



Hamilton City Council LTP submission – WWP Kai Challenge

Submitting under: Other Feedback – Do you have any other comments relating to our plans for the next 10 years?

This submission strongly encourages HCC to include a specific action-based food strategy in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan (LTP). The LTP makes reference to ‘essential’ services; but there is no explicit mention of food-related services. With the exception of fresh water, it is difficult to imagine anything more essential for human wellbeing than food.

Hamilton needs a food strategy which co-ordinates work already underway here and brings the Hamilton City Council into alignment with other relevant work at national¹ and local levels².

Terminology:

Food security means that “all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets dietary needs and preferences for an active and healthy life” (HLPE 2020)³.

Food sovereignty refers to “the right of Peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems” (Nyéléni 2007)⁴.

Having an action-based food strategy is important for Hamilton City Council because of its responsibilities for emergency management, waste management, economic development, licencing, and the social and cultural wellbeing of the city’s residents. Ensuring “physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food” for Hamilton residents means we have fed workers and students, thriving food producers and the potential to create and participate in the city’s rich cultural life.

¹ For example: work by the Office of the Prime Minister’s Chief Science Advisor Kaitohutohu Mātanga Pūtaiao Matua ki te Pirimiaon on Food loss and waste <https://www.pmcsc.ac.nz/topics/food-rescue-food-waste/>; findings of the National Science Challenges on the need for a unified national food strategy https://ourlandandwater.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/NSC_NationalFoodStrategy_Brief.pdf

² For example: The Wellington Regional Leadership Committee’s Regional food strategy https://wrlc.org.nz/project/regional-food-systems-strategy?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=september_panui_wellington_regional_leadership_committee_update&utm_term=2023-09-28

³ <https://www.fao.org/3/ca9731en/ca9731en.pdf>

⁴ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wzogodC_Y_ZOSsD0UsnwXJYo7BZ-JvEo/view?usp=sharing

The Smooth Belly of Kirikiriroa

Hamilton Kirikiriroa exists where it is today because of the capacity of this whenua to nourish its inhabitants throughout history.

Te Kōpū Mania O Kirikiriroa, the smooth belly of Kirikiriroa, was renowned for its fertile soils ([Puke, nd](#)). Under the stewardship of Ngati Wairere, the site and surrounds of the present HCC chamber produced

extensive cultivations of kūmara, and rauruhe (fern root)... the hill was covered with rangiora and other native trees and ferns with isolated stands of kahikatea and tawa trees. The berries provided food for a whole variety of native birds such as the kūkū (native pigeon) and the kōmako (bellbird), which were hunted and trapped in this vicinity” ([Puke, nd, np](#))⁵.

In 1979, the New Zealand Soil Bureau of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research produced a report also extolling the virtues of the soils of the Hamilton. J. G. Bruce wrote

Hamilton City [sic], in its situation astride the Waikato River, is virtually surrounded by soils of high actual or potential value for the production of food. It may be said that the highly productive land of the Waikato region has gained Hamilton [sic] its prosperity. With this prosperity and a growing population, expansion is inevitable. But in order to maintain this prosperity, derived from the agriculturally productive land, expansion of urban areas must be directed so that, as far as is practicable, land of high value for food production is retained in rural use (Bruce 1979, 34)⁶.

Despite the urgings of Bruce (1979), much of the fertile soil within Hamilton City Council limits and surrounds are no longer available for agricultural production. Today, Land Use Capability Maps for the Hamilton and lower Waikato basin by Manaaki Whenua | Landcare research show that the Hamilton area is mainly Class 1-3 land use capability (LUC) soils, with a high percentage of high productivity land (HPL) classes 1-2, especially around rivers and river gullies

⁵ [https://wintecprodpublicwebsite.blob.core.windows.net/sitefinity-storage/docs/default-source/about-wintec-documents/history-of-wintec-land.pdf?sfvrsn=a5f1ec33_8#:~:text=To%20mark%20Wairere's%20birth%20the,the%20Tohi%20\(baptism%20ritual\).](https://wintecprodpublicwebsite.blob.core.windows.net/sitefinity-storage/docs/default-source/about-wintec-documents/history-of-wintec-land.pdf?sfvrsn=a5f1ec33_8#:~:text=To%20mark%20Wairere's%20birth%20the,the%20Tohi%20(baptism%20ritual).)

