STRATEGIES, POLICY APPROACHES, AND RESOURCES FOR LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM PLANNING AND ORGANIZING

A Resource Guide Prepared by
The Local Food System Project Team

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The Local Food System Project (LFSP) was a three-year project funded by two grants from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan. It was run by the Minnesota Food Association of St. Paul, Minnesota. It concluded June 30, 1997.

The Local Food Systems Project selected six policy development sites to receive technical assistance for developing food policy structures (policy councils, task forces, networks, etc.) to strengthen their local food systems. The six sites were: Los Angeles, CA; Berkshire County in western MA; a nine country planning region around Rochester, NY; Pittsburgh, PA.; Austin, TX; and Moyers, WV.

These sites were selected from among some twenty applicants on the basis of their probable success in implementing structural changes in their local food systems. Based on the work of Kenneth Dahlberg, the project's director, the-project team viewed local food systems as operating at the household, neighborhood, municipal, and regional levels. At each level there are a number of important issues associated with each portion of the food system: production, processing, distribution, access, food use (health, nutrition, food safety, processing and preservation), food recycling, and waste production. This approach includes, but goes beyond the other two main approaches to local food issues: sustainable agriculture and community food security. Sustainable agriculture approaches are only recently becoming aware of the importance of working with urban people, while community food security approaches tend to emphasize the issues associated with low income groups. We seek long-term sustainability, security, and equity for all groups in a given locality or region.

The six policy development sites worked to prioritize the food system issues in their areas and design structures to address these issues over time. The leading challenges the six sites have identified are land preservation, hunger and food security, sustainable agriculture and economic and community development, and human health.

The sites had access to the project team members who served as consultants. In addition, two technical assistance workshops for representatives of the six sites were held. The first was held near the Twin Cities on May 19-21, 1995. The second was held at St. Mary College, Leavenworth, KS, on June 27-30, 1996.

The project team included Kate Clancy, former Professor of Nutrition at Syracuse University, founding member of the Onondaga Food System Council, and Director for a five year policy project at the Wallace Center for Agricultural & Environmental Policy at Winrock International; Kenneth Dahlberg, project director, and Professor of Political Science and Environmental Studies at Western Michigan University; Jan O'Donnell, Executive Director of the Minnesota Food Association, which helped write the St. Paul, Minnesota Municipal Food Policy; and Robert Wilson, a chief architect of, and long-term consultant for the Knoxville, Tennessee Food Policy Council.

Some of the materials included here were circulated to the six sites to help them in their efforts. In the last year of the project it was decided to collect them and other relevant materials to make them available to a wider audience. The February 1997 version was a photocopy edition. A number of copies were distributed by the Minnesota Food Association at cost to interested groups.
In late 2001, Ken Dahlberg, responding to the increased level of activity and interest in local food groups, decided to make this resource guide more widely available. The materials included here are primarily those in the original edition, although there have been a few deletions and some updates and additions. Given time constraints, there was no effort to include new materials or discuss the many developments since the original edition.

Also, given the various errors that result from scanning photocopies, there are undoubtedly some which were not caught in the proofing process. Please let me know what they are (see addresses below).

One other important point to note is that the guide does not include any analysis of the results of the Local Food System Project itself. One very significant difference was noted by the team between the earlier food policy councils and those studied in the LFSP. Virtually all of the earlier examples of food policy councils which the team members had studied or worked with were official advisory bodies to a local government - city and/or county. The opportunities, contraints, and operations of these official advisory bodies were significantly different than the six groups studied in the LFSP - all of which had their main locus of leadership and membership in the non-profit sector, although some had links with various governmental agencies. This affected their strategies, opportunities, and contraints in ways often very different from official advisory bodies. This contrast is very important to keep in mind when reviewing the materials in Sections III and IV.

For more information about the project or this guide, contact:

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Note: With an occasional exception (explicitly noted), there has been no attempt to update the contact information listed in the various documents in this resource guide, so if you want to contact any of the organizations or people listed, you may need to seek their current contact information.
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VIII. MATERIALS CITED IN THIS GUIDE
To help prevent overloading of the RAM on your computer, the materials listed in the Complete Table of Contents below are divided into separate PDF files. Each file begins with that section’s table of contents. The items contained in that file are indicated with a border of dots. The links to the files are located on the web page.

