

# REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM PROGRAMS RESOURCES GUIDE

Many government, nonprofit and regional planning organizations have initiated programs to connect local food producers with local consumers to facilitating a market for local food products. Regional councils across the country study and implement programs and policies to strengthen their regional “**food systems**,” all of the processes and infrastructure that go into the production, storage, processing, transportation, marketing, and distribution of local food. While food system planning may be a new area of focus for regional planning organizations, it builds upon long-standing responsibilities, including regional transportation planning, economic and community development planning, and coordinating land use planning across the various urban, suburban and rural areas that make up a region.

This guide is intended to provide resources for planning organizations interested in developing or expanding a regional food systems plan.

## Resource Areas

- Regional Councils engaged in extensive food system planning
- Food Policy Councils in regions across the country that analyze the local food system and develop plans for its improvement
- National Nonprofits dedicated to improving local and regional food systems
- Funding Opportunities for regional councils engaging in food systems planning
- Publications with information on food systems planning

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## Regional Councils

### Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC)

The Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council serves three counties and eight cities in Central Oregon. Its mission statement is “To provide education, retraining and economic development services to positively affect regional employment, individual lives, the business community and local government.” It has initiated a number of programs to promote the local food system.

(541) 548 8163

Fax (541) 923 3416

[www.coic.org](http://www.coic.org); <http://www.coic.org/cd/agriculture.html>

### Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)

As part of its initiative to promote livable communities in the Chicago area, CMAP developed a long range plan to ensure the effectiveness and stability of local food systems through outreach and awareness programs, programs to increase access to healthy food, and programs to facilitate local food production.

(312) 454 0400

Fax (312) 454 0411

[www.cmap.illinois.gov](http://www.cmap.illinois.gov); <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/2040/local-food-systems>

### Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)

For over 40 years, the Delaware Regional Planning Commission has worked to foster regional cooperation in a nine-county, bi-state Greater Philadelphia region. Through DVRPC, the region’s 352 municipalities work together to address key issues, including transportation, land use, environmental protection and economic development. DVRPC provides comprehensive, coordinated planning for the orderly growth and development of the region. DVRPC created the Greater Philadelphia Food System Study, which surveys and analyzes food systems in the greater Philadelphia area.

(215) 592 1800

[www.dvrpc.org](http://www.dvrpc.org); <http://www.dvrpc.org/food/>



### **Iowa Valley Resource Conservation and Development (IVRCD)**

The Iowa Corridor Food and Agriculture Coalition (ICFAC) is an initiative of IVRCD. Its mission is to develop strategic partnerships to revitalize a local food system within the Iowa Corridor region. Its vision is a corridor that embraces local foods in a diversified and environmentally conscious agriculture community; serving as a hub for a revitalized regional food system.

[www.ivrcd.org](http://www.ivrcd.org); [www.iacorridor-localfood.org](http://www.iacorridor-localfood.org)

### **Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)**

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission is a voluntary association of local governments serving Central Ohio. A catalyst for regional change, evidence of their work is seen every day through planning, programming and public policy in the areas of economic development, energy, environment, housing, transportation and land use. It developed the Central Ohio Local Food Assessment and Plan to analyze and improve food systems in Central Ohio.

(614) 228 2663

Fax (614) 228 1904

[www.morpc.org](http://www.morpc.org); <http://www.morpc.org/energy/center/localfoods.asp>

## **Food Policy Councils**

### **Atlanta Local Food Initiative (ALFI)**

The Atlanta Local Food Initiative is a network that joins individuals, corporations, nonprofits, universities, and governmental agencies to build a local food system that enhances human health, promotes environmental renewal, fosters local economies, and links rural and urban communities.

[info@atlantalocalfood.org](mailto:info@atlantalocalfood.org); [www.atlantalocalfood.org](http://www.atlantalocalfood.org)

### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Food Policy Councils Overview**

The CDC provides a list of resources about food policy councils, including lists of food policy councils and scholarly research.

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/healthtopics/healthyfood/foodpolicy.htm>

### **Central Oregon Food Policy Council (COFPC)**

The mission of the COFPC is to strengthen Central Oregon communities by securing the future of the local food system. It collaborates with the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council on a Buy Fresh Buy Local Campaign.

(541) 504 3307

[centraloregonfoodpolicy@gmail.com](mailto:centraloregonfoodpolicy@gmail.com); [www.centraloregonfoodpolicy.org](http://www.centraloregonfoodpolicy.org)

### **Chicago Food Policy Advisory Council (CFPAC)**

The Chicago Food Policy Advisory Council facilitates the development of responsible policies that improve access for Chicago residents to culturally appropriate, nutritionally sound, and affordable food that is grown through environmentally sustainable practices.

