AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD STRATEGY

REVIEW OF 2020 WORKPLAN ACTIONS

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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York Region

OVERVIEW

- Provide a high level overview of Agriculture and Agri-Food Strategy Action Items planned for 2020
- Get your input and feedback
- Inform the development of 2020 Workplan

STRATEGY UPDATE

PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY

- Understand the economic impact of the agriculture and agri-food sector
- Identify gaps and key areas of focus
- Recommend actions for the Region, local municipalities and stakeholders
- Support and grow York Region's agricultural and agri-food sector

www.York.ca/agrifood

FIVE STRATEGIC GOAL AREAS

1. Strengthen communication and collaboration between York Region, local municipalities and stakeholders
2. Support the agri-food sector through integrated land use planning and economic development
3. Support increased capacity for value added processing and support services
4. Leverage the Region's location within the Greater Toronto Area through direct farm marketing to meet demand for local food production
5. Provide support for business retention and expansion of primary agricultural production

5 STRATEGIC GOALS WITH 45 ACTION ITEMS

STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION IS ON TRACK

- 31 out of 45 action items have been initiated or planned
- 4 short term activities have been completed
- Remaining short term action is underway (completed by Dec 2019)

Year	Initiated/ Underway	Planned	New	Completed	Total Action Items
2017	14	7	24		**45**
2019	26	5	10	4	**45**

STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION IS ON TRACK

Short-term items completed

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Business Specialist
- Strategic communications plan
- Consultations on the Provincial Agricultural Systems review
- Revitalized York Farm Fresh and collaborated on the development of the annual York Farm Fresh Guide Map

Remaining short-term item underway

- Review of policies and regulations related to environmental performance of food processing operations

2020 WORKPLAN

STRATEGIC APPROACH – 2020 DELIVERABLES

- Identify 4-5 new projects to align the strategic areas
  1. Farm Tour – MCR Process
  2. On-farm Diversification Workshop
  3. Agri-Food Innovation Mapping / Food Accelerator Pilot
  4. Buyer/seller Event and Exhibition
  5. Setting the stage – BR&E Study
- Continue on-going actions (initiated or underway)
- Continue to leverage partnerships in delivering actions
  - Coordinate programming and initiatives between planning, economic development, public health and environmental services
  - Local municipalities
  - Advisory Committee / Community partners / agri-food stakeholders
- Setting the stage for 2021

2020 WORKPLAN

- Preliminary overview with local municipalities
  - Monthly teleconference (since May 2019)
- Review the action items specific to strategic area
- Input and feedback will inform the development of 2020 Workplan

STRATEGIC GOAL #1: COMMUNICATION & COLLABORATION

STRATEGIC GOAL#1: ON-GOING ACTIONS

Item #	Action Item	Timeline
1.2	Coordinated programming across the Region and local municipalities	On-going 2020
1.6	Support/collaborate with Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance projects	On-going 2020
1.7	Continue support York Region Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee	On-going 2020
1.8	Celebrate/showcase Agri-food innovations/champions in the Region • Agri-food spotlight series	On-going 2020
1.11	Explore opportunities for teaching youth about agriculture and food production in Region	On-going 2020

STRATEGIC GOAL#1: ON-GOING ACTIONS

Item #	Action Item	Timeline
1.10	Execute Communications Plan; Develop agri-food education materials for public and industry: • Launch Agriculture and Agri-Food Newsletter (Bi-annual) • Video, social media	On-going 2020
1.12	Support Agriculture and Agri-food related events: • Event sponsorship: **Festivals and Events Ontario Conference** (Richmond Hill) – Feb 25 • Event Sponsorship: **York Region Food Movers, Makers and Shakers Zone** at Vaughan Business Expo – Feb 11 • Explore/set the stage for hosting Municipal Agriculture Economic Development and Planning Forum in York (2021)	Feb, 2020
1.13	Environmental Farm Plan workshop with Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association	Feb, 2020

STRATEGIC GOAL#1

Strengthen Communication and Collaboration with York Region, Local Municipalities and the Agri-Food Sector

- Any Questions?
- Input and Feedback?

