

Local Sustainable Farming for Successful Greenbelts: The Local Food Plus Approach

Presented by Lori Stahlbrand
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The Many Functions of Ontario's Greenbelt

1. Establishing a Sense of Place



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2. Supporting Working Landscapes



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3. Providing Ecosystem and Cultural Services

- Maintaining water quality
- Protecting biodiversity
- Providing habitat for pollinators
- Encouraging the viability of small communities
- Supporting the transfer of farming knowledge from one generation to another
- Providing beautiful scenery



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4. Resisting Development Pressure

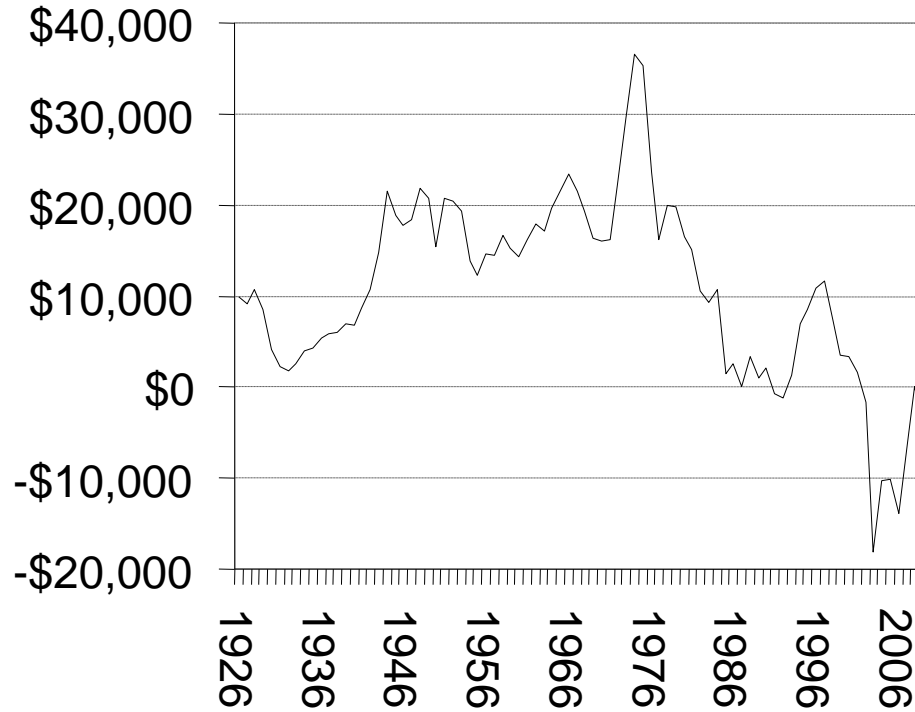


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5. Encouraging Viable Agriculture

Canadian Net Farm Income 1926-2009



(Source: National Farmers Union)