(773) 376 8882

[info@chicagofoodpolicy.org](mailto:info@chicagofoodpolicy.org); [www.chicagofoodpolicy.org](http://www.chicagofoodpolicy.org)

### **Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Food Policy Coalition (CCCFPC)**

The Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Food Policy Coalition coordinates public-private partnerships aimed at improving food access in urban neighborhoods and stimulating the overall local food system in Northeast Ohio. The Coalition also aims to blend the perspectives of grassroots communities, policy-makers, and organizational leaders.

<http://cccfoodpolicy.org/>

### **List of Food Policy Councils**

List of food policy councils nationwide prepared by the Community Food Security Coalition. Food Policy Councils (FPCs) bring together stakeholders from diverse food-related sectors to examine how the food system is operating and to develop recommendations on how to improve it.

<http://www.foodsecurity.org/FPC/council.html>

### **Sacramento/Capital Region Food System Collaborative (FSC)**

The Sacramento/Capital Region Food System Collaborative is a collaborative of public, private, and nonprofit stakeholder groups in the 6-county Capital Region to inform and influence policy initiatives relevant to the regional food system including: food security and food access, land use planning, local food purchasing plans, and rural economic development.

[www.foodsystemcollaborative.org](http://www.foodsystemcollaborative.org)

## **National Nonprofits**

### **American Farmland Trust (AFT)**

American Farmland Trust is the nation's leading conservation organization dedicated to saving America's farm and ranch land, promoting environmentally sound farming practices and supporting a sustainable future for farms.

(800) 886 5170

[www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org)

### **Community Farm Alliance (CFA)**

Since 1985 Community Farm Alliance has been building positive relationships between farmers, consumers, legislators, and communities. CFA also develops community-based projects that directly improve communities and that can be used as models for good public programs and policy.

(502) 223 3655

Fax (502) 223 0804

[www.communityfarmalliance.org](http://www.communityfarmalliance.org)

### **Community Food Security Coalition (CFSC)**

The Community Food Security Coalition catalyzes food systems that are healthy, sustainable, just, and democratic by building community voice and capacity for change.

(503) 954 2970

Fax (503) 954 2959

[www.foodsecurity.org](http://www.foodsecurity.org)

### **National FoodRoutes Network**

FoodRoutes is a national nonprofit dedicated to reintroducing Americans to their food – the seeds they grow from, the farmers who produce it, and the routes that carry it from the fields to our tables. It collaborates with the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council on a Buy Fresh Buy Local campaign.

(814) 571 8319

[info@foodroutes.org](mailto:info@foodroutes.org); [www.foodroutes.org](http://www.foodroutes.org); <http://centraloregonfoodpolicy.org/buy-fresh-buy-local/>

### **National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC)**

The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition is an alliance of grassroots organizations that advocates for federal policy reform to advance the sustainability of agriculture, food systems, natural resources, and rural communities.

(202) 547 5754

Fax (207) 547 1837

[info@sustainableagriculture.net](mailto:info@sustainableagriculture.net); [www.sustainableagriculture.net](http://www.sustainableagriculture.net)

### **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Library provides a list of resources on Community Food Systems including a Community Food Security Assessment, partner organizations, and examples of community programs.

<http://fnic.nal.usda.gov/nutrition-assistance-programs/community-food-systems>

## **Funding Sources**

### **Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program (CFPCGP)**

This program, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), provides grants to nonprofit entities of up to \$500,000 to help communities meet their food needs and the needs of low-income residents, address agriculture and nutrition issues, and improve infrastructure. There is a dollar-for-dollar matching requirement.

<http://www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/communityfoodprojects.cfm>

### **Guide to Federal Funding for Local and Regional Food Systems**

A publication from the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition with lists of and guides to grants for local and regional food systems (last updated April 2010).

<http://sustainableagriculture.net/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/6.18-FINAL-Food-System-Funding-Guide2.pdf>

### **Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI)**

HFFI provides funding to expand the availability of healthy food. It is currently being funded at \$10 million by the HHS Community Economic Development (CED) program. Note: the funding is currently only available to Community Development Corporations, and not to the wide range of entities for which HFFI funds were originally intended.

[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ocs\\_food.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ocs_food.html)

### **U.S. Department of Agriculture Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP)**

The Farmers Market Promotion Program offers grants to improve and expand farmers' markets, community-supported agriculture program, agri-tourism, and other initiatives. The Program provided the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council with grant money from 2008-2010 to promote and sustain regional farmers' markets. (202) 720 0933

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/FMPP>

### **U.S. Department of Agriculture Hunger-Free Communities Grants**

The grants are aimed at helping communities increase food access by promoting coordination and partnerships between public, private, and nonprofit partners. The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission suggests this as a possible funding source for programs to increase food system coordination. Note: this program is currently inactive.

