

# FOOD

## Supporting sustainable food & agriculture

### WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

The food system is the cycle of farming, processing, transporting, distributing, celebrating food and recovering food waste in the context of larger natural, social, political and economic driving forces. A sustainable food system is built on principles that further the ecological, social and economic goals of a community. Prince George's food system includes farming, ranching, the farmer's market, grocery stores, and food distribution and processing businesses, as well as home gardens and regional composting.

### WHY IS THIS ACTION IMPORTANT?

Food and agriculture systems tie together so many facets of sustainability such as waste management, water use, biodiversity, community development, social policy, local economic development, energy use and greenhouse gas emissions and transportation issues.

Sustainable food systems protect ecosystems, support the local economy, and contribute to energy efficiency. They do well in spite of rising energy costs, and address issues of food security and development pressure on farm land. A successful food and agriculture system can improve our quality of life by increasing the region's prosperity, health and well-being of residents and sense of identity.

### WHAT MYPG GOALS ARE WE MEETING?

We are meeting the following goals:

- **Healthy and active**, encouraging and supporting health and wellness.
- An **equitable community**, where people of all backgrounds can meet their needs and improve their quality of life.
- A **diverse economy** responding well to global trends and offering a good local return on investment.

### HOW CAN THE CITY IMPLEMENT THIS ACTION?

Local governments can influence food systems through land use regulation, and through related programs and initiatives. The Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) protects valuable agricultural areas near growing communities. Local governments can support the ALR through policy and regulation, and can support agriculture outside its boundaries. Zoning and other regulations can enable and even encourage other components of the food system, such as community gardens. Programs and planning can provide further support to sustainable food systems.

The OCP will address six main focus areas:

## CITY IMPLEMENTATION CONT'D...

1. Land use planning and growth management: decrease growth pressure on farmlands and contain urban expansion.
2. Infrastructure investment: Scale-up local food infrastructure to support a resilient local economy.
3. Public realm management: Increase the use of public lands like parks or open spaces for growing food (e.g. community gardens).
4. Harnessing development: Integrate food system elements into multi-family and neighbourhood developments.
5. Corporate practices: Purchase as much local food (fresh and processed) as possible for use in City facilities.
6. Economic development strategies: Diversify and strengthen the food and agriculture sector, as well as increasing the capacity to train and recruit the required agricultural work force.

## HOW WILL THIS AFFECT ME?

If you work in the agricultural sector this could mean access to a greater diversity of economic opportunities in food production and distribution, in addition to forming new partnerships with the local government and across the agricultural sector.

If you are a resident, you may see an increase in your ability to purchase locally grown and/or processed foods in grocery stores and markets, including new products or retail outlets. You may also find that you are inspired to begin growing food for your family and friends in your home or community garden space. A sustainable food system will encourage you and other community members to improve your wellbeing through choosing healthier food options that protect both you and your environment while supporting the region's economy.

### Share your thoughts and ideas.

Well developed policy directions will help Prince George meet its goals for a healthy future for all citizens.

- Would you add anything to this policy direction?
- Would you change or remove anything?

Contact us at [mypg@city.pg.bc.ca](mailto:mypg@city.pg.bc.ca)

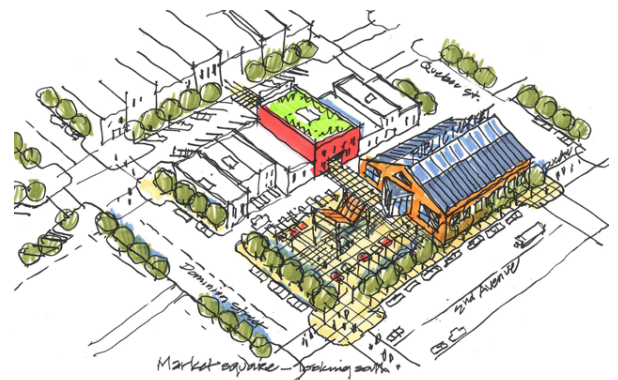


Photo: David

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