

Report to Planning and Environment Committee

To: Chair and Members
Planning & Environment Committee

From: Gregg Barrett
Director, City Planning and City Planner

Subject: Urban Agriculture Strategy
2019 Annual Report

Meeting on: April 27, 2020

Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Director, City Planning and City Planner, the following report regarding the status of the implementation of the Urban Agriculture Strategy from the Urban Agriculture Steering Committee **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Executive Summary

In November 2017 Council adopted the Urban Agriculture Strategy. The Strategy is largely driven by the urban agriculture community with some City assistance and guidance. Last year was the first full year of the implementation of the Strategy with Urban Agriculture Steering Committee direction.

This report provides an update on the implementation of the Urban Agriculture Strategy since late 2017.

Background

The Urban Agriculture Strategy

On November 14, 2017 Municipal Council endorsed London's Urban Agriculture Strategy. The strategy was developed over the course of 2016 and 2017 through significant community and City effort. At the November 14, 2017 meeting of council, Council resolved:

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Planning and City Planner, the following actions be taken with respect to the Urban Agriculture Strategy:

- a) *the attached revised Urban Agriculture Strategy, consistent with the Food System policies of The London Plan, **BE ADOPTED** in order to guide and support the development of urban agriculture within the City of London as part of London's food system; it being noted that reference to the provision for backyard hens was deleted from the Strategy;*
- b) *the Terms of Reference for an Urban Agriculture Steering Committee appended to the staff report dated November 6, 2017 **BE ENDORSED**; and,*
- c) *the Managing Director, Planning and City Planner **BE DIRECTED** to implement the Urban Agriculture Steering Committee;*

it being noted that the initiatives in this Strategy that are the responsibility of the City can be accommodated within existing budgets and any new initiatives may be considered in future multi-year budget cycles; and,

it being further noted that the Planning and Environment Committee reviewed and received a communication dated November 2, 2017, from M. Woods, Chief Operating Officer, Western Fair District, with respect to this matter.

The **Goals of the Strategy** are to:

- *Develop a strategy to direct urban agriculture efforts in the City of London;*
- *Address all aspects of urban agriculture within the city and present policy and regulation amendments where necessary;*
- *Determine the roles and responsibilities of the City and community in the implementation of the strategy;*
- *Address gaps that may exist in providing for urban agriculture; and,*
- *Outline criteria for pilot site selection and/or urban agriculture projects*



The Urban Agricultural Community Role

The Urban Agriculture Strategy identified the roles of the City and the Community in the implementation of the Strategy. The City’s primary role was to support those initiatives and , where required, address municipal policy and regulation roadblocks to implement the strategy.

The Urban Agriculture Steering Committee was tasked with guiding and monitoring the implementation of the City of London’s Urban Agriculture Strategy.

The Urban Agriculture Steering Committee was also tasked with providing on-going coordination and direction of City and community efforts. The approach taken establishes a steering committee to provide leadership, monitor implementation and report to Council on progress over the life of the Strategy. The committee is comprised of community members, including representation from Council’s advisory committees, and maintains

connections with the groups in London active in urban agriculture and the Urban Agriculture Strategy's development.

The first meeting of the Urban Agriculture Steering Committee was held March 9, 2018 and the committee elected Rebecca Ellis as committee chair and Jeff Lucas as vice chair. In keeping with the development of the Urban Agriculture strategy, the meetings are open to the public to allow for community attendance and input. Meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the City's Urban Agriculture Strategy webpage, which was established through the development of the strategy. Committee members are requested to disseminate and share the results of committee meeting with their respective community groups and organizations.

The Urban Agriculture Strategy was adopted by Council in November 2017 and the Committee met twice in 2018 and five times in 2019. This will be the first in a series of Annual Reports for Council. The report provides an update of what has happened since the Strategy was adopted in 2017. Appendix 1, attached to this report, provides a detailed update on each of the Strategies Actions with respect to the urban agriculture community progress, City/Agency progress, identified roadblocks to review, progress evaluation measures and the next steps/to do list.

