

A Food Policy Council for New York City

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The election of Bill de Blasio as Mayor of the City of New York is an opportunity for the city to take the next steps in strengthening its food policy: the adoption of a formal food plan and the creation of a city Food Policy Council (FPC).

More than 200 cities in America have Food Policy Councils. It is time for New York City to have one as well. City Council member Brad Lander has introduced legislation to do this.

The City should develop and adopt a New York City Food Plan as provided for in Section 197-of the City Charter. The plan would formally provide direction to city agencies on food policy issues.

The City should immediately create a food policy council or task force to guide the development of the plan. A major product of the plan would be the creation of a broad-based, representative food policy council to oversee implementation of the plan. Los Angeles provides a good model for the city to follow in developing a FPC and food plan.

Fortunately, much of this work in identifying components of such a plan has already been done.

New York has benefited in recent years from the leadership of the Mayor, City Council and Manhattan Borough President in taking steps to strengthen the city's food system. Key initiatives by the city have included: FRESH; Health Bucks; Green Carts; Shop Healthy NYC (formerly Healthy Bodegas); the Food Metrics Report; kitchen incubators; and the establishment of the Office of the Food Policy Coordinator in the Mayor's Office. The City has helped increase the number of, and access to, farmers' market. Its Health Bucks program to subsidize the use of SNAP (Food stamps) at farmers' market is a national model.

The Speaker of the City Council developed FoodWorks, a comprehensive look at food issues. Scott Stringer, The Manhattan Borough President (soon to be Comptroller) issued a series of excellent food policy reports. The 2011 update to the Mayor's PlaNYC included initiatives to: increase physical access to healthy food; facilitate urban agriculture; and, further promote sustainable agricultural practices in the city's upstate watershed.

Hunger Action Network built upon such initiatives and reports to develop a **NYC Food Policy Agenda**¹ to guide the next administration. **The agenda is an outline of what the city's food plan would include** (with timelines added). The Food Systems Network of NYC developed a similar document, A Recipe for the Future of Food in NYC². We also examined the food policy agendas of other cities, such as Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles and New Haven. The plans all focused their recommendations for actions in similar key areas: Food Democracy; Regional Agriculture; Economic Strength and Job Creation; Purchasing; Food Distribution; Ending Hunger and Promoting Healthy Food; and Food Waste

¹ <http://www.hungeractionnys.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/NYCFoodPolicyAgenda-Final-3.pdf>

² <http://www.foodsystemsnyc.org/recipe-for-the-future-of-food-in-nyc>

This paper focuses on the second step: the creation of a NYC Food Policy Council. Food policy councils convene multiple food system stakeholders (producers, processors, distributors, government and consumers) to provide a forum for the comprehensive examination of a food system, its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges. Councils enable different actors in the food system and government to learn more about what each does and to consider how the actions of each impact others in the food system. The councils also provide a mechanism to develop specific policy objectives, e.g., reducing the incidence of hunger, expanding rural economic development, and improving the administration of programs. And, they may provide a forum to discuss emerging issues such as local foods, direct marketing, small and medium-scale rural farms, and urban agriculture.

There are different models for food policy councils. Regardless of the model, it is important to ensure openness, inclusiveness and strong citizen support, adequate staffing resources for the work, and, some mechanism to link with the local government.

This paper examines various food policy council models throughout the country; highlights some of their successes; and discuss some of the questions and challenges that would need to be addressed in New York City. One wants to ensure a central role for the Mayor while also providing meaningful opportunity for participation and direction by other stakeholders in food systems and for the public at large. Councils also need adequate resources (e.g., staffing) to be successful. We already have plenty of food plans for New York; the Councils task would be to provide the leadership needed to prioritize the elements of such an overarching, city plan and then help implement it.

The paper highlights the experience of Los Angeles in establishing a food policy council. Los Angeles is the second largest city in the United States after New York and shares some of its demographics. Based on the Los Angeles experience, New York should consider establishing a short term task force to guide the formal adoption of a New York City food plan during 2014. The end product would include the formation of a broad-based food policy council to help guide the plan's implementation.

