III. LOCAL FOOD POLICY GOALS AND ISSUES [F-5]

This section contains a number of examples of goal statements and ordinances from various communities. Also, there is some discussion of the types of policy issues found at the local level.

A. Goal statements and resolutions from Knoxville, TN, St. Paul, MN and Onondaga County, NY. [F-3]

1. Knoxville, TN.
   b. "A Resolution of the Council of the City of Knoxville expressing its support of an effort to
      improve the quality, availability, and accessability of food delivery systems for all citizens, and
      designating the Community Action Committee's Food Supply Project as Coordinator of this

2. St. Paul, MN.
   a. Ordinance of the City of St. Paul, MN, establishing a Food and Nutrition Commission and
      providing for its powers and staffing, July 8, 1992

3. Onondaga County, NY
   a. Onondaga Food System Council, Inc., "A Comprehensive Approach to Our Local Food

B. Different organization approaches used by food policy councils. [F-4]

"Food Policy Councils: The Experience of Five Cities and One County." Ken Dahlberg. Paper
presented at the Joint Meeting of the Agriculture Food and Human Values Society and the Association for
the Study of Food and Society, Tucson, AZ, June 11, 1994.

C. Examples of policy statements from St. Paul, and Toronto. [F-5]

1. Saint Paul Food & Nutrition Commission, "Municipal Food Policy." City of Saint Paul,

2. "Agricultural policy making must be changed if sustainability is to be achieved, says just released
   report." News Release from the Toronto Food Policy Council announcing release of its report,
SAINT PAUL FOOD & NUTRITION COMMISSION

MUNICIPAL FOOD POLICY

November 19, 1987
Room 365 City Hall
Saint Paul,
Minnesota
(612) 296-4323
SAINT PAUL MUNICIPAL FOOD POLICY

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CITY OF SAINT PAUL

FOOD AND NUTRITION COMMISSION

Jim Scheibel, Chairperson, City Council member
Katheryn M. Anderson
Jim Blaha
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John Flory
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PREAMBLE

People, regardless of where they live, have certain basic needs - the need for shelter, for food, for health and for a sense of security. In the democratic community, these values are expressed as rights or entitlements accorded Its citizens and deemed to be In the best Interests of the total community.

Values are made real In the life of the community through the development of policies, the enactment of Implementing laws and the adoption of practices which reflect those values. (Systems for fire and police protection are the most familiar of these arrangements.)

Most major cities have not taken responsibility for the development of policies addressing the basic need for food of their citizenry. The post World War II changes In the system which brings food to our table Insulated the consciousness of urban leaders and citizens alike. The ongoing availability of safe, nutritious and affordable food was assumed.

This Is no longer the case. The emergence of persistent hunger as an urban Issue, expanding awareness of the connections between diet and disease. between agricultural production practices and the contamination of food products found on the grocer's shelves and the retreat of the Federal government from Its role In the food policy-making process, are all factors contributing to a growing concern among urban dwellers for the security and the fairness of their food system.

The Saint Paul Municipal Food Policy Is an attempt by government leaders and citizen Interests to provide a framework within which the City can take action to address the range of food policy and program Issues Identified during the life of the Food and Nutrition Commission. This policy Is, In the final analysis,

* a statement of values,

* a declaration of responsibility,

* a call for action.

The primary value statement is that food, as a basic need for survival of the human community, is a right and a responsibility of the citizens of this City; the City declares that it will assume the responsibility to provide the leadership and direction required to give life to this value, and it proposes to establish the cooperative framework within which the City, as a government entity and as a community of people can take action to achieve the policy objectives set forth in this document.
SAINT PAUL MUNICIPAL FOOD POLICY

GOALS

1) Assure that all Saint Paul citizens have access to safe, affordable and nutritious food.

2) Protect and strengthen the region's capacity to supply safe, nutritious and affordable food to Saint Paul citizens.

3) Assure that the Saint Paul Municipal Food Policy Is Implemented upon Its adoption by the City Council and that It Is periodically reviewed and updated as appropriate.

STATEMENTS OF POLICY

GOAL 1:

Assure that all Saint Paul citizens have access to safe, affordable and nutritious food.

I. ISSUE: GEOGRAPHIC ACCESS TO FOOD

It is the policy of the City of Saint Paul to assure that all of its citizens, regardless of where they live in the City, their income, physical disability, or ownership of private transportation, have access to food outlets offering competitively priced, nutritious foods.

II. ISSUE: ECONOMIC ACCESS & FOOD AFFORDABILITY

It is the policy of the City of Saint Paul to assure that all of its citizens have their basic nutritional needs met without persistent dependence on the emergency food system.

III. ISSUE: FOOD SAFETY

It is the policy of the City of Saint Paul to eliminate the exposure of its citizens to hazardous substances and to substantially reduce its citizens' exposure to potentially hazardous substances employed in the production, processing and preservation of food.