The City Role

The Urban Agriculture Strategy is a community driven process, driven by growers, processors and distributors in the industry and those with an interest in urban agriculture. The role of City staff is to:

- Co-ordinate agendas for the Steering Committee and provide technical support for the Committee;
- Create and maintain a City website for The Urban Agriculture Strategy, the Urban Agriculture Steering Committee and other urban agriculture interests;
- Attend Steering Committee meetings to answer questions and provide advice as requested; and,
- Review City Policies, Zoning By-laws and processes to support urban agriculture. Changes may include making it easier to sell fresh food to the general public, allow more "pop-up markets", allow urban farms etc. and generally implement the Urban Agriculture action items.

City staff include representatives from City Planning; Neighbourhood, Children and Fire Services; Parks and Recreation; and, Solid Waste Management from Environmental and Engineering Services. Building, By-law Enforcement and Zoning also provide information, as well as other City staff, through City Planning to the Committee.

The London and Middlesex- London District Health Unit also provides a staff resource person to the Committee. One City Planning staff member, plus the MLHU staff member from UASC, also sits on the Middlesex-London Food Policy Council to better co-ordinate consideration and discussion of issues related to urban agriculture.

The City of London Strategic Plan for 2019-2023 includes "*to promote and invest in urban agriculture initiatives*". These actions by City staff to support implementation of the Urban Agriculture Strategy are consistent with the Strategic Plan.

Urban Agriculture Strategy Implementation Progress and Results

The Urban Agriculture Steering Committee and the urban agriculture community has reviewed the Strategy and provides the following update on the progress made in implementing the Strategy;

Urban Agriculture Steering Committee Report – 2018-2019

The Urban Agriculture Steering Committee (UASC) was created in 2018 to assist in the implementation of the Urban Agriculture Strategy, a document prepared by City of London staff in collaboration with a diverse group of community members with an interest in urban agriculture. The strategy and the UASC are supported by City Planning. Members of the community who do work within the urban agriculture sector sit on the UASC. Community members of the UASC represent grassroots organizations such as Friends of Urban Agriculture (FUAL) as well as representatives of agricultural institutions such as the Western Fair. UASC meetings are currently open to the public and representatives of organizations are encouraged to communicate with members about UASC meetings and activities.

What was completed in 2018-2019

In 2018 and 2019 the UASC held seven meetings, the minutes of which can be found on the City of London's Urban Agriculture Strategy [website](#). During these meetings UASC members and city staff discussed ways to overcome some of the barriers and the challenge of urban agriculture as identified in the Urban Agriculture Strategy. The attached action chart (Appendix 1) outlines the action items identified in the Urban Agriculture Strategy and provides an update on the progress of implementation at the end of 2019.

In 2019 the UASC began reviewing City processes, policies and bylaws that are perceived by stakeholders to act as an obstacle to urban agriculture. Specifically, bylaws that prevent the direct selling of produce grown within the city was highlighted as a barrier, especially for Urban Roots, London's only urban farm. Several bylaws were reviewed by city staff and barriers identified and some changes have been made.

In summary below are the major accomplishments of both the Urban Agriculture Steering Committee and City to support Urban Agriculture;

- 1. Council support for Urban Agriculture through the November 14, 2017 resolution;*
- 2. Community Food Assessment completed – London Middlesex Food Policy Council in place;*
- 3. Community Gardens Strategic Plan completed;*
- 4. A definition of "Farm Gate Sales" was included in Zoning By-law Z-1 to allow the retail sale of produce grown on urban farms located on areas zoned Urban Reserve (UR) site to be sold on site. Council approved the by-law on November 25, 2019;*
- 5. A site specific zoning by-law amendment was approved by Council on December 10, 2019 to allow Urban Roots at 21 Norlan Avenue to sell produce grown on the property to be sold on-site in an Open Space Zone;*
- 6. Groups such as TREA, Reforest London and the London Food Coalition started various projects (see Appendix 1);*
- 7. The Grove in the Western Fair District, an agricultural business incubator, was established and started to attract new tenants;*
- 8. Pollinator Boxes and Food forests were established;*
- 9. The Pollinator Pathway Project was started; and,*
- 10. The meetings of the Urban Agriculture Steering Committee continued the conversation between the various members of the urban agriculture community started during the development of the Urban Agriculture Strategy.*

