

Friday Chickens!

Planning Strategies for Building Resilient Local Food Economies

Presentation to the North Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association
September 16, 2016

Places shape plans.
Plans shape places.
And everyone,
everywhere, eats.



NC GROWING TOGETHER

*Connecting Local Foods
to Mainstream Markets*



COMMUNITY FOOD STRATEGIES

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Community Food Strategies

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Coordinator
Community Food Strategies
CEFS



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Nat
of F
Ag

Competition Time!



Mmmm. Prizes.

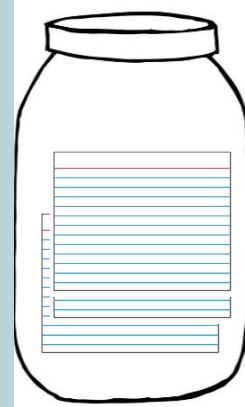
Share ideas, win prizes



LISTEN

A template for an index card with horizontal blue lines. The text "INNOVATIVE IDEA" is centered in the upper half, and "NAME" is centered in the lower half.

WRITE
YOUR IDEAS (ONE ON EACH CARD) ABOUT HOW YOU COULD USE THESE RESOURCES IN YOUR COMMUNITY (INCLUDE YOUR NAME)



SHARE
INDEX CARDS IN THE JAR DURING Q&A (WE'LL PASS THE JAR AROUND)



WIN!
WE'LL DRAW 3-5 CARDS AT RANDOM, SHARE THE IDEAS OUT LOUD, AND THOSE FOLKS WIN LOCAL FOOD PRIZES!

Why would planners care about local foods?

NATIONAL AG STATISTICS



of American consumers **prefer food grown in the U.S.** from regional sources



13 million acres of farmland needed to produce the minimum daily requirement of fruits and veggies in the US for US consumers by 2020



US Farmers' markets have increased **350%** since 1994



APA has included food systems in its planning policy guide since 2007; USDA has maintained farm-to-fork initiatives since 2000

N.C. AG STATISTICS



Agriculture & agribusiness account for **1/6 of NC's income and employees.**



Total income in Agriculture and Food industries in NC is **\$70.5 billion** (a **14.6% share of NC income**).



NC ranks **8th in the nation** for agricultural production. More than **17% of gross state product** is contributed by food, forest and fiber industries.



Of all NC farms, almost **75%** are family-owned small to medium-sized businesses reporting less than \$100,000 in farm revenue per year.

So, what's local?

Localities and regions are encouraged to create custom definitions of "local" that account for regional geographic, demographic, and land influences. Custom definitions allow for effective place-based planning and development solutions.

**Data sources are provided on the final slide.*

Why would local food systems need planners?

Local food systems need the unique skills, capacities, and abilities of local and regional planners:

- Skills in spatial and data-based analysis
- A deep knowledge of the communities served
- Awareness of the connections between and across communities
- Partnerships at multiple decision-making levels
- Knowledge of community input & feasibility processes
- Access to technologies and innovations to simplify and engage in the planning process

Food systems offer solutions to many significant social, cultural, and built environment issues that can help planners better meet the needs of their communities.

Food systems offer economic benefits that are place-based, specific to a region's existing natural, built, and human resources.

Food system placemaking is on the leading edge of innovative, multi-disciplinary planning strategies & ideas.

Learning the language

Local food economies encompass everything that is associated with a local food system.

This includes the entire food supply chain – from production to consumption – as well as affiliated businesses and structures.



How community planning decisions are impacted by local food economies

Motivations & Impacts of Asset-Based Development of Local Food Systems

- **Rural/urban community dialogue and partnership: markets and values**
 - Opportunities for rural youth (the “brain drain” problem)
- **Land preservation and land use strategies**
- **Emergency/crisis planning**
- **Regional economic development strategies**
 - Economic impact of agriculture & food entrepreneurship
 - Revitalization of downtowns, vacant land, and urban centers
 - Agritourism
 - Systems approach: private sector opportunities across multiple industries

Succession

The next farming generation...

- Average age of NC farmer: 59
- Average age of US farmer: 55

Land Loss

Farmland lost to development

- 1997: 4.8 million acres annually
- 2012: 24.5 million annually
- 2016: 40 acres per hour

Economics

Get your regional mojo back 😊

- Placemaking and authentic asset-based development
- Innovative, location-based strategies
- Resiliency

Planning Strategies for Food System Development

Zoning & Regulations

- Ag-supportive zoning: setbacks, infrastructure
- Working with the bona fide farm exemption
- Community gardens, urban agriculture, and farmers' markets

Town of Matthews, NC
City of Winston-Salem, NC

Development Strategies

- Conservation development
- Incentives for farmland conservation
- Farmland protection plans & programs

