

PEEL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY WORKING GROUP

2023 Work Plan for 2022-2026 Term of Council*

| Category | Description of Activities | Action Items |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Policy Research, Development & Monitoring</p> | <p>Provide ongoing input, comment and advice to the Region of Peel on policy research, development and monitoring initiatives for agricultural, agricultural-related issues and rural matters, with a view to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Protect prime agricultural lands from non-conforming agricultural uses, lot fragmentation and loss of the agricultural land base b) Enhance the financial viability of the Region’s agricultural sector c) Promote practices of good agricultural land stewardship and provision of Ecological Goods & Services d) Support agricultural practices that promote on-farm diversity and innovation e) Foster a just, sustainable and secure food system f) Policy research, development and monitoring <p><i>Example of Areas for Comment:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Region of Peel Official Plan • Local Municipal Official Plan reviews • Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Action Plan • Provincial Acts, Regulations and Plans • Environmental Registry of Ontario postings • Public health initiatives and programs <p>Any other relevant policy matters affecting the agricultural sector in the Region of Peel.</p> | <p><u>Local Municipal Official Plan Review</u> Where requested, provide input to the review of Local Municipal Official Plans, specifically on the Agricultural System and Natural Heritage System components.</p> <p><u>Provincial Release of Agricultural Impact Assessment Guidelines</u> Review and provide comment on the Region and Local Municipal implementation of Provincial Agricultural Impact Assessment guidelines.</p> <p><u>Provincial Release of Proposed Amendments to Provincial Plans</u> Review and provide comment to Regional staff on the release of proposed Provincial modifications to the Provincial Policy Statement and Growth Plan, specifically on the Agricultural System and Natural Heritage System components.</p> |
| <p>Policy and Program Implementation</p> | <p>Provide guidance to support the development of programs and tools that implement the Peel 2051 Official Plan policies and agricultural</p> | <p><u>Peel 2051 Official Plan Implementation</u> Advise on the development of programs and</p> |

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| <p>Initiatives (see also PRWQP, ALUS Peel Pilot and Support Agri-Food & Agri-Business Opportunities Opportunities categories below)</p> | <p>programs supported by the Region.</p> | <p>tools to support the Agricultural System and Greenlands System in Peel Region and the implementation of the Regional Official Plan policies.</p> <p><u>Urban Agriculture Guidance</u> Support urban agriculture initiatives such as the development of agricultural and agri-food strategies.</p> <p><u>Regional Agricultural Impact Assessment Terms of Reference</u> Advise on the development of recommended Agricultural Impact Assessment Terms of Reference to support implementation of planning policy requirements to address settlement expansion, mineral aggregate extraction, non-farm development, and secondary plans, including edge planning for farming.</p> |
| <p>Peel Rural Water Quality Program and the ALUS Peel Pilot</p> | <p>Provide guidance to Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) and Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) staff on the implementation of their jointly administered Peel Rural Water Quality Program (PRWQP) and the Peel ALUS Pilot Project.</p> <p>Advise and assist CVC and TRCA in administering PRWQP funds on a priority basis in accordance with the PRWQP guidelines.</p> | <p>Review and provide advice on the delivery of the ALUS Peel Pilot Project (e.g., implementation guidelines, community engagement and communications).</p> <p>Review and approve PRWQP Water Quality Improvement and ALUS Peel Pilot applications and corresponding project funding.</p> |

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| | <p>Represent the ALUS Peel Pilot ALUS Participant Advisory Committee and provide approval in administering ALUS Peel Pilot funds on priority basis in accordance with the ALUS Peel Pilot guidelines.</p> <p>Support the Region of Peel Source Water Protection Incentive Program.</p> | <p>Provide input to the five-year review of the PRWQP Guidelines.</p> |
| <p>Support Agri-Food & Agri-Business Opportunities</p> | <p>Strengthen partnerships with the Local Municipalities to promote agricultural and related industry, activities and land uses in Peel Region.</p> <p>Support opportunities related to agri-food and agri-business in Peel Region.</p> <p>Contribute to and comment on research into direct and indirect opportunities aimed at the enhancement of profitability of the agriculture industry for both the Region of Peel and the greater agriculture and agri-food network which supports the Region’s agricultural sector.</p> <p>Support research and development in emerging areas of the agricultural sector.</p> <p>Support opportunities that enable the Region’s agricultural sector to meet changing demographics and emerging social, health and economic patterns within Peel Region.</p> <p>Provide comment on the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Action Plan and corresponding action items/activities/projects in Peel Region.</p> | <p><u>Grown in Peel Local Food Guide</u> Participate in the development and launch of the Grown in Peel Local Food Guide (GIP) in 2023 and review of the GIP listing categories for potential additions in 2023.</p> <p>Promote the GIP guide, program and website through your organizations, local farms, farmers’ markets and agri-tourism.</p> <p><u>Profile of Agriculture in Peel</u> Using 2021 Agricultural Census data, collaborate to complete a profile of ‘Farming in Peel’ to support Peel’s agricultural businesses.</p> <p><u>Agricultural and Agri-Food Strategy</u> In partnership with the Local Municipalities, advise on the need/opportunities to develop a strategy to support the viability of the agriculture and agri-food sector in Peel Region.</p> |

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| | | <p><u>Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Action Plan</u> Participate in and comment on action items/activities/projects identified in the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Action Plan, to align with and/or coordinate with initiatives relevant to Peel Region.</p> <p><u>Peel Food Charter and Peel Food Action Council</u> Support the Peel Food Action Council and the implementation of the Peel Food Charter. Work jointly on initiatives to integrate food systems planning, land use planning and economic development planning.</p> |
| <p>Regional Projects & Initiatives</p> | <p>Review and comment on proposed Regional capital development projects that may affect Peel Region’s agricultural sector, e.g. Regional roads and infrastructure.</p> <p>Review and comment on proposed Regional initiatives that may provide opportunities for Peel Region’s agricultural sector (e.g. Snow Fence programs, Long-Range Transportation Plan, Food Waste, etc.).</p> <p>Review and comment on Region of Peel food system planning initiatives (e.g., local food procurement in long term care homes, guidance for built environments to improve access to fresh, healthy food, urban agriculture research to improve public health, food and nutrition).</p> | <p>Review and comment on proposed Regional capital infrastructure development projects and initiatives.</p> <p>Identify keynote speakers and/or topics of interest for agendas. Topics are to be identified and confirmed subject to need and agenda priorities.</p> |

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| <p>Communication & Outreach</p> | <p>Collaborate with agricultural focused organizations (e.g., Peel Federation of Agriculture, Peel Soil and Crop Improvement Association, Golden Horseshoe Food & Farming Alliance, etc.) for information-sharing.</p> <p>Support annual tours showcasing agriculture in Peel Region.</p> | <p><u>Peel Farm Tour</u> Assist in developing or recommending content, topics and speaker ideas for Peel Region farm tours and other communication and outreach initiatives.</p> <p>Continue to establish working relationships and dialogue with Regional and Local Municipal partners on agriculture and agri-food matters of mutual interest (e.g., agricultural actions in climate change strategies, etc.).</p> <p>Attend workshops and similar opportunities as a PAAWG representative to bring new areas of knowledge and expertise to the working group to meet the goals established in the PAAWG Terms of Reference and Work Plan.</p> |

*Work plan subject to modification to reflect changes to implement direction of the *More Homes Built Faster Act* (Bill 23) and Bill 112, *The Hazel McCallion Act (Peel Dissolution)*.