Projects in Progress

The UASC is currently working with a team of students from the Masters of Environment and Sustainability program at Western University to create a comprehensive Urban Agriculture "How-To" Guide. The purpose of the guide is to allow residents to quickly access resources about urban agriculture in London, to inform the general public of the bylaws which may affect their urban agriculture projects, and to highlight successful

urban agriculture initiatives in the City of London. The guide will feature content from stakeholders who are experts in various aspects of urban agriculture in London to help the general public easily navigate the urban agriculture sector.

The UASC continues to review bylaws that impact urban agriculture production, both as content for the guide and in order to discuss possible bylaw changes with Planning staff.

One of the main grassroots organizations represented on UASC, Friends of Urban Agriculture London, has updated its website and is solidifying its organizational structure. UASC members hope this will significantly aid in communication between the Urban Agriculture community and City staff.

Future Actions

In 2020, the UASC will finish the Urban Agriculture “How-To” Guide drawing on the Urban Agriculture (UR) strategy and action chart (Appendix 1). In particular the UASC will aim to resolve, before the guide is finished, the action items in the UA Strategy that are identified as ‘City Leads’. We hope this will help community members who are interested in urban agriculture to understand City bylaws and to approach the correct City Department and staff with questions. Upon completion of the guide, City staff will send the guide to Council for review. The guide will be a living document that will be continuously updated by UASC members in collaboration with city staff.

There are also a number of organizational projects to initiate. A comprehensive list of contacts for urban agriculture and their roles is needed. A list of all processes, policies and by-laws related to urban agriculture is also needed. A map showing possible land, either public or private, available for temporary use for urban agriculture is needed.

Conclusion

In November 2017 Council adopted the Urban Agriculture Strategy. The Strategy is largely driven by the urban agriculture community with some City assistance and guidance. Last year was the first full year of the implementation of the Strategy with Urban Agriculture Steering Committee direction.

This report provides an update on the implementation of the Urban Agriculture Strategy. It includes a status report on the implementation of the action items by the various groups involved in Urban Agriculture.

The Urban Agriculture Steering Committee has provided input for the report and updated Appendix 1 and the Chair of the Committee has indicated her concurrence with the staff recommendation.

Prepared by:	W. J. Charles Parker, M.A. Senior Planner – City Planning/Planning Policy
Submitted by:	Justin Adema, MCIP, RPP Manager, Planning Policy
Recommended by:	Gregg Barrett, ACIP, Director, City Planning and City Planner
Note: The opinions contained herein are offered by a person or persons qualified to provide expert opinion. Further detail with respect to qualifications can be obtained from Planning Services	

April 20, 2020
MT/mt

Appendix 1

Urban Agriculture Strategy Action Chart

Appendix 1: Urban Agriculture Strategy Action Chart

GROWING					
Urban Farms					
Action	Community Updates	City/Agency Updates	Identified Roadblocks	Progress Indicator	Next Steps – To-do List
<i>Determine community interest in and capacity for involvement in an urban farm.</i>	One active urban farm at 21 Norlan Avenue (Urban Roots) operating very successfully. Western Fair has interest in urban farming initiatives.		Available land. Soil test costs.	Number of urban farms established	Stephen Harrott to follow up on potential second urban farm.
<i>Develop a vision and model (including management structure) and identify lead partners for the farm project.</i>	Urban Roots operating under social enterprise vision. Western Fair has a vision for an urban farm model on site, within the Grove Strategy.				
<i>Develop business plan to implement the proposed vision and model.</i>	Urban Roots operating using a 1/3 donation, 1/3 local affordable, 1/3 wholesale model				
<i>Determine the most appropriate location and size for an urban farm, and if the City could facilitate access to a suitable area of land.</i>			Long-term land security an issue for Urban Roots	Amount of land available for urban agriculture and amount in use	City explore possibility of allowing farming on undeveloped industrial/other City lands?