Durham County
Wetrock Farms

Strategic & Long-Range Planning

- Whole-systems approach to food & supply chains
- Infrastructure planning for supply chain expansion

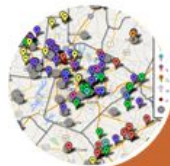
Camp Lejeune & Jacksonville, NC
Cape Fear Regional Council

Economic Planning

- Local food economies as a recruitment tool
- Local food economies as a creation, retention, and expansion tool

NC Association of Regional
Councils & the NC Tomorrow Plan

FOOD SYSTEMS PLANNING PROCESS



ASSESSMENT

- Data, GIS
- Food System Assessments
- Farmland inventory
- EQUITY



ECONOMICS

- Local gov purchasing
- Market analysis & support
- Agricultural economic development
- Business & entrepreneurship development



REGULATIONS

- Zoning updates
- Farmland preservation plan
- Bona fide farms



COMMUNITY

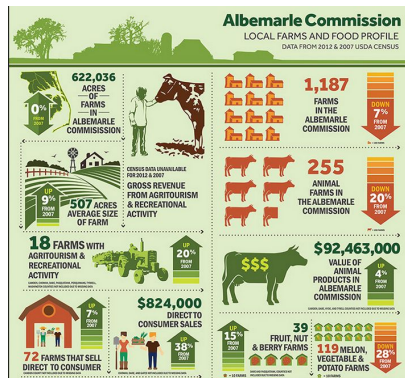
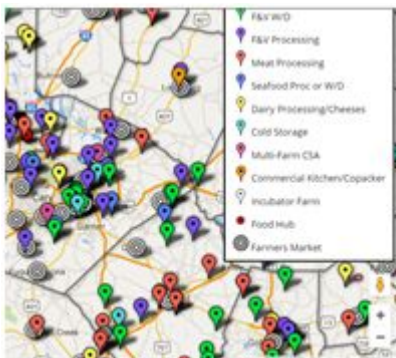
- Food policy councils
- Community partners
- Bridging social capital



MAKE IT LAST

- Comprehensive plans are just the start
- Adopted policies and programs
- Committed funds

CEFS & NCGT Resources



A Government Guide on Building Local Food Economies

Other North Carolina Resources

- Community Food Strategies
- Carolina Farm Stewardship Association
- North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
- North Carolina Cooperative Extension

National Resources

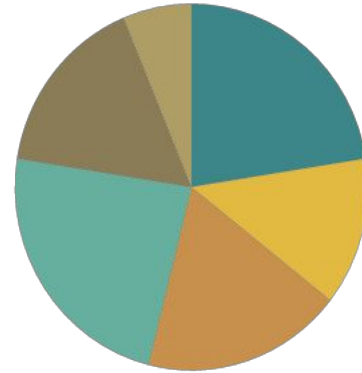
- USDA's Economic Impact of Local Foods Toolkit
- USDA's Farm to Fork Resources
- American Planning Association
- Southern SAWG
- National Institutes of Health

Why food councils?

Food councils are community voices organized to help create the conditions needed for a resilient community-based food system to emerge.

