

Indicators

The following indicators were derived from discussions at the Research Roundtable Workshops and from previous indicator research undertaken by the Design Centre for Sustainability and its partner research groups.*

The proposed Food Indicators are:

Growing Space Intensity

Growing Space Preserved

Growing Space Proximity

draft



Growing Space Intensity

INDICATOR

Growing Space Intensity reveals how well the local food growing potential within a given area is being used. Growing space gives residents opportunities to grow and access food in their community, which reduces energy consumption from transporting food and dependence on food imports. Access to locally produced food contributes to complete, resilient and efficient communities and neighbourhoods.

DESIGN METRICS

- % of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) land under cultivation
- Square meters of local cultivated land per capita
- Number of farmer's markets per X residents
- Number of farms per X residents
- Number of community gardens per capita
- % of cultivated land used to grow food for local distribution

SUPPORTING STRATEGIES & ACTIONS

- Encourage gardening as a leisure activity
- Improve agriculture education opportunities in the region
- Develop a certification process as a requirement for agricultural land ownership to discourage property speculation
- Evaluate the impact of the agri-food system on the economy, development patterns and conservation
- Promote a positive cultural attitudes towards food that embraces an awareness of how food is produced and the importance of agriculture
- Monitor biomass production versus potential land capacity to ensure agricultural land is being efficiently used



Growing Space Preserved

INDICATOR

Growing Space Preserved reveals the extent to which a development conserves existing, unfragmented agricultural land. Developments that preserve land designated locally for agricultural preservation, or land with prime soils, unique soils, or soils of significance for agriculture, promote local food security. Preservation of these lands contributes to creating livable, efficient and resilient communities and neighbourhoods.

DESIGN METRICS

- % of cultivated land within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)
- Amount of ALR designated land (Ha) per capita
- Average distance of cultivated land from pollution sources
- Simpson's Diversity Index for agricultural parcel size

SUPPORTING STRATEGIES & ACTIONS

- Evaluate the impact of the agri-food system on the economy, development patterns and conservation
- Reframe and emphasize the value of food as an essential part of life with regard to production, transportation, marketing, and consumption
- Develop land ownership covenants or agricultural management requirements supportive of maintaining agricultural production
- Develop and implement buffer edge management plans
- Tie new development capacity to the availability of growing space
- Require new developments to provide X amount of growing space per capita (within existing growing space until the per capita cap is met, then through providing suitable areas for food production).



Growing Space Proximity

INDICATOR

Growing Space Proximity reveals the ability to reduce transport for food from growing space to consumers. Reducing travel distance and time saves energy, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and helps preserve the nutritional value of foods.

DESIGN METRICS

- Average distance from dwelling units to appropriately scaled growing space
- Average distance from growing space to food providers
- Percentage of dwelling units within X m of assigned/designated growing space
- Average distance from commercial farms to processing facilities

SUPPORTING STRATEGIES & ACTIONS

- Return to small scale agriculture practices [Is this the same as below?]
- Promote and support grassroots efforts to sustain non-corporate farmers
- Empower communities to assume responsibility for food production and consumption
- Use food and agriculture as a community building tool
- Encourage gardening as a leisure activity
- Develop a structure for agriculture education
- Enable equal access to locally grown food for the full social and economic spectrum of the population
- Evaluate the impact of food quality and supply on health care and standard of living
- Re-establish the cultural importance of agriculture
- Establish initiatives to enhance opportunities for farming