Acknowledgements

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A New York City Food Policy Council

What is a Food Policy Council?

A food policy council is an organization of stakeholders from different sectors and backgrounds (producers, processors, distributors, government and consumers) who collaborate to assess and improve their regional, state or local food system. Their goals include reducing hunger, promoting healthy foods, and strengthening the farming and food communities.

Food Policy Councils provide a forum for a comprehensive examination of a food system. Councils enable different parts of the food system and government to learn more about what each does and consider how their actions impact other parts of the food system. Councils create an environment in which people are able to ask questions usually not asked, such as "How much food eaten is raised locally?" or "Does the state make efforts to purchase local food?"

The term "food system" encompasses all the activities involved in producing, processing, transporting, storing, distributing, purchasing, and eating food, as well as managing food waste. Our food system is critical to our human and environmental health and to economic development and job creation in New York City.

According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, "food security" exists when food systems enable "all people (to) have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy lifestyle.

A core mission of food policy councils is to promote food democracy and empower all members of the community to shape their food system. In a food democracy, a community strives to improve the food system for all and provide affordable, accessible, and nutritious food for everyone regardless of age, race, ethnicity, sex, or socioeconomic status.

Food Councils also provide a mechanism to develop specific policy objectives, e.g., expanding economic development and local food systems, reducing incidence and prevalence of hunger, improving the nutritional standards of school lunches and hospital meals, improving administration of food programs, and promoting nutrition education programs and campaigns.

