

# Sustainable Food Systems

## Education and Job Creation Toolkit

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## Table of Contents

1. Summary of “Sketching a Plan for a Sustainable Food System” .....	3
2. Sustainable Business Initiatives .....	5
Vertical Agricultural Co-operative .....	5
Sustainable Marketing Co-ordination for New Co-ops.....	5
Open Forum Platforms .....	5
Food Auctions.....	6
Distribution Chains .....	6
Internet Based Canadian Agricultural Innovation Exchange.....	7
Holistic Management Planning .....	7
Promote Local Food Production, Celebration and Eating.....	7
Clustering of Businesses, Farmers and Living Space.....	8
Alternative Value Transaction Mediums .....	8
Broader Public Sector Local Procurement Policies.....	9
Social Enterprise Model .....	9
3. Sustainable Agriculture .....	10
Abattoirs .....	10
Fruit and Vegetable Preserving .....	10
Local Egg Grading Co-operatives.....	11
Community Gardens .....	11
Community Fruit Gleaning.....	11
Urban Agriculture as a Social Enterprise .....	12
Horticultural Therapy .....	12
Permaculture and Ecobuffer Training and Implementation.....	13
Closed-Loop Agricultural Systems .....	14
Water Supply Management.....	14
Develop Species Lists of Edible Perennial Plants for Midwestern Ontario .....	15
Seed Banks .....	15
Food Storage .....	15
Season Extension Technology .....	16
Fruit Tree Grafting Workshops.....	16
Working Pool of Trained Substitute Farmers.....	16
Demonstration Sites .....	16
4. Knowledge Mobilization .....	17
Transfer of Training from London Training Centre to Other Locations .....	17
Farmers Training Farmers.....	17
Create a New Food Strategy .....	17
Celebrity Farmers and Chefs.....	18
Educational Placements within Alternative Businesses .....	18
Research Existing Courses and Training.....	18
School Education Programs .....	19
Sustainable Food Systems Initiative .....	19
Importance of Agricultural and Food Education .....	20
5. Policy Engagement.....	21
Engaging in Local Food Policy.....	21
Health Policy .....	22
Modification of Government Regulations .....	22
6. Partnership Development.....	23
Collaborative Network.....	23
Food Movement.....	23
7. References .....	24



## *Sustainable Food Systems*

...a collaborative approach to a better way of life!

### 1. Summary of “Sketching a Plan for a Sustainable Food System”

As a project of the [London Training Centre \(LTC\)](#) and [Southwestern Ontario Economic Alliance \(SWEA\)](#), with funding from the [Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities \(MTCU\)](#), the [Sustainable Food Systems \(SFS\)](#) initiative is working to strengthen our local food economy. The main objective of the project is to identify the assets, resources, strategies and tools needed to support sustainable practices within the value-added agricultural sector. The research undertaken in this project will lay the foundation for partnerships with stakeholders that will drive an educational and job creation strategy with the potential to act as a mechanism for cultural and economic renewal in Southwestern Ontario.

Using a method of participatory inquiry to gather research, we hosted five Interactive Conversations, with a total of 170 participants:

- Twenty-six participants from across Ontario joined us at the Bring Food Home Conference in Peterborough on October 29.
- Thirty-three participants from Grey and Bruce counties joined us in Flesherton on November 7.



- Thirty attendees from Huron and Perth counties participated in Brodhagen on November 15.



- Thirty-two participants from Middlesex, Oxford and Elgin counties participated in West Lorne on November 21.



- Forty-nine participants from Waterloo and counties Wellington joined us in Guelph on November 22.



The SFS project is acting as the conduit to facilitate the process of bringing together the correct stakeholders with the right expertise and enabling them to develop a collaborative strategy to increase the capacity for a sustainable food system.

Using the lenses of rising energy costs, climate instability and increased environmental degradation, the participants focused on education, training and future research. This report is a summary of the most frequently made recommendations relating to job creation within a sustainable food and agricultural system from the interactive conversations. The recommendations are interspersed with concrete working examples of local food entrepreneurs, and organizations whose work and business models challenge the status quo and move us towards greater environmental, social and economic sustainability goals.

## 2. Sustainable Business Initiatives

### Vertical Agricultural Co-operative

Develop a business plan and proposal for a vertically integrated agricultural co-operative, covering all levels of the system from farmers to eaters. Test this model in one location in Midwestern Ontario, modify and expand to other regions.

Currently, there are several initiatives connecting small and medium sized farmers to food purchasers, including [Stroudco](#) in the U.K., [Moody's Meats](#) in Indiana and [Fifth Season Cooperative](#) in Wisconsin. These cooperatives provide farmers with dedicated, short channels to market. There is still a need to ensure long-term environmental sustainability.

Potential jobs are available in the area of production, logistics, business planning and channel management.

### Sustainable Marketing Co-ordination for New Co-ops

Provide a single point of contact for new co-ops to obtain business advice and marketing/promotion of regional brands. Alternatives sources for these skills are available from:

- The [Community Futures Development Corporation \(CFDC\)](#) provides free business advisory services to rural clients, including business plan assistance and marketing. In addition they offer loans to high risk start-ups.
- New co-operatives may wish to consider collectively hiring a professional business and marketing consultant from [Canadian Association of Farm Advisors \(CAFA\)](#). The [Local Organic Food Co-ops Network \(LOFC\)](#) has an extensive collection of [resources and tools](#) for groups in sustainable food and agricultural co-operatives that include articles on marketing cooperatives.
- The [Ontario Natural Food Co-op \(ONFC\)](#) is currently examining its potential to act as a second tier co-op for newly emerging first tier food co-ops. Through direct consultation with established and emerging food co-ops, the Local Organic Food Co-operative initiative is conducting a series of needs assessments to ensure any tools developed would best meet the demands of a diverse variety of food co-ops. A networking group has already been facilitated and on-line resources are now available.



Research indicates that [co-operative enterprises have a higher survival rate](#) than other businesses, as summarized by [On Co-op](#).

Potential jobs are available in the area of marketing and brand management.

### Open Forum Platforms

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The internet and rapid connectivity allow individuals and organizations to share ideas and stories. Open platforms allow for collaboration between geographically dispersed groups or individuals working on similar challenges and allow for an exponential increase in the innovation of the idea. Provincial organizations like [FoodNet Ontario](#) have created a forum for discussing food security while [Sustain Ontario](#) provides a range of food related forums to help move initiatives forward.

Potential jobs are available in the area of social media communication and website creation, maintenance and monitoring.

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## Food Auctions

With the success of the two existing produce auctions in Midwestern Ontario ([Elmira Produce Auction Co-op](#) and [Bruce-Huron Produce Auction](#)), additional food auctions could be established in other areas of Ontario. Prior to the establishment of new produce auctions, processes need to be established that ensure reduction of carbon usage and encourage an equitable price for the producer.

Potential jobs are available in the area of food auctioneers, administration staff to process orders and material handlers.

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## Distribution Chains

Shorter distribution chains ensure fresh produce and have the potential to reduce carbon footprint. Here are some examples of how an entrepreneurial spirit engaged a community around local and sustainable food:

- CSAs ([complete listing on Ontario CSA Directory](#))
- Farm Gate Markets (e.g., [Herrle's Country Farm Market](#))
- On-line Farmers' Markets (e.g., [Bailey's Local Foods](#), [Home Field Organic Food Company](#), [Organic Marketplace](#), [The Petters](#))
- Food Auctions ([Elmira Produce Auction Co-operative](#); [Bruce-Huron Produce Auction](#))
- Independent Grocery Stores (e.g., [Kimberley General Store](#), [Chesley Grocery Store](#))

Potential jobs are available in the area of food production, customer service and distribution.



