Food Charter Information Session

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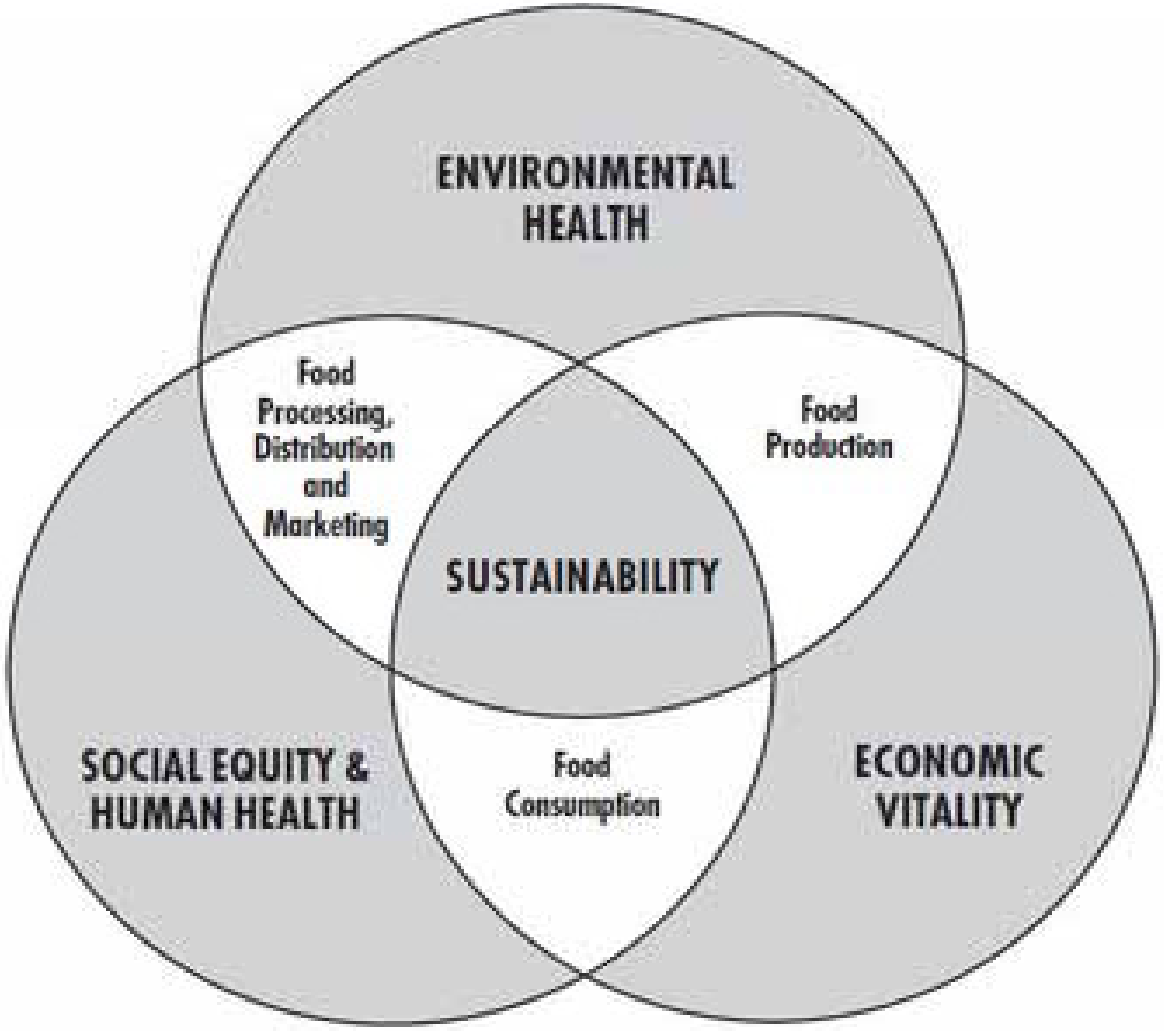
Outcomes

- Get to know others involved in food and agriculture
- Share information about Food Charters
- Assess interest in working on a Food Charter
- Get feedback on who to involve, and how
- Identify Next Steps

Agenda

1:30	Welcome and Icebreaker
2:15	Presentation on Food Charters
2:40	Group Discussion
3:05	Individual Reflection
3:30	Meeting Ends

Community Food System



The Agricultural Value Chain

Farmers – Processors – Distributors – Retailers - Consumers

Growers & Farmers	The Missing Link	Buyers & Eaters
Market Gardeners	Long-term Storage	General Public
Commodity Farmers	Processing	Retailers
Livestock	Wholesalers	Restaurants & Bakeries
Dairy	Distributors	Caterers
Maple Syrup	Value Added	Institutional Food Users

Rules, Regulations, Official Plans & By-laws

Local Food Act — Food Charters — Local Sustainability Plans — Infrastructure --- Funding

Innovative Farmers / Entrepreneurs

Three Types of Response

Emergency Relief	Capacity-Building & Skills	System Change & Policy
Food banks Food vouchers Social assistance Crop insurance	Gardening Farming Cooking Preserving Household budgeting	Policies - All levels of government - School boards - Institutions, Businesses Official Plans and By-Laws How We Work - Collaboration - Inter-sectoral Incentives, Pricing, Funding

What is a Food Charter?