[HungerFreeCommunities@fns.usda.gov](mailto:HungerFreeCommunities@fns.usda.gov); [http://www.fns.usda.gov/outreach/grants/hfc\\_grants.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/outreach/grants/hfc_grants.htm)

### **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant Program**

The program provides funding for a wide range of community development needs. The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission suggests this as a possible funding source for urban agriculture programs.

[http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/communitydevelopment/programs](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs)

## **Publications**

### **“Avoiding the Local Trap: Scale and Food Systems in Planning Research”**

This scholarly publication argues against the idea that local food systems are preferable to those on a larger scale, and that the effectiveness of the ideas driving the system are much more important than its size. Note: full text is not available online without a subscription.

Authors: Branden Born (Department of Urban Design and Planning, University of Washington), Mark Purcell (Department of Urban Design and Planning, University of Washington)

Journal of Planning Education and Research, Dec. 2006

<http://jpe.sagepub.com/content/26/2/195.abstract?rss=1>

### **Central Ohio Local Food Assessment and Plan**

This publication, a product of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's Agricultural and Food Systems Working Group, surveys the Central Ohio food system and provides recommendations to preserve farmland, and bolster the local agricultural economy, provide healthy food to residents.

<http://www.morpc.org/pdf/CentralOhioLocalFoodAssessmentAndPlan2010.pdf>

### **Eating Here: Greater Philadelphia's Food System Plan**

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's follow-up to the Greater Philadelphia Food System Study. After surveying the Philadelphia area food system in the original Study, the Plan relays goals and recommendations for a more vital and sustainable Philadelphia area food system.

<http://www.theDelawareValleyRegionalPlanningCommission.org/reports/10063.pdf>

### **Greater Philadelphia Food System Study**

This study, published by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, examines the food system of the greater Philadelphia area, including health, food access, food transportation, energy issues in food production, and agriculture economic development issues.

<http://www.the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.org/reports/09066A.pdf>

### **“Land Use Planning for Secure Regional Food Systems”**

This scholarly publication analyzes land use, planning, and sustainable food systems for the Portland Metropolitan Area.

It contains a number of recommendations on how land use planning can advance regional food system security.

Authors: Kurt Beil, Michael Budds, Emily Hicks, David Kennedy, Ken Rencher, Sarah Stacy Iannarone

<http://web.pdx.edu/~sari/foodlanduse.pdf>

### **Lane County Local Food Market Analysis**

This publication, prepared by the University of Oregon in collaboration with a number of other regional organizations, analyzes the local food system for Lane County, Oregon. It analyzes food production, distribution, and demand, and identifies a number of policy strategies to improve the Lane County food system.

<http://www.lanecounty.org/Departments/CAO/EconomicDevelopment/Documents/LC%20Food%20Mkt%20StudyFINAL1.pdf>

### **Municipal Implementation Tool #018 – Food System Planning**

This brochure, published by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, provides tools and resources for regions and communities interested in food system planning.

<http://www.the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.org/reports/MIT018.pdf>

### **Pioneering a Local Food System in Central Oregon**

This study, published by the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, examines varied aspects of the food system in Central Oregon, including food production, distribution, and food hunger and insecurity.

<http://www.coic.org/cd/docs/Central%20OR%20Food%20Assessment.pdf>

### **A Plan for Atlanta’s Sustainable Food Future**

This 2008 publication, from the Atlanta Local Food Initiative, analyzes the Atlanta area food system and develops a plan to build the local agricultural economy, strengthen community, promote healthy eating, and invest in sustainability. It proposes initiatives like creating gardens at local schools and large-scale composting programs.

<http://www.atlantalocalfood.org/Files/alfi.pdf>

### **A Planner’s Guide to Community and Regional Food Planning: Transforming Food Environments, Facilitating Healthy Eating**

This 2008 report, published by the American Planning Association, discusses the role of planners in shaping food systems and facilitating healthy eating. Note: available in paperback from APA.

Authors: Samina Raja, Branden Born, Jessica Russell

<http://www.planning.org/apastore/search/Default.aspx?p=3886>

### **Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning**

This guide, released by the American Planning Association, provides general information about food systems in the U.S. and offers specific recommendations for regional food system planning.

<http://www.planning.org/policy/guides/adopted/food.htm>

### **Regional Food Hub Resource Guide**

This guide, published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, provides a detailed overview of regional food hubs: organizations that aggregate, store, distribute, and market regional food products.

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5097957>

### **Searching for Markets: The Geography of Inequitable Access to Healthy and Affordable Food in the United States**

The study, conducted by the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund’s Capacity Building Initiative, identifies areas in the U.S. with limited access to health and affordable food.

[http://www.cdfifund.gov/what\\_we\\_do/resources/SearchingForMarkets\\_Report\\_web\\_Low\\_%20Res.pdf](http://www.cdfifund.gov/what_we_do/resources/SearchingForMarkets_Report_web_Low_%20Res.pdf)