
A Snapshot of the Local Food System in Grey Bruce

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Theme and objective

The objective of this project was to analyze the transportation involved in the local food system of Grey and Bruce Counties. Data about actors in the local food system was consolidated and used to survey producers and processors about the movement of food in their operations. The information gathered was used to analyze the origins and paths of food in the counties, identify potential sites for local food hubs, and estimate the cost of transportation within the local food system.

Results

The survey data showed that most food trips for growers were weekly, biweekly or monthly and were carried out by the grower themselves. A similar pattern was found for processors. Owen Sound was found to be the most common destination and origin of trips, while the GTA (Greater Toronto Area) was the second most common destination and third most common origin. This highlights the close link between the Grey Bruce local food system and the large urban markets to the south of the region. The top five potential locations for local food hubs were found to be Owen Sound, Grey Highlands, Meaford, Arran-Elderslie and Chatsworth based on the number of food enterprises found in these municipalities. Based on the survey data, it was estimated that the total cost for local food transportation in Grey Bruce per year was almost \$1 million.