- A statement of values and principles to guide food and agriculture policy
- Developed by a broad spectrum of community interests and organizations
- Addresses a range of issues and opportunities related to food and agriculture
- Unique for each community

Why do we need a Food Charter?

- To respond to an increasing awareness and interest in food and agriculture
- To bring together stakeholders working on all parts of the food system
- To develop a baseline understanding of the current state of food and agriculture
- To foster understanding, education and partnerships
- To prioritize issues, opportunities and action

What can a Food Charter do?

- Increase awareness of food systems
- Promote understanding of food security
- Encourage collaboration between different sectors
- Kick-start action projects
- Guide agency & municipal strategic planning
- It depends on how it's developed and used!

What can a Food Charter do?

- Recognize the need for farmers and farm workers to make a living wage
- Protect and enhance farmland
- Support local food procurement policies
- Help encourage safe, nutritious food and healthy food choices
- Promote sustainable and environmental farming practices

Potential Benefits of a Food Charter

- Improve physical and mental health by improving access to nutritious food
- Improve community prosperity by encouraging people to invest and buy locally
- Reduce environmental impacts by reducing the distance food travels, and using sound waste management practices

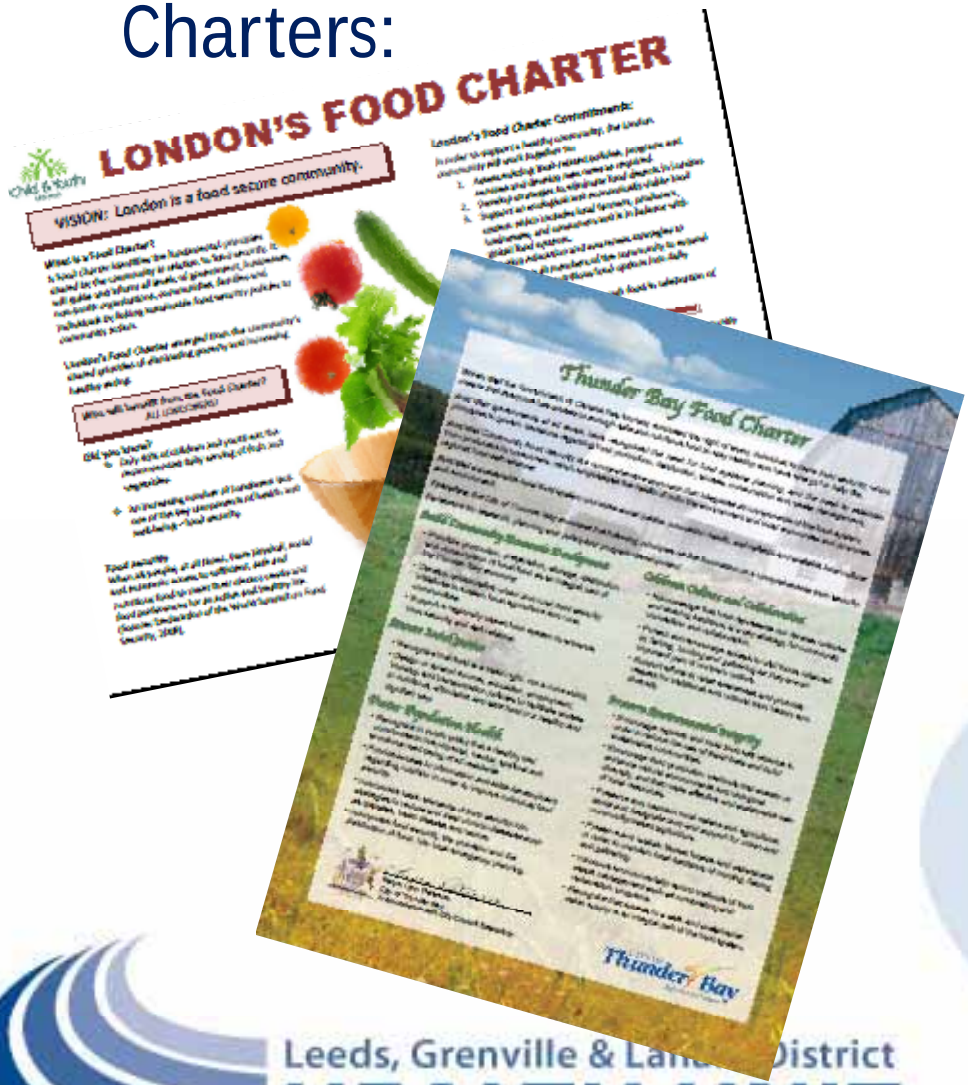
Limitations of a Food Charter

- Does not address how to make the changes
- It is a "living document" that requires updating over time
- Need drivers/champions in the community to move it forward

