WASHTENAW FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

Ann Arbor Sustainability Forum
AADL
April 9, 2015

Nicole Chardoul, Chair WFPC
Mission and Background

• MISSION: The Washtenaw County Food Policy Council (WFPC) increases and preserves access to safe, local and healthy food for all residents of Washtenaw County

• HISTORY

- May 2012
  - WFPC Formed
- June 2012
  - Policy Action Teams Formed
- July 2012
  - Council Retreat
- July 2013
  - Policy Agenda Approved
- August 2013 - July 2014
  - Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation Grant
- September 2014
  - Presentation to Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners (BOC)
- November 2014
  - BOC endorses Policy Agenda
- January 2015
  - Communications Committee Formed
Washtenaw Food Policy Council Vision

• Provides **access** to healthy and culturally appropriate food for all residents
• Values and **preserves community land** for food production
• Maximizes the use of **local**, regional and seasonal **foods**
• Meets the **needs** of the **present generation** without compromising the needs of future generations
• Create a food system that promotes **economic development** and a **sustainable local economy**
Who We Represent

- Community
- Farmers
- Emergency Food
- Schools
- Non-Profits
- Institutions
- Food Businesses
- Local Government
- Labor
Actions to Date

• Letter to Congress to preserve SNAP benefits
• Comments on the USDA proposed rule on Local School Wellness Policies
• Sign on to President Obama in support of child nutrition program funding

• Prepared report on hoophouses to inform Ypsilanti Master Planning Process
• Working to amend County Purchasing Policy to include local and Environmentally Preferred Food Service Products

• Comments on the Food Safety Modernization Act
• Hosted letter writing campaign for comments on the Food Safety Modernization Act

• Surveyed local units of government on planning process related to the food system
• Commented on the Michigan Association of Planners Draft Land Use Policy for Food Systems Planning
## Community Engagement

- Local Food Summit – March 2014 and February 2015
- HomeGrown Festival – September 2014
- Co-hosted “Growing Cities” screening celebrating Food Day 2014 – October 14, 2014
- Co-hosted (with Michigan Voices for Good Food Policy) Food Safety Modernization Act Comment writing at Wolverine Brewing – December 2, 2014
- Co-hosted the film, "Food Chains" at the University of Michigan – February 5, 2015
- Information tables at local farmers markets to celebrate Food Day
- Presentations to student groups / student involvement
Policy Action Teams

Food Access & Nutrition

Food Waste & Packaging

WFPC

Planning & Zoning

Farmers & Institutional Purchasing
Policy Agenda and Change at Multiple Levels

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<th>POLICY AGENDA</th>
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### Federal/State
- Preserve and Increase Funding
- Programs/Models

### County
- Economic Development
- Purchasing Policies

### Municipalities
- Model Ordinances
- Guidelines

### Institutions
- Purchasing Guidelines
- Best Practices

### Schools
- Program Participation
- Waste Policies
Agenda Items by Issue Area

8. Reduce enrollment barriers for food assistance programs

13. Increase the availability, affordability and sensory appeal of nutritious and, when possible, local and sustainable food

15. Improve transportation to food access sites (grocery stores, farmers markets, food pantries, etc.)

22. Increase participation in and utilization of school nutrition programs
2. Coordinate with municipal planning departments to include food systems in the Master Planning Process

3. Place an emphasis on food system development in the countywide economic development strategy, utilizing SPARK and other county resources to ensure siting and investment of food system infrastructure

6. Utilize foreclosed/vacant/abandoned land in the food system

14. Establish recommendations and standards regarding need, timing, siting, and market saturation of farmers markets

19. Provide model ordinance language around mobile food vending

20. Provide model ordinances, data and tools for municipalities to conduct Health Impact Assessment as part of the planning process

21. Develop model ordinances that allow small scale food production on residential, commercial, industrial and public land
4. Support change to the County Procurement Policy to give preference to locally grown, processed, and prepared foods, local goods and services, with an aim of the County and its vendors purchasing 20% of food products locally by 2020.

9. Reduce barriers for small farmers to participate in the marketplace.

10. Identify and support programs and policies that increase access to capital for local farmers and food producers.

12. Encourage institutions to adopt policies and practices leading to purchase 20% of food products locally by 2020.
Agenda Items by Issue Area

5. Amend the Environmentally Preferred Purchasing section of the County Procurement Policy to mandate the purchase of foodservice ware and packaging that is reusable, compostable, or recyclable

7. Advocate that municipalities implement a landfill ban on commercial and institutional organic material generated within 20 miles of a composting facility or anaerobic digester

16. Establish policies around the donation of surplus food

17. Set goals and standards for municipal sanctioned events to be zero waste compliant

18. Provide model solid waste ordinance language to encourage all municipalities to include a commercial and residential organics collection program

23. Develop and offer guideline materials and encourage school boards to adopt zero waste programs at K-12 schools

FOOD WASTE & PACKAGING
1. Identify opportunities for the County to engage in establishing a living wage and safe working conditions for all food service and seasonal/migrant farm workers.

11. Recommend and support that institutions within the county take measures to preserve our essential pollinator populations by utilizing pesticide free grounds management practices.
7. Advocate that municipalities implement a landfill ban on commercial and institutional organic material generated within 20 miles of a composting facility or anaerobic digester.
Future Directions

Continue to build membership of Policy Action Teams and Communications Committee to build the Council’s capacity to conduct research, educate and advocate for changes outlined in policy agenda.

Network and share resources with other food policy councils in Michigan.

Seek additional funding to support Council work.
Stay In Touch and Get Involved!

Come to our meetings, join a PAT or Communications Team

Meeting dates: https://www.washtenawfoodpolicycouncil.wordpress.com

Like us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/WashtenawFood

Follow us on Twitter: @washtenawfood

FOR ACTION ALERTS & UPDATES

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