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## Internet Based Canadian Agricultural Innovation Exchange

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An on-line exchange tool for the description and dissemination of information surrounding novel technologies. This will allow farmers to connect directly to other farmers and provide an on-line forum for discussion of challenges and idea innovation. This exchange database will require maintenance and monitoring.

A good example of a similar internet database is the [National Good Food Network](#) out of the [Wallace Center](#). In Ontario, it might be possible to build onto existing websites, such as [Ontario Agriculture Farms.com](#) or the [Ontario Farmer](#).

Potential jobs are available in the area of social media communication and website creation, maintenance and monitoring.

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## Holistic Management Planning

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It is important to train farmers, ranchers, fishers, growers, gardeners and land stewards in [Holistic Management](#), a Whole Farm Planning System. Utilizing Holistic Management planning tools, individuals and communities are better able to manage agricultural resources and gain sustainable environmental, economic and social benefits. By maximizing the management of current resources, the “triple bottom line” can be obtained. Land health can be improved and its productivity increased without infusions of cash, equipment or technology. In Ontario, the [Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council](#) co-ordinates this training.

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## Promote Local Food Production, Celebration and Eating

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Rebuilding the local food system has the potential to create 10,000 jobs for every \$500M worth of farm revenue in Ontario. By establishing and supporting local and regional entrepreneurial food production, processing and distribution, we have the capability to rebuild our economy from farm to table and back again. The opportunity potential increases to \$7.5B if we eat what we now export and produce what we currently import, equating to 150,000 jobs.

[FoodLink Waterloo](#), [FoodLink Grey-Bruce](#), [Buy Local Oxford](#), [Guelph Wellington Local Food](#), and [Huron-Perth Farm to Table](#) are examples of regionally based initiatives operating within the nine counties focusing on the development of local food economies.

Food celebrations and eating events include “[Taste of London](#)” and “[Renown chefs to meet local producers](#)”.

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## Clustering of Businesses, Farmers and Living Space

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Clustering of services would enable the development of walkable urban communities, revive small rural communities, allow more local jobs to be created and enable a sense of community while reducing crime. By leveraging and clustering the assets of existing communities, a sustainable hub can be developed, resulting in an attractive environment for living, working, playing and spending time with friends, family and neighbours. Within these communities, tools, equipment and resources can be shared.

There are many examples of artisan agriculture and processing in communities around Midwestern Ontario and the number is growing steadily. For example,

[Polestar Hearth Bakery](#), [The Grain Revolution](#), [River's Edge Goat Dairy](#), [Best Baa Dairy](#) (Ewenity Dairy Co-operative), [Saugeen Country Dairy](#) and others.



The [Ontario Culinary Tourism Alliance](#) and many regional initiatives (e.g., [The Blue Mountains Apple Pie Trail](#), [Guelph Wellington Local Food Taste Real](#), [Savour Stratford](#), [Taste of Huron](#)) have links to more artisan food and agriculture ventures.

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## Alternative Value Transaction Mediums

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Alternative value transaction mediums can create a more resilient economy and keep wealth in the community. There are approximately 400 commercial and corporate barter companies serving all parts of the world such as the local exchange trading systems (LETS) or [Barter Works](#) in Kitchener.

Time Banks allow a community of people to support each other. As well as gaining credits, time banking can be used as a tool to forge stronger intra-community connections. [First Ontario TimeBank](#) is an example.

Scrip is an alternative currency used at local businesses. The most successful example is the [Chiemgauer](#), which started as a school project in Germany.

Potential jobs are available in the area of financial administrative jobs focusing on the management of alternative value transaction mediums.

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## Broader Public Sector Local Procurement Policies

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The purchasing policies of broader public sector institutions (e.g., universities, colleges, schools, daycare centres, long-term care facilities and hospitals) could provide steady markets for local food producers. Currently, the [Broader Public Sector Investment Fund](#) (a project of the Green Belt and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)) has undertaken research with the aim of increasing the amount of local food purchased for broader public sector food services.

[FoodShare](#) and [Canadian Feed the Children](#) have partnered to bring salad bar programs, such as [Field to Table](#), in schools.

Sixteen health care facilities in Ontario, part of the [Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care](#), are procuring [local food into patient and cafeteria meals](#) and were awarded the 2012 Ontario's [Local Food Champion Award](#).

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## Social Enterprise Model

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Social enterprises are a business model that could work for new initiatives. Many social enterprises are starting to form in Midwestern Ontario, such as the [London Training Centre](#), [Monforte Dairy](#) and [OX](#) restaurant.

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### 3. Sustainable Agriculture

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#### Abattoirs

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With the closure of many small abattoirs in Ontario, producers are forced to ship livestock further and further, adding costs, greenhouse gases and causing stress to the animals. A need has been identified to reinstate modern, economical and ethical slaughterhouses and meat processing facilities.

Industry experts indicate that mobile abattoirs make more sense in areas where population densities are low and distances between producers are high, although there are significant logistical, economic and environmental issues. The [Okanagan—Coquihalla](#) area in British Columbia, with a population of 114,000 and density of 11 people per km<sup>2</sup> has received funding for a mobile abattoir. The [Yukon](#) has an operational mobile abattoir.

In Southwestern Ontario the average population density is 65 people/km<sup>2</sup>, which lends itself well to strategically located, modern, modular facilities such as [Country Poultry Processing](#) in Wallenstein. In addition to supplying fresh product, food preservation techniques such as flash freezing, dehydrating and canning could be added to the repertoire of modular food processing facilities. Multi-stakeholder, cooperative ownership (producers, distributors and food purchasers) increases long-term success. Modular or mobile abattoirs could act as training locations for meat processing and food preservation. Training programs could involve internships, apprenticeships, or co-op placements.

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#### Fruit and Vegetable Preserving

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With the closure of many large and medium sized canneries in Ontario, and the seasonality of fruits and vegetables, a need has been identified for preserving and minimal processing operations. Preserving techniques include flash freezing, dehydrating, canning and storage.

There are numerous examples of small, low capacity, cottage industry preserving operations such as the [Stone Kitchen](#) in Bancroft, [From These Roots](#) and [Rootham Gourmet Preserves](#) in Guelph, as well as a few medium size operations like [The Garlic Box](#) in Hensall, the [Ontario Christian Gleaners](#) in Cambridge, and [Greaves Jams and Marmalades](#) in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and larger operations like [Harvest Pac Products](#) in Chatham and [Weil's Food Processing](#) in Wheatley. Also in Wheatley, [Martin's Family Fruit Farms](#) has a large storage and minimal processing operation.

Potential jobs are available in the area of shipping/receiving, preserving/processing and storage management.

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## Local Egg Grading Co-operatives

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The availability of locally graded eggs has decreased and there are regulatory challenges connected to building new co-operatively run egg grading stations. Working with regulators, modifications to production and egg grading regulations could be obtained so that small and medium sized egg grading co-operatives could be established. This would promote local employment in the agricultural sector.



Currently, the [Community Living Centre](#) in Hanover operates an egg grading station and processes 10,000 eggs per week. The closest egg grading station to Hanover is [OK Egg Farm](#) in Elmira processing 360,000 eggs per week. Thirty-five egg producers in eastern and western Ontario supply one egg grading station in Monkland with 225 million eggs per year (more than 600,000 eggs per day). [Ferme Avicole Laviolette](#) poultry farm in St. Isidore has 31,000 laying hens and their own egg grading station (approximately 200,000 eggs per week).