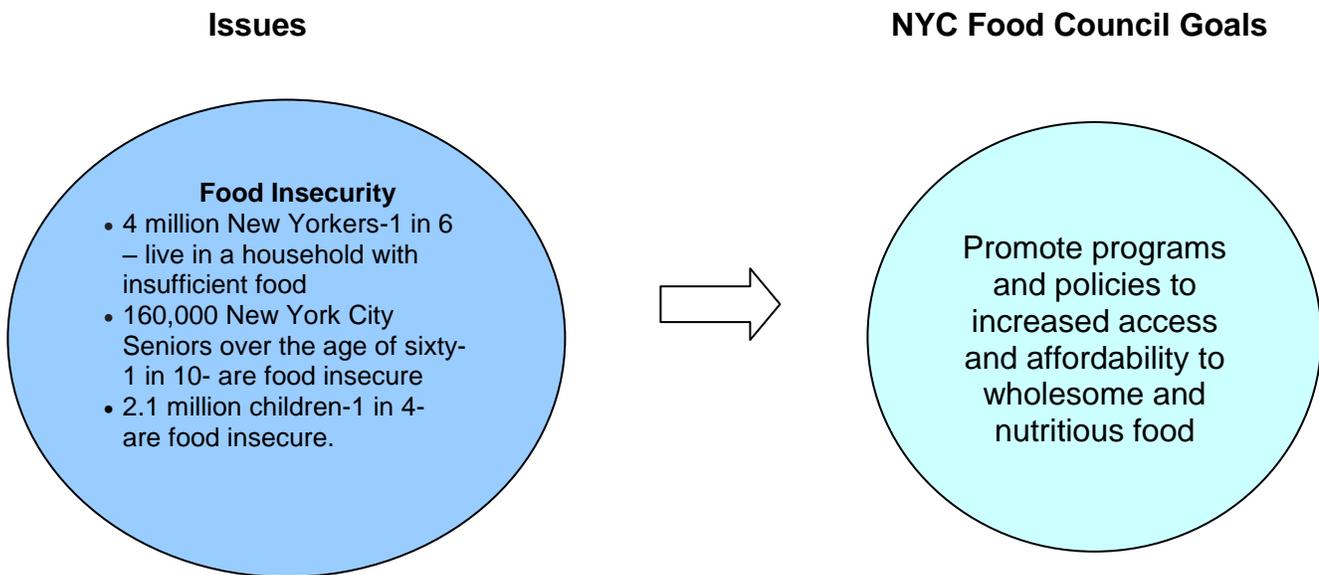


Food system diagram. Source www.fpclanecounty.org/overview

Food Policy Councils can provide government representatives an opportunity to work with other offices they ordinarily might not. Therefore, they promote inter-agency cooperation and understanding that may help to better coordinate government policies. For instance, some food policy councils have aided government institutions that buy food better connect with the agency responsible for promoting the purchase of locally grown food, thus implementing a local food purchasing policy for government. In addition, Food Policy Councils allow for an open and democratic discussion regarding food issues that reflect and represent the needs and opinions of a diverse group of stakeholders. They help educate policy makers and shape policy to address the needs of farmers, food producers and retailers, and food consumers. Food councils empower communities to unite behind a common interest - the need to have wholesome, fresh and nourishing food.

Why is it Important to Have a Food Policy Council in New York City?

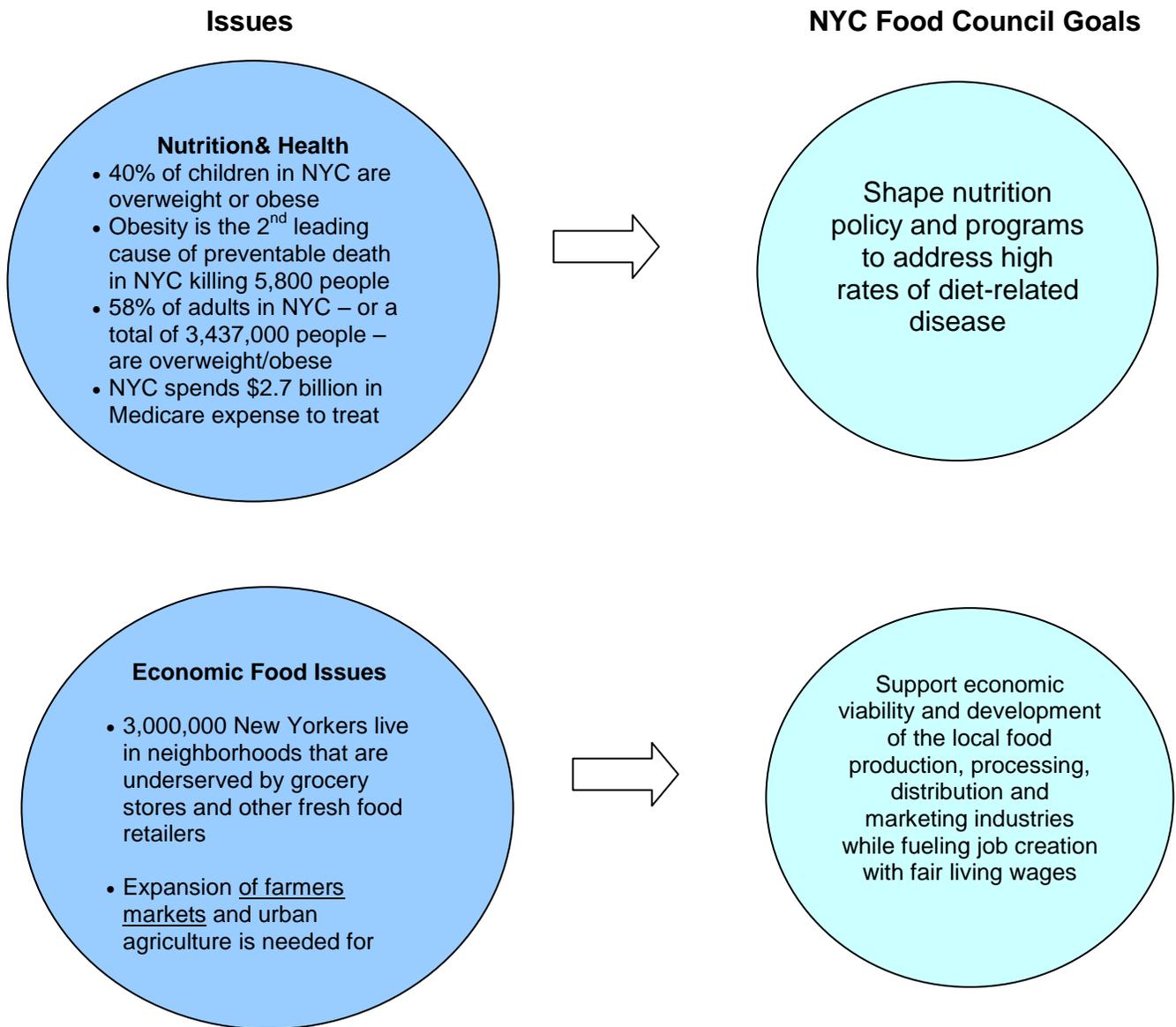
New York City’s 8 million residents spend \$30 billion a year on food. Yet city residents suffer from both hunger and health problems associated with unhealthy food choices: highly processed foods high in fat, sugar and salt. An all-time high of 1.9 million of our neighbors rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps) and 1.4 million of us rely on emergency food. On November 1, 2013, federal cuts reduced SNAP benefits for individuals and families. For instance, as a result of the newly instated SNAP cuts, a family of four suffered a loss of \$36 to its monthly SNAP benefits. One in six of us, including more than 400,000 of our children, live in households facing food insecurity. The nutrition safety net does not meet the needs of our hungry neighbors.



