

# What feeds us

## THE VANCOUVER FOOD STRATEGY



The Vancouver Food Strategy is the City's powerful new tool to help us meet our social, environmental, economic, and health goals.

The strategy will help us create a just and sustainable food system for the city. It builds on years of food systems initiatives and grassroots community development, considering all aspects of the food system, from seed to table to compost heap and back again.

We all have a stake in our food system. The ways we produce, access, prepare, eat and dispose of food are directly linked to our quality of life, vibrancy of our neighbourhoods and sustainability of our city.



### GOALS

The Food Strategy helps the City fully address Vancouver's food challenges and align the food system with broader City plans and processes through five main goals.

#### GOAL 1:

##### Support food-friendly neighbourhoods



Food-friendly neighbourhoods provide residents with access to healthy foods and ways to sustainably dispose of food waste. We need the right mix of infrastructure to maintain strong food systems in neighbourhoods, including facilities for community gardens, farmers markets, food storage composting and healthy corner stores.

##### Priority actions

- Increase opportunities for urban agriculture, specifically community gardens, orchards and urban farms.
- Increase opportunities for farmers' markets to locate in neighbourhoods across the city.
- Expand the food scraps program to all single-family and multi-family residential and commercial areas.

#### GOAL 3:

##### Improve access to healthy, affordable, culturally diverse food for all residents



Access to sufficient, safe, nutritious and affordable food is fundamental to health and equality, especially to vulnerable populations. Access means that it is within a reasonable walking, transit or cycling distance, as well as increased retail options such as community food markets, mobile healthy food vending or healthy corner stores.

##### Priority actions

- Establish community food markets and encourage their integration into Vancouver School Board programming for youth and families.
- Enable alternative food retail and distribution models such as community food markets and community supported agriculture programs. ▶

#### GOAL 2:

##### Empower residents to take action



The most effective community food systems are shaped by the people who live there.

By helping people access community-based programs such as neighbourhood food networks, Vancouver Food Policy Council activities and other food-focused organizations, we aim to develop capacity and knowledge on local food resources and identify where gaps exist.

##### Priority actions

- Create a clear and accessible application process for participating in community gardens and orchards.
- Encourage community gardens to engage with their neighbourhood and local schools through workshops and educational programs.
- Improve access for individuals, particularly those who may be vulnerable or isolated, to participate in neighbourhood food networks and other community-based food programs.

## GOAL 4:

### Make food a centerpiece of a green economy



The food strategy emphasizes skills-building and job creation opportunities that support green food sectors, technologies and social enterprise models. The focus will be

on creating food-related green jobs and addressing challenges to growing, processing, warehousing and distributing local and sustainable foods, which are essential to building a green economy.

#### Priority actions

- Create policy to enable urban farming as a defined use on zoned lands and explore possibilities for market sales.
- Increase the percentage of local and sustainable food purchased by City, Park Board and school facilities, including community centres and concessions in parks and beaches
- Address gaps in local food processing, storage and distribution infrastructure by exploring possibilities of a food business incubator or food hub.

## GOAL 5:

### Advocate for a just and sustainable food system



The City advocates for food issues at the regional, provincial, and national levels by placing a food system lens on plans and policies at all levels of government and of other key partners

such as foundations and private institutions. Supporting policies to protect BC farmers and farmland and is also important to achieving food sustainability.

#### Priority actions

- Advocate for the preservation and enhancement of the Agricultural Land Reserve to protect sustainable food production and support local economic development.
- Strengthen alliances and partnerships with other municipalities in Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley on food policy.



## MEETING OUR TARGET

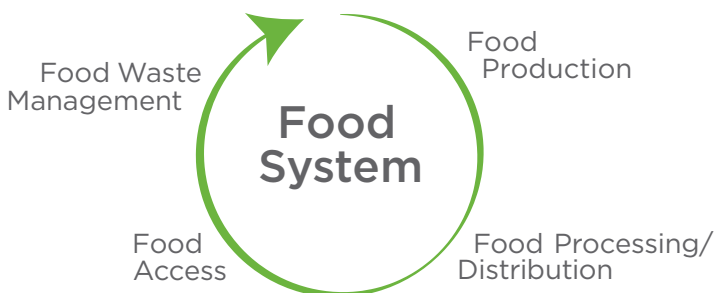
The evaluation and monitoring of the Vancouver Food Strategy will be based on the existing target in the City of Vancouver's Greenest City Action Plan:

**Increase city and neighbourhood food assets by 50 per cent over 2010 levels by the year 2020.**

Food assets are defined as resources, facilities, services or spaces that are available to Vancouver residents at the city-wide or neighbourhood scale and are used to support the city's food system. Examples of physical food assets include:

- food hubs
- community kitchens
- farmers markets
- community food markets
- food composting facilities and programs
- community garden plots and orchards
- urban farms.

Social assets and human capacity are also factors that will be considered. Examples of these include neighbourhood food networks, opportunities for Vancouverites to benefit from the networks' activities and the involvement of people in the community.



## WHAT DOES THE VANCOUVER FOOD STRATEGY MEAN TO ME?

Food is an important part of all our lives whether it's through the meals we prepare, the food we grow, composting or taking part in community food celebrations.

The Vancouver Food Strategy will work to improve the food system for everyone by addressing issues around the production, processing, distribution, access, consumption and waste management of food.

We'll need the help of everyone in our city to move the goals forward and make sure we all have an accessible, healthy, sustainable food system.

## FIND OUT ABOUT WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

Visit our website to learn more and see the Vancouver Food Strategy: [vancouver.ca/foodpolicy](http://vancouver.ca/foodpolicy)

 @CoVFoodPolicy

Email: [foodpolicy@vancouver.ca](mailto:foodpolicy@vancouver.ca)