<p>Evaluate bylaws and zoning rules with respect to their role in enabling urban farms. (City Lead)</p>	<p>The Grove at Western Fair is zoned for growing.</p>	<p>London Plan policies and zoning regulations in place to allow urban farms in Urban Reserve, Open Space and Environmental Review areas provided no natural features are removed or modified.</p> <p>Rezoned 21 Norlan Ave to recognize existing Urban Roots urban farm.</p> <p>Hoop houses - considered a tent/group of tents under Building Code as long as not attached to building, under 60 sq. meters and not within 3m of another tent, and therefore receives exception.</p>	<p>Will be identified over the course of time through the practice of urban farming.</p> <p>MLHU has asked for a broader definition of a garden to separate from rooftop gardens, container gardening, grow towers etc.</p>	<p>Number of questions raised and answered</p>	<p>City – continue updating bylaws as needed.</p>
<p>Ensure access to reasonably priced soil tests.</p>		<p>Basic testing available at under \$500 for nutrients, \$5000 range for boreholes and contaminated sites</p>			
<p>Urban “Foodscaping”</p>					
<p>Action</p>	<p>Community Updates</p>	<p>City/Agency Updates</p>	<p>Identified Roadblocks</p>	<p>Progress Indicator</p>	<p>Next Steps – To-do List</p>
<p>Distribute supportive resources such as topsoil, mulch, compost, and rain barrels to public food-growing projects along with education materials to ensure proper and safe usage of the resources.</p>	<p>TREA –Compost Day. Gardens groups run Spring Plant Sales, compost sales and rain barrels sales</p>	<p>City offers topsoil/mulch/compost through Try Recycling</p>	<p>Access is on an as requested basis</p>		<p>Vanessa to confirm – who is designated contact at City for requests of 10 yards or more for soil and mulch.</p>
<p>Coordinate seed exchanges through community centres, libraries, etc.</p>	<p>Seedy Saturday continues. Gardening groups offer plant and seed swaps in spring.</p>				<p>Confirm status of Byron Seed Library Connect with St Thomas seed library</p>

Explore ways to encourage institutional involvement in foodscaping of landscapes at places such as churches, hospitals, etc.		Parks Planning has planned for container gardens in Old East-Queens Park			City will review of possibility of including more fruit trees in site plan landscaping standards and public projects.
Consider education, awareness, and information-exchange events between municipal staff and community volunteers regarding foodscaping opportunities in the city.		<p>MLHU goal is to ensure food safety in urban farming by;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Steps in place to maintain food safety during harvesting and distribution; 2. Pesticide use should be as per Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks requirements; 3. MLFPC has a platform for disseminating information about urban ag. In London and is willing to publish material supplied by City staff, UASC and community; 4. MLFPC is considering urban ag supporters for its 2020 Local Food Champions and showcasing urban ag at its 2020 Local Food Celebration Event 5. MLFPC is exploring opportunities for an educational event at WFF's The Grove for 2021 which may include urban ag. 6. The planned MLFPC 2020 website update will contain expanded info about urban ag. In London. 			
Examine existing food forests for potential expansion.	West Lions food forest is planning for expansion				

<p><i>Ensure good management practices are undertaken to prevent pests and locate edible trees in locations where they can be safely maintained over the long-term.</i></p>	<p>ReForest London continues to provide fruit trees to the community and offers annual fruit tree workshops.</p> <p>Various community led food forests exist (West Lions, Wood St, Meredith Park).</p>	<p>City accepts suggestions for fruit trees on city owned land (ex. boulevard) - but only has 1 fruit tree option (serviceberry).</p>			<p>City to investigate adding to list of acceptable trees that they will plant.</p> <p>Future locations for food forests to be determined.</p>
<p><i>Evaluate the potential of public land available in the city for public foodscaping. (City Lead)</i></p>					<p>City to follow up on City's urban food planting approach Review OMAFRA website.</p>
<p><i>Replace municipal planter box plantings with native fruit/nut/edible species where appropriate and where a maintenance program is in place.(City Lead)</i></p>	<p>Pollinator boxes in place at Civic Gardens. Pollinator flower beds and Covent Market.</p> <p>Pollinator beds and (2) food forest gardens on WFD grounds/Queens Park.</p>	<p>Some fruit tree plantings as part of Dundas East street renewal.</p>			