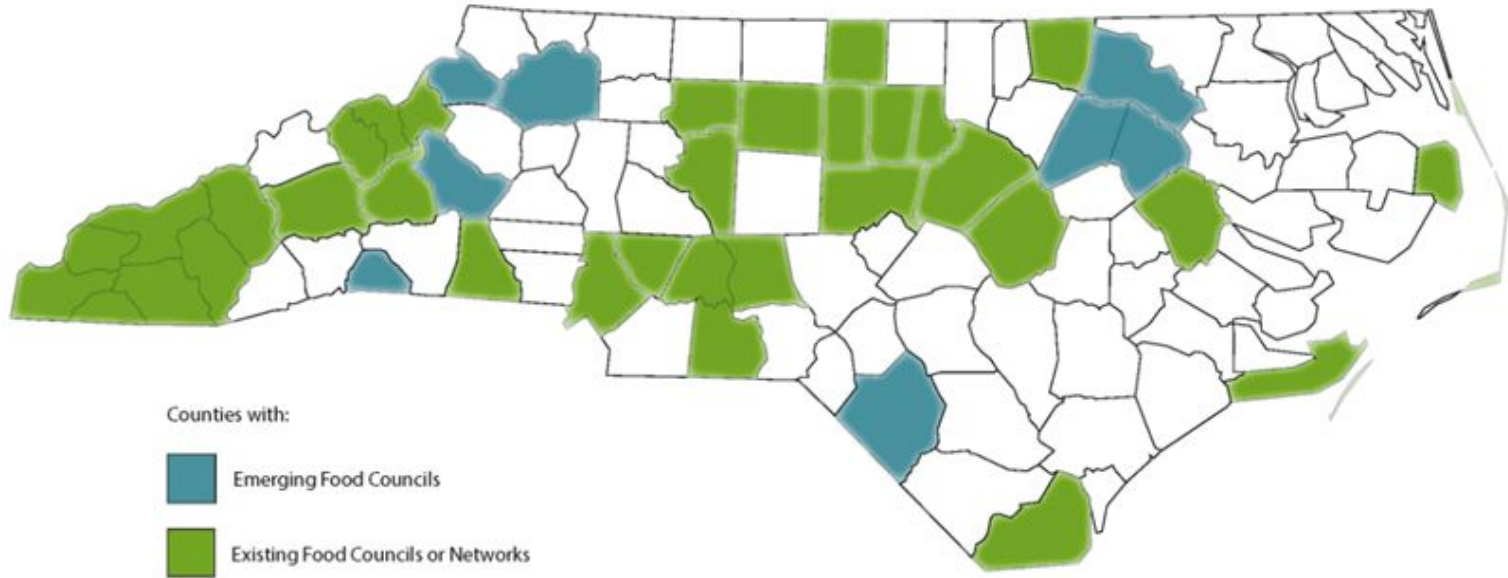


In most of our communities, many people in lots of different sectors work to address issues that intersect with food.



Councils provide a shared way of thinking about the *whole* food system by including voices from many different sectors.

35 food councils existing or emerging in NC



What can food councils do (with your help)?

Councils convene diverse, cross-sector community groups to:



Assess the current food situation

Six counties supported the creation of baseline assessments of their community food system.



Make **recommendations** on how to improve it

Forsyth Community Food Consortium gave significant input into the County's comprehensive plan.



Inform leaders and the community

Guilford Food Council co-hosted a Local Foods Week with several partners helping raise awareness and inform consumers of local food and farm benefits.

Why would planners need food councils?

Local food councils in NC:

- Have large networks that are engaged in food, health and agricultural issues
- Are connected with statewide advocacy networks
- Are connected to statewide and national networks working on many aspects of food production, food distribution, food access and food waste
- Are supporting farmers markets, food hubs, CSA's and other local food distribution models
- Are making relationships with local and state elected officials
- Are connected to the Local Food Council of NC

The potential of the regional approach



2016 Regional Food Council Gatherings Summary

In 2016, Community Food Strategies and the Local Food Council of North Carolina (LFCNC) partnered with other organizations across the state to host six regional gatherings. LFCNC representatives were present at each gathering. More than 340 people attended and 26 local food councils were represented.

#/#/#
attendees/counties/FCs* involved

REGION

Planning Partner

- Key Goals
- Key Goals

*FCs = Food Councils

90/17/4
WESTERN

- Appalachian Food Project
- Networking
 - Whole Measures Framework

60/12/7
TRIAD

Piedmont Triad Regional Council

- Networking
- Economic Development

55/11/4
CHARLOTTE

Cabarrus Farm & Food Council

- Networking
- Regional Visioning

55/7/5
TRIANGLE

- UNC School of Government
- Story-telling / Messaging
 - Regional Visioning

50/4/1
SOUTHEAST

- Feast Down East
- Leadership Development
 - Working with Planners

30/8/5
NORTHEAST

- Working Landscapes
- Networking
 - Supply Chain Development





Triad Regional Gathering of Food Councils

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Working Landscapes

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SENC Regional Food Systems Assessment:

Local Food, Food Insecurity, and Healthy Eating & Nutrition



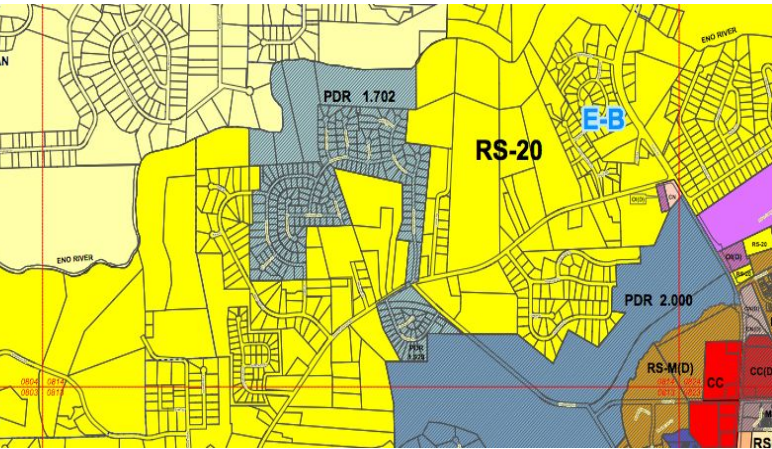
Southeastern North Carolina
Regional Health Collaborative

Strategic Policy Advocacy



Durham Unified Development Ordinance - 2006

Crop Production: Agricultural crop production is not currently permitted in most zoning districts within the City limits. Current regulations permit agricultural uses only within the Rural Residential (RR) and Residential Suburban-20 (RS-20) zoning districts within City limits. Agricultural uses within the County are exempt from zoning regulations due to State statute.



