



## City meets country on the edge of Edmonton in this 2009 file photo.

**Photograph by: Ed Kaiser, Edmonton Journal**

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## City meets country on the edge of Edmonton in this 2009 file photo.

**Photograph by: Ed Kaiser , Edmonton Journal**

EDMONTON - The city is going ahead with a food and urban agriculture strategy after councillors accepted a report Wednesday outlining how it will benefit Edmonton.

A food council is expected to be created to implement nine recommendations, including providing food skill education, expanding urban agriculture, supporting farmers and developing local food infrastructure capacity.

But there was little support among councillors for the controversial idea of saving large amounts of farmland, including a proposal by the Greater Edmonton Alliance to protect up to 600 hectares in the city's northeast corner.

"This is not just about land. There are many other aspects of the policy that we should focus on," Coun. Dave Loken said.

Only Coun. Linda Sloan voted against the proposal, after her amendment asking to delay a northeast development plan until administration could report on options for retaining Edmonton agricultural land was defeated.

There were 64 speakers on the issue at public hearings in late October and early November.

City staff will bring back a report early next year outlining how to move forward with the plan and the cost.

They have also suggested adding \$150,000 to the 2013 budget to set up the food council, develop programs and hire a planner.

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**Debbie Hubbard** · Saint Albert, Alberta

As someone who served on the Strategy's Advisory Committee and as a co-chair of GEA's Local Team since 2008, I am fully aware that this is not about the land only....but having access to local food and subsequently, space and land to grow food is foundational for any local food system. What I heard Councillor Sloan ask for is that the city gather adequate information before they make any land use decisions in our remaining Urban Growth Areas. That is what at least six members of the Advisory Committee asked for at the Public Hearings as well and what GEA asked for during the Municipal Development Plan Public Hearings in 2009 and 2010. Councillor Iveson indicated in a blog he wrote in May 2012 that there was information he needed as well before he could support business as usual in terms of the suburban growth model. What I see lacking right now is the belief by the majority of City Council that agricultural land use is a viable land use that could support and enhance Edmonton's economic, environmental and social resiliency and sustainability. The Edmonton Food Council will not even start its work or develop a work plan before the land use decisions start to happen. For example, the public hearings for the Area Structure Plan for the Northeast are scheduled for January 16 and 17. My hope would be that they take the time to gather that information before they start making land use decisions in the remaining unplanned areas of the City.

Reply · Like · 6 hours ago

**Edd Wagil** · Edmonton, Alberta

Somebody help me. Loken says " this is not about land ". Then what is this about?

Reply · Like · 21 hours ago

**Amy Wood**

Does that mean chickens will be allowed in the city?

Reply · Like · 3 hours ago

**Debbie Hubbard** · Saint Albert, Alberta

that would be a good question for Councillor Loken. When some of us on the Advisory Committee asked for a pilot to move forward as part of the Strategy, he implied that chickens were too risky and/or controversial?

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## City Council approves Food and Urban Agriculture Strategy

Media Release  
City of Edmonton

**Edmonton - November 15, 2012** - Edmonton City Council approved the City's Food and Urban Agriculture Strategy on November 14, 2012.

The strategy, entitled fresh, was developed over the last year and is one of the key implementation initiatives of the City's Municipal Development Plan, The Way We Grow. Considerable research, analysis, discussion and consultation with citizens went into the drafting of the strategy.

The strategy provides a means for Edmonton to begin working towards a vibrant and resilient local food system.

Hundreds of citizens attended the Council and Executive Committee meetings where the strategy was discussed.

A report due early in 2013 will outline how the strategy will be implemented and its costs. Details on implementing the strategy will be worked out once an Edmonton Food Council is established.

Adoption of fresh puts Edmonton among other leading Canadian cities that recognize food and urban agriculture as important elements to be considered in future planning and community development.



Edmonton City Council approved the City's Food and Urban Agriculture Strategy on Wednesday afternoon, which goes by the name of "fresh" and developed over the last year. It is one of the key implementation initiatives of the City's Municipal Development Plan, The Way We Grow.  
PHOTO CREDIT - City-Market.ca

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