

Water Innovation Lab Global Scenario Planning

The Water-Food Nexus: Community Flood and Food Resilience in York South-Weston, Toronto

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Executive Summary

In the community of Weston in Toronto, Canada, where flooding is a recurring issue, there is an opportunity to address community vulnerability to flooding and simultaneously enhance food availability. This should be a priority for Toronto's municipal planners, conservation authorities, and politicians. Issues of flood risk management and reliable food access are influenced by political, social and economic factors; therefore, any proposed solutions should capture multi-disciplinary and multi scalar interactions among relevant stakeholders (i.e. collaborations between local and national government, NGOs, residents, etc.).

Three scenarios were developed to explore potential approaches to address flooding and food insecurity in the riding of York South-Weston. One set of scenarios looks at potential stormwater infiltration and food production under different rooftop areas converted to rooftop farms, and the other set examines changes to flood risk governance at all levels of government. The scenarios are driven by community-based climate change action and consider various strategies, policies and targets at the community-level in an attempt to illustrate the different "realities" of imposing meaningful, targeted, change—or not.

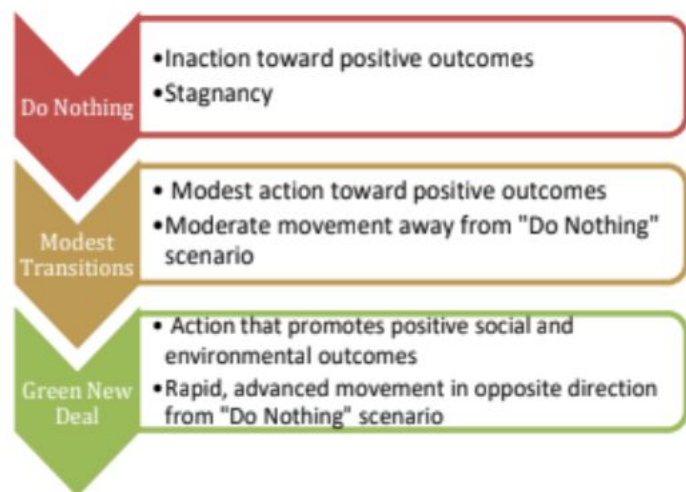


Figure 1. 3 Scenarios for the York South-Weston case study

Figure 1 shows the three scenarios, which relate to urban agriculture and flood adaptation, respectively, and range from those which do not deviate from reality, to those that demand transformative change; 1) Do Nothing, 2) Modest Transitions and 3) Green New Deal.