

City Toronto	
Country	Canada
Population	2,900,000
Title of policy or practice	Food, Planet, Health: Municipal collaboration
Subtitle (optional)	A novel collaboration with Solid Waste, Environment and Energy and Public Health to apply a planetary health approach to City strategies
URL video	<a href="https://business.facebook.com/livegreenTO/videos/2234320033449001/">https://business.facebook.com/livegreenTO/videos/2234320033449001/</a>
Category	Sustainable Diets and Nutrition
SDGs	SDGs: 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17.
Brief description	<p>Food, Planet, Health: A new collaboration among multiple City of Toronto divisions.</p> <p>The Toronto Food Strategy works across City divisions to catalyse food systems change and in so doing engages staff at all levels and community and institutional partners. Collaboration between multiple City divisions has become more common with food projects as it intersects various departments, missions and goals. Attachment 1 depicts how food is a focus across City of Toronto divisions through various initiatives that may or may not be explicitly food related.</p> <p>In March 2019, Toronto Public Health partnered with the City of Toronto's Solid Waste Management Services, Environment and Energy, and Social Development, Finance and Administration Divisions to host a series of high-profile events to highlight the relationship between food, the environment and health and explore how the findings of the EAT-Lancet Commission's global scientific review can be applied to Toronto. The events were planned in partnership with the EAT Foundation and C40 to make the City of Toronto a Food, Planet, Health (FPH) practice site.</p> <p>This cross-divisional collaboration is significant because it aligns various city strategies using an FPH approach.</p> <p>Goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To understand Sustainable Diets (SD) and its impact on health, nutrition, food systems, and the environment</li> <li>2. To integrate an SD framework into health, climate change and resilience work in the City of Toronto</li> <li>3. To accelerate healthy, sustainable food system in City of Toronto and alignment to the new Canada Food Guide</li> <li>4. To explore commonalities and align existing metrics relevant to SD</li> </ol> <p>Jurisdictions:</p> <p>City of Toronto.</p> <p>Beneficiaries:</p> <p>Residents of the City of Toronto and multiple city divisions.</p> <p>Lessons Learned:</p> <p>FPH was an effective way to highlight the importance of sustainable food systems across municipal government. FPH engaged international partners, sparked interest in new projects and mad food systems into climate change action.</p>
Date of start and state	01/2019 Ongoing

(ongoing/completed)	
<b>Actors and stakeholders involvement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Toronto Public Health (multiple directorates);</li> <li>● Environment and Energy Division;</li> <li>● Solid Waste Management Services;</li> <li>● Social Development Finance and Administration.</li> </ul> <p>Institutional Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● EAT Foundation;</li> <li>● C40;</li> <li>● Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems;</li> <li>● Various community and academic partners.</li> </ul> <p>International Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fabrice DeClerck, EAT-Lancet Commission;</li> <li>● David Miller, C40;</li> <li>● Makiko Taguchi, FAO.</li> </ul>
<b>Approach</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess municipal strategies and their synergies with sustainable diets (Attachment 2);</li> <li>2. Engage city divisions to join a Food, Planet, Health (FPH) collaborative;</li> <li>3. Work with external and international partners to secure support;</li> <li>4. Develop objectives and goals of collaboration (Attachment 3);</li> <li>5. Launch a FPH event and host workshops for decision makers, community partners and city staff;</li> <li>6. Document process using innovation pathway (Attachment 4);</li> <li>7. Work with the staff to embed FPH lens in city strategies.</li> </ol>
<b>Innovation</b>	<p>The Food, Planet, Health collaboration demonstrates how municipal government can work across departments to prioritize food systems and accomplish city goals. The innovation with the food, planet health initiative is creating and expanding non-traditional collaborations within city government. For example, Toronto Public Health worked closely with their Solid Waste Management Services division to further both the City's food strategy and its long-term waste strategy by focusing on food system waste reduction along the value chain. Breaking down the silos that often plague city's municipal departments improves alignment with city goals and better collaboration within city government. Finding synergies begins by a thorough analysis of the current work that is happening with the municipality. Using the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Indicators as a guide, the city of Toronto was able to solidify partnerships beyond the Public Health division with other departments based on shared goals and objectives. The collaboration enabled the Toronto Food Strategy to encourage other city divisions to integrate a food, planet, health approach in city strategies such as Transform TO (Toronto's climate change action plan), circular economy and poverty reduction strategies.</p>
<b>Impact</b>	<p>The Food, Planet Health collaboration puts into action several MUFPP indicators in the Governance and Sustainable Diets and Nutrition Work streams:  Governance n1, n2, n3, n4, n5 (see attachment 5)  Sustainable Diets and Nutrition n14 (see attachment 1)</p> <p>This practice described is a deep dive into indicator n14 which looks at the "number of city-led or supported activities to promote sustainable diets." Not only do the practice quantifies the number of city-led activities, the food, planet, health collaboration nurtures the synergy between them.</p>
<b>Inclusion</b>	<p>Key Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To promote inclusive climate change action around food across the City of Toronto;</li> </ul>

- To bring together key decision makers from the City of Toronto, academic, community and institutional partners to apply a Sustainable Diets (SD) analysis and to integrate human and planetary health considerations into the city operations;
- To integrate planetary and human health perspectives into current work and to generate ideas about how to apply SD concepts into day-to-day work.

The biggest excitement around these events was situating food systems as a platform for integrating human and planetary health and applying 'hard limit' metrics to guide decision-making. Participants spoke about the doors it opened for collaborative action. For many, engaging with staff from other City divisions broadened their perspective and sparked ideas for making an integrative human and planetary health approach a reality.

These events helped develop a "new language" for talking about planetary health, food systems, food security and health equity. Many said this opened up opportunities to drive climate change efforts to a new level; it provided ways to act "across silos". Dieticians, waste management specialists, environmentalists and community activists came together and were able to share a common language and incorporate ideas for healthy food access and plant-based diets, into climate change action.

The events steering committee evolved into a permanent FPH committee to continue the momentum.

**Adversity coefficient**

The City of Toronto plays a strong leadership role both nationally and globally in our food systems work. We are active members of a number of global networks (e.g.: MUFPP steering committee; C40 food network, RUAF) and the Toronto Food Policy Council is celebrating 30 years of operations. Toronto therefore has a strong foundation on which to build food systems work and in particular a Food Planet Health approach.

The roll out of the FPH report through multiple events was intended to frame ongoing work and action for the Toronto Food Strategy and TFPC for decades to come.

City divisions work within their respective legislative and practice mandates and within political environments. The City of Toronto, like many cities across the world, is dependent on provincial and federal levels of government for funding but primarily on the Province. Priorities change according to which party is in power and sometimes quite drastically. The current provincial government is very conservative and has imposed very large budget cuts on the City of Toronto. The effects are still to be determined but could severely impact implementation of FPH collaborative work, right at the time that the groundwork has been laid for collaborative climate change action and when public interest is high. There is also excitement and support from multiple city divisions. That said, while the leadership of the City of Toronto is supportive of this work, the budget cuts combined with major governance changes may greatly hinder implementation and action.