



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

LAURIER

RUAF FOUNDATION

## City Region Food System Toolkit

### Assessing and planning sustainable city region food systems

# CITY REGION FOOD SYSTEM TOOLKIT TOOL/EXAMPLE



Published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
and  
RUAF Foundation  
and  
Wilfrid Laurier University, Centre for Sustainable Food Systems

May 2018

With support from



fondation  
daniel & nina carasso  
sous l'égide de la Fondation de France

by decision of the  
German Bundestag





## City Region Food System Toolkit

### Assessing and planning sustainable city region food systems

#### Tool/Example:

#### Pros and cons for different definitions of the Toronto city region food system boundaries

Author(s): Sally Miller, Toronto CRFS Project Coordinator

Project: RUAF – Wilfrid Laurier CityFoodTools

#### Introduction to the joint programme

This tool is part of the City Region Food Systems (CRFS) toolkit to assess and plan sustainable city region food systems. The toolkit has been developed by FAO, RUAF Foundation and Wilfrid Laurier University with the financial support of the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation.

#### Link to programme website and toolbox

<http://www.fao.org/in-action/food-for-cities-programme/overview/what-we-do/en/>

<http://www.fao.org/in-action/food-for-cities-programme/toolkit/introduction/en/>

<http://www.ruaf.org/projects/developing-tools-mapping-and-assessing-sustainable-city-region-food-systems-cityfoodtools>

#### Tool summary:

<b>Brief description</b>	This tool can be used as a guide to determining CRFS boundaries.
<b>Expected outcome</b>	Capacity to decide on the CRFS project boundaries.
<b>Expected Output</b>	A table that facilitates the comparative analysis of project boundary options to enable a decision about the optimal boundaries for the CRFS research.
<b>Scale of application</b>	Project level
<b>Expertise required for application</b>	Project management
<b>Examples of application</b>	Toronto and Greater Golden Horseshoe
<b>Year of development</b>	2015
<b>References</b>	-

#### Tool description:

This document compares the various considerations in determining the best boundaries for the Toronto area city region food system research project. Three possible areas were identified: the Greenbelt, Golden Horseshoe and the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH). The three options were compared with respect to: policy availability and applicability; relevance for agriculture, the environment, the

economy, society; the level and longitudinality of existing data; number of date sources; and the applicability of census data. The GGH was selected as, among other reasons it was anticipated that a comprehensive data set for this area would be available. Unfortunately, as some jurisdictions refused to give permission for access, this did not happen in the end. This points to the need for caution in assessing resources and setting the research parameters.





## City Region Food System Toolkit

### Assessing and planning sustainable city region food systems

#### Pros and cons for different definitions of the Toronto city region food system boundaries

Item	Greenbelt	Golden Horseshoe	Greater Golden Horseshoe
Policy availability	Yes; several	See GGH	Yes; Places to Grow
Policy applicability (for changing context)	Yes; currently proposed to expand into some of the other areas	See GGH	Focus of policy development and action currently
Relevance (agricultural)	Key policies that only apply to farms in this area; less homogeneous data and policies if full agricultural area is also considered ("whitebelt")	Covers a larger agricultural area, though not all that are in market distance of GH	Addresses key agricultural areas with relevance to urban markets
Relevance (environmental)	Includes key watershed, conservation areas (a designated environmental protection zone)	Has important impact on environmental goods in the area, studies from David Suzuki Foundation evaluate these	Has important impact on environmental goods in the area, studies from David Suzuki Foundation evaluate these
Relevance (economic)	Has specific economic issues related to frozen farm assets (limiting market for land sales); generally closest area to key urban market in GTA, as well as significant agricultural areas (Holland Marsh, etc.), has specific supports from Greenbelt Fund to build agricultural business success, agri-tourism,	Has a significant impact on Canada's economy based on percentage of population; also has much of the best soil in Canada, increasing its relevance as a food shed over other lands; similar agricultural lands to Greenbelt, but more complete (includes whitebelt)	Has a significant impact on Canada's economy based on percentage of population; also has much of the best soil in Canada, increasing its relevance as a food shed over other lands; similar agricultural lands to Greenbelt and Golden Horseshoe, but more complete

With support from





## City Region Food System Toolkit

### Assessing and planning sustainable city region food systems

	supportive policies, etc. Note that recently Greenbelt has been funding projects across the province too.		
Relevance (social)	Less of a socially defined area; social issues on either side of Greenbelt border are fairly similar, all peri-urban	More relevant and complete as the peri-urban and sprawl area is result of population growth and creates increased commuter distances for urban jobs (a social impact); numbers available from census, corresponds to CMAs	More relevant as sprawling areas is result of population growth and creates increased commuter distances for urban jobs (a social impact); numbers available from census, corresponds to CMAs
Level of existing data	Excellent collection of reports, analysis, etc.; upcoming expansion of area will render these inaccurate	Excellent reports from the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance	Excellent reports from the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance which has now shifted attention to the GGH so current research focuses on the wider area
Longitudinality of data	Data available since the Greenbelt's inception; crosses municipal borders: Stats Canada and Ag. Census data are challenging to use in this region (borders not contiguous with CMAs)	Corresponds to municipal borders, matching Stats Can and Ag. Census regions, has been producing reports for several years	Corresponds to municipal borders, matching Stats Can and Ag. Census regions, new research underway, DSF report for environmental goods
Number of sources for data	David Suzuki Foundation, Greenbelt Fund reports, Dollars and Sense with other foundations	David Suzuki Foundation, Greenbelt Fund reports, Dollars and Sense with other foundations, Stats	David Suzuki Foundation, Greenbelt Fund reports, Dollars and Sense with other foundations, Stats

