



Growing Agri-Food Durham

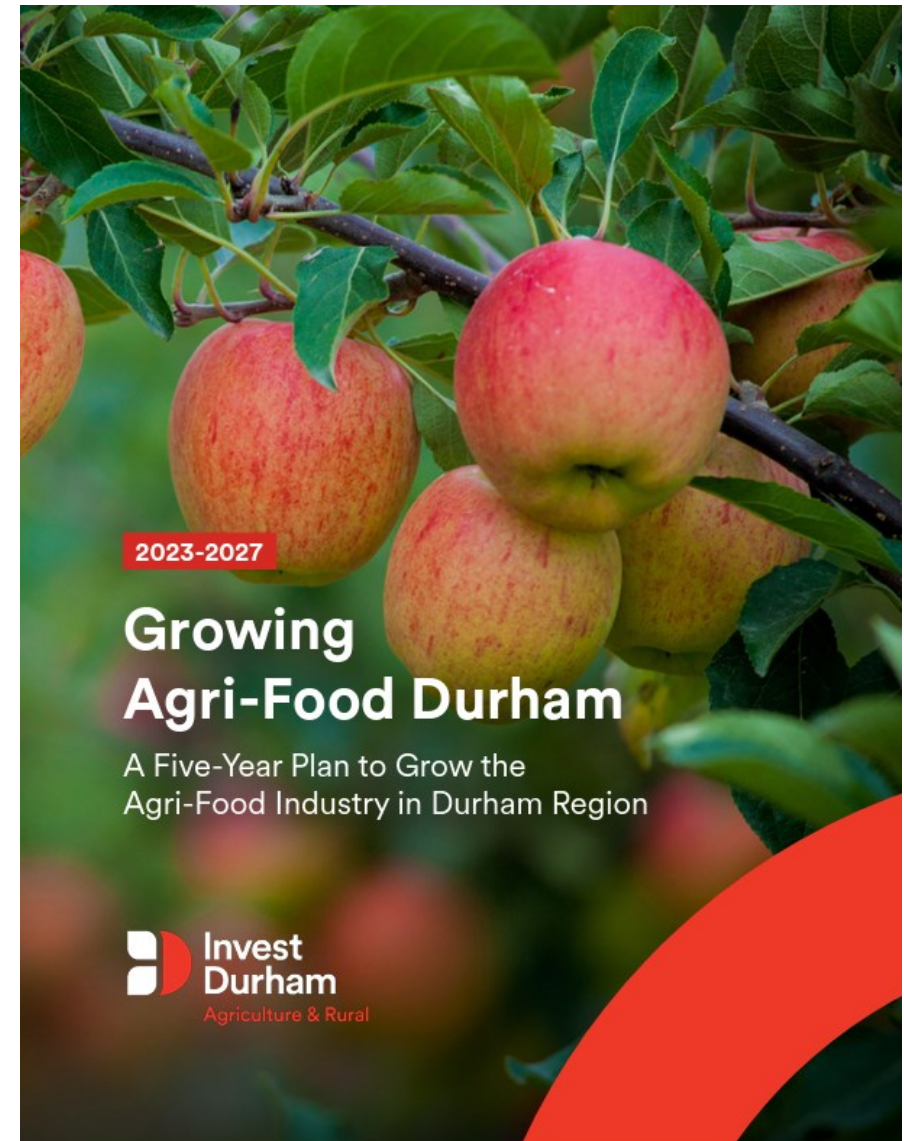
5-Year Action Plan
Annual Update
March 3, 2026



Growing Agri-Food Durham

Purpose

- Supporting plan of Ready Set Future: A Place Blueprint for Durham
- 5-year action focused document guides agriculture economic development activities of the Agriculture and Rural Section within the Region of Durham's Economic Development and Tourism Division





Goal Areas

1. Retain and expand agri-food businesses
2. Streamline regulations and approvals
3. Enable and encourage agriculture-related and on-farm diversified uses
4. Advocate for infrastructure support (including broadband)
5. Increase agri-food processing capacity
6. Identify opportunities and solutions for the workforce and labour shortages in the agri-food sector
7. Provide resources for aging and young farmers
8. Partner with stakeholders and agricultural organizations to deliver and expand agricultural literacy in the Region
9. Enable and encourage a culture of innovation in agriculture
10. Enhance urban agriculture

Goal 1

Retain and expand local food businesses



A photograph of a large field of pumpkins, likely at a farm stand or market. The pumpkins are arranged in rows and are the central focus of the image. In the background, there is a wooden structure with a red roof, possibly a market stall, and a person in a red shirt is visible. The lighting is warm, suggesting an outdoor setting during the day.