Urban Pollinators					
Action	Community Updates	City/Agency Updates	Identified Roadblocks	Progress Indicator	Next Steps – To-do List
<i>Support for urban beekeeping in appropriate locations in the City of London.</i>	London Urban Beekeepers Collective established two apiaries at Boler Mountain. LOLA Bees started in OEV. Urban Roots has bees. Beehive onsite at Western Fair District, with education opportunities at the Annual Western Fair.	MLHU comments that OMAFRA website be reviewed Re: Farming of Bees. Contact Apiary program for further information. 1.Ensure sanitary methods of bottling/providing honey. 2. If honey is provided to the public, notify MLHU. 3. If further processing of honey occurs, contact MLHU to ensure food safety is maintained. City has been planting pollinator beneficial gardens for over 20 years	Provincial regulations limit location options. OMAFRA is currently reviewing the Ontario Bees Act which may lead to expanded options for urban beekeeping.		
<i>Increased pollinator habitat within the City</i>	TREA Pollinator Garden designed at Grosvenor Lodge. Pollinator gardens at Western Fair District. Western University has Bee Canada certification. The Pollinator Pathway Project has created several public gardens as well as material to encourage homeowners to plant pollinator habitats.	Pollinator Pathways approach in the works. Website created. Community lead but City support.			City to report out pollinator plantings

PROCESSING					
Community Kitchens					
Action	Community Updates	City/Agency Updates	Identified Roadblocks	Progress Indicator	Next Steps – To-do List
<i>Work with public health to provide food handler training for community kitchen users.</i>		Need food handler certification-contact MLHU for not-for-profit pricing and options.	-Cost to user -Having to renew every 5 years -Wait time to write test		Contact with Health Unit for status
<i>Continue to make upgrades to kitchen facilities (in both City and community spaces) to enhance food safety.</i>		City Grants provided – details to follow	Consistent access to Family Centers and Churches		
<i>Investigate health regulations related to food safety in the context of community kitchens and other forms of food processing.</i>		MLHU- 1.Contact MLHU with plans for upgrades to community kitchens to ensure the Food Premises regulations are met. 2.Contact MLHU for inspections of kitchens, as all family centres and churches are currently inspected.			
<i>Inventory existing inspected facilities that could be used for community kitchens and community garden programs. Make this information available to the public.</i>	MLFPC investigating an approach Planned MLFPC 2020 website update will include community kitchen and garden info and programming. The Grove at WFD researching requirements and costs.	Health Unit to provide basis of this inventory Follow normal booking procedure for City facilities with kitchens.			MLFPC and City to co-ordinate with MLHU on inventory of community kitchens and community gardens

<i>Facilitate community access to appropriate kitchen spaces.</i>	MLFPC investigating an approach	City Grants provided – details to follow			MLFPC and City to co-ordinate with MLHU on process
Resource Sharing					
Action	Community Updates	City/Agency Updates	Identified Roadblocks	Progress Indicator	Next Steps – To-do List
<i>Investigate existing tool libraries and tool- and resource-sharing projects in other cities to see if these models could be used in London.</i>	TREA received a grant to build a tool library, has researched other cities and models	GB and CP met with Maureen to discuss options – community needs to identify possible locations and City will see if facilities are available	Minimum size of operation expected to be viable		
<i>Inventory possible locations and community partners to facilitate a site(s) for sharing of resources.</i>	These are 2 separate community initiatives. TREA has worked on establishing its location Will Older indicated possible interest, online resource also required The MLFPC is developing and increasing its capacity to serve as a repository and shared location for resources and info about urban ag.		Non-City grants available to help incorporate non-profits		
<i>Provide grants to support the purchase of key tools for shared use.</i>	TREA has been addressing its space, partnerships and tools	City grants would respond to a proposal			

