



## What does food have to do with Greenhouse Gases?

- **Food miles:** Most of our food travels thousands of kilometres to reach our dinner tables. One Iowa study found that the standard diet uses 17 times more oil and gas than a regionally-based diet.
- **Customer miles:** The retail grocery industry is moving away from neighbourhood stores to large format suburban outlets and replacing substantial warehouse space with frequent delivery service. How far do you drive to purchase your groceries? How many delivery runs could be avoided if stores had larger storage capacity?
- **Agricultural emissions:** Approximately 1/3 of all global warming gases are produced by food production, processing, and transportation, according to the Toronto Food Policy Council's Wayne Roberts. The methane and nitrous oxides produced by conventional agriculture are significantly more potent than carbon dioxide. Intensive livestock farms produce the largest greenhouse gas emissions of any agricultural sector.
- **Carbon sinks:** A UN's Food and Agriculture Organization review of 400 publications indicates that organic alternatives to fossil fuel-based fertilizers and pesticides may create carbon sinks that counteract climate change. The Kyoto treaty identifies "protection and enhancement of sinks" in agricultural soils as a valuable response to climate change.



## So what can we do?

- ***Grow your own***

- Plant a garden in your backyard or on your balcony.
- Participate in CHEP's community gardening program. Call 655-5379 for more information.

- ***Buy local***

- Visit the Farmer's Market. The Market is now at its River Landing location, open Saturdays 8-2 and Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-5.
- Request locally-produced foods at the grocery store.
- Order a Good Food Box. Call 655-5387 for more information.

- ***Buy organic***

- Look for local organic produce at the Farmer's Market or your local grocery store ... or grow your own!

- ***Ask questions***

- Ask your grocer where the food comes from.
- Ask grocers and governments what can be done to restore grocery stores to the heart of communities.
- Ask policy-makers why Saskatchewan is only 7% self-sufficient in vegetables other than potatoes.
- Ask the City how the impact of the food system is factored into the Energy and Greenhouse Gas

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