



COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Chair and Members of the Economic Development Committee
From: Justine Dainard, Smart Cities Project Manager
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023
Subject: **Smart Cities Office – March 2023 update**

Background:

Update on programmes within the Our Food Future project.

Food Security Action Plan

Since the launch of the Our Food Future project, the Nutritious Food Workstream has been focused on creating improvements in equitable food access. Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health has been a foundational member of this workstream, ensuring our work was grounded in strong research and reflected local issues.

As our project has entered its last year of federal funding, this workstream has drafted a Food Security Action Plan to ensure a way to keep the work going. Recent activities include:

- Convening the Food System Resiliency Table (The Table). The Table is comprised of a diverse group from County and City who gather for discussions and community building. The Table is currently re-evaluating the 2011 Guelph-Wellington Food Charter and hosting public meetings to discuss food access and resources.
- Enabling more support in the County. Working with the Centre Wellington Community Foundation (CWCF), funding will be provided to the Mount Forest & Area Community Gardens, to Syrian New Canadian gardeners in the Harriston area, and to the CWCF's work in food access and equity issues.

COIL business programmes

The Circular Opportunity Innovation Launchpad (COIL) continues to create new paths to business innovation by scaling in interesting ways.

Last month, a new cohort was launched under the Circular Demonstration Challenge. This challenge was open to teams from across Southern Ontario but designed to reflect regional differences; a letter of support from a local Economic Development Office was required in order to ensure alignment with local municipal priorities.

The National Construction and Demolition Circular Innovation Challenge is currently accepting applications from across Canada. Working with the Vancouver Economic Commission and Halifax Partnership, with funding from Co-operators and Skyline, this is COIL's first Canada-wide challenge. It will result in a 6-month pilot focused on improving circularity in construction and demolition.

Applications close April 21; for more information and to apply please visit

<https://coil.eco/natlchallenge>

Recommendation:

That the Economic Development Committee receive the Smart Cities Office report for information.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Justine Dainard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Justine Dainard
Smart Cities Project Manager