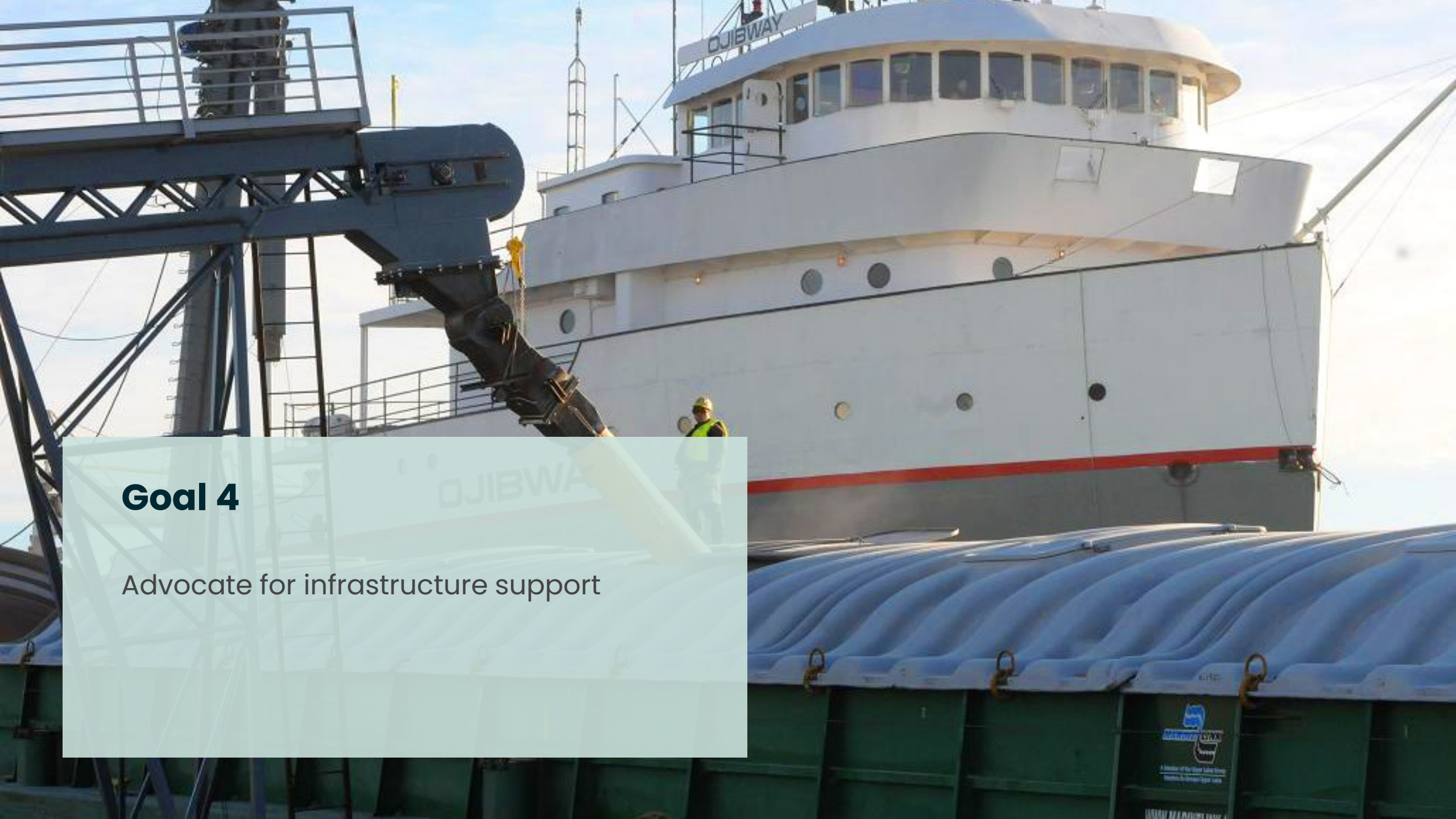
Goal 2

Streamline the regulation and approval process for agri-food business

A photograph of a farm scene. In the foreground, a wooden fence surrounds a grassy area. A pig is sitting in a hay bale next to several pumpkins. Behind the fence is a blue wooden shed with a corrugated metal roof. In the background, there are several larger wooden buildings with corrugated metal roofs. A Swiss flag is flying on a tall pole. The sky is blue with white clouds.

Goal 3

Enable and encourage agriculture related and on-farm diversified uses related to agriculture



Goal 4

Advocate for infrastructure support



Goal 5

Support businesses to increase agri-food processing capacity



Goal 6

Identify opportunities and solutions for the workforce and labour shortages in the agri-food sector

Goal 7

Provide resources for aging and young farmers





Goal 8

Partner with agriculture organizations to deliver and expand agriculture literacy in the Region



Goal 9

Enable a culture of innovation in agriculture and food



Goal 10

Enhance urban agriculture



Annual Reporting and 2026 Priorities

- Annual reports to agri-food partners underway
- Key 2026 projects and activities
 - Enabling North Durham Agriculture-Related and On-Farm Diversified Uses
 - Agriculture Economic Development and Planning Working Group
 - Food Processing BR+E
 - Agriculture Factsheets



Questions & Thank you!