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## Community Gardens

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Interest in community gardens is on the rise, not only in urban areas (e.g., [Guelph](#), [Kitchener](#), [London](#), [Owen Sound](#), [Waterloo](#)), but also in smaller rural communities (e.g., [Bruce Botanical Food Gardens in Ripley](#), [Flesherton](#)). This increased public interest in gardening has unfortunately been met with a land shortage, sometimes leading to long waitlists for garden plots. The Canadian Organic Growers is attempting to remedy this perceived land shortage by creating [Landshare](#), an on-line tool to connect gardeners with land owners and provide a space or sharing knowledge and tools. Community gardens, both rural and urban, provide access to affordable fresh produce. The other foci of community gardens would be to create a sense of community and allow neighbours of various ages and ethnicities to educate each other on food growing techniques.

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## Community Fruit Gleaning

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Several communities are initiating fruit gleaning projects, including [Not Far from the Tree](#) in Toronto, [Appleseed Collective](#) in Guelph and [Community Harvest](#) in London. These initiatives build the capacity of communities to access fresh, healthy, local food and distribute it to families in need.

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## Urban Agriculture as a Social Enterprise

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Businesses focused on urban backyard gardening are increasing in popularity. For example, [Backyard Bounty](#) in Guelph and [Veggie City](#) in London are using urban yards for commercial gardening of produce that is then consumed by home owners and distributed through farmers markets and CSAs.



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## Horticultural Therapy

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Using plants and gardening, horticultural therapy enhances emotional, physical and mental well-being as a component of the suite of therapeutic methods used by hospitals, nursing homes, and rehabilitative and mental health centres.

The [Canadian Horticultural Therapy Association](#) (CHTA) is a non-profit organization that promotes the use of horticultural therapy. Since 1970, the Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) has offered training in [horticultural therapy](#) techniques and offers outreach programs to institutions in the greater Golden Horseshoe area.

The [Guelph Enabling Garden](#), [The Julien Project](#), [Mitchell Hewson – Homewood Health Care](#), [Chelsey Park Long Term Care Home](#) are places where horticultural therapy is practiced in Midwestern Ontario.

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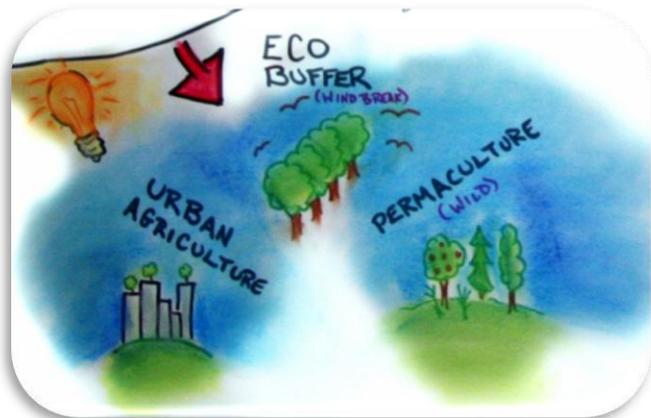
## Permaculture and Ecobuffer Training and Implementation

A real interest is developing in permanent agriculture – the integration of edibles into the human landscape and the introduction of perennials into agricultural systems. This can form the basis for many new career options including grey water management, composting systems, forest gardening, permaculture, ecobuffers and urban gardening. [Alternative Land Use Services \(ALUS\)](#) is an example of farmers returning marginal, environmentally sensitive and inefficient farmland into native vegetation and wetlands. [ALUS started in Norfolk county](#) and has recently expanded into [Grey and Bruce counties](#) in collaboration with [Grey Agricultural Services](#).

[Trees for Mapleton](#), [Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority](#), [Grand River Conservation Authority](#), [Tree Planting Programs of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority](#), and the [50 Million Tree Program](#) are other groups assisting landowners to plant windbreaks, living fences, shelterbelts, buffers and corridor plantings. In London, a [Carolinian Food Forest](#) was started in the spring of 2012, with the goal of increasing native edible species within city limits.

Permaculture training is offered by several groups in Midwestern Ontario, including [All Sorts Acres](#), [The Living Centre](#) and [Environmental Design Collaborative](#). In addition, [Garden Jane](#) and [Permaculture Institute of Eastern Ontario](#) offer permaculture training in other parts of Ontario.

City of Guelph's [Healthy Landscapes](#) provides homeowners with a free landscape assessment and information on minimizing resources used on urban landscapes, such as [pollination gardens](#) and [boulevard gardens](#). An interesting twist on the urban garden is the [\\$100 Food Forest](#), which provides information on growing common edible plants available from garden centres in a 10' x 10' space or less.



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## Closed-Loop Agricultural Systems

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Moving towards closed-loop agricultural systems is not only important from an environmental impact perspective, but also in terms of economic recovery. If compostable waste is diverted from landfills back to farms, every part of the system benefits: jobs are created, farmers obtain a renewable source of complete nutrients, waste is minimized, and people become more involved in the agricultural system. The use of energy efficient systems is also important in order to minimize off-farm inputs. In addition, novel technologies that allow farmers to create energy on the farm (e.g., oil seed press, solar panels) or find alternatives to resource-intensive pest control products are worth examining.

[Everpure Biodiesel Co-op](#) is an example of a closed-loop sustainable fuel solution, which supports local farmers and businesses.

[Energrow](#), in Perth County, designs and manufactures oilseed pressing systems, which allow farmers to add value to their crops by extracting oil and producing a pelletized fresh feed for cattle.

Students at Western University were awarded the [TD Canada Go Green Challenge](#) for their project on “[Sustainable Food and Energy Production: Closing the Loop from Farmfield Waste](#)”.

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## Water Supply Management

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All sustainable farms and communities will require a closed-loop water supply management system. The options of water supply management include greywater recycling, rain water collection systems and runoff containment, and composting toilets and other composting systems.

[Scott's farm](#) in collaboration with the [Maitland Valley Conservation Authority](#) created a [Soil and Water Environmental Enhancement Plan](#) for their farm. This plan involves constructed wetlands and storm water management systems.



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## Develop Species Lists of Edible Perennial Plants for Midwestern Ontario

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Multiple questions arose regarding the types of edible perennial plants that would thrive in Midwestern Ontario now and into the future. The majority of information available is not dedicated to this geographic region, nor does it examine how changing weather patterns might affect species survival. In addition, the novel uses of plants (e.g., edible, medicinal, nutraceutical) need to be quantified. A [forest gardening e-Manual](#) for the Carolinian zone is available from the Living Centre and a Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) Business Companion is available from [P&M Technologies](#).

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## Seed Banks

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The initiation of local seed banks and local seed collection groups is another area that requires manpower. The need for sources of local seed will increase, as local seed is adapted to local growing conditions. [Seeds of Diversity](#) is a charitable organization focused on conserving and documenting seed varieties of Canadian significance (including heritage seeds) and ensuring public access to the seeds. *Seedy Saturday* events enable communities to save, exchange and protect local seeds and their sources.

Another interesting initiative is the [Global Crop Diversity Trust](#) where wild relatives of [food crops](#) (e.g., wheat, rice, beans, potatoes, barley, lentils, chickpeas, yams, millet) are located, collected, catalogued and saved. These uncultivated plants contain essential genetic traits that enable them to resist [environmental fluctuations](#).

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## Food Storage

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One of the main reasons that we need to import food is because there is insufficient food storage capacity. Building food storage facilities, including root cellars, can create job opportunities. Food storage could improve the resilience of our food system by making it less vulnerable to disruptions in the distribution chain.

