  
aquaculture  
Food  
markets/supply  
Food loss and waste

Natural resource  
management

Soil and water

Land tenure

Energy

Forest and  
trees

Socio-economic  
and health factors

Hunger and  
malnutrition

Food safety and street  
food

Shifting diets and  
habits

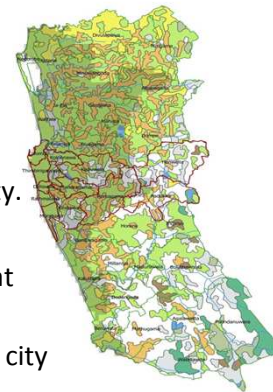
(sustainable diets)

Migration and  
labour



## Define boundaries and flows: area of the study

- Jurisdictional boundaries: municipality, sub-region, province
- Natural boundaries: rivers, sea, mountain ridges, watersheds
- Influence of the city on the region and influence of the region on the city.
- Transport distance and mode to the city
- Production potential/capacity in relation to the city' food demand (for at least fresh products)
- Social/cultural exchange, people coming for shopping/recreation to the city etc.



### Relevant aspects of the City region food system

- Who feeds the city region; where does the food come from; what and how much food is produced locally in the city region?
- Food processing and manufacturing: which companies prepare/manufacture the food consumed in the city region?
- Food wholesale and distribution: who supplies the food to businesses/markets that sell food to the consumers?
- Food marketing, catering and retail: where do citizens buy their food?
- Food consumption: what do people in the city region eat?

## Relevant aspects of the City region food system

- Food and organic waste: where and how much food and organic waste is generated along the food chain and how is it managed?
- What are the strengths and vulnerabilities of the current city region food system
  - To what extent is the current food system resilient to shocks? Which areas, what parts of the food chain and which stakeholders are more vulnerable?
  - What are weaknesses and needs of local smallholders?
- What are the priority areas that need to be addressed What are the 5-10 main critical issues that require further research and in-depth assessment?



RUAF Foundation  
CityFoodTools project



Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en  
sciences humaines du Canada



FAO Food for the Cities Programme:  
Building food secure and resilient city regions



Ministry of Agriculture,  
Food and Rural Affairs



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**MANY THANKS!**

