

# RESOURCE PROTECTION & ENHANCEMENT

*How we sustain the food system for our future.*

## *What will protect & enhance our resources?*

The strength of the Halifax region's community food security depends on a regional and provincial foundation of farmers and farmland, and fishers and fishing grounds. It is impacted by the degree that farmland and fish stocks are protected from loss and the health of the environment is protected, promoted, and preserved through environmental stewardship of our natural resources. Our decisions today affect our food system tomorrow.

Achieving a healthy, just, and sustainable food system for all requires some consideration to the amount of land available for food production in rural, suburban, and urban areas. The Halifax Regional Plan identifies the Musquodoboit Valley as the only remaining prime farmland in the Halifax municipality that is largely unaffected by non-agricultural uses.

There is currently 4131 hectares (~ 5,067 football fields) of active farmland in Halifax municipality.



## *What promising practices exist in our region?*



Halifax shows potential in agriculture, seed banking, sustainable fishing, energy recovery, and responsible management of food waste.

# Promising Practices & Areas for Growth



1/6 of Halifax peninsula (equivalent to 393 football fields) is made up of yards for potential food crop cultivation.

(This does not include public areas like parks, fields, idle lands, or abandoned areas)



All of the major grocers in the Halifax region have adopted sustainable seafood sales policies.

The average distance a food item travels from its origin to Halifax is

**3,976 km**



When a weekly diet is considered, the weekly basket of goods travels a total distance of 30,666 km and emits 5.911 kg of carbon dioxide.

Compared to an all-local basket which travels



~1/6 of the distance (4,988 km) & produces



~1/6 of the emissions (1.017 kg).



489,604 kg (3 out of 5) of the food donations deemed unmarketable by retailers were salvaged by Feed Nova Scotia in 2013.



Close to 52% of residential waste is diverted from landfills to compost. (5% in 1995)

*Halifax Municipality is a world leader with respect to handling of municipal waste and promoting practices that protect and enhance the environment.*

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For further information and sources download a copy of the Halifax Food Assessment at: [www.cdha.nshealth.ca/public-health/halifax-food-assessment](http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/public-health/halifax-food-assessment)