[Green Being Farm](#), with funding from [Carrot Cache](#), converted an in-ground swimming pool into a [cold cellar for storage of root crops as part of a winter CSA](#).

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## Season Extension Technology

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Increasing the use of season extension technology (e.g., cold frames, hoop houses, sustainably heated and lighted greenhouses) can help to produce food all year round. With the growth of season extension technology, jobs would be created. Farmers able to produce and sell food out of season often obtain a higher market price.

The [greenhouses](#) at [Organic Oasis](#) allow them to supply lettuce, kale, chard, green onions, radishes, bok choy, peppergrass, dandelion, arugula and mustard greens and Mesclun (mix of baby lettuces, spicy brassicas, assorted baby leaf greens and select herbs) all year long.

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## Fruit Tree Grafting Workshops

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Interest in fruit tree grafting, transplantation of mature dwarf varieties and resuscitation of heritage varieties was consistent throughout the Interactive Conversations.

It is possible to transplant mature dwarf apple trees if care is taken, as demonstrated by [Instant Orchard](#) techniques.

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## Working Pool of Trained Substitute Farmers

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In the current agricultural system, farmers are rarely able to take vacation or sick leave. If a pool of trained farmers was available, this would allow existing farmers to have vacation and time off. It would also allow new and potential farmers to obtain more on the job training.

A temporary placement service for agricultural resources could be established and staffed to fulfill these needs. In addition, a Time Bank could be established which would allow a swap of time rather than financial compensation.

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## Demonstration Sites

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Once demonstration sites highlighting sustainable agricultural techniques are established and promoted, they will provide working examples of agro-ecological practices. These demonstration sites can be used for training. Working examples of demonstrable tasks include beekeeping, forestry, timber, orchards and livestock operations.



## 4. Knowledge Mobilization

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### Transfer of Training from London Training Centre to Other Locations

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The research has identified that the [London Training Centre](#) (LTC) is a unique training facility. Participants were interested in learning more about the programs offered and how the LTC is surviving financially. In particular, the transfer of knowledge regarding:

- food skills training as a mechanism for employment
- social enterprise model
- incubator kitchens



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### Farmers Training Farmers

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Many individuals are looking for training in soils, seeds, marketing and other farming topics. The preferred form of training is peer to peer, as farmers want to learn from other farmers. While several organizations provide training, the [Ecological Farmers of Ontario](#) (EFAO) and [FarmStart](#) are extremely effective at providing this particular service.

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### Create a New Food Strategy

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The food choices consumers make at the checkout counter are important in our market driven food system. Therefore, it is important to educate and disseminate information about the value of bio-regional food produced with agro-ecological farming practices. One option is to prepare a tool kit that enables consumers to develop their own food strategy, explaining the importance of our food choices and the food skills required to make better food decisions.

The [Canadian Organic Growers Perth-Waterloo-Wellington](#) (COG PWW) chapter has created an easy to follow guide called [Build Your Local Organic Food Strategy](#), which encourages eaters to be conscience consumers by “regaining control” of their food choices. Technologies like [Foodlink](#) (a downloadable app for Blackberry devices) created by Foodlink Waterloo facilitates the process of finding local food, by putting the local food directory in the palm of your hand.

The sharing and celebration of our new food stories will lead to lasting changes in our food culture. An example of a new business tool kit to access a business for multiple sustainability goals is the [ONFC Sustainability Scorecard](#).

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## Celebrity Farmers and Chefs

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By celebrating all individuals, including farmers, chefs and others involved in our food system, we can reconnect to the importance of food and how it is produced. For example, the [Healthy Gourmet](#) follows nutritionist [Julie Daniluk](#) and Chef [Ezra Title](#) as they compare taste vs. nutrition to find the right balance.

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## Educational Placements within Alternative Businesses

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The establishment of accredited apprenticeships, internships and co-op placements would provide an experiential component to students' education and invaluable hands-on education that is often lacking from current educational programming. The placement of students within alternative businesses would be beneficial to all parties.

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## Research Existing Courses and Training

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Coordination and collaboration between existing sustainable food and agriculture training, courses and programs from accredited institutions and non-profit organizations would increase the overall capacity of the sector. This would create a more comprehensive and accessible educational program, able to tap into the particular strengths and expertise of non-profits and institutions alike.

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## School Education Programs

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It is important that food and agricultural skills and knowledge are incorporated into the school system from elementary through secondary. Incorporation of specialist high skills major courses in viticulture, cheese making, culinary courses and home economics were some of the ideas generated by participants in the Interactive Conversations.

[The Food School](#) in Fergus is a hospitality and tourism high school program run by Chef Instructors [Chris Jess](#) and [Nicole DeBeyer](#). Chris Jess was a recent recipient of the [40 under 40](#) award in the Guelph Mercury. In addition, the Center Wellington District High School (CWDHS) is aiming to produce their own food by acquiring farmland for vegetable crops, small animals and a greenhouse.

The [Screaming Avocado](#) is part of the high school culinary arts program at the Stratford Northwest Secondary School and feeds up to 300 patrons every day. They teach over 200 students per year in a large kitchen classroom with access to a 3,000 square foot [organic garden, organic greenhouse and a six acre school farm initiative](#).

The [Specialist High Skills Major – Agriculture Program](#) allows students to build a foundation of sector-focused knowledge and skills before graduating from high school. Both [College Heights Secondary School](#) and [John F. Ross Collegiate Vocational Institute](#) in Guelph offer the Agricultural SHSM.

[School fundraisers](#) could involve the sale of fresh local vegetables and fruit, as three schools in the Aylmer area are doing.

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## Sustainable Food Systems Initiative

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For the process of devising a Sustainable Food System Job and Educational Strategy for Midwestern Ontario, the Sustainable Food System initiative used a method of participatory inquiry allowing input and engagement from a large and diverse number of stakeholders. Interest exists in the Sustainable Food System methodology, in particular, the participatory inquiry method and the multi-stakeholder hands-on collaborative process being modified for, and taught in, different regions in Ontario. Other organizations, such as [Sustain Ontario](#) and the [Greater Toronto Area Agricultural Action Committee \(GTAAAC\)](#), are working on similar consultation initiatives in different regions of Ontario.



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## **Importance of Agricultural and Food Education**

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Everyone should have basic food skills, but we have lost touch with our food and the system that provides it. Education pertaining to agriculture, food and their interconnections are important components and need to be reintroduced. By engaging young people, we can craft a community-driven vision for agriculture and food.

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## 5. Policy Engagement<sup>1</sup>

### Engaging in Local Food Policy

Increasingly, citizens want to participate in the development of policy that affects their lives. The creation of food charters and the formation of food policy councils (e.g. [Guelph-Wellington Food Round Table](#), [Food Secure Oxford](#), and [Waterloo Region Food Systems Roundtable](#)) is an effective way to harness and coordinate multi-stakeholder, multi-disciplinary action to address policy concerns by beginning to engage in a dialogue about food systems issues with government.

[Sustain Ontario](#) is currently developing a network to connect groups involved in food policy work to share experiences and best practices on food policy issues in communities all across Ontario.

If communities are to engage in public policy development then a greater understanding of public policy processes is essential. [Thought About Food? A Workbook on Food Security & Influencing Policy](#) (published by the



Nova Scotia Nutrition Council and the Atlantic Health Promotion Research Centre) provides communities with the tools and knowledge to effectively engage with policy and systems to address food security issues.

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<sup>1</sup> While the focus of the SFS project is not specifically to address policy recommendations, the development of a sustainable food system plan can only be achieved within a permissive policy environment. The participants in Bruce-Grey and Waterloo-Wellington Interactive Conversations were asked to provide their comments on policies and regulations that would assist with the formation of a sustainable food system. The Policy Engagement section includes their policy recommendations. Often the recommendations were at odds, building a case for greater education and understanding of the complexities of policy and regulation.

