

The purpose of the Food Policy Council is to improve dialogue and discussion and provide necessary advice on food and agriculture issues to the county, municipalities, community boards, local agencies, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and other interested groups. The Council will address food system issues in the county, including the development of the Council’s Governing Principles and strategic goals, data-gathering, research projects, and policies to address food system issues.

Vision

The Johnson County Food Policy Council envisions a resilient, equitable, community-based food system rooted in the nourishment and celebration of all people and the Earth.

Definitions

Our **food system** includes the processes and infrastructure involved in feeding a population: growing, harvesting, processing, packaging, transporting, marketing, consumption, and disposal of food and food-related items. A **foodshed** is a geographic region in which there is a flow of food from where it is grown to a place where it is consumed.



Sustainable Agriculture is defined by U.S. Code Title 7, Section 310 as “an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that over the long-term will: satisfy human food and fiber needs, enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agriculture economy depends, make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm resources and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls, sustain the economic viability, and enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole.”

Values

<p>Community-based A community-based food system celebrates cultures and place and is strengthened by dialogue and collective decision making.</p>	<p>Equitable An equitable food system centers peoples’ dignity, provides fair compensation for labor, and meets the social and physical needs of all people addressing historic and institutional barriers informed by race, class, disability, gender and other identities.</p>	<p>Resilient A resilient food system actively supports a thriving, sustainable environment, facilitates diverse systems, and adapts to meet emerging needs.</p>
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Goal 1: Support community connections in the food system

Objective #1: Build relationships between the council and food system stakeholders to understand community needs

Strategies		Internal Leaders	Timeframe
Build relationships across Johnson County			
	<i>Tactic - Identify and reach out to community stakeholders in rural areas, villages, and cities</i>	All FPC	April 2022
	<i>Tactic - Invite guest speakers that represent geographic and demographic diversity</i>	FPC Leadership Team	Monthly
Promote connectivity among community organizations			
	<i>Tactic - Attend group meetings with intersectional work including racial equity centered work</i>	All FPC	Monthly
	<i>Tactic - Invite local food groups to collaborate on relevant work</i>	All FPC	Bi-annually
Engage with more stakeholders through community networking and educational events			
	<i>Tactic - Host public forum with space for community discussion</i>	All FPC	Annually
	<i>Tactic - Host a community-based food systems networking event</i>	All FPC	Feb 2022
	<i>Tactic - Explore creation of awards honoring community member contributions to the food system</i>	FPC Marketing	Annually
Build relationships with food system and farm workers			
	<i>Tactic - Recruit a food system and/or farm worker to the council</i>	FPC Marketing	July 2022

Objective #2: Build connections between growers, processors, and infrastructure resources

Strategies		Internal Leaders	Timeframe
Explore existing networks of value-added and processed food entrepreneurs and commercial kitchens			
	<i>Tactic - Continue learning from existing entrepreneur groups to identify policy barriers (i.e. CWJ, Colectivo de Negocios, etc.)</i>	Working Group TBD	Ongoing
	<i>Tactic - Reach out to existing community, economic development groups (i.e. ICAD, Think Iowa City, etc.)</i>	Working Group TBD	Ongoing
	<i>Tactic - Use survey to determine needs for value-added processing community networking event or group</i>	FPC Infrastructure	June 2021

Objective #3: Strengthen the relationships between members of the council as well as the staff liaison and supervisor representative.

Strategies	Internal Leaders	Timeframe
Support active working groups		
<i>Tactic - Ask every member to participate in a working group</i>	All FPC	Ongoing
<i>Tactic - Have working group updates at each monthly meeting</i>	All FPC	Monthly
Facilitate opportunities for people to connect during monthly meetings		
<i>Tactic - Icebreakers during introductions</i>	Chair	Monthly
<i>Tactic - Opportunities to connect one on one or in small groups</i>	FPC Leadership Team	Monthly
Support projects of the Local Foods Coordinator		
<i>Tactic - Provide recommendations or feedback</i>	All FPC	Ongoing
<i>Tactic - Bring ideas for engagement and relevant conversations</i>	All FPC	Monthly