Mobile Assets					
Action	Community Updates	City/Agency Updates	Identified Roadblocks	Progress Indicator	Next Steps – To-do List
<i>Investigate the feasibility of mobile cider presses, bake ovens, and other forms of mobile food processing that would also support community events.</i>	Kensington Village has a cider press. NDM application for mobile oven submitted in 2017	Community Events – notification of food provision at events to MLHU via Special Events Vendor Form			- Cindy Bircham contact, has a mobile oven in St Thomas
<i>Consider grants to facilitate the purchase of shared assets in the community.</i>		City already offers various granting opportunities (multiyear, innovation, NDM and small events fund)			

DISTRIBUTION

Farmers Markets					
Action	Community Updates	City/Agency Updates	Identified Roadblocks	Progress Indicator	Next Steps – To-do List
<i>Work with community members and local farmers to assess the feasibility of starting new markets where there is a demand for new farmers' markets across London.</i>	Western Fair expanding to outdoor space. London ICHC looking at a mobile market approach Covent Garden Market staff conducting research on Farmers Market networks The planned MLFPC 2020 website update will include info about locations to purchase local foods. MLFPC to host pop up information kiosk at fall Western Fair Market.		SoHo and Southdale markets not a success. Permit costs can deter. Farmer require minimum traffic to attend. Certain vendors require business license- City contact: Ethan Ling, Specialists, Municipal Policy 519-661-2489 x 7650 eling@london.ca	Western Fair Market researching regulations to qualify for outdoor seasonal farmers market	

<i>Provide support for farmers' markets in public places and community hubs.</i>	Stormstayed had a market in 2019.		Liability insurance for individuals selling product.		
<i>Expand the Middlesex-London Health Unit's Harvest Bucks program for use at more markets across the City.</i>	UASC member Maddy Wilson on the Harvest Bucks committee		New organizations need to join in 2020 (investigate model with MLHU)		-New farmers markets, food box programs, fresh food stores contact harvest bucks committee to become a retail recipient of harvest bucks - (Food Fund Inc. potential candidates)
<i>Assess the current zoning and bylaw requirements for markets and the potential for allowing temporary food and other pop-up markets at locations such as community gardens, etc. (City Lead)</i>	Covent indicates that insurance is centralized and assumed by the market organization rather than vendors.	Farmers markets are a permitted use in the zoning by-law in some Agricultural Zones but new ones in other areas require a zoning by-law amendment.			City to examine -Permitting costs -Use of community resources centres
Local Food Procurement					
Action	Community Updates	City/Agency Updates	Identified Roadblocks	Progress Indicator	Next Steps – To-do List
<i>Review how other municipalities and institutions have approached local food procurement policy development. (City Lead)</i>		Who will do review?			

<p><i>Partner with other groups and organizations interested in expanding local food procurement in the Middlesex-London region</i></p>	<p>MLFPC is examining other regional models MLFPC had a local food procurement workgroup in 2018. The MLFPC is prepared to explore and develop a relationship with other community organizations to advocate for and expand local food opportunities within the city. Western Fair looking into food procurement opportunities.</p>				
<p>Direct Food Sales</p>					
<p>Action</p>	<p>Community Updates</p>	<p>City/Agency Updates</p>	<p>Identified Roadblocks</p>	<p>Progress Indicator</p>	<p>Next Steps – To-do List</p>
<p><i>Investigate bylaw issues related to food sales on private property and community gardens. (City Lead)</i></p>	<p>Allowed to use entire backyard as a garden and sell at markets - no city bylaw impacts this. If processing the food - the Middlesex London Health Unit is involved.</p> <p>Guidelines for community gardens on City owned land typically indicate no sales are allowed; however, retail sales could be allowed through a special request to Parks & Recreation and evaluated based on a series of criteria. Each request considered on a case by case basis.</p> <p>MLFPC prepared to assist with advocacy in joint work with City.</p>	<p>Farm Gate Sales zoning by-law amendment (Z-9060) added a definition of farmgate sales and allowed that use in all Urban Reserve Zones. Approved by Council Nov 25, 2019.</p> <p>Zoning by-law amendment to recognize Urban Roots Urban Farm) at 21 Norlan Ave. approved by Council Dec 10, 2019.</p> <p>Provided Committee with information on building permit required for structures</p>	<p>Will be identified over the course of time through the practice of urban farming.</p>	<p>Number of questions raised and answered</p>	<p>City looking at updating Garage Sale bylaw through a zoning by-law amendment (Z-9166) in 2020 to allow people to sell produce more often through Garage Sales (currently citizens only allowed 2 garage sales a year)</p>

