



Toward Common Ground

June 1, 2023

Guelph City Council
c/o City Clerk's Office
City of Guelph
1 Carden Street
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1

Subject: Our Food Future Transition Plan

Dear Guelph City Council,

On behalf of Toward Common Ground, we are writing to urge ongoing support for the Smart Cities Our Food Future initiative and the development of a comprehensive transition plan, following the conclusion of the Infrastructure Canada funding. As a partner in Our Food Future's successes, we strongly believe that the backbone support provided by Our Food Future is essential to promoting the long-term wellbeing and resilience of our community.

The Our Food Future initiative has played a pivotal role in establishing Guelph as a global leader in promoting a circular food economy and a sustainable food system. The Smart Cities Office has facilitated the implementation of innovative projects and collaborations to support access to nutritious foods, circular businesses, and using waste as a resource. The success we have collectively achieved is evident in the positive impact it has had on our city, enhancing our reputation, and serving as a model for other communities.

Improving food access and addressing climate change are complex problems that require creative and collaborative solutions. The backbone support provided by the Our Food Future initiative is critical to sustaining and scaling the positive impacts achieved to date and for long-term systemic change. By establishing a well-rounded transition plan that includes backbone support, Guelph will maintain its role as a leader and example for other communities and create a more prosperous, resilient, and equitable future for its residents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your commitment to promoting an equitable, sustainable, and healthy community.

Sincerely,

Glenna Banda,
Co-chair, Toward Common Ground

Caroline Folkman,
Manager, Toward Common Ground