

City of London
300 Dufferin Ave London, Ontario, N6B 1Z2

Nov 17th 2021

RE: OZ-9332 / City of London / Encouraging the Growing of Food in Urban Areas

Dear PEC Committee members,

The Urban Agriculture Steering Committee is composed of members of the community, and meets quarterly to review updates, provide feedback and amalgamate efforts related to the Urban Agriculture Strategy. **We have been encouraged by the hard work by city staff on updating and amending bylaws to remove barriers for urban agriculture activities and we appreciate and support this new bylaw amendment.**

Specifically, we are happy to support the following outcomes of this proposed bylaw change:

- The intent of the resultant amendments is to **encourage growing** on vacant lands, underutilized lands, vacant buildings, rooftops, greenhouses and converted shipping containers.
- **It is in line with the London Plan** (Food System policies (648-686). There are existing policies supporting community food systems (408, 918_9), growing food in City parks (250, 410_14), providing access to local and healthy food (701) and permitting urban gardens in the City (762_5). There are also policies which permit the conversion of existing buildings to agriculture (59, 154, 543, 705, 733) and those that address urban agriculture providing employment and learning opportunities (525_2).)

We are excited to continue working with the City and the community to address food insecurity and food sovereignty issues in our community. The Members of the Urban Agriculture Steering Committee are supportive of this bylaw amendment and hope to continue seeing bylaws changed to make the growing, processing and selling of food inside the UGB.

Sincerely,

Members of the Urban Agriculture Steering Committee - 2021

Current Members of the Urban agriculture Steering Committee:

Jana Keller (co-chair)

Skylar Franke (co-chair)

Stephen Harrott

Jeremy Horrell

Mike Fish

Patricia de Wit

Jeff Lucas

Becky Ellis

Ellen Lakusiak

Steve Twynstra

Lella Blumer

Benjamin Hill