⁶ <https://digitallibrary.landcareresearch.co.nz/digital/collection/p20022coll4/id/25/>

(Manaaki Whenua, [Baseline Highly Productive Land » Maps » Our Environment⁷](#)). See the map attached.

Elevating the visibility of food security and food sovereignty and taking pro-active steps to protect and enhance these essential aspects of Council's work not only honours the abundance of the past but is essential to ensuring a thriving future.

Hamilton City Council's Role in Food Security

Hamilton City Councils have a fundamental role to play in achieving local food security and already has several food-related workstreams. These include the following:

- Food safety
- Food waste
- Urban land use eg parks and gardens
- Land Use Strategy and Planning
- Space and permissions around commercial food outlets, eg parking
- Regulation of premises and activities, eg farmers and food markets
- Regulation with regard to residents keeping chickens, bees and other livestock
- Provision for and contribution to community gardens
- Food procurement at Council-managed venues, eg H3 venues

However, there is no overarching food-related strategy that ensures all these workstreams are working together to achieve related aims.

This submission calls for the Hamilton City Council to advance a food strategy that addresses land use, food security, and creates a cohesive overall direction for related workstreams. This strategy needs to have a clear aim and achievable goals.

Working towards a food strategy that incorporates food security and food sovereignty for Hamilton City Council aligns with Priority 1, 2, and 5. These are discussed in more detail below:

Priority One: Shaping a city that's easy to live in | Ahuahungia teetehi taaone e tau ai te noho ki roto

*2. We'll revitalise our existing neighbourhoods and invest in the creation of our new neighbourhoods to make sure we have a **liveable, sustainable city**.*

⁷ https://ourevironment.scinfo.org.nz/maps-and-tools/app/Land%20Capability/lri_luc_hpl?contextLayers=water_transport_text

4. We'll enable and support strong public transport connections that help Hamiltonians get **easy access to** essential services such as education, health centres and supermarkets.

5. We'll put more focus on our neighbourhoods having community identity and **supporting community spaces** across our city.

A fully developed, resourced and implemented food strategy can support all these goals. Through food we form connections to place and people. Opportunities to produce and procure local kai, for instance, support the goals of a **sustainable city**, where people have **easy access to the essentials**, such as food, and can give rise to **community identity** and **community spaces**.

We don't know exactly how many people in the city are going hungry (though we know for sure it [is growing enormously](#)⁸: as many as 30,000 people rely on food parcels. Some preliminary data suggests that 20% of Waikato families (100,000 people) who visit supermarkets are unable to make [healthy food choices](#)⁹ due to the high cost of food. The increase in food theft from supermarkets is likely to reflect the fact that for an increasing number of people, in combination with other socio-economic factors, the retail/commercial food system no longer provides an affordable source of food for them and their wider whānau.

Crisis provision services within the city are stretched beyond their limits. The city is growing, but so are the numbers of people in the city currently struggling to access the food they need to sustain themselves and their whānau with dignity.

Very many of our existing **community spaces**, such as community houses, are already deeply engaged with the city's food system, both at the point of crisis in providing food support, and at the point of mitigation and community building through their existing gardens. Similarly, schools and marae around the city are actively engaged in community building and food security and sovereignty projects through school gardens and mara kai.

The LPT refers to access to supermarkets, but it is not the responsibility of Council to supply shoppers to the supermarkets. There is a fundamental role for Council, however, in ensuring

⁸ <https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/money/2024/03/cost-of-living-crisis-charity-says-desperate-people-fight-for-food-outside-community-pantries.html>

⁹ <https://www.stuff.co.nz/life-style/food-drink/300689746/rising-cost-of-groceries-could-drive-unhealthy-choices?rm=a>

residents have safe, cost-effective access to safe, appropriate and nutritious kai. It is worth exploring a range of options for how Council might support residents to achieve these outcomes.