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## Health Policy

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Moving forward, it is important to focus on health prevention strategies rather than cures. Health prevention can lead to equal, if not greater, job creation than the existing system of reactionary medicine. [Registered Holistic Nutritionist](#) (R.H.N), [Julie Daniluk](#) is working on popularizing whole nutritious foods and healthy eating patterns that prevent and heal chronic diseases.

[Thrive with Autism](#) promotes improved health through an all-organic food diet.



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## Modification of Government Regulations

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Flexible and scale-appropriate government regulations are required. Regulations are developed with large-scale agricultural businesses in mind, often regulating small and medium scale businesses out of existence. By adapting these for small and medium sized agricultural enterprises, everyone can benefit.

Some participants thought that consumer and producer groups should apply pressure on government to revisit the Free Trade agreements and modify the terms.

More stringent regulations for imported foods would be beneficial. Imported food for sale in the Canadian market should meet Canadian food safety and environmental regulatory standards. A high portion of food consumed comes from abroad, often from countries with much lower and less stringent environmental and quality assurance regulations.

Urban agriculture land-use policies need to be more permissive. The development of municipal community garden policies should be created to ensure that residents are able to produce food within the city. Allotment of land for community gardens within new developments is also a way of securing space for future urban food production.

Greenbelt policies that protect farmlands and watersheds from urban sprawl need to be created. [The Ontario Greenbelt Act \(2005\)](#) protects the world's largest greenbelt, [Ontario's Greenbelt](#), spanning 1.8 million acres of working countryside located in the Golden Horseshoe.

Current regulations on monopolies need to be reviewed.



## 6. Partnership Development

### Collaborative Network

Weaving together existing projects and creating a collaborative network of internships, training, certification and courses currently carried out by non-profits (e.g., [FarmStart](#), [Everdale Organic Farm and Learning Centre](#), [Canadian Organic Growers](#) (COG), [Ecological Farmers of Ontario](#)), we can build a co-operative future with a shared vision. Interactive Conversation participants expressed a high level of interest in collaboration.



Partnership development amongst food and agriculture organizations can serve to be mutually beneficial. Collaboration and coordination can build synergies amongst the many initiatives and reduce duplication of effort. On the provincial level, [Sustain Ontario](#) is working hard to bring together the plethora of food initiatives across the province, to collaborate and build synergies.

Link with [Career Education Council](#) and [Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc.](#) in order to provide programming continuity from high school to post-secondary, including internship opportunities.



### Food Movement

Through partnership development and capacity building, we can organize, unify and strengthen the food movement.

## 7. References

Websites discussed in the summary report:

Initiative	Website
\$100 Food Forest, All Sorts Acres	<a href="http://allsortsacre.ca/edible-landscapes/100-food-forest/">http://allsortsacre.ca/edible-landscapes/100-food-forest/</a>
40 under 40	<a href="http://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/launch.aspx?referral=other&amp;pnum=17&amp;refresh=y09X12Kdq18G&amp;EID=015d2cf4-f361-4eb8-8f86-c5290746a4b8&amp;skip=&amp;p=20">http://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/launch.aspx?referral=other&amp;pnum=17&amp;refresh=y09X12Kdq18G&amp;EID=015d2cf4-f361-4eb8-8f86-c5290746a4b8&amp;skip=&amp;p=20</a>
50 Million Tree Program, Trees Ontario	<a href="http://www.treesontario.ca/programs/index.php/fifty_million">http://www.treesontario.ca/programs/index.php/fifty_million</a>
All Sorts Acres, Intro to Permaculture	<a href="http://allsortsacre.ca/education/intro-to-permaculture/">http://allsortsacre.ca/education/intro-to-permaculture/</a>
Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS)	<a href="http://www.norfolkalus.com/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=9&amp;Itemid=2">http://www.norfolkalus.com/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=9&amp;Itemid=2</a>
ALUS, Grey and Bruce Counties	<a href="http://www.greyagservices.ca/site-news/303-alus-press-release.html">http://www.greyagservices.ca/site-news/303-alus-press-release.html</a>
ALUS, Norfolk County	<a href="http://www.norfolkalus.com/images/stories/history%20of%20the%20norfolk%20alus%20pilot.pdf">http://www.norfolkalus.com/images/stories/history%20of%20the%20norfolk%20alus%20pilot.pdf</a>
Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority	<a href="http://www.abca.on.ca/page.php?page=forestry">http://www.abca.on.ca/page.php?page=forestry</a>
Backyard Bounty	<a href="http://www.backyardbounty.ca/">http://www.backyardbounty.ca/</a>
Bailey's Local Food	<a href="http://baileyslocalfoods.ca/">http://baileyslocalfoods.ca/</a>
Barter Works	<a href="http://barterworks.org">http://barterworks.org</a>
Best Baa Dairy / Ewenity Dairy Co-operative	<a href="http://www.bestbaa.com/">http://www.bestbaa.com/</a>
The Blue Mountains Apple Pie Trail	<a href="http://www.applepietrail.ca/">http://www.applepietrail.ca/</a>
Broader Public Sector Investment Fund	<a href="http://bpsinvestmentfund.ca/?page_id=16">http://bpsinvestmentfund.ca/?page_id=16</a>
Bruce Botanical Food Garden, Ripley	<a href="http://www.bbf.org/location.html">http://www.bbf.org/location.html</a>
Bruce-Huron Produce Auction	<a href="http://www.foodlinkgreybruce.com/index.php?page=operation_info&amp;operation_id=400">http://www.foodlinkgreybruce.com/index.php?page=operation_info&amp;operation_id=400</a>
Buy Local Oxford	<a href="http://www.oxfordbuylocal.ca/">http://www.oxfordbuylocal.ca/</a>
Canadian Association of Farm Advisors (CAFA)	<a href="http://www.cafanet.com/">http://www.cafanet.com/</a>
Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council	<a href="http://www.agritalent.ca/html/training-provider-detail.php?inst=252">http://www.agritalent.ca/html/training-provider-detail.php?inst=252</a>
Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care	<a href="http://www.greenhealthcare.ca/">http://www.greenhealthcare.ca/</a>
Canadian Feed the Children	<a href="http://www.canadianfeedthechildren.ca/">http://www.canadianfeedthechildren.ca/</a>