Goal 2: Create and share transformational narratives to shape the food system

Objective #1: Communicate about the council, our work, and our vision to the Johnson County community -- Increase awareness of the Johnson County Food Policy Council

Strategies	Internal Leaders	Timeframe
Create and share out media about the council		
<i>Tactic - Share out 1 post via social media Johnson County</i>	FPC Marketing	Monthly
<i>Tactic - Annual report on council activities</i>	FPC Marketing	Annually
<i>Tactic - Share out at least one guest column in county newspapers</i>	FPC Marketing	Annually
<i>Tactic - Share an introduction about the council & members</i>	FPC Marketing	Jan 2022
Make monthly meetings more accessible to the public		
<i>Tactic - Record meetings and post to County website</i>	Local Foods Coordinator	Monthly
<i>Tactic - Rotate meeting and event locations throughout Johnson County</i>	FPC Leadership Team	Quarterly
Communicate regularly with the Johnson County Board of Supervisors		
<i>Tactic - Present updates twice a year</i>	Chair & Vice Chair	Sept 2021
<i>Tactic - Staff liaison meet monthly with Board liaison</i>	Local Foods Coordinator	Monthly
Represent Food Policy Council at public events		
<i>Tactic - Update tabling materials</i>	FPC Marketing	July 2021
<i>Tactic - Attend at least 3 public events each year</i>	All FPC	July 2022

Objective #2: Pursue educational opportunities to stay informed as council members representing the Johnson County community

Strategies		Internal Leaders	Timeframe
Build education into internal meetings and communications			
	<i>Tactic - Host experts in the field and community members at 6 monthly meetings</i>	FPC Leadership Team	Annually
	<i>Tactic - Share educational resources among council members</i>	All FPC	Ongoing
Connect with regional, state & federal policy happenings			
	<i>Tactic - Designate liaisons for Regional Food System Working Groups of Iowa and neighboring food policy councils</i>	FPC Leadership Team	Annually
	<i>Tactic - Liaisons provide regional, state, and federal policy updates at council meetings</i>	FPC Leadership Team	Quarterly
Integrate new ideas from the community into Food Policy Council work			
	<i>Tactic - Create reports on annual public forums</i>	Local Foods Staff	Oct 2021
	<i>Tactic - Review FPC Strategic Plan annually for updates</i>	FPC Leadership Team	June 2022
	<i>Tactic - Advertise public comment & agenda item submittal options to public</i>	FPC Marketing	Oct 2021

Objective #3: Increase intersectional understanding of racial and social equity in food systems

Strategies		Internal Leaders	Timeframe
Facilitate food justice conversations at Food Policy Council meetings		FPC Food Justice	Monthly
	<i>Tactic - Rotate discussion leads among working groups</i>	All FPC	Quarterly
Host at least one Food Justice centered community conversation		FPC Food Justice	2022
Connect with food security and hunger relief, affordable housing, living wage, and accessible transportation advocates and stakeholders		FPC Food Justice	2022
Understand impacts of disabilities on food system participation			Jan 2023
	<i>Tactic - Connect with JC Historic Poor Farm Disability Advisory Group</i>	FPC Food Justice	June 2022
Investigate opportunities for building relationships and partnerships with Native American/American Indian communities			Nov 2022
	<i>Tactic - Collaborate with University of Iowa Native American Council to learn about Land Acknowledgments</i>	FPC Food Justice	June 2022

Objective #4: Leverage council connections, research and expertise to provide evidence-based recommendations

Strategies		Internal Leaders	Timeframe
Integrate data collection in various forms into working groups' process			
	<i>Tactic - Establish research scan, focus groups, surveys, interviews as ways to collect quantitative and qualitative data</i>	All FPC	Annually (Jan/Feb)
Develop a set of indicator metrics for community-based food systems			
	<i>Tactic - Research data available for racial / social justice metrics intersectional with food systems</i>	FPC Food Justice	Nov 2021
	<i>Tactic - Reach out to community partners such as the University of Iowa departments, JC Public Health, and Common Good Iowa</i>	Working Group TBD	Annually (tent. May)

Goal 3: Identify and advocate for inclusive, community-led policy solutions and public investment opportunities

Objective #1: Strengthen the infrastructure for our community-based food system (foodshed?)

