Building Local Government Support for Good Food

An NGFN Webinar
Marty Gerencer
Program Manager,
National Good Food Network
contact@ngfn.org
NATIONAL GOOD FOOD NETWORK

Moving more good food to more people

John Fisk, PhD
Director, Wallace Center at Winrock International

Marty Gerencer
Manager, National Good Food Network

March 3, 2010
NATIONAL GOOD FOOD NETWORK: VISION
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**Increase** small- and medium-sized grower viability

**Add** economic vitality to rural and urban areas

**Reach** children and families where they live
NATIONAL GOOD FOOD NETWORK: ACTIVITIES
NATIONAL GOOD FOOD NETWORK: GOALS

Supply Meets Demand
• There is abundant good food (healthy, green, fair and affordable) to meet demands at the regional level.

Information Hub
• The National Good Food Network (NGFN) is the go to place for regional food systems stories, methods and outcomes.

Policy Change
• Policy makers are informed by the results and outcomes of the NGFN and have enacted laws or regulation which further the Network goals.
NATIONAL GOOD FOOD NETWORK: LOCATIONS

Includes RLTs, Advisory Council, P4 Grantees, contractors etc.
NATIONAL GOOD FOOD NETWORK: STRUCTURE

Advisory Council:

• Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
• American Friends Service Committee
• Michael Fields Agricultural Institute
• Good Natured Family Farms
• Food Alliance
• Appalachian Sustainable Development
• Sustainable Food Lab
• SCALE, Inc.

• SYSCO-Grand Rapids
• Karp Resources
• WellSpring Management
• Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association
• Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture
• Farm to Table / Southwest Marketing Group
• NE Sustainable Agriculture Working Group
• Center for Food and Justice at Occidental College
Regional Lead Teams (11 regions):

**West**
- Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association, Salinas, CA
- Center for Food and Justice at Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA

**Southwest**
- Farm to Table / Southwest Marketing Network, Santa Fe, NM
- American Friends Service Committee, Albuquerque, NM

**Southeast**
- Appalachian Sustainable Development, Abingdon, VA

**Northeast**
- Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group, Belchertown, MA
- Sustainable Food Lab at The Sustainability Institute, Hartland, VT

**Midwest**
- Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Ames, IA
- Sysco and NGFN Partnership Regions: in Grand Rapids, Kansas City and Chicago
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www.ngfn.org
contact@ngfn.org
231/638-2981
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Presenters

• Mark Winne  
  Food Policy Council Project Director  
  Community Food Security Coalition

• Paul Hubbard  
  Land Use Program Coordinator  
  Community Food & Agriculture Coalition
Food Policy Councils

Presented by Mark Winne, Food Policy Council Project Director, Community Food Security Coalition – mark@foodsecurity.org, www.foodsecurity.org

- Mark Winne was the executive director of the Hartford (Conn.) Food System (1979 – 2003)

- Co-founder of the City of Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy and the State of Connecticut Food Policy Council

- Provider of technical assistance to over 100 emerging and developed food policy councils, networks, and coalitions

- Member and co-founder of the Santa Fe, NM FPC

- Author of Closing the Food Gap: Resetting the Table in the Land of Plenty (Beacon Press 2008)
The “3-Ps” of effective community food system work: Projects, Partners, and Policies

The private (for-profit and non-profit) and public sectors have developed numerous food and farm projects, programs, businesses, and services at the state and local levels.

Partnerships have been forged to improve networking, coordination, and collaboration.

But local and state public food policies have not been fully engaged to promote a just and sustainable food system. This is the primary task of FPCs.

Food Policy: The actions and in-actions of all levels of government that influence the supply, quality, price, production, distribution and consumption of food.
No state or local government has a “Department of Food”; FPCs can be a de facto Dept. of Food.

They can serve as a food system planning venue for nutrition and health, food security, natural resources and food production, and the food economy.

Membership is comprised of representatives from an area’s food system: government (local or state), academia, community members, farmers and gardeners, food banks, restaurants, retailers, and faith communities.

They work to coordinate and focus numerous government functions – health, planning, economic development, education, agriculture, social services – around local or state food system concerns.

