



DC Food Policy Council APPROVED Strategic Plan

DC Food Policy Council

The DC Food Policy Council is a coalition of stakeholders and government representatives who have come together to identify regulatory burdens on the local food economy, collect and analyze data on the food economy and food equity, promote positive food policies, and guide organizations and individuals involved in the food economy. The act establishes a Food Policy Director in the DC Office of Planning who will promote food policy in the District, attract new participants to the local food economy, assist individuals already participating in the local food economy, and achieve the food goals identified in the Sustainable DC Plan.

The DC Food Policy Council (DCFPC) will promote healthy food access, food sustainability, and a local food economy in the District. The DCFPC will identify regulatory burdens on the local food economy, collect and analyze data on the food economy and food equity, promote positive food policies, and guide organizations and individuals involved in the food economy. The DCFPC will promote food policy in the District through accessible and diverse means, attract new participants to the local food economy, assist an individual already participating in the local food economy, and achieve the food goals identified in the Sustainable DC Plan.

The District of Columbia Food Policy Council was established through the DC Food Policy Council and Director Establishment Act of 2014. The Sustainable DC Plan and community advocates in 2014 and 2015 food and urban agriculture DC Council roundtables called for the DCFPC. The DCFPC was inspired by the many people around the county and world working to increase food access, security, and sovereignty by strengthening and revitalizing local food systems and economies. Local advocates recognized that many different communities and agencies have been addressing issues of food equity, access, agriculture, and business and related health disparities in the District of Columbia for many years. The DCFPC's goal is to bring these parties together in one place to collaborate on improving food access, equity, and economy for all in the District.

VISION STATEMENT

Create a just, healthy, equitable and sustainable food system for *all* by engaging, empowering, and informing DC residents and effecting positive policy change.

GOALS OF THE DCFPC

1. Promote healthy food access, food sustainability, and a local food economy, including non-mainstream producers, in the District;



3/10/2017

2. Monitor regulatory barriers to the development of a local food economy, including barriers to the operations of farmers markets, existing food assets in the local food economy, and job creation potential in the local food economy,
3. Collect and analyze data on the local food economy and food access in the District, including an assessment of food deserts; and
4. Monitor and research national best practices in food policy, including public health policy for dietary-related illness, and determine how they could be implemented in the District.
5. Report annually on these findings to the Council of the District of Columbia and report to the Council and relevant agencies more frequently if needed;
6. Actively work towards equity for all in policies, legislation and practices for the DCFPC and challenge institutional and structural systems that perpetuate racial, social injustice, and inequity.

DCFPC-WIDE PRIORITIES

1. Communications & Outreach Strategy

- a. Information sharing about all aspects of the food system
- b. Data collection and using this information to guide decision making
- c. Advocating for core priorities and required goals of the FPC
- d. Broadening the conversation to be more inclusive

2. Fundraising

- a. Sustainable ongoing funding for government food programs
- b. Funding for the FPC specifically – work to illuminate, and expand support for food policy and the Food Policy Council in the budget
- c. Identifying and expanding the available funding in support of the FPC's goals, programs, and legislative initiatives from external institutions or private resources
- d. Assisting with funding for small local community groups and organizations

3. Growing a Network

- a. Prioritizing events & engagement around different aspects of the food system
- b. Coordinating and strategizing food policies across District government agencies as well as regional and federal partners
- c. Taking an equitable approach to all that we do. Being conscious of the intersectionality of gentrification & larger systemic forces on the city.
- d. Prioritizing collaboration and facilitation for all.

DCFPC PRIORITIES FOR WORKING GROUPS (SHORT TERM 1 year, LONG TERM 3 year)



3/10/2017

OVERALL IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

- a. Assess existing District food policies, current conditions, food system stakeholders, and community needs for our local food system. Report annually on existing conditions to the Mayor, Council, and community.
- b. Develop annual action plan and engagement strategy that spells out the cost, duration, priority, and accountability for each strategy.
- c. Assess progress of the FPC at least twice annually and report on outcomes publically.

PRIORITIES

1. Food Equity, Access, and Health and Nutrition Education –

- a. SHORT TERM – Focus on overhauling FEED DC Act to help meet goal of promoting the development of full-service supermarkets in underserved communities as well as including nutrition education and funding to meet its goals; examples may include cooperative support, smaller grocery support, etc.
- b. SHORT TERM - Promote city's use of federal nutrition programs (SNAP, WIC, school meals, summer meals, child care meals, and out-of-school time meals) and maximize city's leveraging of federal dollars.
- c. LONG TERM – Oversee and assist the implementation of FEED-DC. Solidify plans for supermarket developments in Wards 7 & 8. Protect and strengthen use of federal and local nutrition programs in DC through adoption of policies and work to maintain entitlement structure of the programs.
- d. *Sustainable DC Food Goal 2*: Ensure universal access to secure, nutritious, and affordable food supplies. Target: By 2032, ensure 75% of residents live within ¼ mile of a community garden, farmers' market and/or healthy corner store.

2. Sustainable Food Procurement –

- a. SHORT TERM – Focus on school food including, how we can make school food procurement processes and policies more transparent. Work with the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) to update the Healthy Schools Act (HSA), and convene stakeholders around central kitchen facility included in the HSA.
- a. LONG TERM – Study the Good Food Policy program, work with DC Public Schools and other partners determine if the program is a good fit for DC.
- b. LONG TERM – Focus on wasted food in the District by learning more about the scope of the issue, opportunities to shift policy, and opportunities to engage. Determine role for DCFPC in food waste issue and collaborate with partner organizations to advance food waste.



3. [Local Food Business and Labor Development –](#)

- a. SHORT TERM – Support the FPC food economy assessment by providing input, direction, and assistance with research. Study the food policies, regulations, and legislation that affect food businesses and compile for easier sharing with the business community.
- b. SHORT TERM – Assist with the Cottage Food Act guidelines, regulations, and implementation of the new law. Assist with marketing the Cottage Food Act business opportunity to community members, new and existing businesses and work with the Department of Health.
- c. LONG TERM – Support food polices that support FEED-DC Act supermarket tax incentive and food retailers.
- c. *Sustainable DC Food Goal 3*: Develop the food industry into a strong and viable economic sector. Target: By 2032, produce or obtain 25% of food within a 100-mile radius.

4. [Urban Agriculture and Food System Education –](#)

- a. SHORT TERM – Focus on the implementation of the existing D.C. Urban Farming and Food Security Act of 2014 legislation and collaborating with DC agencies to get land in the hands of local farmers. Pursue potential amendments to it and determining which other specific fixes may be needed to influence and improve it for local farmers.
- d. LONG TERM – Provide support for key challenges for urban agriculture including land access, barriers to production, community education, community garden training and support.
- e. LONG TERM – Assess the current state of food system education in DC and collaborate with partners to expand and systematize it as a core part of education for DC’s youth.
- f. *Sustainable DC Food Goal 1*: Increase agricultural land uses within the District. Target: By 2032, put 20 additional acres of land under cultivation for growing food.