The intent of the amendment is to allow crop production within all zoning districts within City limits, while providing basic supplementary requirements. The following summarizes the proposed regulations that would apply only within the City jurisdiction:

1. Maintain permissibility of all agricultural uses within the RR and RS-20 zoning districts within City limits, and expand crop production as a permissible use within all other zoning districts within the City.
2. Require on-site parking when permanent structures are proposed for on-site sales.
3. Establish supplemental prohibitions on aquaponics and the sale of compost.

Concerns have been raised regarding the exclusion of aquaponics (the growing of crops within water with fish, and using fish effluence as nutrients for the plant material) and the commercial sale of compost. The Planning Department recognizes these as important aspects of crop production; but the impacts of such uses and activities on neighboring properties warrant further research and review and are beyond the scope of this text amendment.

DURHAM



1869
CITY OF MEDICINE

CITY OF DURHAM | DURHAM COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

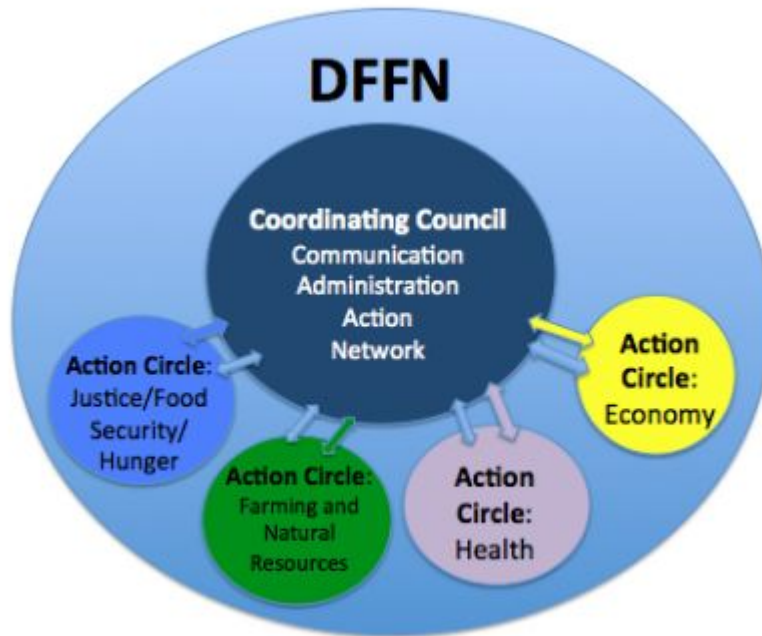


Summary. Current Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) regulations limit the permissibility of both farmers' markets and agricultural crop production. The goal of the proposed text amendment is to establish broader permissibility along with explicit supplementary requirements. These text amendments would primarily modify the use table, limited use standards, and temporary use permit provisions of the UDO.

Recommendation. Staff recommends approval. The Planning Commission recommended approval with a 12-1 vote on December 11, 2012.

DURHAM FARM AND FOOD NETWORK

Creating a collaborative, innovative, and sustainable food system.



Strategic Policy Advocacy

STRATEGIC ADVOCACY TOOLKIT FOR FOOD COUNCILS

[Home](#)

[About](#)

[Strategic Advocacy](#)

[County Links](#)

[Additional Links](#)

[Community Food Strategies](#) 



