



**Championing the Environment
via Food Choices**

A GUIDE FOR CITIES AND CITY COUNCILLORS



About the Plant-Based Cities Movement

The Plant-Based Cities Movement is a registered charity that combines research, education, and advocacy to help cities and institutions adopt plant-based food procurement policies to lower food emissions.

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Championing the Environment via Food Choices: A Guide for Cities and City Councillors

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Introduction

Many cities across Canada and the world recognize the importance of climate action. Climate plans and strategies can exist at city levels. There are many meaningful actions cities can take. One action to consider is adding the low-cost, low-logistic option of incorporating food choices as part of the city climate plans and strategies.

The impact of food choices on the planet is significant. The special report on climate change and land by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) describes plant-based diets as a major opportunity for mitigating and adapting to climate change. There is a significant reduction in GHG emissions if we reduce our consumption of animal products. 80% of agricultural land is used for animal agriculture (includes growing the feed required for the animals) and yet it only provides 17% of global calories and only 38% of global protein.¹ It is not an efficient use of land that in many cases was forested or had grasslands which provide natural carbon sequestering for our planet. Globally, the livestock sector is responsible for 18% of greenhouse gas emissions measured in CO2 equivalent. This is a **higher** percentage of global emissions² than those of transportation!

At the Plant-Based Cities Movement (PBCM), we work together with councils to help add another tool in the climate plan/strategy toolbox. City budgets may include purchasing food for meetings/events or providing funding for events that have food. Food procurement can be adjusted to prioritize and/or increase the percentage of climate-friendly foods. Food choices are not about dictating what people eat nor are they an all-or-nothing approach. Food choices are making those foods that are more harmful to the environment a smaller percentage of what a city will provide at an event/workshop etc. The availability of more climate friendly foods is also an opportunity to educate people about how food choices make an impact.

Prioritizing climate-friendly foods can be simpler than people think:

- No infrastructure is required to be designed, set up or built
- No significant planning is required
- No added cost

This document contains some examples of what was accomplished in cities across Canada. There are several cities outside of Canada that have implemented food choices as part of their climate action plan. We have included one example from Exeter, UK.

There are several key elements that result in success. Changes are made when they are:

- Rooted in a business case
- Reflect local values, language and individuals
- Actions and/or targets are measurable

Whereas every approach and challenge is unique, the above list shows common elements.

PBCM is here to help with the process. We can provide information, recommendations for city climate plan changes, templates for motions, presentation templates, and general support. In the appendix, we have summarized the major actions/initiatives in a quick reference chart to illustrate the different paths taken by the municipalities to advance climate-friendly food choices.

1 UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Poore and Nemecek - 2018

2 Livestock's Long Shadow (UN FAO) - 2006

Taking Action

Every city is different. Climate priorities, procurement practices, council dynamics and community concerns vary from one municipality to another. The first step is therefore not to prescribe a solution, but to understand where your city is today and where food choices may fit within its existing priorities.

Situation: Where is your city today?

Consider the actions your city has already taken on climate change and sustainability.

- Does your city have a climate action, sustainability or emissions-reduction plan?
- Does the city purchase or provide food for meetings, events, recreation facilities or other programs?
- Are food procurement or food-related emissions already addressed in your climate plan?
- What climate issues matter most locally — for example drought, wildfire, flooding, heat, biodiversity or waste?

These questions help identify where food procurement can complement work the city is already doing.

Problem: Is there an opportunity being missed?

Food is routinely purchased by municipalities, yet its climate impact is often not addressed in municipal climate strategies. This creates an opportunity: cities may be able to reduce the environmental impact of existing activities simply by changing some of the food they already purchase and serve. **Unlike many climate initiatives, changing food procurement can often be introduced without new infrastructure or major capital investment.**

Implication: Why does this matter?

If food procurement is excluded from a climate strategy, a municipality may be overlooking a practical way to reduce emissions while demonstrating climate leadership. Small changes can also build experience and public familiarity. A pilot at one event, a change in purchasing guidelines, or greater availability of climate-friendly choices can provide evidence about what works locally before a city considers broader action.



Working Together

You know your community, your council and the priorities that will determine whether an initiative can succeed. PBCM brings experience from working with municipalities and examples of approaches that other councils have already tested and implemented.

PBCM can work with you to understand your city's situation, identify the most relevant opportunity, learn from approaches used by other municipalities, and develop an action that is appropriate for your council.

Our Ask

Work with us to identify one practical next step for your city. That does not have to begin with a major policy change or a council motion. Depending on your city's situation, the appropriate next step might be:

- testing a climate-friendly food procurement approach at an event or meeting;
- asking staff to evaluate options and report back to Council;
- developing an education or awareness initiative;
- establishing a measurable procurement objective; or preparing a motion that reflects your city's priorities and circumstances.

The approach in every city is different. There are differences in existing climate actions plans, differences in actions already taken or in progress, differences in approach and differences in commitment. We work with a councillor to ensure that goals/motions/actions that are recommended are ones that work within that city.

We want to re-state that we are not changing what people buy, or what people eat at home. City councillors are leaders. Cities can lead by example. By providing more climate-friendly food choices, people become more aware of them and more used to seeing them. By providing information on why some food choices are more climate friendly, the city helps people make more informed decisions.

Your knowledge of your city, combined with PBCM's experience, can turn an opportunity into a practical and achievable next step.

The first conversation is simple: What is your city already doing, where might food choices fit, and what would be a realistic next step?

Contact Us

- Vancouver Island: karin@plantbasedcities.org
- Lower Mainland and BC: karry@plantbasedcities.org
- Our website: www.plantbasedcities.org
- Our UBCM page: <https://plantbasedcities.org/ubcm>

Examples of City Council Actions Across Canada, and in Exeter, UK





District of Saanich, British Columbia – 2025-2026

Description

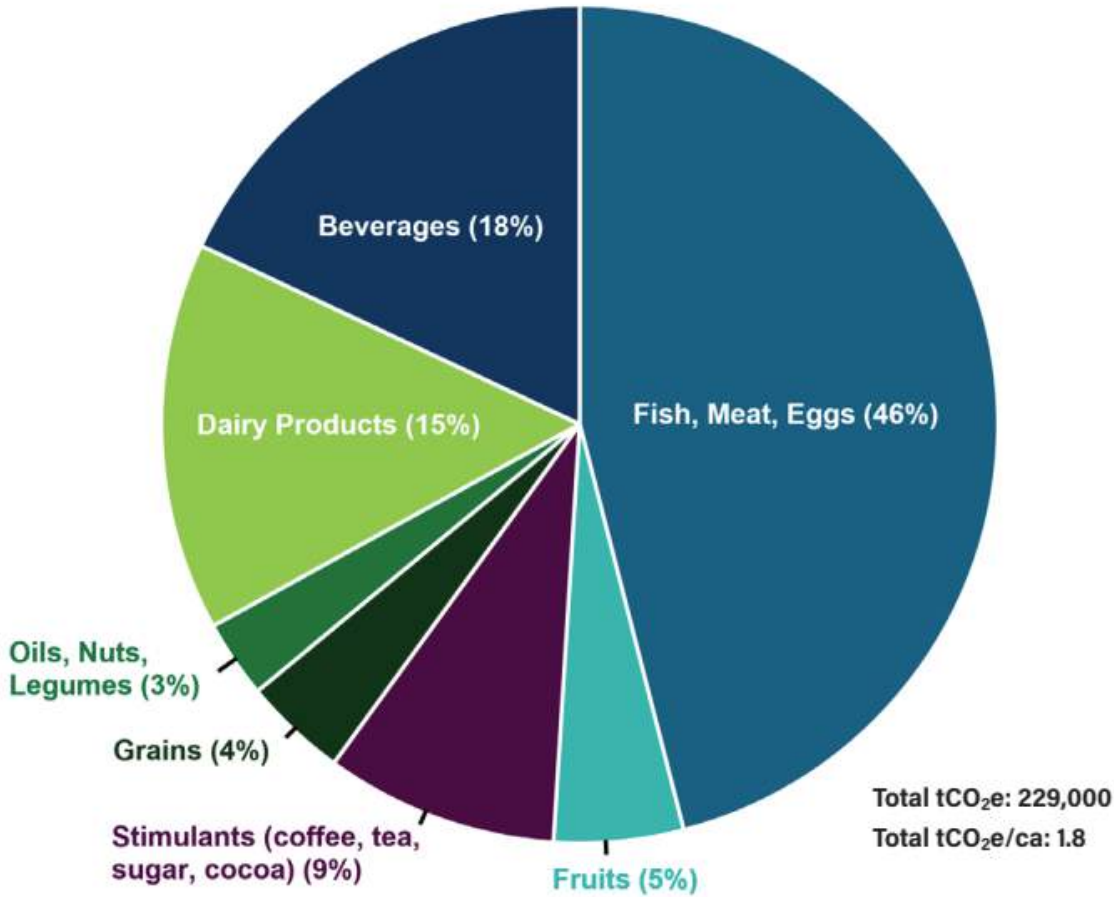
Saanich incorporated more climate-friendly food choices into its food procurement practices and subsequently reflected this approach in its Climate Plan. Beginning with Earth Day, the District increased plant-based offerings at municipal events and later extended the practice to the Strawberry Festival and City meetings and workshops.

