

Food Policy Councils: What's going on in other cities and states?
City Council Health and Environmental Committee
February 3, 2009

States

New York State Food Policy Council, 2007

- Council will make recommendations to ensure a coordinated and inter-agency approach to food policy
- Bring new and diverse expertise to food policy
- Identify ways to increase the sale of NY agricultural products

Connecticut, 1995

- Purpose: To develop, coordinate, and implement a food system policy linking economic development, environmental protection, and preservation with farming and urban issues.
- Review and comment on state legislation and regulations that impact food policy and food security.

Counties

Seattle-King County, Washington, 2006

- The City Council President is exploring options for creating a new FPC. Meanwhile, an acting FPC is working on regional food systems issues and developing policy priorities for the next two years. (Members are from the city, county, the state university, the business community, and non-profit sector.)
- Developed a series of issue papers, such as "Greenhouse Gas Emission and the Local Food System"

Other Cities

Berkeley, 2001

- Developed a "food and nutrition policy" in 2001 – the first in the nation and in regular use.
- Active for three years with 90 members
- The Council disbanded and members moved on to implement projects with Parks and Recreation, Summer Meals programs, Farmer's Markets, Eat Well Berkeley Restaurant program, and other food policy actions.

Chicago, 2002

- The Chicago Food Policy Advisory Council recently released a report, “Building Chicago’s Community Food Systems”
- In 2008, the council has hosted a Food Policy Summit, held quarterly meetings with 300 attendees, worked with the City Council to stop a ban on raising chickens in the city, and identified opportunities for the City of Chicago to take action.

Cleveland-Cuyahoga County, 2007

- The Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Food Policy Council was organized in August 2007
- Initially organized through a program of the Cleveland Department of Public Health and was initially supported by a grant.
- Two primary objectives are:
 - Create a forum that brings people together from all aspects of the food system to generate new relationships and cross learning;
 - Initiate research, policies, and programs that increase food security and social and economic opportunity for food producers, distributors, and consumers

Toronto, 1991

- Six page list of accomplishments
- Produced the “City of Toronto Declaration on Food and Nutrition” in 1991
- Produced 15 discussion papers such as incorporating food security in urban planning
- Helped initiate policy and program cooperation between many players in the food security movement.
- Developed an information service, the FoodLink Hotline, that lists local food action programs
- Co-authored the Ontario Public Health Association’s Food and Nutrition Strategy Statement.

Baltimore

- November 7, 2008: Mayor Sheila Dixon announced the formation of a Food Policy Task Force to improve city residents’ access to healthy foods.
- The task force will meet three times and submit recommendations in spring 2009.
- Members include the directors of city departments and representatives from supermarkets, grocers’ associations, nonprofits, and Johns Hopkins University



Hartford, 1991

- City of Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy
- Two duties (among others): To ensure the price of food in the city remains at a level comparable to the level for the state. Monitor and analyze the administration of city food distribution programs. The Commission advises municipal officials on key issues relating to food and nutrition
- Accomplishments:
 - Improved city bus routes for better supermarket access
 - Awards grants annually to individuals or organizations that demonstrate successful strategies to improve access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food within the City of Hartford.
 - Begun in 1996 in partnership with the Citizen's Research Education Network, the Commission's Supermarket Surveys are a research tool designed to track the changes and differences in prices at a variety of area supermarkets.

City of Worcester, 2008

- City of Worcester, including the Dept. of Health and Human Services and Parks & Recreation, Worcester County Food Bank, United Way of Central MA, Worcester Public Schools, Mass. Dept. of Agriculture, the Family Health Center of Worcester, St. Vincent Hospital.
- *Hunger Free & Healthy*: a pilot project that will decrease hunger by treating it as a symptom of poverty and addressing root causes (grant funded by Health Foundation of Central MA)
- *Summer Food Service Program*

Boston, current

- The Mayor is considering a Food Policy Council and has stated that food issues are a priority.
- The Food Project and the Boston Collaborative for Food and Fitness (a collaborative of over 50 organizations funded by a Kellogg planning grant) is leading the effort.

Dorchester, 2007

- Community groups, including The Food Project
- Identified a need for healthier food in their neighborhood
- Approached neighborhood restaurants and pizza shop and asked them to add fresh salads to the menu and a vegetable pizza – this has increased local business.
- Started a farmers' market.