The specific reference to supermarkets in this LTP as ‘essential’ harks back to the early days of the 2020 Covid 19 lockdown before we realised the essential nature of more local shopping options, including green grocers, butchers and markets. This is especially prescient in light of the Commerce Commission’s conclusion that “competition in the grocery sector is not working well for New Zealand consumers” ([Commerce Commission, 2022¹⁰](https://comcom.govt.nz/news-and-media/media-releases/2022/grocery-market-study-recommends-changes-to-improve-competition-and-benefit-consumers)). Supermarkets don’t produce food, and you can’t eat them, so they are only as ‘essential’ as we make them.

Priority Two: Shaping a city where our people thrive | Ahuahungia teetehi taaone e puaawai ai ngaa taangata katoa

*3. We’ll look beyond our borders and work with our regional partners to **maximise the opportunities** from Hamilton Kirikiriroa being the hub of the Waikato region.*

As noted above, the city and its hinterlands are among some of the most fecund food producing land available. We can **maximise the opportunities** this brings to work on food security with our regional neighbours through not only Council’s own procurement practices, but by creating opportunities for local producers to bring their products to market in the city.

Priority Five: Shaping a green city | Ahuahungia teetehi taaone tiaki taiao

*2. We’ll **reduce the carbon footprint** of Hamilton Kirikiriroa and build a city that is resilient to the effects of climate change.*

*5. **We’ll plan our future as a sustainable city** – balancing the natural and built environments so they can live in harmony.*

¹⁰ <https://comcom.govt.nz/news-and-media/media-releases/2022/grocery-market-study-recommends-changes-to-improve-competition-and-benefit-consumers>

Already within the city itself, we have a number of growers and producers working on innovative means of [producing](#)¹¹ and [distributing food](#)¹²¹³¹⁴¹⁵. Being strategic about how we support local food production and distribution within and around the city, prioritising locally produced food, can support us to **reduce our carbon footprint**.

Reducing our carbon footprint also means reducing our food waste. The biggest contributors to food waste are commercial food distributors. At present, this waste supports a growing hunger industry in the city. This is presented as charity by large supermarket chains who exchange their waste for a social licence to produce more waste. Continuing to produce waste at this rate, even when it can be used to ameliorate hunger, does nothing to improve our city's food security or our people's food sovereignty, and is detrimental to our carbon footprint.

Research from the Waikato Regional Council shows that 48% of all landfill is organic waste¹⁶, much of it food-related. Food waste is an increasing issue for HCC to manage and this task will only grow with the city if we do not change the way we interact with food.

Planning for our future as a sustainable city means planning for how we will feed ourselves into the future. To do this, as a city, we need to optimise the proportion of local food we consume. In addition, by using food to green the city's open space, food can contribute to us achieving this goal.

We need to develop a plan for food security in partnership with our surroundings, from considering urban food forests to working more intentionally in partnership with our surrounding districts. This includes considering not only waste generated in the production of food, but how we holistically manage a food system which nourishes the land and the people. The Tronpost our food waste produces has the potential to nourish food forests which can green the city and nourish people. Knowledge of and support for native plantings can support Councils' goals for native vegetation coverage and help connect people with local, native kai.

The Full Belly of Kirikiriroa

Ignoring the centrality of kai to the city does not make it less so, it merely makes us more vulnerable to global and local threats to food security than we need to be. Hamilton City

¹¹ <https://earthstewards.nz/>

¹² <https://www.dreamview.co.nz/catalog/dreamview-shop-100140.htm>

¹³ <https://www.tomtitfarm.com/>

¹⁴ <https://www.waikatofarmersmarkets.co.nz/>

¹⁵ https://www.catos.co.nz/page/about_us/

¹⁶ [Waste reduction in the Waikato region | Waikato Regional Council](#)

