



# COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

## COMMITTEE REPORT

**To:** Chair and Members of the Administration, Finance and Human Resources Committee  
**From:** Justine Dainard, Project Manager Smart Cities Office  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021  
**Subject:** **Our Food Future project – April 2021 Update**

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**Background:** Update on Our Food Future

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### Launch of COIL

The Smart Cities Office is pleased to confirm new funding of \$5 million from FedDev Ontario (Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario).

This support will be used to create **COIL**, the Circular Opportunity Innovation Launchpad. COIL will amplify and extend the initial circular economy work of Our Food Future, creating larger scale supports and projects with more far-reaching impact. It will continue to address the food system and add the wider context challenges of the environment and low-carbon economy sectors. This work will support ongoing local economic recovery while also establishing Guelph and Wellington County as a centre of circular economy expertise.



### Food Hub Feasibility Study

The Smart Cities Office has partnered with **NGEN** (Next Generation Manufacturing Canada), Canada's Advanced Manufacturing Supercluster, to contract consultants for a regional Food Hub Feasibility. Following an RFP process, partnered consulting firms Michael Keegan & Associates and Pollinate Networks Inc. were selected.

This Food Hub Feasibility study will examine the local path of food from farm to factory to fork, assessing each part of our regional food system. It is intended to produce a gap analysis understanding of the infrastructure, regulations, and partnerships that currently make up our food system, asking whether there are any missing pieces or supports. Are we equipping our local food system with what it needs to continue to be resilient? What do our Producers and Processors feel is working or not working? The Smart City Office will be reaching out to stakeholders during this stage of the study; please contact Justine Dainard for more information.

As well, the study will assess other strong food hubs and regions across the province and continent, with an eye to finding productive connections and reproducible successes. Our partnership with NGEN ensures that our assessment will include recommendations which position our region well for future needs of local businesses.

### Recommendation:

That the Administration, Finance and Human Resource Committee receive the Our Food Future report for information.

Respectfully submitted,

Justine Dainard  
Project Manager, Smart Cities Office