Canadian Horticultural Therapy Association (CHTA)	<a href="http://www.chta.ca/index.htm">http://www.chta.ca/index.htm</a>
Canadian Organic Growers (COG), Workshops	<a href="http://www.cog.ca/our-work/promoting-organic-farming/skills-development-for-farmers/">http://www.cog.ca/our-work/promoting-organic-farming/skills-development-for-farmers/</a>
Canadian Organic Growers, Perth-Waterloo-Wellington (COG PWW)	<a href="http://www.cogwaterloo.ca/about.php">http://www.cogwaterloo.ca/about.php</a>
City of Guelph, Sun Boulevard Garden	<a href="http://www.guelph.ca/uploads/Healthy%20Landscapes/Garden%20Designs/11_SunBlvdGrdn%20website.pdf">http://www.guelph.ca/uploads/Healthy%20Landscapes/Garden%20Designs/11_SunBlvdGrdn%20website.pdf</a>
City of Guelph, Healthy Landscapes	<a href="http://www.guelph.ca/living.cfm?subCatID=1704&amp;smocid=2280">http://www.guelph.ca/living.cfm?subCatID=1704&amp;smocid=2280</a>
City of Guelph, Pollination Garden	<a href="http://www.guelph.ca/living.cfm?itemid=76627&amp;smocid=2280">http://www.guelph.ca/living.cfm?itemid=76627&amp;smocid=2280</a>
COG-PWW, Build Your Local Organic Food Strategy	<a href="http://www.cogwaterloo.ca/documents/LOFSForWeb_001.pdf">http://www.cogwaterloo.ca/documents/LOFSForWeb_001.pdf</a>
Career Education Council	<a href="http://careereducationcouncil.ca/programs---events/careers-in-agriculture">http://careereducationcouncil.ca/programs---events/careers-in-agriculture</a>
Carolinian Food Forest	<a href="http://londonfoodforest.blogspot.ca/">http://londonfoodforest.blogspot.ca/</a>
Carrot Cache	<a href="http://carrotcache.com/innovations/swimming-pool-conversion/index.html">http://carrotcache.com/innovations/swimming-pool-conversion/index.html</a>
Chesley Grocery Store	<a href="http://chesleygrocerystore.com">http://chesleygrocerystore.com</a>
Chelsey Park Long Term Care Home	<a href="http://www.diversicare.ca/home/ind_comm.php?cid=74">http://www.diversicare.ca/home/ind_comm.php?cid=74</a>
Chiemgauer	<a href="http://www.guardian.co.uk/money/2011/sep/23/local-currencies-german-chiemgauer">http://www.guardian.co.uk/money/2011/sep/23/local-currencies-german-chiemgauer</a>
Chris Jess	<a href="http://foodschoool.ca/assignments/kitchen-map/contact-details/chef-instructor/">http://foodschoool.ca/assignments/kitchen-map/contact-details/chef-instructor/</a>
College Heights Secondary School	<a href="http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/article.aspx?id=5941">http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/article.aspx?id=5941</a>
Community Futures Development Corporation	<a href="http://www.ontcfdc.com/">http://www.ontcfdc.com/</a>
Community Gardens, City of Guelph	<a href="http://guelph.ca/living.cfm?smocid=2800">http://guelph.ca/living.cfm?smocid=2800</a>
Community Gardens, Kitchener	<a href="http://www.kitchener.ca/en/livinginkitchener/CommunityGardens.asp">http://www.kitchener.ca/en/livinginkitchener/CommunityGardens.asp</a>
Community Gardens London	<a href="http://www.communitygardenslondon.ca/">http://www.communitygardenslondon.ca/</a>
Community Gardens, City of Owen Sound	<a href="http://www.owensound.ca/planning/gardens.php">http://www.owensound.ca/planning/gardens.php</a>
Community Gardens, Waterloo Region	<a href="http://www.together4health.ca/workgroups/community-gardens-waterloo-region/community-garden-list">http://www.together4health.ca/workgroups/community-gardens-waterloo-region/community-garden-list</a>
Co-ops Work (Co-operatives have a higher survival rate)	<a href="http://www.ontario.coop/cms/documents/564/Co-ops_Work_and_Outlive_2_sided_March2012.pdf">http://www.ontario.coop/cms/documents/564/Co-ops_Work_and_Outlive_2_sided_March2012.pdf</a>

Country Poultry Processing	<a href="http://www.manta.com/ic/mt62409/ca/country-poultry-processing">http://www.manta.com/ic/mt62409/ca/country-poultry-processing</a>
Ecological Farmers of Ontario	<a href="http://www.efao.ca/">http://www.efao.ca/</a>
Ecological Farmers of Ontario, Courses & Events	<a href="http://www.efao.ca/index.cfm?pagepath=Courses_Events&amp;id=26933">http://www.efao.ca/index.cfm?pagepath=Courses_Events&amp;id=26933</a>
Elmira Produce Auction Co-op	<a href="http://www.coopscanada.coop/public_html/assets/firefly/files/files/Coop_Profiles/Elmira_Produce_Auction_Co-operative.pdf">http://www.coopscanada.coop/public_html/assets/firefly/files/files/Coop_Profiles/Elmira_Produce_Auction_Co-operative.pdf</a>
Energrow	<a href="http://www.energrow.ca/">http://www.energrow.ca/</a>
Environmental Design Collaborative	<a href="http://www.bradpeterson.ca/permaculture.htm">http://www.bradpeterson.ca/permaculture.htm</a>
Everdale Workshops	<a href="http://workshops.everdale.org/at-the-farm/">http://workshops.everdale.org/at-the-farm/</a>
Everpure Biodiesel Co-op	<a href="http://www.everpurebioid.ca/Everpurebioid/Welcome.html">http://www.everpurebioid.ca/Everpurebioid/Welcome.html</a>
Ezra Title, Chef / Owner of Chezvous Dining	<a href="http://www.chezvousdining.ca/index.php/about">http://www.chezvousdining.ca/index.php/about</a>
FarmStart	<a href="http://www.farmstart.ca/">http://www.farmstart.ca/</a>
FarmStart, Training	<a href="http://www.farmstart.ca/programs/training/">http://www.farmstart.ca/programs/training/</a>
FarmStart, Workshops & Courses	<a href="http://www.farmstart.ca/programs/training/workshops/">http://www.farmstart.ca/programs/training/workshops/</a>
Ferme Avicole Laviolette	<a href="http://www.fermeavicolelaviolette.com/en/index.asp">http://www.fermeavicolelaviolette.com/en/index.asp</a>
Field to Table Salad Bars in Schools	<a href="http://www.foodshare.net/download/SaladBarManual_chpt2e.pdf">http://www.foodshare.net/download/SaladBarManual_chpt2e.pdf</a>
Fifth Season Cooperative	<a href="http://fifthseason.coop/">http://fifthseason.coop/</a>
First Ontario TimeBank	<a href="http://firstontario.timebanks.org/">http://firstontario.timebanks.org/</a>
Flesherton, Gardens connected with the Flesherton and Community Food Bank	<a href="http://www.gentleshepherd.ca/foodbank.html">http://www.gentleshepherd.ca/foodbank.html</a>
Foodlink App	<a href="http://www.foodlink.ca/app">http://www.foodlink.ca/app</a>
Foodlink Grey-Bruce	<a href="http://www.foodlinkgreybruce.com/">http://www.foodlinkgreybruce.com/</a>
Foodlink Waterloo	<a href="http://www.foodlink.ca/index.php?p=29">http://www.foodlink.ca/index.php?p=29</a>
Foodnet Ontario	<a href="http://foodnetontario.ca/wp/">http://foodnetontario.ca/wp/</a>
FoodShare	<a href="http://www.foodshare.net/index.htm">http://www.foodshare.net/index.htm</a>
Food Secure Oxford	<a href="http://www.foodsecureoxford.ca/">http://www.foodsecureoxford.ca/</a>
From These Roots	<a href="http://www.fromtheseroots.ca/home.php">http://www.fromtheseroots.ca/home.php</a>
Garden Jane	<a href="http://www.gardenjane.com/workshopsandevents/permacultureworkshop.html">http://www.gardenjane.com/workshopsandevents/permacultureworkshop.html</a>
Global Crop Diversity Trust	<a href="http://www.croptrust.org/main/content/who-we-are">http://www.croptrust.org/main/content/who-we-are</a>