Adopting Body	Sustainment Committee
Motion/Policy Title	Food procurement to focus on climate friendly foods at all District involved meetings and events.
Proposed by	A member of the sustainment committee proposed shifting to more climate friendly food procurement policies which was supported by the Sustainment Committee.
Key Commitments	• A one-year pilot to test the effectiveness of a climate-friendly/plant-forward policy was initiated in 2025. The pilot included a teach-in/webinar with Greener by Default. • The review of the policy in 2026 found that it was successful. • The Climate Plan was updated to include the impact of food choices on the climate and a commitment to providing more plant-based options.
Advocacy/Stakeholder Involvement	PBCM member joined the Saanich Sustainment Committee at the request of the Sustainment Committee Chair. The member coordinated a one hour teach-in/webinar with Greener by Default.

Highlights from the June 2026 Saanich Climate Plan

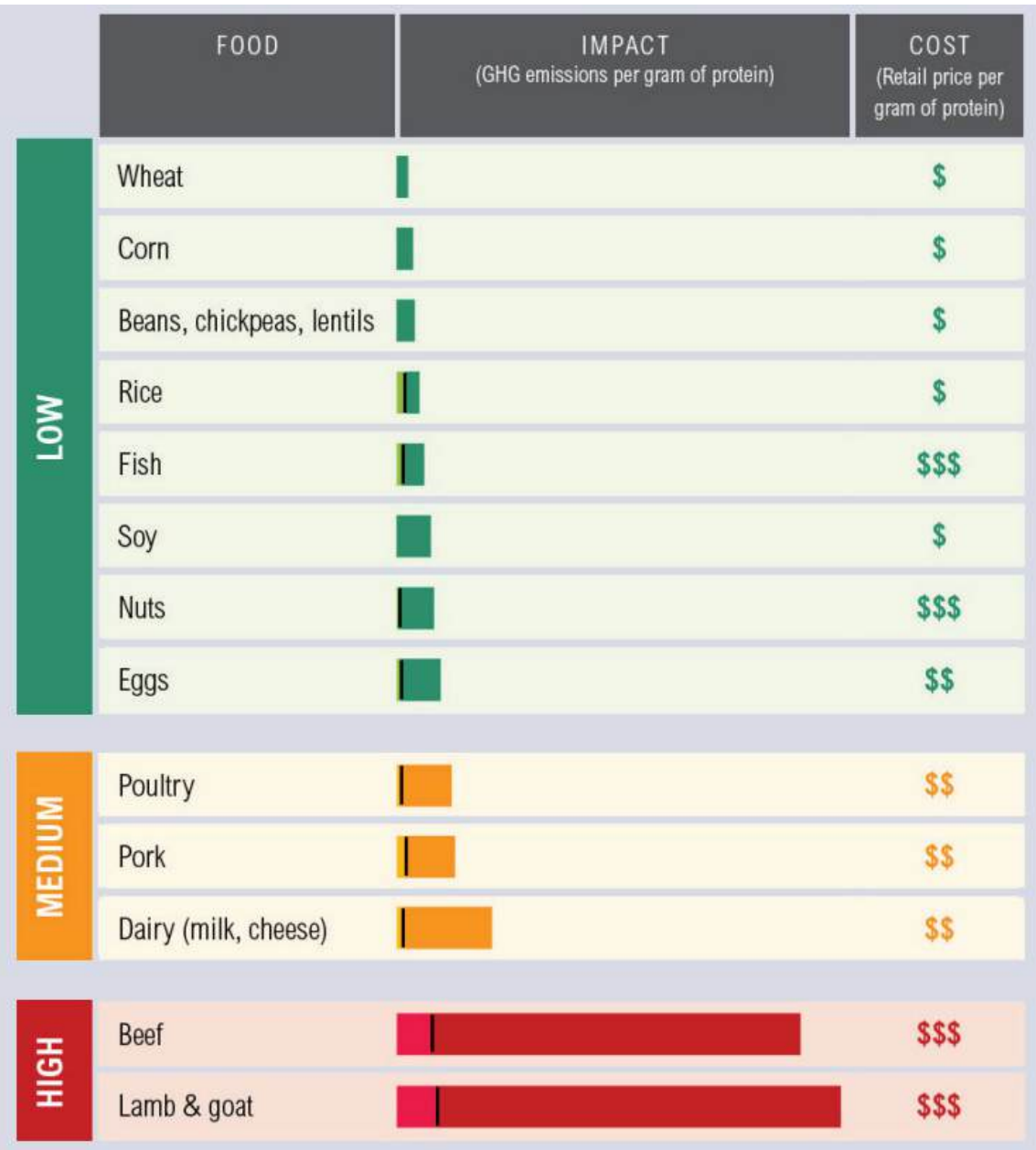
Recognition of higher GHG emissions from animal proteins (page 62)

Even though most food is imported in Saanich, less than 10% of food-related emissions are due to transportation (i.e. food miles). Most of the emissions associated with food occur during production (largely from managing soils, fertilizer, enteric fermentation, and manure on farms). Nearly three quarters of the emissions from our food are from animal proteins, particularly red meat and dairy products.



*GHG emissions from different food types in Saanich
(Consumption-Based Emissions Inventory 2021)*

Graph showing the GHG emissions per gram of protein (page 63)



GHG emissions impacts of different sources of protein. The lighter shade indicates emissions from agricultural production; the darker shade indicates emissions from land use change. Source: www.wri.org/resources/data-visualizations/proteinscorecard

Progress to Date (page 64-65)

- Greener by Default program launched
- 20% reduction from diet shift (e.g. one less serving of red meat per week); and low carbon regenerative local farming

How We'll Get There: Strategies and Actions (page 71, 74)

Encourage people in Saanich to choose low-carbon foods and reduce food waste through such means as promoting the “Love Food, Hate Waste” campaign, plant-based food choices (e.g. Greener by Default program), community participation and practical skill-building programs (e.g. food preservation workshops, community kitchens), and the Saanich Carbon Calculator.

Encourage food service establishments in Saanich to reduce food waste, offer low carbon/plant-based food options, and use renewable-energy cooking methods, through such methods as restaurant and hospitality sector partnerships, recognition programs and policy levers.

Saanich has been making great efforts to reduce our single use items, minimize waste and lower the carbon footprint of our food at Saanich festivals and events. This includes hiring local non-profits to help direct people at our waste diversion stations, prioritizing plant-based foods at meetings and events (including locally made vegan “nice-cream” at Strawberry festival, which sold out by end of day!), and moving to reusable stainless-steel bowls at Strawberry Festival with more than 4,000 disposable bowls saved each year.



District of North Vancouver, British Columbia – 06 May 2024

Description

The District of North Vancouver (DNV) passed a motion to prioritize plant-based foods in their food procurement as a step towards lowering climate impacts and improving health.

Adopting Body	District of North Vancouver Council
Motion/Policy Title	Plant-Based Food Procurement / Plant-Based Food Purchasing Policy
Proposed by	A District of North Vancouver councillor, moved and passed at the 6 May 2024 Regular Meeting of Council
Key Commitments	Ensure plant-based options are consistently included and prioritized whenever food is purchased or funded by the District's governing body, applying to all District-funded gatherings and events
Advocacy/Stakeholder Involvement	• Two PBCM representatives presented to Council in July 2023 about the impact of food choices on the planet. • Both PBCM members presented from a resident perspective on 6 May 2024 during the Public Input portion of the meeting. • In between the two meetings, one PBCM member worked closely with a council member, Jim Hanson, to prepare the motion that he would present to council on May 6, 2024. • The motion was passed.