FPCs tend to be advisory; they address local/state food regulatory, budgeting, legislative, programmatic, and administrative functions.
FPC Operation (cont’d)

- FPCs can work across (synergistically) government lines; they look for intersections between programs at all levels of government.

- FPCs conduct public education and awareness campaigns such as the promotion of local food buying or to highlight the need for an obesity reduction initiative; may conduct community food assessments and other research.

- Organizational issues: FPCs can be created by state statute or local ordinance, an executive order, or may be independently organized (government agencies participate but FPC is not a part of government).

- Private, non-profit groups often conduct grass-roots advocacy to create FPCs, and may provide staff, funding, and other resources.

- FPCs may link to other local efforts such as an obesity reduction coalition or a mayor’s office of sustainability.
We estimate there are 100 FPCs in North America (only a few in Canada)

75 FPCs were contacted for the survey; 39 FPCs responded: 7 state, 17 county or multi-county (regional), and 14 city

A small number are joint city/county FPCs

About 50% of FPCs have no staff; 40% have less than 1 FTE; 10% have 1 to 3 FTEs

Most (60%) of state FPCs are part of gov’t; some (20 to 40%) of local/county FPCs are a part of or have a strong connection to gov’t

Between 8 and 28% of FPCs have no funding; between 16 and 50% receive some gov’t funding; Foundations fund about 25% of FPCs

The only known federal sources of FPC funding are the Community Food Project Competitive Grant Program and RMA
FPC Actions and Accomplishments...a sampling

- The New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council: Created school nutrition rules governing use of competitive foods; developed and expanded a farm to school program; expanded funding for farm enhancement grants (new farm marketing and value-added enterprises); currently working on a new economic development initiative to address the lack of high quality grocery stores in “food desert” rural counties

- Cleveland/Cuyahoga County FPC: Instrumental in securing zoning changes that protect community gardens, urban farms, and raising of chickens and bees; expanding urban agriculture through use of city economic development funds for such enterprises, and promoting use of city/county purchasing for locally grown food; working with Case Western Reserve University and Oberlin College to buy local food
Missoula, Mont. FPC working with county land use board to direct development away from prime farm and ranchland

Boulder County FPC working with county government to develop a plan for the sustainable agriculture use of 25,000 publicly-owned acres of farmland

Fresno, CA food policy coalition worked with city planning office to secure zoning changes to protect farmers’ markets and protect community gardens; also included significant food-related components (farmers’ markets, community gardens, supermarkets, and protected farmland) in a plan for annexation of 9,000 acres
City of Hartford FPC worked with city WIC agency to improve service delivery that restored WIC caseload to 10,000 from 6,000 persons; conducted public transportation study that led to the creation of a new bus route that connects the city’s lowest income residents to new supermarkets;

State of Connecticut FPC conducted major public education campaign regarding loss of the state’s farmland that resulted in the development of $30 million per year in state funding for farmland preservation, a farm to school initiative, and farm viability grant program; coordinated and improved the delivery of nutrition education services that were previously operated independently by 5 separate state agencies; developed a plan that brought the EBT program to most of the state’s farmers’ markets; currently working on the development of new livestock slaughter and processing facilities.
FPCs in the Pipeline

- City of Seattle and King County working on creation of a food policy council as part of the area's larger sustainability initiative
- Salt Lake City FPC is the “food expert” on the newly formed Mayor’s Office of Sustainability
- San Francisco has announced a new region-wide sustainable food initiative that includes a FPC
- Los Angeles recently announced the creation of a FPC
- Legislation to create a Massachusetts Food Policy Council is close to passage
With limited resources and occasional resistance from large food and agriculture groups, FPCs have demonstrated the ability to identify, and secure important local and state policy gains.

Their comprehensive focus – from food security to sustainability – often makes FPCs the only place where systemic and coordinated local or state food system work take place.

Given the enormous complexity of the food system, the number of stakeholders, and the vast array of local, state, and federal food and farm programs, well-staffed and adequately resourced local and state food system planning, educating, and coordinating entities have become an increasing necessity.