With support from





## City Region Food System Toolkit

### Assessing and planning sustainable city region food systems

	Can and Ag. Census data, detailed reports from Planscape and others	Can and Ag. Census data, few reports available as data collection is underway now by GGHFFA
Applicability of census data (does it cut across census lines)	crosses municipal borders: Stats Canada and Ag. Census data are challenging to use	Corresponds to municipal borders, matching Stats Can and Ag. Census regions, has been producing reports for several years

#### Summary

Although each approach has merits, the Golden Horseshoe or the expanded Greater Golden Horseshoe hold more relevance for this study, with greater policy impact from a focus on the Greater Golden Horseshoe. The Greenbelt area does not correspond to municipal, economic (food market) or agricultural boundaries, so access to this data and the use of census material would be challenging. Both the GH and GGH correspond to census regions. In addition, agricultural lands have been demonstrated to exist on both sides of the Greenbelt boundary, with similar access to urban markets and growing populations. An agricultural economy would encompass these areas as well, and would be based more on transportation and infrastructure options rather than environmentally sensitive areas. Finally, the Greenbelt area may expand soon, and old reports based on the initial boundaries will be outdated.

Excellent work is available from the Greater Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance on the Golden Horseshoe and is now underway for the larger area. The material comes from a range of sources, including environmental impact reports from the David Suzuki Foundation (including Greenbelt focused and more recently GH focused reports). From the point of view of input to policy development, this area also seems to be receiving important attention with a coalition of urban and rural actors. In all cases, although Toronto and the GTA was left out of the last agricultural census, separate reports exist from various sources, in particular from Toronto Food Strategy and the Toronto Food Policy Council at Toronto Public Health.

The Greater Golden Horseshoe seems to offer the best data, the most policy relevance, and integration with ongoing important work by the GGHFFA. However, some important work (for instance, environmentally focused reports from the Greenbelt Fund) does not correspond to the area but should nonetheless be addressed and included. Overall, a combination of areas with a principal focus on the Greater Golden Horseshoe will probably best address the needs for the City Region Food System Assessment for Toronto.

#### ***3 boundary options for the Toronto CRFS project:***

With support from



fondation  
daniel & nina carasso  
sous l'égide de la Fondation de France

by decision of the  
German Bundestag

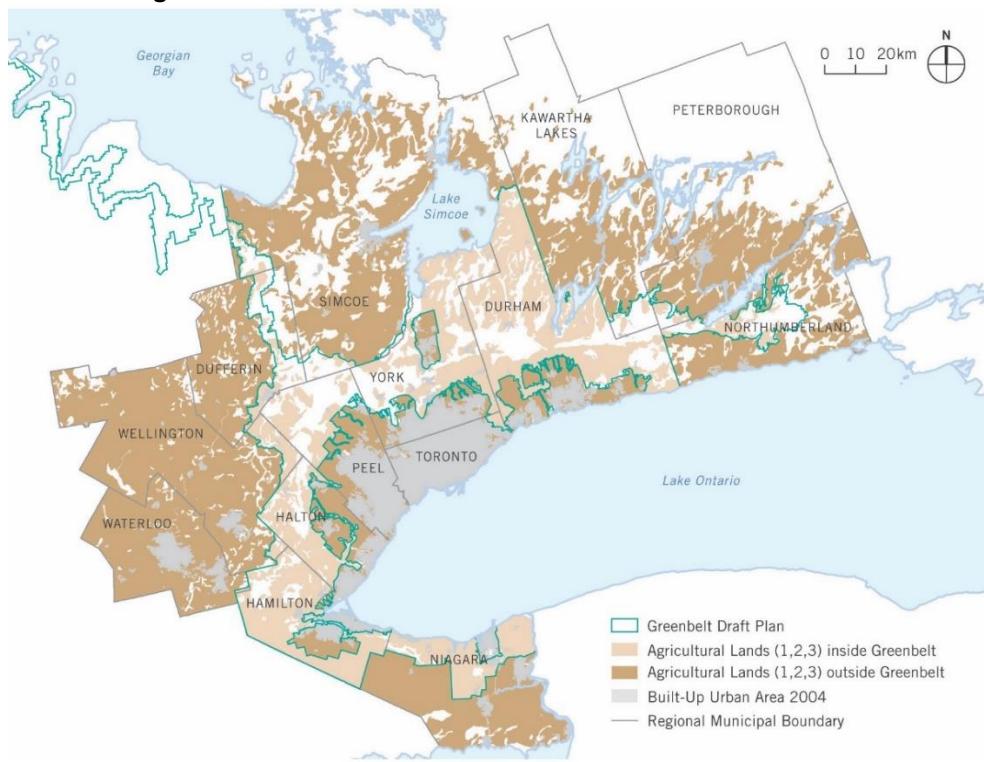




## City Region Food System Toolkit

### Assessing and planning sustainable city region food systems

#### 1. The greenbelt



#### 2. The golden horseshoe



#### 3. The Greater Golden Horseshoe

With support from





## City Region Food System Toolkit

### Assessing and planning sustainable city region food systems



(Source: [Neptis Foundation 2014](#))

With support from