Strategies		Internal Leaders	Timeframe
Explore opportunities for shared space and collaborative business connections			
	<i>Tactic - Assess food storage space for accessibility and size</i>	FPC Infrastructure	Oct 2021
	<i>Tactic - Reassess processing needs with Iowa Kitchen Connect</i>	FPC Infrastructure	Nov 2021
	<i>Tactic - Evaluate community locations for potential shared space</i>	FPC Infrastructure	Nov 2021
Support food hubs to expand local food access to institutions			
	<i>Tactic - Advocate for continued financial investment in food hubs as driver for economic and community development</i>	FPC Infrastructure	Ongoing
	<i>Tactic - Support staffing needs through investment and funding for technical assistance for farm and food businesses</i>	FPC Infrastructure	Ongoing
	<i>Tactic - Advocate for financial support to public institutions and nonprofits to purchase more locally grown food for distribution</i>	Working Group TBD	Ongoing

Objective #2: Remove barriers for community-based farmers and food system entrepreneurs

Strategies		Internal Leaders	Timeframe
Monitor changes to the Johnson County Unified Development Ordinance, JC Comprehensive Plan, and other policies			
	<i>Tactic - Receive notice of potential policy changes through updates from BOS liaison</i>	BOS Liaison	Ongoing
	<i>Tactic - Provide recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, Planning and Zoning Commission, and other relevant committees</i>	All FPC	Ongoing

Expand accessibility of starting and expanding value-added food entrepreneurial businesses			
	<i>Tactic - Explore need for translation services</i>	Working Group TBD	Ongoing
	<i>Tactic - Explore need for mentorship and training on food safety and business regulations and procedures with JC Public Health</i>	Working Group TBD	Ongoing
Support increasing capacity for local, small-scale animal raising and processing			
	<i>Tactic - Research statewide for creative, safe, sustainable solutions</i>	Working Group TBD	Ongoing
	<i>Tactic - Work with local processors to identify barriers</i>	Working Group TBD	Ongoing
	<i>Tactic - Follow state task force for HF857 to explore issues related to the lack of meat processing labor force</i>	Working Group TBD	Jan 2022
Increase land access for community-based farmers			
	<i>Tactic - Provide input for the Johnson County Historic Poor Farm</i>	Working Group TBD	Ongoing
	<i>Tactic - Strengthen connections with land owners and land seekers</i>	Working Group TBD	Dec 2022
	<i>Tactic - Develop a racial equity lens for land accessibility</i>	FPC Food Justice	Dec 2022

Objective #3: Explore possibilities for Good Food Purchasing Policy in Johnson County

Strategies		Internal Leaders	Timeframe
Build relationships with institutions making wholesale food purchases			
	<i>Tactic - Set up one-on-one meetings with institutions</i>	Working Group TBD	Dec 2022
	<i>Tactic - Build on existing partnerships with Field to Family Food Hub</i>	Working Group TBD	May 2022
	<i>Tactic - Connect with students at the University of Iowa's Office of Sustainability working on the Real Food Challenge</i>	Working Group TBD	May 2022
Learn from other communities nationwide using similar policies			
	<i>Tactic - Research best practices and policy examples</i>	Working Group TBD	Ongoing
	<i>Tactic - Follow-up with Chicago Food Policy Action Council</i>	FPC Chair	Aug 2021

Objective #4: Establish the vision of an Equipment Share Program to support farmers and gardeners

Strategies		Internal Leaders	Timeframe
Support proposal creation through community input			
	<i>Tactic - Collaborate with cities to promote food production opportunities within city limits</i>	FPC Equipment Sharing	May 2022
	<i>Tactic - Collaborate with Iowa Valley RC&D as they create a large-scale equipment share program</i>	FPC Equipment Sharing	Sept 2021