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I. BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM PROJECT [F-1]

II. WHY LOCAL? [F-2]

There are a number of general reasons why greater localization of our food systems needed. Many of these are summarized in the following short articles.

Laura DeLind, "Local Foods: There's No Place Like Home", *Groundwork*, January 24, 1994, pp. 4 - 5.
Richard Bolan, "Global Economy and Sustainable Development." The Humphrey Institute, University of Minnesota, August 1996.

III. LOCAL FOOD POLICY GOALS AND ISSUES [F-3, F-4, & 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 accessibility of food delivery systems for all citizens, and designating the Community Action Committee's Food Supply Project as Coordinator of this effort." Resolution R-202-81. October 31, 1981.

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
   Onondaga Food System Council, Inc., "A Comprehensive Approach to Our Local
B. Different organization approaches used by food policy councils. [F-4]


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


IV. LOCAL FOOD POLICY ORGANIZATIONS [F-6, F-7, F-8, & F-9]

In this section you will find a historical timeline of work that has been done on local food systems planning over the past several decades written by Kate Clancy. Also, there are some summaries as well as the complete reports prepared by Ken Dahlberg on the local food policy councils in Knoxville, TN, St. Paul, MN, Onondaga County, NY, and Philadelphia, PA

A. "A Timeline of Local Food Systems Planning." Kate Clancy, 1996. [F-6]

B. Studies of local food policy councils:

1. Knoxville. [F-6]

   a. "Minnesota Food System; Slow Start, Model Concept," Nutrition Week, Vol. 23, No. 27 (July 23, 1993), pp. 4-5. [An abstract done by the Community Nutrition Institute of the report immediately below].

3. Onondaga County, NY. [F-8]
V. GENERAL STRATEGIES FOR PLANNING AND ORGANIZING [F-10, F-11, & F-12]

This section begins with ways to assess the larger resource dimensions of your region and your local food system. This is followed by two short pieces that lay out basic planning and strategic sequences and elements. How to involve community groups in local food system visioning and discussion is outlined next. Finally, three detailed assessments of the Chicago foodshed are included.

A. The larger context [F-10]
   1. Sustainability and urban impacts: "How Big is Our Ecological Footprint?" Mathis Wackernagel with The Task Force on Planning Healthy & Sustainable Communities, University of British Columbia, November 1993.


C. Preliminary Planning and Strategizing: [F-11]
   1. “Developing and implementing your own local plans.” Ken Dahlberg and Tom Hemingway, 1995


D. Engaging other people and groups through visioning processes: [F-12]

E. Examples of detailed community food system assessments: The "Food Files" series. [F-12]


VI. LINKING FOOD SYSTEM POLICY ISSUES TO OTHER COMMUNITY ISSUES [F-13]

In this section you will find materials on how food systems related to economic development, community development, and to the development of "healthy cities."

A. Food-related economic development. [F-13]
   1. The importance of food in a local economy. One of the most systematic works here is one commissioned by the Philadelphia Food and Agriculture Taskforce. An abstract is included. The full reference is: Ross Koppel, *Agenda for Growth: The Impact of Food and Agriculture on the Economy of the Delaware Valley*, Philadelphia: Food and Agriculture Taskforce, 1988.
   2. Micro-enterprises. Little systematic work has been done here. Perhaps the most useful overview is that done in a report by the Toronto Food Policy Council. The full reference is: Toronto Food Policy Council, "Stories of Micro Food Enterprises and Implications for Economic Development." Discussion Paper #5, October 1995. The table of contents and the Executive Summary are included here.


C. The Healthy Cities and Communities Program. [F-13]

VII. FOOD SYSTEMS GRAPHICS [F-14 - F-18]

This section includes graphics that Ken Dahlberg developed for various audiences. These were combined in a poster session given at the International Healthy Cities Conference, 1993. Most of the graphics have a separate file because of the memory required for each. Also, see the graphic at the end of section V.C.1. [F-11]

A. The graphic, ‘What are Food Systems,’ along with the text of the poster session in which it was used, “Local and Regional Food Systems: A Key to Healthy Cities” given at the International Healthy Cities Conference, San Francisco, December 1993. [F-14]

B. Other graphics used in the poster session that depict different level food systems.
   1. Household Food Systems [F- 15]
   2. Neighborhood Food Systems [F- 16]
   3. Municipal Food Systems [F- 17]
   4. Regional Food Systems [F- 18]

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