CREATE YOUR OWN POLICY CHANGE STRATEGY

**1) Identify
Issues**

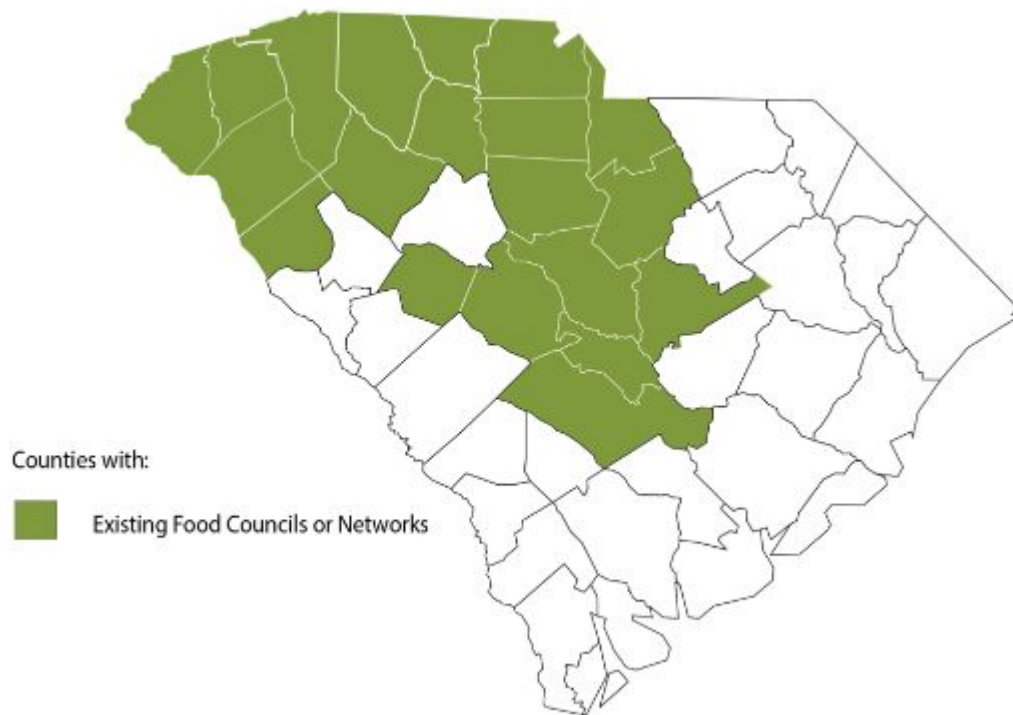
**2) Prioritize
Issues**

**3) Strategic
Networking**

**4) Create
Your Own
Strategic
Policy
Change Plan**

Food Councils in SC

- Catawba Farm and Food Coalition
- Midlands Food Alliance
- Midlands Local Food Collaborative
- Upstate Food Working Group
- South Carolina State Food Policy Council





Catawba Farm and Food Coalition

Supporting the food system of Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, Union and York Counties and the Catawba Indian Nation



The Catawba Farm and Food Coalition is the Community Food Council for Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, Union and York Counties in South Carolina. The Coalition exists to support and strengthen both our local food economy and the health of our citizens.

Focus Areas



Producer and Consumer Education

Learn how to grow
and market your own
products.



Agribusiness Development

Find the tools you
need to start and
grow your food-
based business.



Local Food Sales and Marketing

Find your favorite
farmers market or
explore our
agritourism
experiences.



Policy and Planning

Help guide the future
of our local food
system.

[Learn more >>](#)

1) Identify Issues

Workforce development funding from Dept of Commerce is not being put towards agricultural training.

Comprehensive plans in the region do not include much language about active living, access to healthy and fresh food, and have limited references to food and agriculture.

SC Dept of Ag and Clemson are not providing sufficient FSMA training and educational workshops.

2) Prioritize Issues

1. Comprehensive plans in the region do not include much language about active living, access to healthy and fresh food, and have limited references to food and agriculture

2. SC Dept of Ag and Clemson are not providing sufficient FSMA training and educational workshops.

3. Workforce development funding from Dept of Commerce is not being put towards agricultural training.

3) Strategic Networking

Meet with planners

Meet with Planning Commission

Meet with County Commissioners

Meet with City Council and Town Council members

4) Create Your Own Strategic Policy Change Plan

Catawba Regional Comprehensive Plans Inventory



jared@carolinafarmstewards.org

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Help All changes saved in Drive

Comments

Share

Print Undo Redo Paste \$ % .0_ .00 123 Arial 10 Bold Italic Underline Font Color Background Color Text Color Bulleted List Numbered List Decrease Indent Increase Indent Link Unlink Filter Sum

Comprehensive Plan Contact e-mail

| | A | B | C | D | E | F |
|----|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Location (City, County) | Link to Plan | Comprehensive Plan Contact Name | Comprehensive Plan Contact e-mail | Comprehensive Plan Status | Public Hearing Dates |
| 32 | Union | | Kara Drane, Robbie Moody | | Starting comprehensive planning process now | |
| 33 | Union | | | | | |
| 34 | Jonesville | | | | | |
| 35 | Lockhart | | | | | |
| 36 | Carlisle | | | | | |
| 37 | Cross Keys | | | | | |
| 38 | | | | | | |
| 39 | York | http://www.yorkcountygov.com/depart | Allison Love, planner | | public comment Feb 2016 | |
| 40 | Rock Hill | https://issuu.com/cityofrockhill/docs/ | Erin Musiol, planner | | 2020 plan recently completed | |
| 41 | City of York | | David Breakfield, York; Robbie Moody | | | |
| 42 | Clover | http://www.cloversc.org/pView.aspx | Allison Harvey, Town Manager | | Due for update 2017 | |
| 43 | Tega Cay | http://www.tegacaysc.org/DocumentCenter/View/7421 | | | Updated in 2014 | |
| 44 | Fort Mill | http://fortmillsc.gov/vertical/sites/%7 | Joe Cronin, Fort Mill | | starting in 2017, approval planned in 2018 | |
| 45 | Smyrna | Fall under York County | | | | |
| 46 | Brattonville Historic District | | | | | |
| 47 | Hickory Grove | Fall under York County | | | | |
| 48 | McConnells | Fall under York County | | | | |
| 49 | Sharon | Fall under York County | | | | |
| 50 | Tirza | Fall under York County | | | | |
| 51 | | | | | | |