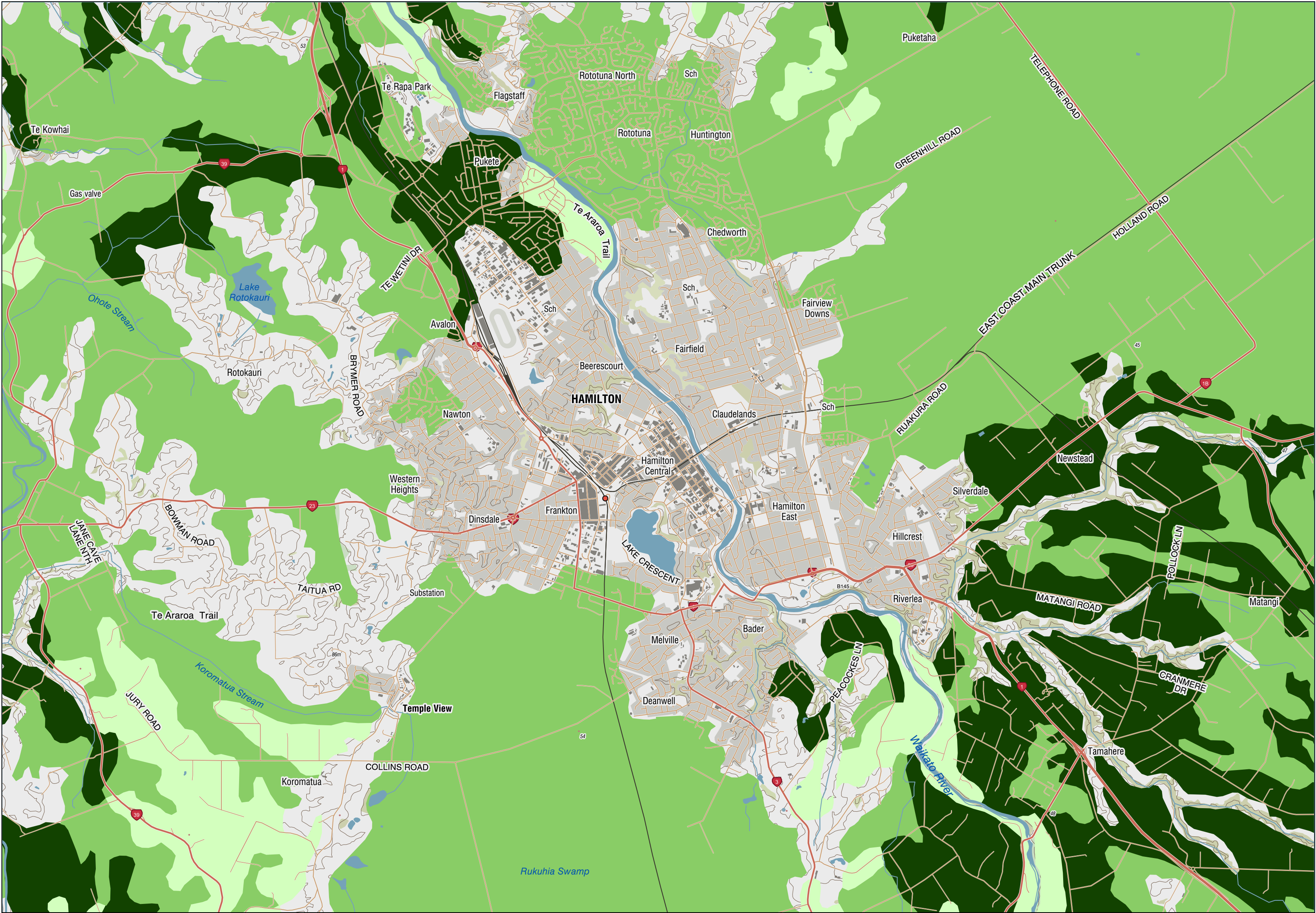
Council has an opportunity to be leaderful here in acknowledging their role in building a food secure city.