Motion

The following motion was brought forward by Councillor Jim Hanson at the District of North Vancouver Council Meeting on May 06, 2024. The motion was carried.

8.8. Plant-based Food Procurement in the District File No.

Report: Councillor Jim Hanson, April 18, 2024

Recommendation:

THAT Council consider transitioning to plant-based food procurement in the District of North Vancouver to support a sustainable, healthy, and biodiverse future.

WHEREAS it is acknowledged that current food systems and practices significantly contribute to global greenhouse gas emissions, of which livestock production is responsible for about 14.5% - 28% of global greenhouse gas emissions as well as being a leading factor in the degradation of biodiversity, contributing to deforestation, habitat loss, species extinction, and overuse of freshwater resources;

WHEREAS the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has advised that a plant-based diet can help fight climate change, specifically as the western world's high consumption of meat and dairy produce is fuelling global warming;

WHEREAS it is understood and scientifically proven that plant-based diets offer numerous potential health benefits, including reduced risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, obesity, and certain types of cancers, in addition to lower overall premature mortality;
WHEREAS the District of North Vancouver has the responsibility and capacity to lead by example in promoting sustainable, healthful, and environmentally friendly practices;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body of the District of North Vancouver commit to prioritizing plant-based municipal food procurement as a key strategy to lower environmental impacts in keeping with the District Climate Action Plan by always ensuring that plant-based options are included and prioritized whenever food is purchased or funded.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this policy be enacted as part of our wider commitment to environmental stewardship, public health, and biodiversity conservation within the District of North Vancouver and included in its Climate Action Plans and Strategies.



Halton Region, Ontario - 12 July 2023

Description

The Halton Region, Ontario, encompasses the municipalities of Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville. In the interest of reducing their region's impact on climate change, the council passed a motion to evaluate the potential of increasing plant-based food options at Halton Region facilities and during regional events.

Adopting Body	Halton Regional Council. Per the official Minutes, the motion was moved, seconded, and CARRIED.
Motion/Policy Title	Food System and Potential Impacts on Climate Change
Proposed by	Moved by a Halton Regional Councillor; seconded by the Mayor of one of Halton's local municipalities, per the official Minutes
Key Commitments	Verbatim resolution, per the official Minutes (recorded as CARRIED): "THAT The Regional Municipality of Halton: 1. Evaluate the potential for increasing plant-based food options in Halton Regional facilities and during Regional events, with the aim of increasing healthy eating options, in alignment with Canada's Food Guide, for staff and visitors while contributing to the reduction of negative climate impacts; 2. Support the benefits of food waste minimization through continued promotion of the Halton Region's GreenCart organics collection program and other food waste minimization strategies for residents and businesses; AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion be circulated to Halton's Local Municipalities, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario." The motion's preamble cites the IPCC's findings on food systems and climate change, and notes that Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver are part of the C40 network of cities addressing climate change.
Advocacy/Stakeholder Involvement	Representatives of the Plant Based Cities Movement (PBCM) addressed Regional Council on this Notice of Motion



HALTON REGION

NOTICE OF MOTION

DATE: July 12, 2023

ITEM: Food System and Potential Impacts on Climate Change

DATE OF MEETING
NOTICE OF MOTION
TO BE CONSIDERED: Council Meeting – July 12, 2023

MOVED BY: Councillor Tom Adams
SECONDED BY: Mayor Rob Burton

WHEREAS, communities around the world, including Halton Region, have declared a climate emergency and are working to advance strategies to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change;

WHEREAS, In Canada, the cities of Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver are part of the C40, a global network of nearly 100 mayors of the world's leading cities that are working to confront the climate crisis through an inclusive, science-based and collaborative approach to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through targeted climate actions.

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change.

WHEREAS, the IPCC has highlighted¹ that:

- The current food system (production, transport, processing, packaging, storage, retail, consumption, loss and waste) feeds the great majority of world population and supports the livelihoods of over 1 billion people.
- Observed climate change is already affecting food security through increasing temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and greater frequency of some extreme events.

- Fruit and vegetable production, a key component of healthy eating, is also vulnerable to climate change.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- THAT The Regional Municipality of Halton:
 - Evaluate the potential for increasing plant-based food options in Halton Regional facilities and during Regional events, with the aim of increasing healthy eating options, in alignment with Canada's Food Guide, for staff and visitors while contributing to the reduction of negative climate impacts;
 - Support the benefits of food waste minimization through continued promotion of the Halton Region's GreenCart organics collection program and other food waste minimization strategies for residents and businesses; and

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion be circulated to Halton's Local Municipalities, the Federation of Municipalities of Ontario and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Reference:

1. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). [Chapter 5: Food, Fibre and Other Ecosystem Products | Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability \(ipcc.ch\)](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/).

Mississauga, Ontario – 24 September 2025

Description

The City of Mississauga council unanimously passed the Plant Based Treaty motion after advocacy from the Plant Based Treaty organization.

Adopting Body	Mississauga City Council
Motion/Policy Title	Motion endorsing goals of the Plant Based Treaty, bundled with food-security and urban-agriculture commitments
Proposed by	Introduced by a City Councillor, seconded by another Councillor, per the official council record
Key Commitments	Per the official meeting record, the motion ties the endorsement to the City's 2019 Climate Emergency declaration and its 2024 food insecurity emergency declaration. Key resolved clauses: 1. integrate food security and sustainable food systems into the Climate Change Action Plan; 2. expand public education campaigns encouraging residents toward more plant-based meals; and 3. explore, with community organizations, equitable access to affordable fruits, vegetables, and legumes, focused on food deserts and food justice.
Advocacy/Stakeholder Involvement	The motion followed advocacy by the local chapter of the Plant Based Treaty campaign, which was presented to the City's Environmental Action Committee in March 2025.

Motion From Council Minutes

A Notice of Motion regarding the Plant Based Treaty (Councillor Dasko)
Councillors Dasko and Mahoney spoke to the Plant Based Treaty and to working with other community groups.

RESOLUTION0196-2025

Moved ByCouncillor S. Dasko

Seconded ByDeputy Mayor and Councillor M. Mahoney

WHEREAS the City of Mississauga has demonstrated ongoing leadership in climate action, and environmental stewardship through various City strategies and plans; and
WHEREAS the City's Climate Change Action Plan identifies key actions to reduce greenhouse

gas emissions and increase the City's resilience to climate impacts; and
 WHEREAS the Urban Agriculture Strategy supports local food systems and encourages the cultivation, distribution, and consumption of food within the city, contributing to food security and environmental sustainability; and
 WHEREAS the Parks, Forestry and Environment Master Plan and the Invasive Species Management Plan prioritize sustainable land use practices, biodiversity enhancement, and increased climate resilience; and
 WHEREAS on March 4, 2025, the local chapter of the Plant Based Treaty delegated at the Environmental Action Committee, asking for the City's endorsement of the organization's treaty that supports plant-based diets; and
 WHEREAS, endorsing the Plant Based Treaty proposals that align with the City's objectives, as seen below, is consistent with the goals of the above-named City strategies as it promotes plant-based food systems that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support sustainable and inclusive community practices;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that;

1. The City of Mississauga reaffirm its commitment to the Climate Emergency declared in 2019 and continue to integrate food security and sustainable food systems as central components of the City's Climate Change Action Plan;
2. The City of Mississauga recognize the interconnected nature of climate action and food security, and align the ongoing implementation of the Urban Agriculture Strategy with Council's 2024 declaration of a food insecurity emergency;
3. The City of Mississauga continue to promote and expand public education and awareness campaigns encouraging residents to incorporate more plant-based meals into their diets as a cost-effective and impactful climate action measure;
4. The City of Mississauga, in collaboration with community organizations and partners, explore opportunities to support equitable access to affordable fruits, vegetables, and legumes, with a particular focus on addressing food deserts and advancing food justice across the city;
5. The City of Mississauga reaffirm its support for the expansion of community gardens, teaching gardens, and other local food-growing initiatives, including partnerships that provide food donations to local food banks and community-serving organizations;
6. The City of Mississauga continue to advance reforestation initiatives, prioritizing the planting of native tree species to restore habitats, strengthen biodiversity, and enhance carbon sequestration in alignment with the Natural Heritage and Urban Forest Strategy;
7. The City of Mississauga endorse the goals of the Plant Based Treaty as consistent with the objectives of the City's Climate Change Action Plan, Urban Agriculture Strategy, and Parks, Forestry and Environment Master Plan, recognizing that plant-based food systems contribute both to greenhouse gas reduction and to improved community food security.