In many communities, especially low-income, unhealthy food is often more accessible than healthy food. And, in a seeming paradox, the city faces the related epidemics of widespread hunger and overweight and obesity. Over the past 20 years, obesity rates in New York City have doubled. Nearly 40 percent of elementary and middle school students 28 percent of high school students, and 67 percent of our adults are overweight or obese. Overweight and obesity

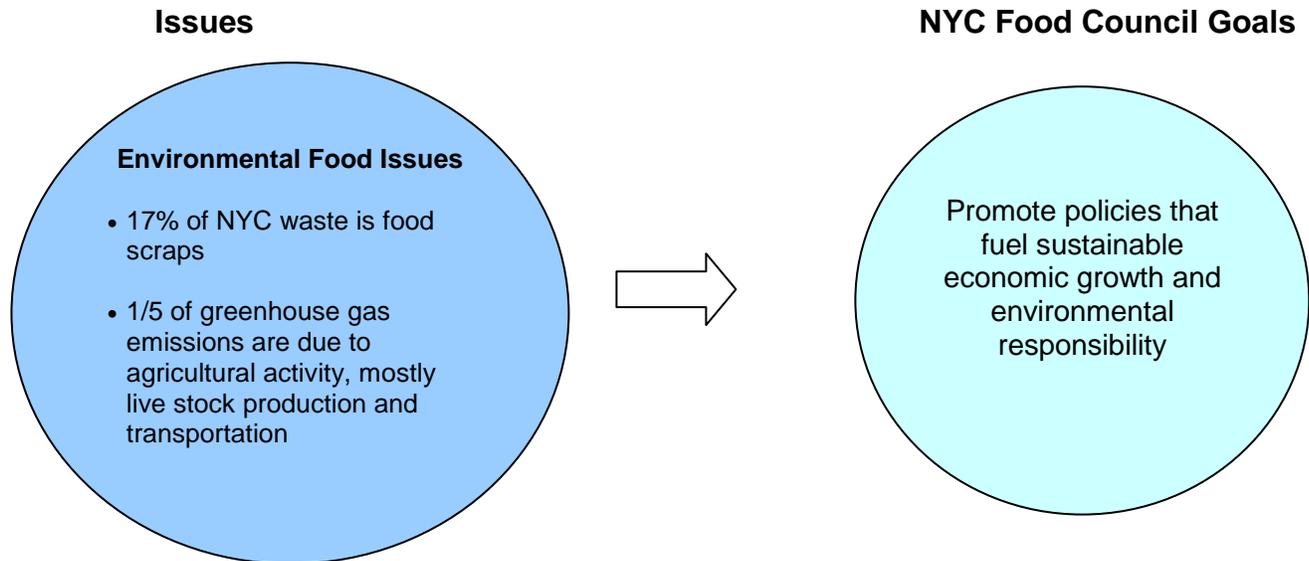
are significant risk factors for adult diabetes, heart disease, and other chronic conditions. In New York State, \$6.1 billion is spent annually fighting diet-related diseases.