Global Crop Diversity Trust, Crops	<a href="http://www.croptrust.org/main/content/crops">http://www.croptrust.org/main/content/crops</a>
Global Crop Diversity Trust, Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change: New Global Search to Save Endangered Crop Wild Relative	<a href="http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/12/101209201938.htm?utm_source=feedburner&amp;utm_medium=feed&amp;utm_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily+%28ScienceDaily%3A+Latest+Science+News%29">http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/12/101209201938.htm?utm_source=feedburner&amp;utm_medium=feed&amp;utm_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily+%28ScienceDaily%3A+Latest+Science+News%29</a>
Grand River Conservation Authority	<a href="http://www.grandriver.ca/index/document.cfm?Sec=48&amp;Sub1=4">http://www.grandriver.ca/index/document.cfm?Sec=48&amp;Sub1=4</a>
Greater Toronto Area Agriculture Action Committee (GTAAAC)	<a href="http://www.gtaaac.ca/food-and-farming-action-plan/">http://www.gtaaac.ca/food-and-farming-action-plan/</a>
Greaves Jams and Marmalades	<a href="http://www.greavesjams.com/">http://www.greavesjams.com/</a>
Green Being Farm	<a href="http://www.greenbeingfarm.ca/">http://www.greenbeingfarm.ca/</a>
Green Being Farm, Cold Cellar	<a href="http://www.greenbeingfarm.ca/archives/4">http://www.greenbeingfarm.ca/archives/4</a>
Greenbelt Act, 2005; Protecting the Greenbelt	<a href="http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page195.aspx">http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page195.aspx</a>
Grey Agricultural Services	<a href="http://www.greyagservices.ca/">http://www.greyagservices.ca/</a>
Guelph Enabling Garden	<a href="http://guelphenablinggarden.blogspot.ca/p/what-is-horticultural-therapy.html">http://guelphenablinggarden.blogspot.ca/p/what-is-horticultural-therapy.html</a>
Guelph Wellington Local Food	<a href="http://www.guelphwellingtonlocalfood.ca/about-guelph-wellington-local-food">http://www.guelphwellingtonlocalfood.ca/about-guelph-wellington-local-food</a>
Guelph Wellington Local Food Taste Real	<a href="http://www.guelphwellingtonlocalfood.ca/find-local-food">http://www.guelphwellingtonlocalfood.ca/find-local-food</a>
Guelph-Wellington Food Round Table	<a href="http://www.gwfrt.com/working-groups/food-charter">http://www.gwfrt.com/working-groups/food-charter</a>
Harvest Pac Products	<a href="http://www.harvestpac.com/">http://www.harvestpac.com/</a>
Healthy Gourmet	<a href="http://www.chezvousdining.ca/index.php/healthy-gourmet">http://www.chezvousdining.ca/index.php/healthy-gourmet</a>
Herrle's Country Farm Market	<a href="http://www.herrles.com/">http://www.herrles.com/</a>
Home Field Organic Food Company	<a href="http://homefieldorganics.com/index.html">http://homefieldorganics.com/index.html</a>
Horticultural Therapy, Royal Botanical Gardens	<a href="http://www.rbg.ca/Page.aspx?pid=340">http://www.rbg.ca/Page.aspx?pid=340</a>
Huron-Perth Farm to Table	<a href="http://huronperthfarmtotable.ca/consumers/about">http://huronperthfarmtotable.ca/consumers/about</a>
Instant Orchard	<a href="http://instantorchard.blogspot.ca/">http://instantorchard.blogspot.ca/</a>
John F. Ross Collegiate Vocational Institute	<a href="https://sites.google.com/site/johnfrosscvguidance/shsm">https://sites.google.com/site/johnfrosscvguidance/shsm</a>

Julie Daniluk, TV Host and Nutritionist	<a href="http://www.juliedaniluk.com/">http://www.juliedaniluk.com/</a>
Kimberley General Store	<a href="http://www.kimberleygeneralstore.ca/">http://www.kimberleygeneralstore.ca/</a>
Local Food Champion Award	<a href="http://www.greenhealthcare.ca/component/content/article/226-new7">http://www.greenhealthcare.ca/component/content/article/226-new7</a>
Local Food for Health Care	<a href="http://www.greenhealthcare.ca/images/projects/Local%20Food%20Summary%20Report.pdf">http://www.greenhealthcare.ca/images/projects/Local%20Food%20Summary%20Report.pdf</a>
Local Organic Food Co-ops Network (LOFC)	<a href="http://cultivatingfoodcoops.net/">http://cultivatingfoodcoops.net/</a>
LOFC, Resources and Tools	<a href="http://cultivatingfoodcoops.net/">http://cultivatingfoodcoops.net/</a>
London Training Centre (LTC)	<a href="http://www.londontraining.on.ca/about.htm">http://www.londontraining.on.ca/about.htm</a>
London Training Centre, Local Food Skills	<a href="http://www.londontraining.on.ca/local_food_skills.htm">http://www.londontraining.on.ca/local_food_skills.htm</a>
London Training Centre, Social Enterprise	<a href="http://www.londontraining.on.ca/social_enterprise.htm">http://www.londontraining.on.ca/social_enterprise.htm</a>
London Training Centre, Sustainable Food Systems Project	<a href="http://www.londontraining.on.ca/sustainable_food_systems.htm">http://www.londontraining.on.ca/sustainable_food_systems.htm</a>
Maitland Valley Conservation Authority	<a href="http://www.mvca.on.ca/">http://www.mvca.on.ca/</a>
Maitland Valley Conservation Authority, Tree Planting Program	<a href="http://www.mvca.on.ca/programs_tree.php">http://www.mvca.on.ca/programs_tree.php</a>
Martin's Family Fruit Farm	<a href="http://www.martinsapples.com/">http://www.martinsapples.com/</a>
Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, Ontario Job Creation Partnerships	<a href="http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/employers/jobCreation.html">http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/employers/jobCreation.html</a>
Mitchell Hewson – Homewood Health Centre	<a href="http://horticultureastherapy.com/">http://horticultureastherapy.com/</a>
Monforte Dairy	<a href="http://www.monfortedairy.com/">http://www.monfortedairy.com/</a>
Moody's Meats	<a href="http://moodymeats.com/">http://moodymeats.com/</a>
National Good Food Network.	<a href="http://www.ngfn.org/">http://www.ngfn.org/</a>
Nicole DeBeyer	<a href="http://foodschoo.ca/assignments/kitchen-map/contact-details/nicole-debeyer/">http://foodschoo.ca/assignments/kitchen-map/contact-details/nicole-debeyer/</a>
OK Egg Farm	<a href="http://www.foodlink.ca/index.php?p=food_maps/outlets.ViewOutlet&amp;outlet=10119">http://www.foodlink.ca/index.php?p=food_maps/outlets.ViewOutlet&amp;outlet=10119</a>
Okanagan—Coquihalla	<a href="http://www.meatbusiness.ca/IR_article_03_20_12_4.html">http://www.meatbusiness.ca/IR_article_03_20_12_4.html</a>