YES (11) Councillor S. Dasko, Councillor C. Fonseca, Deputy Mayor and Councillor J. Kovac, Councillor D. Damerla, Deputy Mayor and Councillor M. Mahoney, Councillor S. McFadden, Councillor A. Tedjo, Councillor J. Horneck, Councillor M. Reid, Councillor B. Butt, and Councillor N. Hart

Carried (11 to 0)



Brampton, Ontario – 2022-2025

Description

Brampton's journey towards climate-friendly food policies was achieved with different councillors, residents, and organizations involved. The commitment from Brampton included a 2025 Plant-Based Awareness Week and a list on their city's website listing Brampton businesses that offered plant-based food options.

Process

2022: A delegation including residents, members of PBCM and EarthSave Canada presented to Council. A motion passed to evaluate food product sourcing and that council would consider a substantial shift towards adopting more plant-based options in City facilities and during events, in alignment with reducing climate impacts.

2024: Building upon the PBCM/Earthsave initiative, Councillor Navjit Kaur Brar brought forward a motion to endorse the Plant-Based Treaty and include a plant-based approach as part of the city's climate action plan. The motion passed unanimously. Brampton also declared a Plant-Based Awareness week which was held in April 2025.

Adopting Body	Brampton City Council, via its Environment Advisory Committee and Committee of Council
Motion/Policy Title	Environment Advisory Committee position on plant-based food purchasing
Proposed by	Followed direct delegations to Brampton's Environment Advisory Committee from PBCM members and from Earthsave Canada representatives, requesting the City shift 50% of animal-based food purchases to plant-based by end of 2022
Key Commitments	Committee proposed that "the City of Brampton evaluate their current food product sourcing and that Council consider a substantial shift towards adopting more plant-based options in City facilities and during events.
Advocacy/Stakeholder Involvement	Representatives of the Plant Based Cities Movement (PBCM) and Earthsave Canada presented to the Environment Advisory Committee prior to this motion.

2022 – Motion Letter to Delegation



Legislative Services
City Clerk

August 18, 2022

Sent by email

Mo (Marian) Markham, Member
Plant-Based Cities Movement

Dr. Tushar Metha, Member
Plant-Based Cities Movement

Diane Smele, Member
Earthsav Canada

Dr. David Steele, President
Earthsav Canada

Shailly Prajapati
Brampton Resident

Re: Urgency of Climate Breakdown - Transitioning 50% of City Food Purchases to Plant-Based

The following recommendation of the Committee of Council Meeting of June 22, 2022 was approved by Council on August 10, 2022:

CW325-2022

1. That the delegations re: **Urgency of Climate Breakdown - Transitioning 50% of City Food Purchases to Plant-Based**, to the Committee of Council Meeting of June 22, 2022, be received:
 1. Mo (Marian) Markham, and Dr. Tushar Metha, Members, Plant-Based Cities Movement
 2. Diane Smele, Member, and Dr. David Steele, President, Earthsave Canada
 3. Shailly Prajapati, Brampton resident; and
2. That the City of Brampton evaluate its current food product sourcing and that Council consider a substantial shift towards adopting more plant-based options in City facilities and during events, in alignment with reducing climate impacts.

2024 – Excerpt from Nov 13, 2024, Brampton Council Meeting Minutes

9.3.2 [Notice of Motion - Endorsement of Plant-Based Treaty](#)

Moved by Regional Councillor Brar

WHEREAS, scientists have warned that Canada's unprecedented fire season, linked to climate change, will become the new normal and will intensify as climate change makes hotter, drier weather and longer fire seasons more common ; and

WHEREAS, animal agriculture is responsible for 30% of Canada's total methane emissions , the United Nations 2021 Methane Assessment reveals that methane cuts of 45% by 2030 are required to prevent a 0.3C temperature rise by 2045 , buying us time for carbon dioxide, a longer-lived gas, to dissipate; and

WHEREAS, the IPCC (2019) Special Report on Land Use, shows that a plant-based food system would save almost 8 Gigatons Equivalent in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 ; and

WHEREAS, cattle ranching is the largest driver of deforestation in every Amazon country, accounting for 80% of current deforestation rates , and the most extensive food system analysis to date found that globally 83% of agricultural land is used to farm animals, yet supplies just 18% of calories ; and

WHEREAS, extreme temperature rises, droughts and floods are a risk to food security , and according to the Animal Nutrition Association of Canada, 80% of Canada's supply of barley, 60% of Canada's available corn supply, and 30% of Canada's wheat supply are used to feed farmed animals rather than humans ; and

WHEREAS, a global initiative is underway calling for a Plant Based Treaty that, through its three R's - Relinquish, Redirect and Restore – aims to halt the accelerating expansion of animal agriculture, incentivise and promote a plant-based food system, rewild critical ecosystems in line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5C and work to mitigate the climate crisis with fair equitable transition plans; and

WHEREAS, action to improve accessibility and promote the consumption of plant-based foods in Brampton will help to mitigate and adapt Brampton to the impacts of climate change, improve social justice and economic wellbeing, and support the Brampton in reducing its consumption-based emissions;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. With the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Brampton formally endorses a plant based treaty and makes a plant based approach as a part of the city's climate plan.
2. Use Brampton civic events including meeting and events hosted by city council to promote and showcase appropriately environmentally friendly plant-based food and drink options, alongside displayed information about the climate and health benefits and relative cost of different protein/food sources and informing people about how to achieve a balanced plant-based diet.
3. When events occur on Brampton open spaces, and where catering is provided, ensure that environmentally friendly plant-based options are included and available (i.e., minimum from at fifty per cent of caterers), secured through the use of terms and conditions of hire (where reasonably and appropriately possible).
4. Evaluate the potential for increasing plant-based food options and introducing plant-based defaults in City of Brampton facilities and during regional events, with the aim of increasing healthy eating options for staff and visitors while contributing to the reduction of negative climate impacts.
5. Promote a plant-based awareness week and use municipal communication channels to promote sustainable and affordable food and drink practices throughout the City of Brampton.
6. Create an action plan and time scale for implementing changes to City of Brampton activities following the endorsement of the treaty and report back on progress in 6 months.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion be circulated to the Region of Peel.

Proclamation of Plant-Based Food Awareness week



PROCLAMATION

Plant-Based Food Awareness Week

WHEREAS: There is a climate, ocean, and biodiversity crisis. The three main greenhouse gases: carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide, are at record levels and rapidly accelerating. Food contributes to one third of greenhouse gases, mostly from meat, dairy, and egg consumption. Animal farming is also the driving force impacting other planetary boundaries such as biodiversity loss, deforestation, species extinction, freshwater use, soil degradation, and ocean dead zones.

According to climate scientists, it will be impossible for any government to meet the goals set under the Paris Agreement without a major shift towards plant-based diets, even if current fossil fuel emissions are completely halted. A plant-based diet, rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole foods, offers significant health benefits, optimizing well-being and aiding in disease prevention and treatment.

The Plant Based Treaty's mission is to promote a shift towards a just, plant-based food system that would enable us to live safely within our planetary boundaries and reforest the Earth. In addition to calling for cities and institutions to implement best practices in plant-based food policies, their vision includes a global Plant-Based Treaty informed by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, enabling a plant-based food system.

On November 20, 2024, Brampton became the first city in Ontario to endorse the call for a global Plant-Based Treaty to improve accessibility and promote the consumption of plant-based foods, helping Brampton adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change while improving social justice and economic well-being. Last year, Brampton celebrated the first Plant-Based Food Awareness week and this year, we want to continue to raise awareness about the benefits of a plant-based diet while promoting plant-based options in our city.

THEREFORE: I, Mayor Patrick Brown, on behalf of Brampton City Council, do hereby proclaim April 20 - 24, 2026, as "Plant-Based Food Awareness Week" in the City of Brampton.