IV. ISSUE: NUTRITION & HEALTH

It is the policy of the City of Saint Paul to promote and support the dietary recommendations made in "Healthy By Choice, the Minnesota Plan for Nutrition and Health' to raise awareness, increase knowledge, and improve overall food choices made by its residents.

V. ISSUE: COOPERATION

It is the policy of the City of Saint Paul to work cooperatively with its citizens, voluntary associations, regional farmers, the private food business sector, county and regional governments and government units concerned with the local resource base to realize the objectives of the City's food policy.
GOAL 2:

Protect and strengthen the region's capacity to supply safe, nutritious and affordable food to St. Paul citizens.

I. ISSUE: RESOURCES FOR FOOD PRODUCTION

It is the policy of the City of St. Paul to pursue and support development policies that protect and enhance the capacity of St. Paul citizens to produce a portion of their own food supply, and of regional farmers to produce food for consumption in the City.

II. ISSUE: ENVIRONMENTAL & CITIZEN PROTECTION IN THE PRODUCTION OF LOCAL FOODS

It is the policy of the City of St. Paul to assure that the environment is not degraded, nor its citizens exposed to environmental hazards in the production or processing of local foods.

III. ISSUE: MARKETING OF LOCALLY GROWN FOODS

It is the policy of the City of St. Paul to pursue and support policies that maximize the percent of locally-grown foods in the City's food supply.

IV. ISSUE: EDUCATION ON THE FOOD SYSTEM

It is the policy of the City of St. Paul to assure that its citizens have access to information and educational programs about the system of production, processing and marketing that supplies food to the City.

V. ISSUE: NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

It is the policy of the City of St. Paul to include small-scale, neighborhood-based food production, processing and marketing businesses in its development plans.

VI. ISSUE: COMPOSTING/RECYCLING

It is the policy of the City of St. Paul to cooperate with its citizens and with regional farmers to maximize re-use of yard and food waste generated in the City, and to minimize the generation of non-recyclable materials by the City's food system.

OBJECTIVES

GOAL I

ISSUE: GEOGRAPHIC ACCESS TO FOOD

OBJECTIVES
A. Increase the accessibility of competitively priced full service grocery stores to low income and disabled St. Paul citizens who do not have such stores in their neighborhoods.

B. Increase the opportunities for lower income and disabled St. Paul citizens without access to private transportation to purchase groceries without leaving their homes.

II. ISSUE: ECONOMIC ACCESS & FOOD AFFORDABILITY

OBJECTIVES

A. Create a competitive climate among food retailers regarding their pricing of 'basic' food items.

B. Increase low Income and limited mobility St. Paul citizens' access to direct or wholesale buying.

C. Reduce the number of St. Paul citizens routinely requiring emergency food assistance.

D. Create and support economic opportunities for low income City residents, enabling them to afford to pay for basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing.

III. ISSUE: FOOD SAFETY

OBJECTIVES:

A. Increase the Information available to consumers at point of sale regarding known and potentially harmful practices used in the production, processing and preservation of foods sold in the City.

B. Reduce the availability of foods sold throughout the City that have been exposed to known or potentially hazardous substances and processes.

C. Increase the availability of foods sold throughout the City that have not been exposed to known or potentially hazardous substances or processes.

D. Increase consumer awareness of known and potentially harmful Practices used in the production, processing, preservation and handling of foods sold in the City.

IV. ISSUE: NUTRITION & HEALTH

OBJECTIVES:

A. Improve the nutritional status of St. Paul citizens. Indicators of poor nutritional status include anemia, low birth weight and short stature among infants and children. By 1995, the following goals should be met: Reduce anemia among pregnant WIC (Women, Infants and Children Program) mothers by 40 percent; decrease low birth weights; and reduce short stature among infants and children entering nutrition program services from 13.8 percent to five percent (the normal percent found in the population at large).

B. Reduce the incidence and prevalence of disease related to diet among St. Paul citizens.
V. ISSUE: COOPERATION

OBJECTIVE:

A. Provide Incentives for Individuals, organizations and institutions to take actions that contribute to realizing the goals of the City's food policy.

GOAL 2

I. ISSUE: RESOURCES FOR FOOD PRODUCTION

OBJECTIVES

A. Provide neighborhood residents access to open space, water and light for purposes of raising food.

B. Encourage City residents to raise a portion of their own food supply.

C. Eliminate unnecessary legal barriers to City residents' raising plants and animals for food.

D. To enhance Individuals' ability to provide their own food supply, increase the availability of appropriate equipment and knowledge regarding processing and storage of home-grown foods to citizens throughout the City.

E. Work with other appropriate public bodies to assure the continued availability of Metro area farmland for potential production of food consumed in the City.

