Official Community Plan Redesign - Draft Food Policy Wording

Background
The following recommendations or references related to food policy have been included in City Council endorsed plans:

Saskatoon Strategic Plan (2013-2023)
- “People have access to appropriate and affordable housing, basic services and healthy food.” (Vision)

Saskatoon Strategic Plan (2018-2023)
- “We grow more food in the city.” (Environmental Leadership)

Towards a Food Strategy for Saskatoon: Recommendations from the Saskatoon Regional Food System Assessment and Action Plan (December 2013)
- The assessment asked one principal question: “How can we design our food system – from production to consumption – to ensure that over the long term, all residents will eat nutritious food and that we are able to produce more of that food ourselves?” Following the assessment, several recommendations were made to form the basis for a food strategy and corresponding action plan for Saskatoon.
  - **Recommendation:** Promote Saskatchewan foods and food production as a healthy, enjoyable, community-minded choice.
    - The City of Saskatoon should integrate the food strategy goals into the Official Community Plan and promote the food strategy as part of Saskatoon’s image and values.
  - **Recommendation:** Garden everywhere: expand capacity in urban agriculture.
    - In the longer term, review the City’s OCP and zoning bylaws to remove impediments to or ambiguities about urban agriculture; and to create policies and allowable practices for commercial uses of urban agriculture.

Towards a Food Strategy for Saskatoon: Saskatoon Regional Food System Assessment and Action Plan Implementation Report (November 2014)
- The report presented an implementation timeline of the City-related recommendations from the Food System Assessment. Recommendations involve a variety of Divisions, and implementation of some items will take place over the long-term.
  - **Recommendation:** The City should integrate the food strategy goals into the Official Community Plan and promote the food strategy as part of Saskatoon’s image and values.
The assessment was based on the following four goals for a regional food strategy:

- **Enrich Saskatoon’s food culture.** Enriching our food culture is a goal for the food strategy, and one that can serve as its overarching theme. Having a vibrant food culture makes sense socially and economically. It is positive and energizing. Although other, also important, goals related to the economy and health are more pragmatic, the attraction of working toward a vibrant food culture came out quite strongly in the focus groups. As one key informant stated: *Food is culture is community.*

- **Ensure everyone has nutritious food.** Nutritious food is the foundation of good health. All residents should eat well. Saskatoon’s boom means more of us can afford nutritious food. But the boom also increases prices for housing and other goods, so people on lower incomes have less money to spend on food. Health disparities have increased in our city but our food strategy can help to reduce them.

- **Boost the hybrid food economy.** Food exports are vital to Saskatchewan’s economy and food imports provide us with a rich and varied diet. However, locally-produced food is critical to our long-term self-sufficiency and our community. We support the concept of a hybrid economy, which includes import and export, but seeks a larger role for local.

- **Minimize food’s ecological footprint.** The environmental impacts of food production, processing, storage, transport, preparation, and disposal are large, as are the financial costs of food waste. Our food strategy seeks to minimize food’s ecological footprint, from production to disposal of waste.

Proposed Official Community Plan Policy Wording

Based on the recommendations and references above, the following policy is planned to be proposed to be included in the proposed new Official Community Plan:

*(New) Objective:* To participate in coordinated community efforts to develop a sustainable food system within the city and region.

- **New Policy 1)** The City will support efforts to ensure everyone has access to nutritious food.
- **New Policy 2)** The City will support efforts to minimize the environmental impacts of food production, processing, storage, transport, preparation, and disposal.
- **New Policy 3)** The City will support efforts to enrich Saskatoon’s vibrant food culture.
- **New Policy 4)** The City will help boost long term self-sufficiency by supporting and promoting locally-produced food.