STRATEGIC GOAL #2:
INTEGRATED LAND USE PLANNING

STRATEGIC GOAL#2: ON-GOING ACTIONS

Item #	Action Item	Timeline
2.1	At next review, update York Region's Official Plan to conform and align with recent changes to the Greenbelt Plan, Growth Plan and Oak Ridges Moraine Plan (2017 updates) • Work with lower tier municipalities as they review and update processes	On-going, Q4 2020
2.2	Prior to next Official Plan review, reexamine Land Evaluation and Area Review (LEAR) study and determine if updates are needed to reflect changes at the provincial level (agricultural system mapping)	On-going, Q4 2020
2.3	Through the Municipal Comprehensive Review, review York Region's Official Plan (and lower tier plans) agricultural and rural policies to ensure they encourage and support investment and employment in the agriculture sector	On-going, Q4 2020
*New	Deliver a Farm Tour for Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR)	Prior to June 2020
2.8	Conduct a study and review of edge planning practices and identify planning tools the Region can use to minimize conflicts between adjacent urban and agricultural land uses	2020-2021

STRATEGIC GOAL#2: ON-GOING ACTIONS

Support the agri-food sector through integrated land use planning and economic development

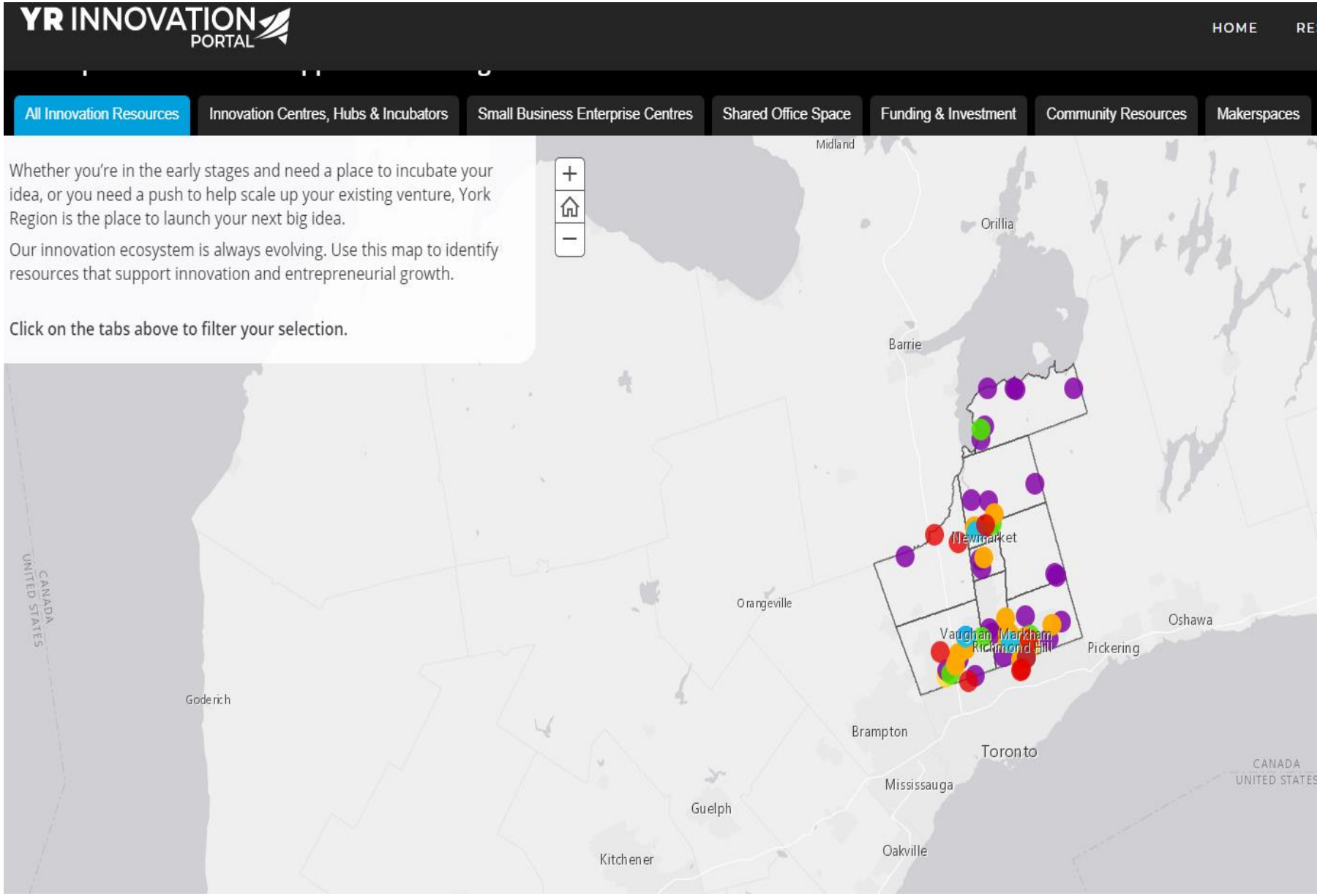
- Any Questions?
- Input and Feedback?
  - Who can we approach for farm tour host?
  - What timing will work?

