

A FOOD CHARTER

FOR HURON COUNTY

The Huron County Food Charter describes our community's commitment to Cultivating a Sustainable Local Food System to Nourish All People of Huron County and Beyond. In order to affect a positive future, we must develop a vision to carry us forward. We include in the vision the strengths from our past, our unique rural conditions and our desire for an equitable and sustainable future for Huron County.

Sustainability is:

- ▶ Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- ▶ Linked economy, environment and society
- ▶ Local focus within a global context
- ▶ Working together to make wise decisions for the future

A food system is cyclical. It includes production/collection, processing, distribution, access, consumption and waste disposal. A food systems approach looks at the entire cycle that our food travels from the site of production to where it is consumed and finally discarded, giving particular attention to the links between



A **just** and sustainable food system that is rooted in healthy communities

- ▶ Where no one is hungry and everyone has access to healthy nutritious food
- ▶ Where public policies and practices recognize that a healthy diet contributes to the physical, mental, spiritual and emotional well-being of all residents
- ▶ Where we also advocate for income, employment, housing and transportation that support secure and dignified access to healthy food
- ▶ Where nutritional education and healthy food choices in schools, business and public places is valued and provided



An economically viable, diverse and ecologically sustainable food system, that enriches life within the county while protecting our precious natural resources

- ▶ Supporting a strong farming economy with adequate incomes for farmers, harvesters, processors and distributors and a diverse, vibrant production for external and local markets
- ▶ Recognizing the true value of our food system as an economic driver, environmental reserve and source of healthy nutrients to fuel our population
- ▶ Providing outlets and sources of local food to feed local citizens, increase business to business synergy and allow for the sale of local products beyond Huron's borders
- ▶ Matching potential of local and regional production with appropriate processing and distribution to achieve a diversity of scale, scope and size of food and farm businesses
- ▶ Growing, harvesting, processing, transporting and distributing food while minimizing waste





A democratic and participatory food system that engages and empowers citizens to make knowledgeable choices about their food

- ▶ Allowing Huron County citizens to collaborate and cooperate, working together to make wise decisions
- ▶ Nurturing and improving relationships between the community, food producers, and key stakeholders to develop regional food systems solutions
- ▶ Offering opportunities to bring together community members in appreciation of regional food, culture and diversity
- ▶ Driving provincial and federal policy based on Huron County community values and priorities



A resilient food system that is our assurance for the future

- ▶ Offering opportunities and support for young and new farmers and new food businesses
- ▶ Reducing both our use and our reliance on non-renewable resources for all aspects of food production and distribution
- ▶ Carefully balancing economic, environmental and social implications of innovation, advancements and new technologies to ensure a benefit for all residents of the county.
- ▶ Reassessing our food system and living within the natural limits by increasing use of seasonal foods, preservation and storage techniques, and season extension strategies.
- ▶ Valuing and protecting agricultural lands, ground and surface water and promoting sustainable farming practices
- ▶ Introducing environmentally sound methods of food waste management such as reduced packaging, composting and reclamation programs.



WE ARE COMMITTED

to cultivating a sustainable local food system
to nourish all people of Huron County
and beyond.

The Charter outlines the values and beliefs about food in our community. This charter will provide guidance for decisions among government, local businesses, non-profit organizations, families and individuals. As signatories to this food charter, we commit to work in partnership toward a healthy food system based on these principles.

To sign on go to www.huronfoodaction.ca or contact the Huron County Food Action Network at huronfoodactionnetwork@gmail.com to learn more or get involved.



Huron
FOOD ACTION
NETWORK

The Huron Food Action Network is bringing together institutions, farmers, community groups, elected officials and businesses to tackle the issues of access to healthy food, sustainable food production and education, and local food processing and distribution infrastructure in a rural context. The Network, which includes a broad cross-section of over 100 food system stakeholders, operates with the overall mission of cultivating a sustainable, local food system to nourish all people of Huron County and beyond.

Goals related to the development of sustainable local food systems include providing the community with the following benefits:

- ▶ Vibrant, resilient communities
- ▶ Better health
- ▶ Improved Environment
- ▶ Equitable and sustained economic activity
- ▶ Increased Food Access