



Local and Sustainable Food in Schools Action Plan

Summary of Priority Goals and Objectives:

1. **Continue to collect data on the successes and challenges of local and sustainable food procurement in schools.** This includes exploring what “sustainable” Ontario products are being supplied and what options are available.
2. **Secure ongoing funding sources for regional food program human resources and marketing** to: maintain personnel to facilitate local food action groups; source local options; make connections with appropriate producers and distributors and train other staff; promote new local products to distributors and student and parent markets.
3. **Improve local food sourcing and distribution avenues to ensure local food can get to school markets.**
 - a. Compile updated scan on Regional food hubs (Northumberland, Simcoe, North Toronto, Halton, etc.).
 - b. Make connections between regional local food school action groups and regional distribution hubs.
4. **Strengthen policy among school boards, their food service providers and nutrition programs for local food purchasing.**
 - a. Share positive models of food service Request for Proposals and contract language.
 - b. Follow up on Sustain Ontario’s recommendation on the Local Food Act, to create a provincial food literacy and Student Nutrition Program policy framework to build the market for local food in schools.
 - c. Identify mentors with experience in school board local food policy creation to mentor regional school action groups as in Goal #5.
5. **Create regional local food school action groups across the province with mentorship from existing successful models.**
6. **Continue to connect both small and large-scale local food projects across the province.**
 - a. Through website and e-newsletter, share current resources available to boost small-scale fundraising opportunities (ex. Fresh from the Farm Fundraiser and OntarioFresh website linking school programs with local producers interested in serving schools).

Plan prepared by: Stephanie Crocker, Ecosource

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For the Ontario Edible Education Network’s full Local and Sustainable Food in Schools Action Plan, as well as other Action Planning documents, please visit <http://www.sustainontario.com/initiatives/ontario-edible-education-network>.