+ ☰

Sheet1





SOUTH CAROLINA HEALTH + PLANNING TOOLKIT

A HEALTHY EATING AND ACTIVE LIVING POLICY GUIDE



moving york county forward...together



YORK FORWARD

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

ADOPTED JULY 18TH, 2016



SUPPORT LOCAL FARMS

WHY IS THIS A PRIORITY?

Residents said preserving farmland and local farms is important to protect the beauty of the region and create jobs. Ensuring the economic stability and long-term viability of local farms will assure that rural areas throughout the CONNECT region continue contributing.

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

- Bring food issues to the forefront of local government. Support farmers and local food production.
- Connect residents to their food systems.
- Address equity and access to food.
- Foster communication and collaboration among diverse stakeholders to improve food access and distribution.
- Conduct Additional Research to identify how residents define "local" and determine the messages and values that resonate.

WHAT CAN RESIDENTS DO?

- Shop at stores that stock locally sourced foods
- Visit your local farmer's market
- Support legislation that promotes local farms and food production



GROWTH MANAGEMENT AND COOPERATION



LOCAL FOOD COUNCIL



FARM TO SCHOOL



REGIONAL GIS DATA CENTER



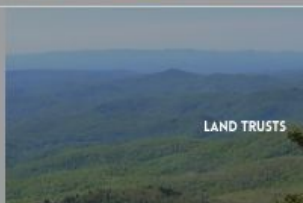
HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS PORTAL



COMMUNITY GARDENS



HERITAGE AND AGRI-TOURISM



LAND TRUSTS



VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURE DISTRICTS



"BUY LOCAL" CAMPAIGN



COMPOSTING



CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT



FARM TO TABLE



LAND USE MODELING



BUSINESS AND EDUCATION TRAINING FOR FARMERS

**Catawba Farm and Food Coalition
Policy and Planning Workgroup**

Food and Farming Policy Toolkit
For
Comprehensive Planning
Updated: 8-3-2016

Intro...

Availability

Ensure productive and preserved agricultural land, foster the development of new farmers, and catalyze agribusiness development.

Access

Ensure enhanced and equal access to purchasing local food.

Recovery and Redistribution

Ensure food waste is reduced while feeding those in need and encouraging new partnerships.

| 1. Does your plan support the availability of local, healthy food? | | |
|--|---|--------|
| Goals | <i>Productive and preserved agricultural land, new farmers, and agribusiness development.</i> | Yes/No |
| Indicators | A. Prioritizes new sidewalks, greenways, and public transit routes, etc. that connect residents to existing and proposed outlets for local, healthy foods. | |
| | B. Provides for new and beginning farmer support. | |
| | C. Ensures a prepared and protected agricultural workforce. | |
| | A. Provides opportunities for commercial urban agriculture. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Urban farms b. Community gardens | |
| | B. Protects soil and water quantity. | |
| | C. Protects rural agriculture land. | |
| | D. Supports local food processing. | |
| | E. Supports infrastructure for food-based business development. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Value-added product development b. Kitchen incubators | |

2. Does your plan support access to local, healthy food?

| Goals | <i>Enhanced and equal access to purchasing local food.</i> | Yes/No |
|-------------------|---|--------|
| Indicators | A. Supports infrastructure for purchasing locally sourced foods. a. Farmer's Markets (Year-round) b. Food aggregation (hubs) c. Local Food Retail Outlets d. CSAs e. On-line markets f. "Fresh on the Menu" Restaurants | |
| | B. Supports use of SNAP/EBT, <u>eWIC</u> , and/or Senior nutrition benefits at farmers markets and other healthy food outlets. | |
| | C. Prioritizes new sidewalks, greenways, and public transit routes, etc. that connect residents to existing and proposed outlets for local, healthy foods. | |
| | D. Supports healthy and local food sales and service in public facilities. | |

3. Does your plan support the beneficial recovery of food waste, including the redistribution of local, healthy food waste for consumption?

| | | |
|-------------------|--|--------|
| Goals | <i>Reduce food waste while feeding those in need and encouraging new partnerships.</i> | Yes/No |
| Indicators | A. <i>Reduce</i> food waste by improving product development, storage, shopping/ordering, marketing, labeling, and cooking methods. | |
| | B. <i>Recover</i> food waste by connecting potential food donors to hunger relief organizations like food banks and pantries. | |
| | C. <i>Recycle</i> food waste to feed animals, support food-based product development, and create compost, bioenergy and natural fertilizers. | |