FPCs should receive additional financial and training support to expand their numbers and effectiveness, and to ensure a just and sustainable food system for all.
Resources

- Food Policy Program
  [http://www.foodsecurity.org/FPC](http://www.foodsecurity.org/FPC)

- Food Policy Councils: Lessons Learned
  [http://www.foodsecurity.org/pubs.html#fpc](http://www.foodsecurity.org/pubs.html#fpc)

- Closing the Food Gap: Resetting the Table in the Land of Plenty by Mark Winne
  [http://amzn.to/akNVad](http://amzn.to/akNVad)

- Mark Winne
  [mark@foodsecurity.org](mailto:mark@foodsecurity.org)
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  Community Food Security Coalition

• Paul Hubbard
  Land Use Program Coordinator
  Community Food & Agriculture Coalition
The Community Food and Agriculture Coalition

www.missoulaCFAC.org
Joint Resolution Number 6889

A RESOLUTION TO ACTIVELY SUPPORT EFFORTS TO INCREASE THE SECURITY OF OUR LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM SO THAT IT IS BASED ON A SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE WHICH ENHANCES THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND BUILDS REGIONAL SELF-RELIANCE AND SO THAT ALL CITIZENS HAVE ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS AND AFFORDABLE FOOD.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article II, section 3 of the Montana Constitution, entitled inalienable rights, all persons have certain inalienable Constitutional rights that include the right to a clean and healthful environment, pursuing life’s basic necessities and seeking their safety, health and happiness in all lawful ways; and

WHEREAS, it is within the power and responsibilities of local governments in Montana to secure and promote the general public health, safety and general welfare of the individuals within their respective local government jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, a recent comprehensive study has identified a number of threats to and concerns about the long-term security of Missoula County’s food and farming system; and

WHEREAS, a healthy agricultural system is a valuable part of our cultural heritage, contributing to open space, wildlife habitat, and other public benefits, and is integral to the long-term security of our food system; and

WHEREAS, Missoula County is losing many of its working farms and ranches due to problems associated with low economic returns from agriculture and pressures from development; and

WHEREAS, a major challenge in rebuilding our local food system is to devise strategies that will address the need for farmers and ranchers to earn a fair price for their products while maintaining consumer affordability; and

WHEREAS, the primary food-related concern of Missoula County citizens is food quality, such as food safety, pesticide residues on food and availability of organic and local foods; and

WHEREAS, cost of living issues, specifically low wages, pose significant barriers to accessing healthy, nutritious foods for low-income individuals and their families; transportation to food outlets is an emerging concern for low-income individuals; emergency food providers are seeing an ever increasing need for their services; and public social services remain underutilized; and

WHEREAS, there are many different organizations working individually on various issues regarding food and farming in Missoula County, no existing entity takes an integrated approach to solving these issues;
Farm to School
Pounds local food served to students through Missoula Farm to School, 2005 to present
CFAC’s Farmland Conservation Activities & Collaborations

• Subdivision Regulations: Definition of Ag.
  – City Council & County Commissioners
  – Planning Office

• Subdivision Proposals.
  – Developers
  – Planning Office
  – City Council & County Commissioners
  – Stakeholder Groups

• Neighborhood Plans.
  – Neighborhood Associations & Working Groups
  – Planning Office

• Land Use Policy.
  – Planning Office
  – Stakeholder Groups
  – Elected Officials
  – Landowners
  – Developers
Please continue to type your questions into the questions box...
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NGFN Webinars

- 3rd Thursday of each month
  3:30p EST (12:30p PST)

- All webinars archived

→ http://ngfn.org/webinars
Upcoming Webinars

Aug 19:
The Healthy Urban Food Enterprise Development Center (HUFED)

http://ngfn.org/webinars
“Transformed factors that once stymied their performance and profitability – smaller scale, modest ambition, limited local ownership, and high social standards – into powerful competitive advantages vis-à-vis multinational food businesses.”

http://www.refresheverything.com/communityfoodenterprise

Vote once per day, every day!
NGFN and Food Safety

- Conference call every second Tuesday of the month open to the public (3:30p ET)
- Food Safety FAQ
- New Q&A series “Food Safety Talks”
- Monthly Briefings, and more!

http://ngfn.org/foodsafety
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