Attachments

Attach: Local Governments for Sustainability 'City Practitioners Handbook: Circular Food Systems – Overview of city-level food system assessment methods'.

https://circulars.iclei.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/ICLEI_Handbook_CircularFoodSystems_MUFPP_overview.pdf

Submission Map – HCC



Legend

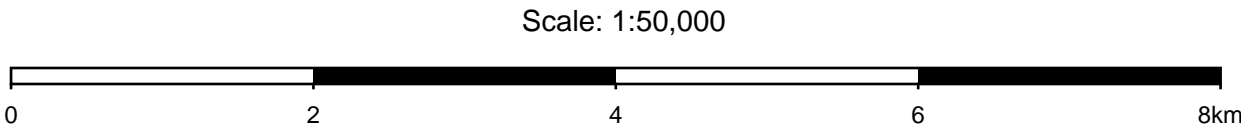
Baseline Highly Productive Land

- HPL - LUC Class 1
- HPL - LUC Class 2
- HPL - LUC Class 3

OUR ENVIRONMENT



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City Practitioners Handbook: Circular Food Systems

Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Actions Mapping



circulars.iclei.org

The below table provides an overview of how the [City Practitioners Handbook: Food Systems](#) addresses the actions outlined as part of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact. The different steps refer to the three main sections of the handbook while the Circular City Actions Frameworks refers to the overview of actions included in Step 2.

	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Circular City Actions Framework
Governance				
Action 1 - Facilitate collaboration across city agencies and department	x			
Action 2 - Enhance stakeholder participation	x			
Action 3 - Identify, map and evaluation local initiatives	x			
Action 4 - Develop or revise urban food policies and plans			x	
Action 5 - Develop or improve multi-sectoral information systems	x			
Action 6 - Develop a disaster risk reduction strategy	Not addressed			
Sustainable Diets and Nutrition				
Action 7 - Promote Sustainable Diets				x
Action 8 - Address non-communicable diseases associated with poor diets and obesity				Indirectly
Action 9 - Develop sustainable dietary guidelines				Indirectly
Action 10 - Adapt standards and regulations to make sustainable diets and safe drinking water accessible				Indirectly
Action 11 - Explore regulatory and voluntary instruments			x	
Action 12 - Encourage joint action by health and food sectors			x	
Action 13 - Invest and commit to achieving universal access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation				Indirectly
Social and economic equity				
Action 14 - Use cash and food transfers to provide vulnerable populations with access to healthy food				x
Action 15 - Promote decent employment and fair working conditions for all				Indirectly
Action 16 - Encourage and support social and solidarity economy activities		x		
Action 17 - Promote networks and support grassroots activities		x		
Action 18 - Reorient school feeding programs to provide food that is healthy, local, regionally sourced, seasonal and sustainably produced			x	
Action 19 - Promote participatory education, training and research			x	
Food production				
Action 20 - Promote and strengthen urban and peri-urban food production			x	
Action 21 - Seek coherence between the city and nearby rural food production, processing and distribution			x	

Action 22 - Apply an ecosystem approach to guide holistic and integrated land use planning and management				Indirectly
Action 23 - Protect an enable secure access to land and tenure				Indirectly
Action 24 - Help provide services to food producers in and around cities (technical, financial...)			x	
Action 25 - Support short food chains				x
Action 26 - Improve (waste)water management and reuse				Indirectly
Food supply and distribution				
Action 27 - Support improved food storage, processing, transport and distribution				x
Action 28 - Assess, review and/or strengthen food control systems				Indirectly
Action 29 - Review public procurement and trade policy			x	
Action 30 - Provide policy and program support for municipal public markets			x	
Action 31 - Improve and expand support for infrastructure related to market systems that link urban buyers to regional sellers				x
Action 32 - Acknowledge the informal sector's contribution		x		
Action 33 - Assess the flows of food to and through cities	x			
Food waste				
Action 34 - Convene food system actors to assess and monitor food loss and waste reduction	x		x	
Action 35 - Raise awareness of food loss and waste		x		
Action 36 - Collaborate with the private sector along with the research	x			
Action 37 - Save food by facilitating recovery				x