Features of a Food Charter

- Background/ rationale
- Vision statement
- Action goals
- Key principles and guidelines
- Developed through an active civic engagement process

Examples of Canadian Food Charters:



Food Charter
Alberta
Medicine Hat
British Columbia
Capital Region
Central Okanagan
Cowichan
Gabriola
Kaslo
North Saanich
Shuswap
Squamish
Vancouver
Manitoba
Manitoba
Ontario
Durham
Guelph-Wellington
Halton
Kawartha Lakes
Kingston (Food Declaration)
London
Sudbury
Thunder Bay
Toronto
Quebec
Union of Consumers
Saskatchewan
Northeast Saskatchewan
Prince Albert
Saskatoon

Building a Food Charter in LGL- Potential Key Principles

- Food Security & Health
- Equity and Social Justice
- Education and Awareness
- Local Food Systems
- Celebration of Food and Culture
- Environmental Sustainability
- Economic Development

Food Security

Food Charter can provide a framework to help:

- Recognize that no one should go hungry because safe, nutritious food is a basic right for everyone
- Support healthy food policies in public places (e.g. schools, health facilities, recreation centres)
- Recognize in public policy that healthy eating contributes to the physical, mental and emotional well-being of all residents

Equity and Social Justice

Food Charter can provide a framework to:

- Advocate for income, employment, housing, transportation and development policies that support secure and dignified access to food
- Champion fair wages for farmers, farm workers, and other food system workers

Education and Awareness

Food Charter can provide a framework to support:

- Initiatives that develop food skills
- The integration of food literacy and gardening into school curriculum
- Public education about the connection between our health, the environment and food choices
- Connections between the local food system, community food security and community resiliency

Local Food Systems

Food Charter can provide a framework to help:

- Expand and diversify the local agricultural sector
- Identify farmland options, and provide training for new farmers
- Advocate for regulatory changes to improve local food access
- Encourage local food procurement policy

Celebration of Food and Culture

Food Charter can provide a framework to support:

- Celebrating and promoting respect for traditional, cultural and spiritual food diversity
- Enhancing the dignity and joy of growing, preparing and eating food
- Acknowledge that food represents our diverse cultures, and sharing traditions is a key strategy for community connection and collaboration

Environmental Sustainability

Food Charter can provide a framework to help:

- Recognize and support the role of farmers and farmland in protecting watersheds and wildlife habitat
- Encourage farming practices that sustain or enhance the natural environment
- Reduce carbon footprint associated with food production

Economic Development

Food Charter can provide a framework to:

- Encourage rebuilding local food infrastructure –aggregation, processing, storage, distribution
- Strengthen linkages between local farmers and local business
- Foster new income opportunities/new business ventures i.e. value added

Process for developing a Food Charter

- Initiate interest in the community towards a Food Charter by raising education and awareness.
- Begin planning the development of a Food Charter. Seek input on content from the municipality, stakeholders, and community.
- Hold a Visioning Day to determine the purpose and principles of the Food Charter.
- Develop a first draft of the Food Charter using input from all sources in order to portray the community's vision for their food system.
- Request feedback on the first draft of the Food Charter from the municipality, stakeholders, and community. Continue this process until a document is developed that all parties approve.
- Complete a final draft of Food Charter. Seek endorsement from municipality through proper procedure.
- If successfully endorsed, launch the Food Charter for use in the public. Distribute and advertise the Food Charter. Continue education in the community as you work towards developing a Food Council.

Question #1

What difference could a Food Charter make for our communities?

For the food system?

For all the "players" in the food system, from growers to eaters?

Question #2

What is the <u>one thing</u> we need to do to ensure the Food Charter is an excellent guiding document, supported by all "players" in the food system?

Individual Reflection

- What are your areas of interest? (Principles)
- What issues or policies need to be addressed?
- Who else needs to be involved? And how?
- What level of involvement would you like to have?

Next Steps…

Let's make connections and start the conversation!

- Steering Committee (ToR, Contact list , Work plan)
- Information sessions & focus groups
- Sector-specific consultations
- Community-wide meetings
- Ongoing communication… And more…

Looking for involvement from you!

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