Mayor Patrick Brown, City of Brampton



Toronto, Ontario – 26 November 2019

Description

The City of Toronto recognized the climate crisis in the early 2000s and became one of the pioneering cities of the C40 member in 2005. The C40 is a global network of nearly 100 mayors of the world's leading cities that are united in action to confront the climate crisis. The council of the City of Toronto made further commitments in 2019 and reported on those commitments, which included food-related emissions, in 2024.

Adopting Body	Toronto City Council, on recommendation from the Board of Health
Motion/Policy Title	Board of Health item HL10.2: commitment to the World Resources Institute (WRI) Cool Food Pledge and the C40 Good Food Cities Declaration
Proposed by	Board of Health motion moved by the Board of Health Chair; amendment moved by a Board of Health member. Deputations included representatives of the Toronto Environmental Alliance and an academic nutrition researcher from Ryerson University's School of Nutrition.
Key Commitments	1. Commit to the WRI Cool Food Pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from City food procurement by 25% by 2030. 2. As a C40 Good Food Cities Declaration signatory, align food procurement with the Planetary Health Diet and Canada's Food Guide, and support an overall increase in healthy plant-based food consumption.
Advocacy/Stakeholder Involvement	The initial actions taken by the City of Toronto show no documented involvement of any plant-based or animal-agriculture-specific advocacy organization. In the 2019 motion, the Toronto Environmental Alliance (a general environmental advocacy group) submitted written comments and gave a deputation. Other speakers were an academic (Ryerson University's School of Nutrition) and an individual with no stated organizational affiliation at the time.

Excerpt from Minutes

(Submitted for City Council Consideration on November 26, 2019)

Decision Type: ACTION

Status: Amended

Wards: All

Board Recommendations

The Board of Health recommends that:

1. City Council direct the City Manager to report in the second quarter of 2020 with a plan and timelines for the City of Toronto to implement the short-term and long-term goals of the 2015 Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, to which the City is a signatory city, and the C40 Good Food Cities Declaration, which was signed by Mayor John Tory on October 10, 2019 in Copenhagen, Denmark, including those pertaining to food procurement, consumption, and food loss and waste.
2. City Council commit to achieving the World Resources Institute's Cool Food Pledge to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the food the City of Toronto procures by 25 percent by 2030 relative to 2015 and request the City Manager to report in the second quarter of 2020 on a plan and timelines to implement the goals of the Pledge.

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health:

1. Requested the Medical Officer of Health, in consultation with appropriate City Divisions, residents, the private sector, and community and institutional partners, to implement the following actions as a signatory city to the C40 Good Food Cities Declaration:
 - a. Procurement - Align food procurement in the City of Toronto to the Planetary Health Diet and the 2019 Canada's Food Guide, which includes healthier, plant-based, and sustainable food options;
 - b. Consumption - Support an overall increase in the consumption of healthy, plant-based foods by shifting away from unsustainable, unhealthy diets; and
 - c. Food Loss and Waste - Reduce food loss and waste and create a circular economy for food.

The Manager, Food Strategy, Toronto Public Health, gave a presentation on Food Systems Transformation - Toronto Food Strategy.

Origin

(October 10, 2019) Report from the Medical Officer of Health

Summary

The World Health Organization and The Lancet have called climate change the greatest threat and opportunity for global health in the 21st century. The dynamic relationship between food and climate change, and the resulting impact on human health, is a key dimension of this work and global and local calls to action.

There is growing evidence that food systems must change to combat the current climate crisis and promote food security. Cities can make impactful changes by changing how they procure food and by influencing the public's dietary behaviours. They can also take steps to reduce food loss and waste from the food they procure and prepare and set an example for the food service and hospitality industry. This staff report outlines strategic opportunities and recommended areas of action for Toronto Public Health and the City of Toronto to support both food systems transformation and climate change action to improve the health of our communities, as outlined in the attached Food Systems Transformation and Toronto Food Strategy 2019 Update report. The recommendations below reflect the intent and commitments outlined in the C40 Good Food Cities Declaration signed by the Mayor of Toronto and released at the C40 Mayoral Summit in Copenhagen in October 2019 and are supported by the scientific evidence regarding the need for food systems transformation to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Background Information

- (October 10, 2019) Report from the Manager, Food Strategy on Food Systems Transformation and Toronto Food Strategy - 2019 Update
<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-138842.pdf>
- Attachment 1 - Food Systems Transformation and Toronto Food Strategy - 2019 Update
<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-138843.pdf>
- Presentation from the Manager, Food Strategy, Toronto Public Health on Food Systems Transformation - Toronto Food Strategy
<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-139385.pdf>

Communications

- (October 23, 2019) Submission from Zachary Tofias, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (HL. New.HL10.2.1)
<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/hl/comm/communicationfile-98377.pdf>
- (October 24, 2019) E-mail from Nicole Corrado (HL.New.HL10.2.2)
- (October 28, 2019) Submission from Heather Marshall, Toronto Environmental Alliance (HL. New.HL10.2.3)
<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/hl/comm/communicationfile-98680.pdf>

Speakers

- Heather Marshall, Toronto Environmental Alliance
- Dr. Fiona Yeudall, School of Nutrition, Ryerson University and Centre for Studies in Food Security
- Tony Colley

Motions

1 - Motion to Amend Item (Additional) moved by Councillor Mike Layton (Carried)

That:

1. City Council direct the City Manager to report in the second quarter of 2020 with a plan and timelines for the City of Toronto to implement the short-term and long-term goals of the 2015 Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, to which the City is a signatory city, and the C40 Good Food

Cities Declaration, which was signed by Mayor John Tory on October 10, 2019 in Copenhagen, Denmark, including those pertaining to food procurement, consumption, and food loss and waste.

2 - Motion to Amend Item (Additional) moved by Councillor Jennifer McKelvie (Carried)

That:

1. City Council commit to achieving the World Resources Institute's Cool Food Pledge to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the food the City of Toronto procures by 25 per-cent by 2030 relative to 2015 and request the City Manager to report in the second quarter of 2020 on a plan and timelines to implement the goals of the Pledge.

3 - Motion to Adopt Item as Amended moved by Councillor Joe Cressy (Carried)



Richmond Hill, Ontario – 29 October 2025

Description

The City of Richmond Hill passed a motion to increase the promotion of plant-based food choices which supports the city's Community Energy and Emissions Plan goals.

Adopting Body	Richmond Hill City Council. Recorded in the official Minutes as Item 5.2.12, a Member Motion on the Plant Based Treaty Initiative (CW Item 12.1).
Motion/Policy Title	Member Motion: "Plant Based Treaty Initiative" (the City did not formally endorse the Plant Based Treaty itself, but the motion supports goals aligned with it)
Proposed by	Moved by a Richmond Hill city councillor; seconded by another Richmond Hill city councillor, per the official Minutes
Key Commitments	Per the official Minutes, the motion's preamble notes that large-scale animal agriculture is a significant source of global GHG emissions and that shifting to plant-centric food systems can help reduce emissions while offering environmental and health benefits, and cites the international, grassroots Plant Based Treaty movement, which encourages individuals, businesses, organizations, and cities to put food systems at the forefront of combatting the climate crisis.
Advocacy/Stakeholder Involvement	The motion followed advocacy by the local chapter of the Plant Based Treaty campaign

Excerpt from Meeting Minutes



Council Meeting Revised Agenda

C#29-25

Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

Council Chambers

225 East Beaver Creek Road

Richmond Hill, Ontario

Deputy Mayor Godwin Chan

15.2.12

Member Motion - Councillor Thompson - Plant Based Treaty Initiative – (CW Item 12.1)

Whereas local communities must adapt to the impacts of climate change and, conversely, take responsibility and concrete action to mitigate their contributions to greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emissions and climate change;

Whereas Richmond Hill’s Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) outlines actions and opportunities to reduce our community’s GHG emissions;

Whereas large scale animal agriculture is a significant source of global GHG emissions and shifting to plant-centric food systems can help reduce emissions while offering environmental and health benefits;

Whereas reducing GHG emissions related to our food production systems and consumption habits is critical for achieving global emissions targets and for addressing climate change;

Whereas there is an international, grassroots, plant based treaty movement that encourages individuals, businesses, organizations and cities to put food systems at the forefront of combatting the climate crisis and promote a shift towards healthier, sustainable plant-based diets;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that:

1. Richmond Hill will aim to include environmentally-friendly plant-based food options at City meetings and events;
2. Richmond Hill will encourage and promote the inclusion of plant-based options at events held by community organizations that aligns with the City’s Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) for reducing GHG’s by 2050; and
3. Richmond Hill explore opportunities to raise public awareness about the climate, environmental, and health benefits of plant-based food systems and diets.