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The LFP Approach

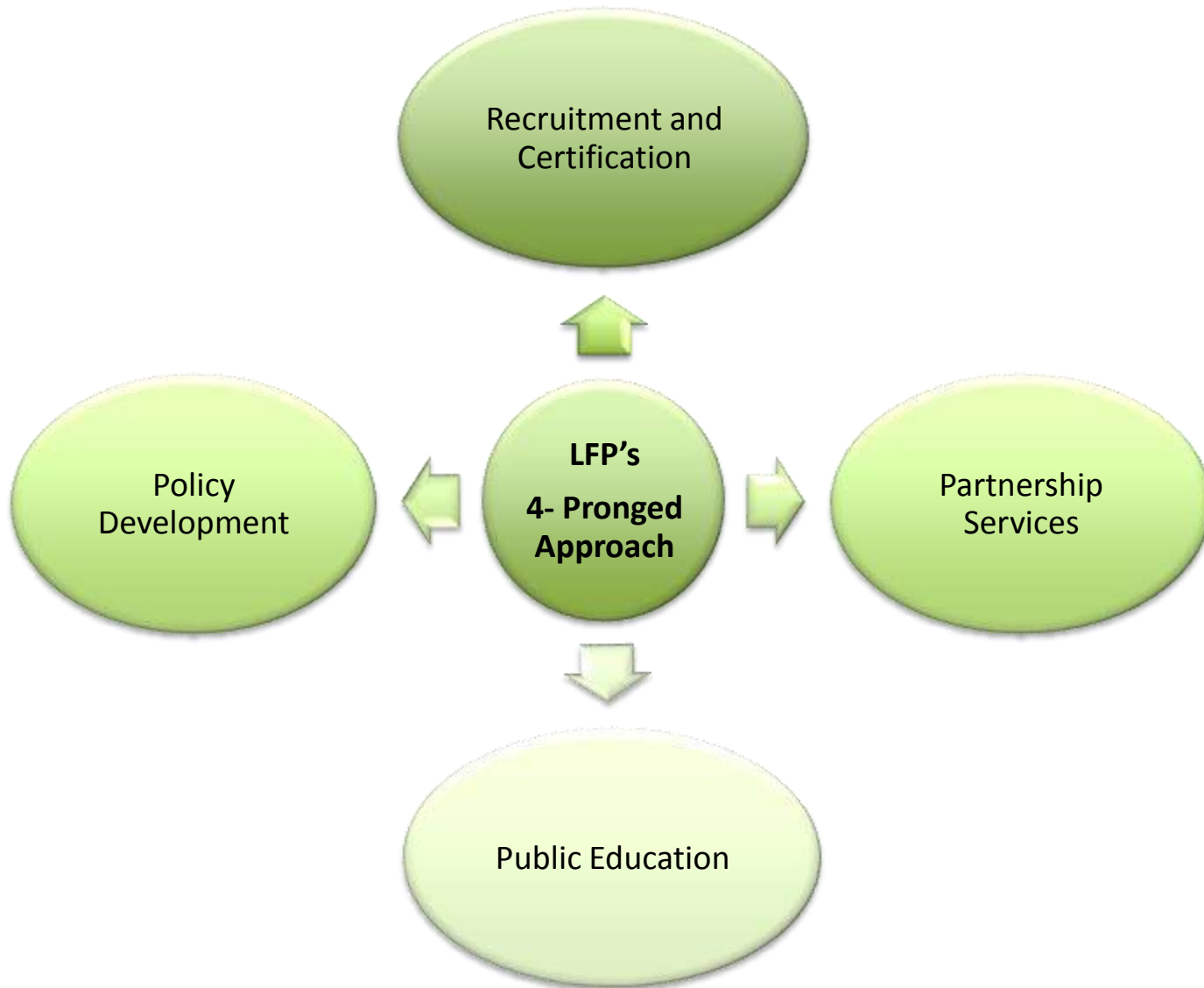


Scaling up local sustainable food systems for a healthier environment, economy and communities



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1. Recruitment and Certification

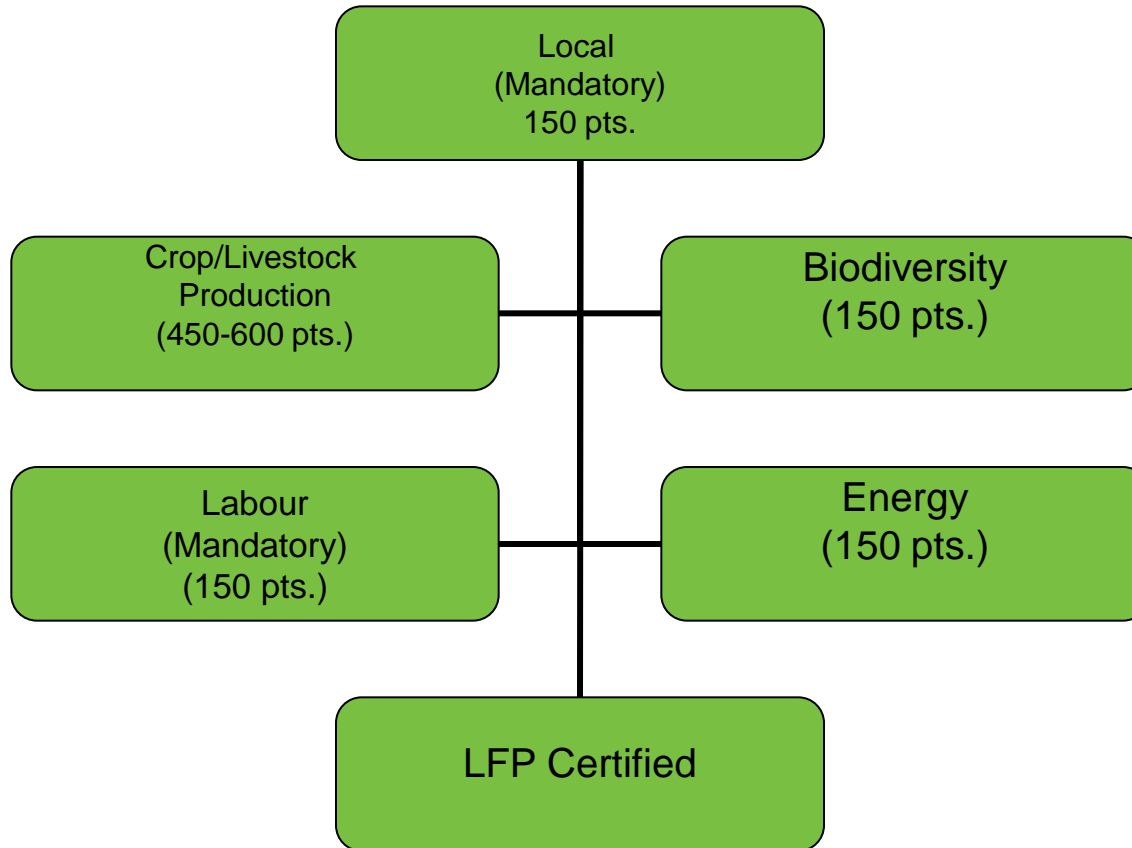
- Employ sustainable production systems
- Provide healthy and humane care of livestock
- Provide safe and fair working conditions
- Protect and enhance wildlife and biodiversity
- Reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gases



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LFP Certification Flow Chart



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2. Partnership Services

LFP-University of Toronto Partnership



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LFP-Town of Markham Partnership



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LFP-Cafe Belong Partnership



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LFP-Fiesta Farms Partnership



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3. Public Education

Responding to the new values-driven consumer



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4. Policy Development

- Contributing to policy development as members of the Toronto Food Policy Council, the Toronto Youth Food Policy Council, Sustain Ontario and other bodies
- Promoting public sector procurement as a way of leveraging the power of institutions to shift food service companies and distributors towards purchasing local sustainable food
- Supporting payments to farmers providing ecological goods and services



Why Is The LFP Approach Powerful?

- A way for institutions to achieve GHG reductions and respond to their clients' concerns
- A way for eaters to identify and support Greenbelt farmers who are not only local, but also meet standards for environmental and social sustainability
- A way for all of us to support Ontario's Greenbelt in fulfilling its key functions
- A model that can be replicated and adapted to many different settings



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