New York City has done a good job in protecting its regional watershed to ensure continued access to high quality drinking water. A similar approach is needed for the regional food shed.



Much food grown in New York travels long distances to other markets and much of what we consume in New York comes from far away making for missed regional economic opportunity. Most food arrives in the city via truck, with more than 10,000 trucks per day at Hunts Point. Truck traffic negatively impacts residents in communities around Hunts Point suffering high rates of asthma exacerbated by poor air quality.

The average New Yorker produces almost 2,000 pounds of garbage a year. Food scraps and used food packaging constitute more than half of the city's waste stream. Climate change, evidenced by hurricanes Irene, in 2011, and Sandy, in 2012, exposed the frailty of our region's food production capacity and our city's food distribution and access systems.



The Benefits of Food Policy Councils

Food policy councils can improve the quality of life for all members of the community through increased access to healthy food and economic development.

By bringing together diverse sectors, food policy councils are able to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the food system and create solutions to improve the food system. Food policy councils promote dialogue and allow for stakeholders from different sectors to learn about the diverse needs of other stakeholders.

Food Policy Councils allow for different offices or branches within government to work together; too often agencies work within silos, unaware of both challenges and opportunities in other agencies to advance issues they are mutually concerned about. Councils promote inter-agency cooperation and understanding which strengthens cooperation and effectiveness in government. For instance, food policy councils have aided government institutions that procure healthier food (e.g. for schools) connect with the agency responsible for promoting the purchase of locally grown food, thus implementing a local food purchasing policy for government.

Food Policy Councils provide a mechanism to develop specific policy objectives for a food sector, e.g. reducing the incidence of hunger, expanding rural economic development, and improving the administration of state programs. Food policy councils allow for discussion of emerging issues such as cuts to nutrition programs, universal access to breakfast at the classroom, local foods, direct marketing, small farms and other "new agriculture" developments.

What a Food Plan for NYC Should Accomplish

Community food system planning is the collaborative planning process of developing and implementing local and regional land-use, economic development, public health, and environmental goals, programs and policies.³

There are a number of critical objectives to achieve in creating a just and sustainable food system in New York City:

- view food policy as an economic engine for the City;
- value and support the role of food and agriculture in our region's human, economic, and environmental health;
- support a food system that provides an adequate income to farmers and food entrepreneurs while provide all food workers with living wages and fair working conditions;
- sustain our regional agricultural resources to help ensure our future food security;
- support entities that produce, process, and distribute local and healthful food;
- achieve an end to hunger through universal access to ample, affordable, local, healthful, sustainably produced, and culturally meaningful food;
- support communities suffering high incidences of food insecurity and diet-related disease;
- provide for inclusive, democratic community participation in food system policy and program development and creative inter-departmental and inter-governmental cooperative action on food issues; and
- create a resilient regional food system that will better withstand the affects of climate change and other emergencies.

These values reflect the concept of Food Sovereignty. Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally meaningful food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.