STRATEGIC GOAL #3:
VALUE ADDED PROCESSING & CAPACITY BUILDING

STRATEGIC GOAL#3: MEDIUM /LONG TERM

Item #	Action Item	Timeline
3.1	Develop and Implement a "Food Processing Action Plan" to attract and retain food processing business • Setting the stage for BR&E project	2021-2022
*New	Host education / capacity building workshop: • OMAFRA led On-farm Diversification Workshop	March / April 2020
3.2	Support agri-entrepreneur mentor program with York Region Small Business Enterprise Centre • Led by Clearwater Farm	On-going 2020
3.3 *New	Investigate Regional Food Incubator hub to support value added processing: • Facilitate collaboration with key players (bi-annual) • Research / Mapping of Agri-Food Innovation Assets • Food & Beverage Accelerator Program with York University (Yspace) *pending funding	Q4 2020

YORK REGION INNOVATION PORTAL



STRATEGIC GOAL#3:

Support increased capacity for value-added agri-food processing and support services

- Any Questions?
- Input and Feedback?

STRATEGIC GOAL #4:
LOCAL FOOD EDUCATION & PROMOTION

STRATEGIC GOAL#4: ON-GOING ACTIONS

Item #	Action Item	Timeline
4.1 & 4.2	Continued partnership with York Farm Fresh: • Annual York Farm Fresh Guide Map • Directional signage program for new members • Explore potential Agricultural Local Food Tour	On-going 2020
4.3	Support community gardens or urban agricultural projects • Leverage City of Vaughan, York Region Food Network, TRCA	On-going 2020
4.4	Promotional support of agri-tourism programming (Farm to Fork tours) and festivals • Georgina, East Gwillimbury, King and others	On-going 2020
4.6	Support York Region Food Council • Led by YRFN	On-going 2020

STRATEGIC GOAL#4: ON-GOING ACTIONS

Item #	Action Item	Timeline
4.80 *New	Facilitate relationships between producer, processors and retail companies to support local food production • Event/exhibit to connect buyers and local food producers (B2B connections)	Q4 2020
4.10	Explore partnership with Rouge National Urban Park	On-going 2020

STRATEGIC GOAL#4:

Leverage location within the GTA and proximity to customers through direct farm marketing and meet demand for local food production

- Any Questions?
- Input and Feedback?
  - Event to connect buyers with local producers
  - Timing? Set up?

STRATEGIC GOAL #5:
BUSINESS RETENTION AND EXPANSION

STRATEGIC GOAL#5: ON-GOING ACTIONS

Item #	Action Item	Timeline
5.1 *New	Setting the Stage for BR&E Study in York Region • Determine Readiness for Agriculture and Agri-Food Business Retention and Expansion Study (Supported by OMAFRA) • Explore funding opportunity	On-going 2020
5.6	Continued support to improve broadband connectivity across the Region (rural and agricultural areas)	On-going 2020
5.7	Regional Council Annual Update Report and Presentation	June 2020

STRATEGIC GOAL#5:

Provide support for business retention and expansion of primary agricultural production within York Region

- Any Questions?
- Input and Feedback?

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

- ***New:** Project, education/learning activity being led by Agriculture and Agri-food Advisory Committee?
  - **Option:** Tour early stage incubators that assist with agri-food product development
    - District Venture Kitchen
    - Ontario Agri-Food Venture Centre
    - Guelph Innovation Food Centre
  - **Option:** Tour Agri-Food Businesses
    - Farm, Food Processor, Ontario Food Terminal, Retailer

BUSINESS FORUM — DECEMBER 9, 2019

NEXT STEPS

- Gather input and feedback from committee
- Finalize 2020 Workplan with ongoing and new projects
- Finalize agreements with community partners

QUESTIONS / INPUT AND FEEDBACK

Planning and Economic Development

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