II. ISSUE: ENVIRONMENTAL & CITIZEN PROTECTION IN THE PRODUCTION OF LOCAL FOODS

OBJECTIVES

A. Reduce soil loss from agricultural production methods to "T" (the rate at which soil is naturally replaced) in the Metropolitan Area by the year 2000.

B. Eliminate agricultural and lawn chemical pollution of surface and ground water in the City and in the Metropolitan Area.

C. Increase the research and information available to Metro Area farmers and food processors on production and processing techniques that minimize use of synthetic chemicals.

D. Increase the research and information available to St. Paul citizens on how to maintain healthy yards and gardens without use of synthetic chemicals.

E. Protect St. Paul citizens from exposure to synthetic lawn spray chemicals.
F. Eliminate the exposure of St. Paul citizens to toxic levels of lead in home and community gardening soil.

G. Protect St. Paul citizens from Dioxin and other toxic residues that can filter into the City's soils.

III. ISSUE: MARKETING OF LOCALLY GROWN FOODS

OBJECTIVES

A. Increase the number and variety of outlets for locally-grown food in the City.

B. Increase the number of regional and state farmers selling locally grown food within the City.

IV. ISSUE: EDUCATION ON THE FOOD SYSTEM

OBJECTIVES

A. Increase elementary/secondary students' exposure to information about the structure and process of the food and agriculture system through school curriculum and work/study opportunities.

B. Increase adults' understanding of the food system.

V. ISSUE: NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

OBJECTIVES

A. Increase the number of neighborhood-based small businesses related to the production, processing and/or marketing of nutritious, safe, affordable food in the neighborhood and the City.

VI. ISSUE: COMPOSTING/RECYCLING

OBJECTIVES

A. Continue City support for, and seek opportunities to expand the composting of yard waste and other materials generated in the City that would make appropriate farm inputs.

B. Reduce the use of non-recyclable food packaging materials in the City and increase the percent of recyclable food packaging that is actually recycled.
WHEREAS, after a year of study the Food Policy Task Force, working as a pilot project of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, determined that municipal policy was appropriate and needed regarding the accessibility, distribution, and quality of food available to urban citizens; and

WHEREAS, a Food and Nutrition Commission was created by the City Council and its membership appointed by the Mayor to develop a food and nutrition policy proposal for the City of Saint Paul; and

WHEREAS, the process of policy development was assisted through the participation of neighborhood representatives, food retailers, health professionals, consumers, and agricultural providers; and

WHEREAS, the Food and Nutrition Commission has completed and submits for our consideration and adoption a food and nutrition policy proposal; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Saint Paul City Council does accept the report and policy recommendation of the Food and Nutrition Commission and does recognize the dedicated work and significant contribution of the Commission in presenting this document; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Saint Paul City Council does hereby adopt the policy as proposed by the Commission as the Food and Nutrition Policy of the City of Saint Paul.

Approved by Mayor: George Latimer Date: Nov. 23, 1987
Agricultural policy making must be changed if sustainability is to be achieved, says just released report

Government efforts to create sustainable agriculture in Canada will fail unless there are major changes to the ways agricultural policy is set, says the Toronto Food Policy Council (TFPC).

In a report released today, the Council called on the federal and provincial governments to make major changes to Departments of Agriculture. Said TFPC Co-chair Dr. Harriet Friedmann, "Agriculture has been enormously productive in recent decades. The main problem is that fragmentation of issues, knowledge and responsibilities has hidden the costs associated with this success. These are mainly environmental, social and health costs, which have been assigned to other ministries, with their own histories unconnected to agriculture. Now that agricultural policy has achieved its success, its costs are becoming apparent."

The report calls for the creation of departments of food and food security. Such departments would address the needs of all players in the food system, from the farmer to the consumer, and would focus on building food security, agricultural sustainability and opportunities for optimal nourishment for the population. The report also explores the implications of such changes by examining four case studies: the licensing of recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH); the development of policy to protect Intellectual Property Rights; the provision of full information on food to consumers, and the existing Federal Fertilizers Act. Each case reveals significant flaws in both the process of decision making and the contents of the decisions. Were changes made to the process and content of policy development, very different policy would result: rBGH would not be licensed, Intellectual Property Rights would have a very different form, consumers would have much greater access to information so that they could make truly informed choices about food, and the Fertilizers Act would be replaced with legislation supporting sound agronomic practices. Given the magnitude of such changes, the last section of the report presents a 15-year timeline for the transition to a new system.

The Toronto Food Policy Council is a subcommittee of the City of Toronto's Board of Health. It offers new approaches to ending hunger and the need for a charitable food distribution system, and to creating a more environmentally and economically sustainable food system. Its members represent community organizations, food businesses, health professions, labour, education, and the farm sector.

For further information, contact Rod MacRae, Coordinator, Toronto Food Policy Council 416-392-1107.
Fax: 416-392-1357.