Sample Goals, Policies and Examples

1. Does your plan support the **availability** of local, healthy food?

| Indicator 1A: Provides for new and beginning farmer support | |
|---|---|
| Sample Goal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of farmers within a jurisdiction. |
| Sample Policy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an incubator farm to train and mentor a new generation of farmers. |
| Examples | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 501(c)3 Non-profit including partnership with Cabarrus County government and Cabarrus County Cooperative Extension developed the Elma C. Lomax Incubator Farm in Cabarrus County, NC. <i>Is this in a comprehensive plan?</i> |

| Indicator 1B: Ensures a prepared and protected agricultural workforce | |
|---|--|
| Sample Goal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create an Agriculture Workforce Strategy to Grow Green Jobs. |
| Sample Policy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote programs and strategies, especially cooperative solutions that create better living conditions for farm laborers, including labor housing standards that are federally compliant, living wages, affordable healthcare, and human services for workers and their families. |
| Examples | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Charleston County Comprehensive Plan.</i> Support individuals, farmers and organizations involved with local food production and implement the strategies developed by the Charleston County Council Agriculture Issues Advisory Committee to promote agriculture in the area. pg. 133 (p. 34 of SC toolkit). |

| Indicator 1C: Provides opportunities for commercial urban agriculture | |
|---|--|
| Sample Goal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect existing and establish new urban agriculture sites, including home gardens, community gardens, and urban farms as important community resources. |
| Sample Policies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt zoning regulations that establish community gardens as a permitted use in appropriate locations. The city/county supports the use of public and private vacant lots, including school yards, for community gardens. |
| Examples | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Charleston County Comprehensive Plan.</i> Support individuals, farmers and organizations involved with local food production and implement the strategies developed by the Charleston County Council Agriculture Issues Advisory Committee to promote agriculture in the area. pg. 133 (p. 36 of SC toolkit) <i>City of Rock Hill Comprehensive Plan.</i> Retrofit vacant properties in neighborhoods or downtown with community gardens. (p. 119). <i>City of Rock Hill Comprehensive Plan.</i> Retrofit vacant properties in neighborhoods or downtown with community gardens. (p. 119). <i>City of Rock Hill Comprehensive Plan.</i> Amend the Zoning Ordinance to make it easier for small-scale farms to operate in the City. (p.119) |

| Indicator 1E: Protects rural agriculture land | |
|---|--|
| Sample Goal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve and sustain regional farmland as a significant source of locally grown food that is beneficial for residents of the County. |
| Sample Policy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain agricultural production as the principal use on agricultural lands by limiting residential development, provide incentives to discourage conversion to non- agriculture uses, increasing the acreage under conservation easements, and prohibiting uses that are incompatible with long-term agricultural production. |
| Examples | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Beaufort County Comprehensive Plan</i> Rural Policy Goal: Beaufort County will promote the long-term viability of agricultural uses. pg. 4-19, 4-20. (see p. 34 of SC toolkit). <i>York County Comprehensive Plan</i>. Land Use Consider adding new zoning or modifying districts for mixed use, medium - high density residential development, protected lands and conservation subdivisions.(p.83) <i>York County Comprehensive Plan</i>. LU-4.1.2 Discourage rezonings of rural lands (i.e. lands designated as Rural Residential (RR) and Agricultural (AG) on the Future Land Use Map) to higher intensity residential uses (unless rezoning allows a Conservation Subdivision—see LU-4.2). (p. 87). <i>York County Comprehensive Plan</i>. NR-1.1.2 Ensure protected open space, agricultural, scenic, historic and cultural areas are given a distinct open space/agricultural land use designation. (p. 87/95). <i>York County Comprehensive Plan</i>. LU-4.2.2 Prepare design guidelines for Conservation Subdivisions that demonstrates how development can be sensitively integrated while avoiding or mitigating impacts to the natural features. Consider these general design guidelines such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open space requirements that exceed underlying zoning districts (i.e. >40%) Conservation Subdivision design that will protect water quality, key natural or cultural features Clustering of development away from key natural features such as riparian buffers, mature upland and floodplain forest, rock outcroppings, vernal pools, view sheds from rural roads, etc. (p. 87). |

