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, June 15, 2021
Subject: **Our Food Future project – June 2021 Update**

Background: Update on Our Food Future

As the Our Food Future project creates more connections and opportunities for businesses, we are also working to simplify the path and make it easier for producers and businesses to connect with resources. To that end, two new tools have launched this spring:

Circular Economy iHub (CE iHub) Digital Passport. Guelph-Wellington businesses now have an easy way to join the Circular Economy. Creating a passport profile online means a business will be offered one-on-one guidance by the CE iHub. Progress through various services and programmes within the Our Food Future ecosystem can be tracked and recorded through the use of passport stamps. The CE iHub team helps businesses develop circular business models -- which include a focus on reducing emissions and increasing sustainability – and connect with funding or mentorship.

The Digital Passport is available at www.foodfuture.ca/passport.

ReSource Exchange Marketplace. A circular economy is one which designs waste out of the system; this can be done by using a waste product as an input, or by ensuring your waste product can be used by someone else. To enable this, the Our Food Future project is launching the ReSource Exchange Marketplace, an online platform for sourcing or offering surplus materials. Listings allow members to connect with one another and create new circular collaborations by keeping waste in the value chain.

The ReSource Exchange Marketplace is available at https://resourceexchange.ca.

Food Waste Flow Study

Throughout 2020, Our Food Future was working with Dillon Consulting and Dutch company Metabolic to collect and analyze data about the way food moves into and through our region. This material flow analysis tracked food by sector type (fruits, grains, etc) as it moved from ingredient to meal to consumption and disposal.

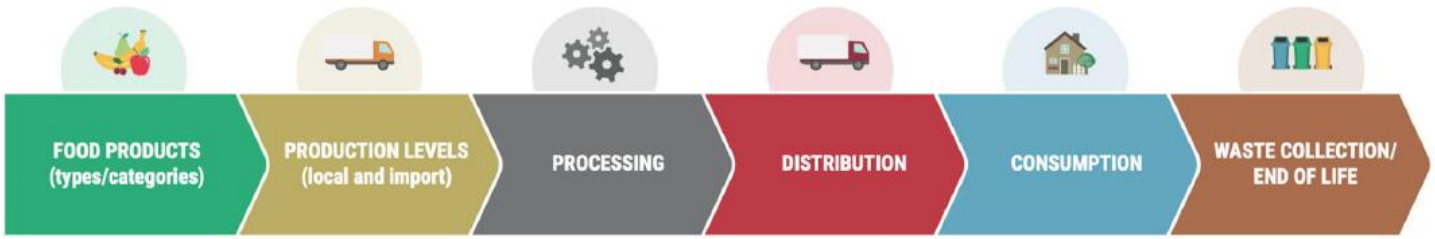

Figure 1. Data capture stages within the Food Waste Flow Study.

At each stage, the amount of food becoming avoidable or unavoidable waste was recorded. The result is a Food Waste Flow Study, which illustrates for us the points in our food system where the greatest areas of loss occur.

Using a method of illustration called a Sankey diagram, this study shows us through relative line size how food is either used or lost at each step (Figure 2, attached). The horizontal coloured flows are the food types moving through our foodshed, and the grey lines which drop down away from these flows are a measurement of food loss and waste. By being able to see where the most avoidable waste is being produced, we understand where actions to divert waste will have the most impact.

Additionally, the full report offers an analysis of the region's self-sufficiency levels (imports vs. exports), greenhouse gas impacts, and local consumption patterns. This report and an animation providing a simple summary of the study is available at the Our Food Future website, www.foodfuture.ca.

In the upcoming months, Our Food Future will be looking deeper into these results to determine areas where we can build interventions and supports to have the most impact. We will also be working at understanding where there are gaps in the data, such as points where a placeholder is based on global averages because there is not enough region-specific information available.

Recommendation:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Justine Dainard
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