<p><i>Investigate health and safety regulations related to food sales on private property and community gardens and methods of education on requirements applicable to direct food sales.</i></p>		<p>Same as above MLHU would need to get involved if food is processed (ie. made into jam). Consider end user</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure laws and by-laws are met 2. If produce is distributed what requirements and notifications are required. 3. If produce goes to food premises, notify the MLHU 			<p>Adding information to guidelines that are accessible to the public, allowing for increased self-initiated movement in community</p>
--	--	---	--	--	--

FOOD LOSS AND RECOVERY

Food Waste Reduction & Recovery

Action	Community Updates	City/Agency Updates	Identified Roadblocks	Progress Indicator	Next Steps – To-do List
<p><i>Investigate the feasibility of instituting a food waste reduction and recovery project with partners such as restaurants and grocery stores, including health and safety issues.</i></p>	<p>London Food Coalition has established an anti-food waste recovery mode; Foodbank following suit. New Organization: Food Fund Inc. Other Inspiration: Hidden Harvest</p>				
<p><i>Provide public education promoting the idea of reducing food waste.</i></p>	<p>Plan for WFD and MLFPC to work together for education at the Annual Western Fair/events. The MLFPC exploring opportunities with City and WFD The Grove for educational events.</p>	<p>City will review options to increase further waste diversion through food waste avoidance as part of larger waste diversion strategy</p>	<p>Challenges inherent in bringing about sustained behavioral change</p>	<p>Level of awareness of the issue and actual number of tonnes reduced/money saved.</p>	<p>The City's 60% Waste Diversion Action Plan proposes development of a food waste avoidance strategy.</p>

Community Composting					
Action	Community Updates	City Updates	Identified Roadblocks	Progress Indicator	Next Steps – To-do List
<i>Investigate potential linkages between rural compost production and urban users of compost in food-growing projects.</i>			Provincial regulations present challenge		Composting being explored at food premises and backyards as well as pest control.
<i>Promote backyard composting of residential food and garden waste, through an education campaign that includes information about proper composting methods to reduce the potential for pests.</i>	TREA has an onsite compost demonstration site and facilitates workshops as required. Over the last 2 years, has visited 3 neighbourhoods door-to-door to discuss waste issues and composting. Is interested to have a larger role in working with residents	City will review options to increase further waste diversion through home composting programs as part of larger waste diversion strategy	Obtaining support for program. Effectiveness of program based on progress indicator	Additional number of composters in use in London.	The City's 60% Waste Diversion Action Plan proposes encouraging more home composting by making composters more available and reducing the cost of them to the public.
<i>Provide public education regarding composting.</i>	TREA has developed compost materials and has a school program strategy underway	City will review options to increase education, subsidies, as part of larger waste diversion strategy	Obtaining support for program.	Additional number of composters in use in London.	The City's 60% Waste Diversion Action Plan proposes actions to encourage and support home and community composting.
<i>Investigate the potential for community, vermi- and mid-scale composting.</i>		City will review options to increase access to community composting as part of larger waste diversion strategy	Obtaining support for program.	Number of active community composting sites.	The City's 60% Waste Diversion Action Plan proposes providing support to set up community composting.

<p><i>Investigate the feasibility of composting at restaurants and grocery stores.</i></p>	<p>Jessica and Matthew Robertson have restarted Village Compost and are available for compost collection. Contact info matt@villagecompost.com</p>	<p>City will review options to increase further waste diversion through food waste avoidance as part of larger waste diversion strategy</p>	<p>Challenges inherent in bringing about sustained behavioral change</p>		<p>The Province of Ontario’s Food and Organic Waste Framework 2018 identifies organic waste reduction targets for establishments such as restaurants, grocery stores, etc.</p>
---	--	---	--	--	--