| Indicator 1D: Protects soil and water quantity | |
|--|---|
| Sample Goal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and preserve agricultural land and resources, including soil, water, and forage. |
| Sample Policy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discourage non-agricultural buildings, impermeable surfaces, or other non-agricultural uses on soils classified by the Natural Resources Conservation Service as prime farmland soils of statewide importance. |
| Examples | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>York County Comprehensive Plan</i>. York County Comprehensive Plan Regulate stormwater discharge in York County's urban areas in accordance with Federal regulations. pg. NR-12 (see p. 34 of SC toolkit) <i>York County Comprehensive Plan</i>. NR-1.1.12 Adopt context sensitive residential density and design standards that promote physical activity, protection of sensitive habitats, steep slopes, and watersheds. (p.95) <i>York County Comprehensive Plan</i>. CF-1.6 Discourage expansion of water / sewer and other public facilities that could increase development pressure in areas identified on the land use map that should remain agriculture and in some cases rural residential, except where needed due to conditions which prevent reliance upon well / septic systems. (p. 103) <i>York County Comprehensive Plan</i>. LU-4.2.2 Prepare design guidelines for Conservation Subdivisions that demonstrates how development can be sensitively integrated while avoiding or mitigating impacts to the natural features. Consider these general design guidelines such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open space requirements that exceed underlying zoning districts (i.e. >40%) Conservation Subdivision design that will protect water quality, key natural or cultural features Clustering of development away from key natural features such as riparian buffers, mature upland and floodplain forest, rock outcroppings, vernal pools, view sheds from rural roads, etc. (p. 87). |

Ready to get moving?

CEFS, Community Food Strategies, and Carolina Farm Stewardship Association, along with dozens of partners statewide, are excited to work with communities interested in developing resilient food economies.

Check the resource table by the door before you leave, and feel free to contact us any time!

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Ideas shared by session participants on how planners and local food systems organizers can work together:

- Research into how to conserve farmland as part of a development plan or such as a subdivision or mixed use development
- Use COG's in NC to schedule presentations at County Board of Commissioners meetings to talk about food councils - what they do; how they can be formed, etc (If there is a food council in that county do a presentation on what that food councils does).
- Would like to get the food councils involved with NC-CATCH (seafood efforts)
- Having known contracts that assist with grants and organization
- Info/work sessions for elected and appointed officials --offers more in-depth discussion/exploration of food systems beyond the standard meetings, but also in a public environment (note that in Raleigh, such meetings can be live-streamed via the City's TV network - afterwards available in archive form)
- Connection with local land trusts
- Make some of our comprehensive plans include strategies for food economy and security

Ideas shared by session participants on how planners and local food systems organizers can work together:

- Involve public health officials (food safety, health issues, etc).
- Involve medical community (health issues, possible funding, etc).
- Involve Soil & Water Division
- Have the Cooperative Extension office lead the food council effort (many resources)
- Take a look at ordinances to see if there is anything preventing access to fresh food
- Update UDO to allow agricultural uses that may be prohibited
- Increase access to inexpensive healthy food for lower-income residents: cost, transportation options
- Approach hospital systems to help fund the development and/or implementation of a food policy.
- Our planning firm has some grant funding to create a new agritourism food trail branding/marketing initiative for the High Country COG region. Your presentations convinced me to pull any existing regional food councils into the mix for their insight and ideas - 'Destination by Design'

Ideas shared by session participants on how planners and local food systems organizers can work together:

- Use of conservation subdivisions
- Find out if a local food council exists in my area
- Simply meeting regularly with local extension agents to know what issues are important to farmers responding to land use concerns
- Joint municipal and county agreements/MOUs to protect farmland and build local markets
- Vertical farming (crops planted in stackable shipping containers) + Rooftop crops
- Stats per capita, per county/state: calorie needs, calorie needs met by local farms, nutritional needs met by local farms, recommendation for local understanding overall land use needs and how state can provide for citizens needs; how can these stats inform land use allocations toward resiliency for NC
- Pursue development of a regional food assessment and strategic plan to include: creation of food council in every county; use the tools presented to ID crops of strategic investments to help local communities to create a robust regional network
- Land banks → preserve agriculture. A possibility could be to explore community land banks to keep farmland in agriculture

Questions shared by session participants, and some quick answers from session presenters:

- Q: Need to establish a local food council. Who can assist?
 - Community Food Strategies
 - Website: www.communityfoodstrategies.org
 - Email: apiner@ncsu.edu
 - Complete request for assistance [HERE](#)
- Q: Primary use: educating planning board and city council about economic benefits of a thriving food economy/system. How do very small towns near the Charlotte metro integrate?
 - Charlotte Metro area was involved in the CONNECT Our Future project; many of those recommendations are relevant to smaller towns seeking to connect in to urban markets: <http://www.connectourfuture.org/support-local-farms/>.
 - Centralina Council of Governments has done a lot of work in this area; perhaps start with their regional planning department to see what opportunities exist: <http://www.centralina.org/regional-planning/>.
 - The Local Food Economies initiative has a number of tools for educational use and advocacy: www.localfoodeconomies.org.
- Q: How do I find out if a local food councils exists in my area?
 - This page has a list of all food councils in NC <https://communityfoodstrategies.com/what/network/members/>