In June 2010, The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (formerly the American Dietetic Association), American Nurses Association, American Planning Association, and American Public Health Association met to develop a set of shared food system principles. The principles support socially, economically and ecologically sustainable food systems that promote health — the current and future health of individuals, communities and the natural environment.⁴

³ <http://www.planning.org/nationalcenters/health/pdf/apapchfoodsystemplanning.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.planning.org/nationalcenters/health/foodprinciples.htm>

Building On Existing Food Policies in NYC

As noted earlier, New York is fortunate that the city's elected leadership has already worked to improve our food system. Key city initiatives have included: FRESH (bringing supermarkets into low-income communities); Green Carts; Shop Healthy NYC; the Food Metrics Report; kitchen incubators; and the establishment of the Office of the Food Policy Coordinator in the Mayor's Office. City programs helped increase the number of, and access to, farmers' markets. Its Health Bucks program to subsidize the use of SNAP (Food stamps) at farmers' market is a national model.

The Mayor's Executive Order No.122 (2008) established more healthful standards for the food purchased and served by the city. The City Council's FoodWorks legislation, adopted in 2011, included: Local Law (LL) 50, on facilitating local food purchasing by the city; LL 51, on requiring environmentally friendlier packaging of foods purchased by the city; LL 52, on collecting and reporting important city food metrics (though unfortunately not anti-hunger data); LL 48, on reporting city property potentially suitable for urban agriculture; and LL 49, on facilitating the installation of rooftop greenhouses.

The 2011 update to Plan NYC included initiatives to: increase physical access to healthy food; facilitate urban agriculture; further promote sustainable agricultural practices in the city's upstate watershed; study the city's food distribution pathways with a view to improving freight movement; make remediated "brownfields" available for urban agriculture; and create more opportunities to recover food waste.

The Mayor's Office of Food Policy (MOFP) was established by Mayor Bloomberg in partnership with City Council Speaker Christine Quinn in 2007. The MOFP is responsible for advancing the city's efforts to: promote access to and awareness about healthy food; combat food insecurity; and oversee the city's work to improve the sustainability of its food system. The MOFP also convenes the Food Policy Task Force, comprised of representatives from city agencies and the City Council. Recent focus areas include overseeing the food-related initiatives in the Mayor's Obesity Task Force as well as working with the Mayor's Office of Contract Services to develop local food procurement guidelines.

MOFP has been a positive development. Advocates hope that the new administration will elevate the role of the office and provide a mechanism for citizen and stakeholder input. A Food Policy Council would be such a mechanism.

Successful Food Policy Councils

There are 270 food policy councils across the United States and Canada that are influencing and shaping the global food system. There has been a nine percent increase in the number of active North American food councils from 2012 to 2013. In the United States alone, there are 193 Food Policy Councils expanding across 48 states. There are 14 state level food policy councils.

The following are examples of successful food policy council initiatives that can serve as model for future New York City Food Policy Council initiatives.

Examples of Food Policy Councils Working to Improve Access to Nutritious Food

- **Fresh Food Retail Initiative and “Stepping Up to the Plate: Transforming School Food in New Orleans” -New Orleans Food Policy Advisory Committee (LA)** <http://nolafpac.org/>

The New Orleans Food Policy Advisory Committee provides privately and publicly funded low-interest and forgivable loans for food retailers that supply fresh food and vegetables in underserved areas. In addition the New Orleans Food Policy Advisory Committee conducted an assessment of school lunches in New Orleans and presented a report outlining steps to ensure access of healthful and fresh foods that create a “strong food culture” for children in New Orleans.

- **Double Up Food Bucks- Fair Food Network- Ann Arbor, Michigan -** <http://www.fairfoodnetwork.org/>

Double Up Food Bucks program - similar to Health Bucks - provides incentives to encourage healthier choices for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients, directly benefiting low-income families and local farmers. When SNAP recipients shop at a participating site, the amount that they spend on their SNAP Bridge Card is matched up to \$20 per visit with Double Up Food Bucks, which can be used to purchase Michigan-grown fruits and vegetables.

On August 1st, 2013 Double Up Food Bucks expanded its reach from farmers’ markets to grocery stores. Allowing the use of Double Up Food Bucks in grocery stores is an innovative approach for increasing access to fruits and vegetables.