Kingston, Ontario – 15 October 2024

Description

As part of a delegation organized by the Plant-Based Cities Movement (PBCM), emergency and addiction medicine physician Dr. Henry Swoboda addressed Kingston City Council on the health and environmental benefits of plant-based and plant-forward foods. His presentation supported the motion on plant-based municipal food procurement brought forward by Councillor Conny Glenn.

Adopting Body	Kingston City Council
Motion/Policy Title	Plant-Based Municipal Food Procurement (follows Council's 2023 and 2024 proclamations of "October is Plantiful")
Proposed by	Kingston city councillor (Sydenham District)
Key Commitments	Please see resolution below.
Advocacy/Stakeholder Involvement	• PBCM worked with Councillor Glenn on the motion wording and also presented as a Delegation to council. • The motion was supported by 350 Kingston, the Plant-Based Cities Movement (PBCM), and Earthsave Canada.

Resolution Passed (Excerpt From Meeting Minutes)

20. New Motions

1. Plant-Based Municipal Food Procurement

Moved by: Councillor Glenn

Seconded by: Councillor Osanic

Whereas the City of Kingston declared October is Plantiful Month in recognition of the importance of food for the health of our environment and community; and

Whereas the Canada Food Guidelines recommend at least 75% plant-based foods including fruits, vegetables, grains, and plant proteins for a healthy diet; and

Whereas as it is understood and scientifically proven that plant-rich diets offer health benefits, including reduced risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, obesity, and certain types of cancers, in addition to lower overall premature mortality; and

Whereas it is acknowledged that current food systems and practices significantly contribute to global greenhouse gas emissions, of which livestock production is responsible for about 14.5% to 28% of global greenhouse gas emissions; and

Whereas the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has advised that a plant-based diet can help fight climate change; and

Whereas Lead Environmental Stewardship and Climate Action is a pillar of the City of Kingston's 2023 – 2026 Strategic Plan; and

Whereas the City of Kingston has the responsibility and capacity to lead by example in promoting sustainable, healthful, and environmentally friendly practices;

Therefore Be It Resolved That the City of Kingston commit to prioritizing plant-based municipal food procurement as a key strategy to lower environmental impacts in keeping with the 2023 – 2026 Strategic Plan by always ensuring that plant-based options are included and prioritized whenever food is purchased or funded; and

That plant rich options be promoted by ensuring they are given a primary position when food is offered such as at the front of a buffet table; and

That the City of Kingston support and collaborate with community partners on education and awareness campaigns that promote the benefits of a plant-rich diet, and focus on sustainability, health and cultural appreciation.

Additional clause to the motion

- **Councillor Brandon Tozzo** proposed the addition that **staff report back with a draft strategy by Q4 2025** for implementing plant-based food procurement within municipal operations. The amendment was well received and adopted as part of the overall motion.

Montréal, Québec – 16 May 2022

Description

Montréal, a city with an impressive culinary reputation, was the first city in Canada to put forward a motion to commit to supporting an increase in its offerings of plant-based foods including a commitment to serve at least 75% vegetarian options at events it organizes. The motion was approved unanimously by all 65 members of the main city council.

Adopting Body	Montréal City Council (Conseil municipal)
Motion/Policy Title	“Déclaration en vue de l’adoption de pratiques alimentaires durables pour faire face à l’urgence climatique” (Declaration for the Adoption of Sustainable Food Practices to Address the Climate Emergency), which includes the City’s adherence to the C40 Good Food Cities Declaration.
Proposed by	Moved by an Executive Committee associate councillor responsible for active transportation; seconded by the Mayor of the borough of Verdun, who served as the Executive Committee member responsible for ecological transition and the environment.
Key Commitments	Per the official declaration text, Montréal resolved that the City: 1. adheres to the C40 Good Food Cities Declaration and commits to aligning food procurement policies with the Planetary Health Diet; 2. commits to supporting an overall increase in plant-based food consumption in its territory; 3. commits to offering a minimum of 75% vegetarian options at events it organizes; and 4. commits to working with concession-holders operating food service areas under contract with the City, notably in large parks, to increase the proportion of plant-based offerings.
Advocacy/Stakeholder Involvement	The Coalition for a Sustainable Food Transition first engaged with the City in 2021. In early 2022, PBCM worked directly with a senior political advisor in the Office of Montréal Mayor Valérie Plante whose portfolio included ecological transition, encouraging municipal action on plant-based food choices. The declaration also names the Conseil du système alimentaire montréalais, Montréal’s municipally mandated food policy council, as a partner in its implementation.

Motion

Motion is first presented in the original French and is then followed with an English translation using DeepL.

Déclaration

Séance du conseil municipal du 16 mai 2022

Déclaration en vue de l'adoption de pratiques alimentaires durables pour faire face à l'urgence climatique

Attendu que la Déclaration du C40 relative aux bonnes pratiques alimentaires vise à promouvoir et à préserver la santé des citoyennes et des citoyens du monde entier, tout en protégeant la planète;

Attendu que l'urgence climatique contraint les gouvernements à influencer favorablement les choix de consommation de la population afin d'atteindre l'objectif fixé par le Groupe d'experts intergouvernemental sur l'évolution du climat (GIEC) de limiter le réchauffement de la planète à 1,5 °C;

Attendu que le dernier rapport du GIEC affirme que nous devons repenser notre façon de consommer et ce, jusque dans notre assiette, en incitant la population et les autorités à réfléchir rapidement à leurs choix alimentaires, notamment en privilégiant une diète davantage végétale et en réduisant les distances parcourues, ainsi que le gaspillage alimentaire;

Attendu que l'élevage d'animaux dans le but d'obtenir leur viande occupe environ 30 % de la surface de la terre et contribue à 18 % des émissions mondiales de gaz à effet de serre;

Attendu que les recherches démontrent que, sans changements substantiels, les émissions de gaz à effet de serre du secteur alimentaire augmenteront de 38 % d'ici 2050;

Attendu qu'en évitant le gaspillage et en adoptant un régime alimentaire durable, nous pourrions réduire de plus de 60 % les émissions mondiales de gaz à effet de serre issues de notre alimentation;

Attendu que la réduction des pertes et du gaspillage alimentaires constitue un engagement important de la Déclaration du C40 et que, dans son Plan directeur de gestion des matières résiduelles (PDGMR) 2020-2025, la Ville de Montréal a pris un engagement de réduire de 50 %, d'ici 2025, le gaspillage alimentaire sur son territoire;

Attendu que Montréal est déjà une capitale mondiale en matière d'agriculture urbaine et que la Ville de Montréal s'est donné des objectifs ambitieux pour poursuivre le travail, grâce à la Stratégie d'agriculture urbaine 2021-2026;

Attendu que la Ville de Montréal soutient le Défi GEstes, qui vise à engager les jeunes de 13 à 17 ans à réduire leur impact carbone. Pour le premier Défi, en 2022, les jeunes ont choisi le sujet de la réduction de l'empreinte carbone de leur alimentation via le remplacement de protéines. Ce défi a permis, en un mois, d'éviter l'émission de près de 1,5 tonne de GES liés aux habitudes alimentaires;

Attendu que tous les espaces de restauration d'Espace pour la vie offrent, depuis 2020, des plats 100 % végétaliens et que cela leur a valu le prix Coup de cœur, culture et transition écologique, lors du gala du Conseil régional de l'environnement de Montréal, tenu le 3 mai 2022;

Attendu que Barcelone, Copenhague, Guadalajara, Lima, Londres, Los Angeles, Milan, Oslo, Paris, Quezon City, Séoul, Stockholm, Tokyo et Toronto ont adhéré à la Déclaration du C40 relative aux bonnes pratiques alimentaires (*C40 Good Food Cities Declaration*);

Attendu que ces villes utiliseront leur pouvoir d'achat pour changer le type de nourriture achetée par leurs services et faire adopter des politiques qui permettront à toutes et à tous d'accéder à de la nourriture produite avec de faibles émissions de carbone. Ils prendront également des mesures pour réduire le gaspillage et la perte de nourriture.