EDUCATION AND CONNECTION

Food Hubs

Action	Community Updates	City Updates	Identified Roadblocks	Progress Indicator	Next Steps – To-do List
<p><i>Identify a leadership group that would manage the development and implementation of multiple food hubs.</i></p>	<p>London Food Incubator operating. The Grove at Western Fair has launched.</p>	<p>Parks Planning reviewing possible food hub in Cavendish Park.</p>	<p>LFI – exclusive to entrepreneurs</p>	<p>The Grove is working through its strategy and working with new partners in development.</p>	
<p><i>Research and prepare a food hub feasibility study and business plan.</i></p>	<p>Western Fair researching models and determining long-term role for WFA</p>				
<p><i>Investigate various food hub models and consider which models would work best in London and at what locations.</i></p>					

School Gardens					
Action	Community Updates	City/Agency Updates	Identified Roadblocks	Progress Indicator	Next Steps – To-do List
<i>Engage school boards to increase the number and capacity of school gardens.</i>	Erin Mutch contact @ TVDSB - various school gardens exist.				
<i>Understand food systems-related curriculum linkages relevant to elementary and secondary school education.</i>		MLHU – School gardens encompass outdoor, greenhouses and grow towers within schools.			
<i>Support the development of curriculum connections and teacher training materials related to school gardens.</i>	Growing Chefs teaching programs in schools on cooking skills and local food system. The MLFPC is working with growing chefs and WFD to improve and develop new resources for teachers and classrooms.		Seasonality of Schools Support from Staff		
<i>Support teachers and schools to bring agriculture into the classroom through connections with farmers.</i>	Western Fair works with AgScape for Fair- would be a good resource: https://agscape.ca/				- Andrew Campbell contact; farmer who visits schools and skypes into schools regularly
<i>Create linkages between school boards, the City, community groups, and parent councils in order to promote the goal of a garden in every school.</i>	Sungold Organics Update: Western University and Fanshawe College have both reached out with interest in supporting more local food producers				-Contact Chad Stewart, Kyle Fee (Fanshawe College)

<p><i>Integrate school gardens with school food and nutrition programs so that food grown in schools is served and eaten in schools.</i></p>					
--	--	--	--	--	--

<p>Community Education and Training</p>					
<p>Action</p>	<p>Community Updates</p>	<p>City/Agency Updates</p>	<p>Identified Roadblocks</p>	<p>Progress Indicator</p>	<p>Next Steps – To-do List</p>
<p><i>Develop city-wide community events focused on urban agriculture and food literacy in order to celebrate food growing and community gathering around cooking and eating together.</i></p>	<p>Western Fair District initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community teaching and involvement garden along the Agriplex to display urban farm practices with signage - Annual Western Fair- looking to enhance education on Urban agriculture within the main agriculture “Barn” - Working with MLFPC to develop new outreach opportunities - Agri-Food Week- events for students to learn about the local food system and food literacy skills. Partner with Growing Chefs and assistance from MLFPC. 		<p>Plans and information currently exist, lack of personnel for support</p> <p>Costs to hold and run events.</p> <p>Need volunteers to educate (10 days)- Fair</p> <p>Agri-Food: High interest with students, but costs of food/supplied/event operations keep growing. Need more chefs/assistance with food prep for Growing Chefs.</p>		<p>Bring industry resources and tools to help WFD develop educational display at the Fair in September.</p>

<p><i>Develop workshop and training materials related to ecologically sustainable urban agriculture that promotes no-till production, biodiversity, heritage seeds, organic methods, and pollinator health, among other environmental issues, and their links to urban agriculture.</i></p>					
<p><i>Develop educational materials around composting, soil health, sustainable food production, and food processing in various languages, and distribute these materials to the community at large.</i></p>					

- Notes;**
- MLHU** means Middlesex London Health Unit.
 - MLFPC** means Middlesex London Food Policy Council.
 - UASC** means Urban Agriculture Steering Committee

Appendix 2 – Relevant Background

Previous Reports and Meetings

Urban Agriculture Strategy Terms of Reference (PEC)	December 12, 2016
Urban Agriculture Strategy	November 6, 2017