- **Healthier Food Initiative - The New Brunswick Community Food Alliance (NJ)** <http://www.nbfood.org/>

The New Brunswick Community Food Alliance in New Jersey is working to build a stronger global food system through its engagement in the community in issues relate to healthy food access, advocacy and policy, food economic and agricultural development, and community empowerment. Currently, the New Brunswick Food Council is working on creating healthier menus for schools, increasing healthier options at bodegas and corner stores, and encouraging the expansion of food entrepreneurship and community garden projects. In addition, the New Brunswick Community Food Alliance has played an instrumental role in advising the city to utilize park space to plant community gardens.

Examples of Food Policy Councils Advocating for Local Food and Farming

• GrowTO- Toronto Food Policy Council-Toronto, Canada, <http://tfpc.to/>

GrowTO was created by the Toronto Food Policy Council to address key opportunities and barriers of growing food in Toronto. This program supports urban agriculture within Toronto and focuses attention on the available potential of urban agriculture in this city. Benefits of urban agriculture are seen on the economic, community, health, and environmental levels.

The GrowTO program has identified four immediate goals:

- Create an Urban Agriculture program at the City of Toronto.
- Update city policies to support and implement urban agriculture.
- Provide incentives (financial and/or other) to groups and individuals starting or growing their urban agriculture initiatives.
- Develop a website that links to all resources, organizations and initiatives to encourage collaboration and realize the full benefits of urban agriculture.

The GrowTO Action Report was adopted by the City Council in 2012. As a result, Black Creek Community Farm, a seven acre farm on conservation land, opened in spring of 2013. This farm is run and supported by community residents.

An Intensive Leadership Facilitation Training took place in August 2013 to build a community of leaders and provide intensive training and dialogue for participants to facilitate anti-racist food justice in their own programs and communities. City Staff are currently working on inventory of gardens and farms and the Toronto Food Policy Council is writing a guide to growing and selling food in the city.

• Tomato Independence Project- *Treasure Valley Food Coalition- Southwestern Idaho and eastern Oregon*; <http://treasurevalleyfoodcoalition.org/>

This project is a part of Treasure Valley Food Coalition's (TVFC) mission to grow 20 percent of their own food in Idaho. Idaho imports about 95 percent of its food. About \$ 15 million is spent each year to import tomatoes for Treasure Valley. TVFC has decided to make it their goal to have as many people as possible grow and/or eat local, fresh tomatoes in 2013.

As part of this project, 'TIP Kits' are provided at four partnering local nurseries. In these kits are seeds and instructions to start growing tomatoes on patios, porches, balconies or in backyards. In addition to saving money on imported tomatoes, this project also has potential to create more job opportunities for Idaho.

• City of Cleveland's Local Purchasing Ordinance and Regional Food Congress- *Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Food Policy Coalition*. <http://cccfoodpolicy.org/>

Local Purchasing legislation is a result of a partnership between the Cleveland City Council and the Mayor's Office. It provides two percent bid discounts on all applicable city contracts to businesses that are sustainable, locally-based, and/or purchase 20 percent of their food locally - these can be combined for a max discount of 4%. Supporting independent area producers enables them to practice or transition toward sustainable production methods and keeps more

money in the regional economy. This ordinance - and all the efforts that led up to it - illustrates the City of Cleveland's interest in fostering local food production and the local economy in general.

Thus Ordinance No. 1660-A-09 now mandates the city's role in supporting the purchase of locally-produced food. In addition, the Cleveland-Cuyahoga Food Policy Council organized a "Regional Food Congress" to encourage rapport between diverse organizations that included urban and rural businesses and governmental agencies

Examples of Food Councils Incentivizing Food-related Economic Growth :

• Healthy Neighborhood Market Network- *Los Angeles Food Policy Council;*

<http://goodfoodla.org/>

Community Market Conversion Program and Healthy Neighborhood Markets Network work together to transform convenience store in neighborhoods with limited healthy options into healthy food community markets. Initiated by the City, it is now a project of the Los Angeles Food Policy Council.