Il est proposé par Marianne Giguère, conseillère associée aux transports actifs au comité exécutif, et appuyé par Marie-Andrée Mauger, mairesse de Verdun et responsable de la transition écologique et de l'environnement au comité exécutif,

Et résolu :

Que la Ville de Montréal adhère à la Déclaration du C40 relative aux bonnes pratiques alimentaires (*C40 Good Food Cities Declaration*);

Que la Ville de Montréal s'engage à aligner ses politiques d'approvisionnement alimentaire sur le Régime alimentaire planétaire avec, idéalement, des denrées issues de l'agriculture biologique;

Que la Ville de Montréal s'engage à appuyer une augmentation globale de la consommation d'aliments d'origine végétale sur son territoire, en incitant la population à choisir des régimes sains et durables;

Que la Ville de Montréal, en partenariat avec le Conseil du système alimentaire montréalais, s'engage à élaborer une stratégie de mise en oeuvre de la Déclaration du C40 dans une perspective inclusive et équitable;

Que la Ville de Montréal s'engage à offrir un minimum de 75 % d'offre végétarienne lors des événements qu'elle organise;

Que la Ville de Montréal s'engage à collaborer avec les responsables des concessions qui exploitent des espaces de restauration et qui ont des contrats avec elle, notamment dans les grands parcs, afin qu'une plus grande part de leur offre soit à base de plantes;

Que l'Office montréalais de la gastronomie encourage la consommation alimentaire responsable auprès des visiteurs locaux, nationaux et internationaux, en privilégiant des lieux de consommation qui favorisent l'approvisionnement en produits locaux ou régionaux en circuit court, qui pratiquent la réduction du gaspillage alimentaire ou qui valorisent la cuisine végétarienne;

Qu'une copie de cette déclaration soit transmise aux arrondissements et aux directions d'école du territoire de la Ville de Montréal afin d'encourager l'alimentation saine, locale et qui fait une plus grande place aux alternatives aux protéines animales, et d'éviter le gaspillage alimentaire.

Motion Translated to English via DeepL



Statement

City Council Meeting of May 16, 2022

Declaration on Adopting Sustainable Food Practices to Address the Climate Emergency

Whereas the C40 Declaration on Good Food Practices aims to promote and preserve the health of citizens around the world, while protecting the planet;

Whereas the climate emergency compels governments to positively influence the public's consumption choices in order to achieve the goal set by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of limiting global warming to 1.5 °C;

Whereas the latest IPCC report states that we must rethink our consumption patterns—right down to what we put on our plates—by encouraging the public and authorities to quickly reconsider their food choices, particularly by prioritizing a more plant-based diet and reducing food miles and food waste;

Whereas livestock farming for meat production occupies approximately 30% of the Earth's land area and accounts for 18% of global greenhouse gas emissions;

Whereas research shows that, without substantial changes, greenhouse gas emissions from the food sector will increase by 38% by 2050;

Whereas by preventing waste and adopting a sustainable diet, we could reduce global greenhouse gas emissions from our food system by more than 60%;

Whereas reducing food loss and waste is a key commitment of the C40 Declaration and, in its 2020–2025 Waste Management Master Plan (PDGMR), the City of Montreal has committed to reducing food waste within its jurisdiction by 50% by 2025;

Whereas Montréal is already a global leader in urban agriculture, and the City of Montréal has set to continue this work through the 2021–2026 Urban Agriculture Strategy;

Whereas the City of Montreal supports the GESTes Challenge, which aims to engage youth aged 13 to 17 in reducing their carbon footprint. For the first Challenge, in 2022, the youth chose the topic of reducing the carbon footprint of their diet by substituting protein sources. This challenge made it possible, in one month, to prevent the emission of nearly 1.5 metric tons of GHGs linked to dietary habits;

Whereas all Espace pour la vie dining venues have been offering 100% vegan dishes since 2020, and this earned them the “Coup de cœur” award for culture and ecological transition at the Montreal Regional Environment Council gala held on May 3, 2022;

Whereas Barcelona, Copenhagen, Guadalajara, Lima, London, Los Angeles, Milan, Oslo, Paris, Quezon City, Seoul, Stockholm, Tokyo, and Toronto have signed the *C40 Good Food Cities Declaration*;

Whereas these cities will use their purchasing power to change the types of food purchased by their departments and adopt policies that will enable everyone to have access to food produced with low carbon emissions. They will also take measures to reduce food waste and loss.

It is proposed by Marianne Giguère, Executive Committee member responsible for active transportation, and seconded by Marie-Andrée Mauger, Mayor of Verdun and Executive Committee member responsible for ecological transition and the environment,

And resolved:

That the City of Montreal adhere to the C40 *Good Food Cities* Declaration;

That the City of Montreal commit to aligning its food procurement policies with the Planetary Diet, ideally using organically grown produce;

That the City of Montreal commit to supporting an overall increase in the consumption of plant-based foods within its jurisdiction by encouraging residents to choose healthy and sustainable diets;

That the City of Montreal, in partnership with the Montreal Food System Council, commit to developing a strategy to implement the C40 Declaration in an inclusive and equitable manner;

That the City of Montreal commit to offering at least 75% vegetarian options at the events it organizes;

That the City of Montreal commit to collaborating with concession operators who manage food service areas and have contracts with the City—particularly in major parks—to ensure that a greater proportion of their offerings are plant-based;

That the Montreal Office of Gastronomy promote responsible food consumption among local, national, and international visitors by prioritizing dining establishments that favor the sourcing of local or regional products through short supply chains, that practice food waste reduction, or that highlight vegetarian cuisine;

That a copy of this declaration be sent to the boroughs and school boards within the City of Montreal to encourage healthy, locally sourced diets that give greater prominence to alternatives to animal proteins and to prevent food waste.

Exeter, UK – 2022

Description

A Plant-Based Motion to address the impact of food choices on Climate Change was presented to Council on Tuesday, 13 December 2022. The motion was carried. This motion was councilor led with no involvement of any interest group or residents. In 2023 the city followed up with a food policy that addressed increasing the availability of plant-based food options to 50% at council events and council run facilities (sites). Other related topics such as food waste management and local sourcing were also addressed.

The following documentation comes from the minutes at the Exeter city council meeting where the motion was presented.

Motion

Notice of Motion by Councillor Wood under Standing Order No. 6, Tuesday 13th December 2022

Minutes:

Councillor Wood, seconded by Councillor Parkhouse, moved a Notice of Motion in the following terms:

Plant-Based Food

1. This Council recognises the importance of accessing a whole-food¹ plant-based² diet and the effect dietary choices can have on individual carbon footprints.
2. This Council recognises the importance of a balanced diet as well as individual choice and catering for all dietary requirements. Increasing awareness of dietary choices and resulting impact to individual carbon footprint can allow individuals to make more informed choices.
3. The special report on climate change and land by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) describes plant-based diets as a major opportunity for mitigating and adapting to climate change - and includes a policy recommendation to reduce meat consumption.³
4. The National Food Strategy recommended cutting meat consumption by 30% in a decade.⁴
5. When we talk about emissions, we usually think of carbon dioxide (CO₂). But livestock's emissions also include methane, which is up to 34 times more damaging to the environment over 100 years than CO₂, according to the UN.⁵

1 The term "whole" in whole foods plant based diet describes foods that are minimally processed. This includes whole grains, fruits, vegetables, and legumes.

2 The term "plant-based" refers to vegetables, grains, pulses, or other foods derived from plants, rather than animal products.

3 IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land. Accessed on 24th November 2022: <https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/>

4 National Food Strategy: An Independent Review for Government. Accessed on 24th November 2022: <https://www.nationalfoodstrategy.org/the-report/>

5 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Methane Management: The Challenge. Accessed on 24th November 2022: <https://unece.org/challenge>

6. Beef produces the most greenhouse gas emissions, which include methane. A global average of 110lb (50kg) of greenhouse gases is released per 3.5oz of protein. Lamb has the next highest environmental footprint but these emissions are 50% less than beef. Cattle produce more methane than poultry, which rely more on imported feed than cows, generating a carbon footprint offshore, says Professor Margaret Gill.⁶
7. The plant-based food market is booming. With one-third of UK consumers choosing to actively reduce their meat consumption, the demand for plant-based innovation is growing at a rapid pace.⁷
8. Plant-based food contributes to Exeter City Council corporate priorities, including our Net Zero 2030 target through to personal wellbeing.