On Co-op (The Ontario Co-operative Association)	<a href="http://www.ontario.coop/">http://www.ontario.coop/</a>
Ontario Agriculture Farms.com	<a href="http://ontag.farms.com/">http://ontag.farms.com/</a>
Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc.	<a href="http://www.oafe.org/">http://www.oafe.org/</a>
Ontario Christian Gleaners	<a href="http://www.ontariogleaners.org/">www.ontariogleaners.org/</a>
Ontario CSA Directory	<a href="http://csafarms.ca/index.html">http://csafarms.ca/index.html</a>
Ontario Culinary Tourism Alliance	<a href="http://ontarioculinary.com/ontario-regions">http://ontarioculinary.com/ontario-regions</a>
Ontario Farmer	<a href="http://www.ontariofarmer.com/sitepages/">http://www.ontariofarmer.com/sitepages/</a>
Ontario's Greenbelt	<a href="http://greenbelt.ca/about-greenbelt">http://greenbelt.ca/about-greenbelt</a>
Ontario Natural Food Co-op (ONFC)	<a href="http://www.onfc.ca/aboutus">http://www.onfc.ca/aboutus</a>
ONFC Sustainability Scorecard	<a href="http://demo.eblazedev.ca/ONFC/sustainability/initiatives">http://demo.eblazedev.ca/ONFC/sustainability/initiatives</a>
Organic Marketplace	<a href="http://www.organicmarketplace.ca/">http://www.organicmarketplace.ca/</a>
Organic Oasis	<a href="http://www.organicoasis.on.ca/">http://www.organicoasis.on.ca/</a>
Organic Oasis, Fresh Produce (Greenhouses)	<a href="http://www.organicoasis.on.ca/products.htm">http://www.organicoasis.on.ca/products.htm</a>
OX	<a href="http://www.oxquelp.com/">http://www.oxquelp.com/</a>
P&M Technologies, NTFP Business Companion	<a href="http://www.pmtch.ca/PM_NonTimber.htm">http://www.pmtch.ca/PM_NonTimber.htm</a>
Permaculture Institute of Eastern Ontario	<a href="http://eonpermaculture.ca/">http://eonpermaculture.ca/</a>
Polestar Hearth; Community Supported Bakery	<a href="http://www.polestarhearth.com/">http://www.polestarhearth.com/</a>
Registered Holistic Nutritionist	<a href="http://csnn.ca/about/what-is-a-holistic-nutritionist-holistic-nutrition/">http://csnn.ca/about/what-is-a-holistic-nutritionist-holistic-nutrition/</a>
Renown Chefs to Meet Local Producers	<a href="http://www.foodlinkgreybruce.com/index.php?page=news_listing&amp;news_id=247">http://www.foodlinkgreybruce.com/index.php?page=news_listing&amp;news_id=247</a>
River's Edge Goat Dairy	<a href="http://www.goatmilkproducts.ca/">http://www.goatmilkproducts.ca/</a>
Rootham Gourmet Preserves	<a href="http://www.roothamsgourmet.com/">http://www.roothamsgourmet.com/</a>
Saugeen Country Dairy	<a href="http://www.saugeencountrydairy.com/">http://www.saugeencountrydairy.com/</a>
Savour Stratford	<a href="http://www.visitstratford.ca/savour-stratford.php">http://www.visitstratford.ca/savour-stratford.php</a>
School fundraisers	<a href="http://www.lfpress.com/news/whoslondon/2012/05/08/19730391.html">http://www.lfpress.com/news/whoslondon/2012/05/08/19730391.html</a>
Scott's Farm	<a href="http://www.mvca.on.ca/uploads/pdf/Rural%20Voice%20article%20on%20Scott%20Project.pdf">http://www.mvca.on.ca/uploads/pdf/Rural%20Voice%20article%20on%20Scott%20Project.pdf</a>
Screaming Avocado	<a href="http://screamingavocado.blogspot.ca/p/little-about-screaming-avocado.html">http://screamingavocado.blogspot.ca/p/little-about-screaming-avocado.html</a>

Screaming Avocado, Greenhouse, Farm, Garden	<a href="http://screamingavocado.blogspot.ca/p/farm-and-garden.html">http://screamingavocado.blogspot.ca/p/farm-and-garden.html</a>
Seeds of Diversity	<a href="http://www.seeds.ca/info/sod/">http://www.seeds.ca/info/sod/</a>
Soil and Water Environmental Enhancement Plan	<a href="http://gis.lrs.uoguelph.ca/agrienvarchives/sweep/sweepom.html">http://gis.lrs.uoguelph.ca/agrienvarchives/sweep/sweepom.html</a>
Southwestern Ontario Economic Alliance (SWEA)	<a href="http://www.swea.ca/">http://www.swea.ca/</a>
Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)	<a href="http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/shsm/program-info.html">http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/shsm/program-info.html</a>
Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) – Agriculture Program	<a href="http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/shsm/shsm-agriculture.html">http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/shsm/shsm-agriculture.html</a>
Stone Kitchen	<a href="http://www.harvesthastings.ca/local/producers/stone-kitchen">http://www.harvesthastings.ca/local/producers/stone-kitchen</a>
Stroudco	<a href="http://www.stroudco.org.uk/">http://www.stroudco.org.uk/</a>
Sustainable Food and Energy Production: Closing the Loop from Farmfield to Waste	<a href="http://www.uwo.ca/enviro/Archive.html">http://www.uwo.ca/enviro/Archive.html</a>
Sustain Ontario	<a href="http://sustainontario.com/">http://sustainontario.com/</a>
Taste of Huron	<a href="http://www.ontarioswestcoast.ca/owc_directory/tasteofhuron.php">http://www.ontarioswestcoast.ca/owc_directory/tasteofhuron.php</a>
Taste of London	<a href="http://www.tastefestivals.com/london/">http://www.tastefestivals.com/london/</a>
TD Canada Go Green Challenge	<a href="http://www.clientcontact.ca/JR/1005/en_feature3.php">http://www.clientcontact.ca/JR/1005/en_feature3.php</a>
The Food School	<a href="http://foodschool.ca/">http://foodschool.ca/</a>
The Food School, Farm	<a href="http://foodschool.ca/farm/">http://foodschool.ca/farm/</a>
The Garlic Box	<a href="http://www.thegarlicbox.com/">www.thegarlicbox.com/</a>
The Grain Revolution	<a href="http://www.thegrainrevolution.com/">http://www.thegrainrevolution.com/</a>
The Julien Project	<a href="http://www.thejulienproject.com/">http://www.thejulienproject.com/</a>
The Living Centre	<a href="http://www.thelivingcentre.com/cms/">http://www.thelivingcentre.com/cms/</a>
The Living Centre, Forest Gardening e-Manual	<a href="http://www.thelivingcentre.com/cms/forest-gardening-emanual">http://www.thelivingcentre.com/cms/forest-gardening-emanual</a>
The Living Centre, Learn to Propagate Fruit Trees with Ken Taylor	<a href="http://www.thelivingcentre.com/cms/living-arts-institute/learn-to-propagate-fruit-trees-with-ken-taylor">http://www.thelivingcentre.com/cms/living-arts-institute/learn-to-propagate-fruit-trees-with-ken-taylor</a>
The Living Centre, Permaculture Certification Courses	<a href="http://www.thelivingcentre.com/cms/trainings/permaculture-certification-courses">http://www.thelivingcentre.com/cms/trainings/permaculture-certification-courses</a>
The Petters	<a href="http://thepetters.com/">http://thepetters.com/</a>

Thought About Food?  
A Workbook on Food  
Security & Influencing  
Policy

<http://www.foodthoughtful.ca/>

Trees for Mapleton

[http://www.treesontario.ca/news/index.php/trees\\_for\\_mapleton](http://www.treesontario.ca/news/index.php/trees_for_mapleton)

Veggie City

<http://www.londoncommunitynews.com/2011/05/veggie-city-adds-some-green-to-northeast-london/>

Wallace Center

<http://www.wallacecenter.org/>

Waterloo Region Food  
Systems Roundtable

[http://www.wrfoodsystem.ca/files/www/Roundtable\\_profile\\_in\\_Kootenay\\_Food\\_System\\_report.pdf](http://www.wrfoodsystem.ca/files/www/Roundtable_profile_in_Kootenay_Food_System_report.pdf)

Weil's Food  
Processing

<http://www.weilsfood.ca/>

Yukon Abattoir

<http://yukon-news.com/news/5672/>