Council asks Executive to:

1. Ensure that by the Exeter City Council Annual Council in May 2023, food provided at catered internal Council meetings will be plant-based and that it will showcase plant based foods at catered events.
2. Ensure that all Council run external sites including Leisure Centres, cafes and restaurants have plant-based options available as part of their regular catering offer and advertised clearly on their menu.
3. Set up a cross-party Task and Finish Working Group, chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, of officers, elected Members including other relevant Portfolio Holders and invited experts to promote and embed these principles in Exeter City Council's food provision where practicable.

In presenting his motion, Councillor Wood made the following points:

- The purpose of the Motion was to make people aware of the impact on the Climate Change crisis of the choices they make in deciding what to eat;
- There was a shared understanding in society that there should be less consumption of meat and there was a significant amount of information on the environmental and health benefits of choosing plant based foods;
- With greater awareness of the crisis, people ask how they can help and one action would be to eat plant based foods;
- The Motion did not seek to prevent the consumption of meat, but rather to encourage the eating of meat on fewer days of the week;
- Farmers and food producers also faced challenges in combatting Climate Change and they could be supported by the public who could choose locally sourced quality food which benefitted the local economy; and

The Council was asked to play a role in raising awareness of plant based foods and to support the changes society needs to make to protect the planet.

⁶ BBC Climate change: Do I need to stop eating meat? Accessed on 24th November 2022: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/explainers-59232599>

⁷ Vegan Society. A third of shoppers report they are cutting down on meat or ditching it completely in a response to the cost-of-living crisis. Accessed on 24th November 2022: <https://www.vegansociety.com/news/news/third-shoppers-report-reducing-or-ditching-meat>.

Councillor Parkhouse, in seconding the Motion, made the following points:

- decisions made every day had an impact on Climate Change and the future of the planet;
- the Council had enacted bold and ambitious policies to combat Climate Change in line with its declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019 and the target of Net Zero 2030;
- science had made it clear that society needed to consume less meat;
- the impact on society of Climate Change would be greater than that of the recent Covid Pandemic;
- the Motion did not seek to ask people to become Vegan or Vegetarians, but to make the choice of cutting down on meat consumption; and
- there were significant health benefits in eating more plant based foods at every life stage.

During the discussion the following points were made:

- whilst broadly supporting the measures to achieve Net Zero 2030, there were unintended consequences of promoting plant based foods. If the Motion was taken to its logical conclusion of greatly reducing meat consumption there would be an economic impact on businesses such as restaurants which were significantly meat based, on charities as well as the Council. Both the Livestock Centre and the Farmers Market could see a reduction in income and there may be a reduced demand for the use of the Guildhall for weddings if there was a restriction on caterers' menus. A further Council revenue stream could also be lost if licences were no longer issued to mobile catering businesses which were largely meat based;
- the Council should seek to raise awareness of this issue, recognising that it was a matter of choice. Although, in some cases, it was not medically advisable to eat plant based food, it would still be beneficial to showcase plant based foods at external events;
- restaurants offering plant based foods would be more attractive to groups who counted Vegans or Vegetarians in their numbers;
- Members were encouraged to participate in Vegan January to help promote understanding of this issue;
- at recent Licensing Sub Committee meetings there had been applications from mobile catering businesses seeking licences and offering a choice of menu to include non-meat and vegan options. One application had not considered a vegan option and had still been granted a licence;
- it was important that many local meat producing outlets such as butchers and Darts Farm use quality local produce and know the source of the meat they sell;
- the proposed Task and Finish Group should also examine wider procurement issues not just the food offer at internal and Council supported events;
- an entire plant based approach could feed the whole of the world's population;
- a more plant based diet could help reduce allergies, with dairy products one of the main causes of allergies in the UK;
- how would the proposal in not offering the choice of alternatives to plant based food at internal Council meetings be progressed?; and
- the welfare of animals in food production, notably pigs and chickens, should also be considered and bad farming practices eliminated.

Councillor Wood, in concluding, stated that the Motion was not seeking huge changes in people's behaviour as, ultimately, consumers and the market itself would be the main determinant. Whilst options would be available, the Motion was predicated on showcasing and promoting plant based food. The Task and Finish Working Group would be examining procurement issues and would also focus on the promotion of, and messaging around, plant based food.

Councillor Wood commended the Motion to Council.

The Notice of Motion was put to the vote and CARRIED.

Appendix:

PBCM Municipal Summaries/Approaches

UBCM Trade Show – Councillor Conversation Reference

Municipality	S – Situation	P/I – Problem / Implication	R – Relevance: What the municipality did	Approach
Saanich, BC	Existing climate planning and municipal control over food served at meetings, festivals and events.	Food-related emissions were not fully reflected in municipal climate actions.	Started with a one-year climate-friendly / plant-forward procurement pilot in 2025. Following a successful review, the 2026 Climate Plan incorporated food choices and a commitment to more plant-based options.	Excellent BC example: pilot --> evaluate --> incorporate into Climate Plan.
District of North Vancouver, BC	Existing Climate Action Plan and municipal purchasing for meetings and events.	Opportunity to connect municipal food purchasing directly to climate, health and biodiversity objectives.	Council passed a policy requiring plant-based options to be included and prioritized whenever District food is purchased or funded, including District gatherings and events.	Excellent BC example: simple procurement-policy route.
Halton Region, ON	Regional government operates facilities and events and already had climate and healthy-eating objectives.	Council had not determined how food procurement could contribute to climate goals.	Passed a motion to evaluate the potential for increasing plant-based options at Regional facilities and events, linking the action to Canada's Food Guide and climate impacts.	Best for cautious approach: start by asking staff to evaluate.

Municipality	S – Situation	P/I – Problem / Implication	R – Relevance: What the municipality did	Approach
Mississauga, ON	Existing Climate Change Action Plan, Urban Agriculture Strategy and food-security initiatives.	Food systems were relevant simultaneously to climate action and food insecurity.	Council voted 11–0 to integrate sustainable food systems into climate planning, expand education encouraging more plant-based meals, and explore better access to fruits, vegetables and legumes.	Useful coalition/ framing example: climate + affordability + food security.
Brampton, ON	Multi-year progression involving residents, PBCM / EarthSave and council leadership.	Initial issue was whether City food sourcing and climate commitments could be connected.	A 2022 motion called for evaluation of food sourcing and consideration of more plant-based options. In 2024 council unanimously endorsed a plant-based approach within its climate plan, followed by Plant-Based Awareness Week in 2025.	Good change-process example: incremental action over several years.
Toronto, ON	Large municipality already participating in C40 and broader sustainable-food initiatives.	Needed measurable reductions in emissions associated with municipal food procurement.	Committed to the WRI Cool Food Pledge: reduce GHG emissions from City food procurement by 25% by 2030 versus 2015, while aligning procurement with Canada's Food Guide / Planetary Health Diet.	Best metrics / business-case example.

Municipality	S – Situation	P/I – Problem / Implication	R – Relevance: What the municipality did	Approach
Richmond Hill, ON	Existing Community Energy and Emissions Plan.	Food-related emissions represented another opportunity for achieving existing municipal GHG goals.	Council supported a motion promoting a more plant-based approach aligned with climate goals and aimed to include environmentally friendly plant-based options at City meetings and events.	Useful alignment example: implement an existing climate plan.
Kingston, ON	Municipal Strategic Plan plus existing awareness activities such as “October is Plantiful.”	Needed to move from education and awareness toward municipal procurement practice.	Council committed to prioritizing plant-based options whenever municipal food is purchased or funded, giving plant-rich choices prominent placement, and supporting education with community partners.	Strong behavioural-design and procurement example.
Montréal, QC	Major city already engaged with C40 and sustainable-food policy.	Needed to translate broad climate commitments into specific municipal food practices.	Unanimously adopted a commitment including a minimum 75% vegetarian offering at City-organized events, increased plant-based consumption, and work with concessionaires to increase plant-based offerings.	Best quantitative procurement example.