Healthy Neighborhood Market Network aims to partner with "mom n' pop" neighborhood stores to market and sell more fresh produce along with other healthy options. Eligible store owners enroll in a business development program that offers the following:

- Financing and Store Renovations: This includes new store equipment, market signage as well as other improvements to give the store a new look.
- Business Coaching: One on one training to strengthen the business.
- Food Retail Technical Assistance: professionals offer support on product sourcing, pricing, merchandising and marketing to successfully promote healthy food products.
- Community Outreach and Marketing: Help create partnerships with the local community.

• Michigan Good Food- *Michigan Food Policy Council;*

<http://www.michigan.gov/mfpc>

Started in June 2010, Michigan Good Food is a collaboration effort of the C.S. Mott Group for Sustainable Food Systems at Michigan State University, the Food Bank Council of Michigan and the Michigan Food Policy Council. This project funded by W.K. Kellogg Foundation, aims to have advancement in Michigan's food and agriculture system to contribute to the economy, protect natural resources, improve residents health and to help generations of Michigan's youth to continue to flourish.

Michigan Good Food has set 25 policy priorities they plan to meet by the year 2020, 10 years from their start date. These strategies aim to create new economic opportunities, to bring good food to where people live in order to make fresh, healthy, homegrown food more accessible, and to cultivate a culture that values good food.

In addition to setting up specific goals within a particular timeframe, Michigan Good Food also tracks its progress on their website by making their activity and progress reports available to the public. More specifically, every two years Michigan Good Food releases a "Report Card" in which they evaluate their progress towards the 25 policy priorities.

- **Land Link Montana- Missoula County Community Food & Agriculture Coalition;**
<http://www.missoulacfac.org/landlinkmontana.html>

Land Link Montana is a farm and ranch transfer program that works to connect the next generation of farmers and ranchers to land and resources in order to establish successful operations. Land Link Montana helps landowners and retiring producers find a farmer or rancher to lease or sell their land to. This helps promote a model of local and sustainable food that helps families and communities grow economically.

Food Literacy Campaign- *The Chicago Food Policy Council*

The Chicago Food Policy Council is working to sponsor a food literacy campaign to educate and empower the community regarding food policies and programs.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Chicago-Food-Policy-Advisory-Council/343023116578>

The Los Angeles Food Policy Council- A Possible Model for New York City

As New York City considers the possibility of establishing a Food Policy Council, it is important to analyze successful models that have been previously implemented in other cities. There are numerous nationwide examples of Food Policy Councils that are pivotal agents of change in the food system.

Los Angeles established a city-wide Food Policy Council which has played a critical role in advancing food system policy changes and program development in its region. Since Los Angeles closely parallels New York City in respect to its dense, urban population, the multi-ethnic and religious diversity of its communities, and the structure of its city government, it is beneficial for New York City to examine Los Angeles' experience.

Mission

The Los Angeles Food Policy Council (LAFPC) is a “collective impact initiative” that brings together Community Partners to work towards the common goal of bringing affordable, healthy, fair and sustainable food to Southern California. Created by Mayor Antonia Villaraigosa on January of 2011, the mission of the LAFPC is to build a Good Food System for Los Angeles. Leaders from across various sectors and communities use the LAFPC as a platform to bring about systemic change to the food system of L.A.

Goals

The following have been set as the main goals of the LAFP:

- Improve the health and well-being of Los Angeles residents
- Develop a thriving good food economy for everyone
- Strengthen agricultural and environmental stewardship throughout the region

History of the LAFPC

In 2009, Mayor Villaraigosa created the Los Angeles Food Policy Task Force. The Task Force's main role was to create a Good Food for All Policy Agenda for the Los Angeles area. It convened over 200 individuals, coordinated round tables and listening sessions and developed the Good Food for All Agenda. The Good Food for All Agenda included six priority action areas with 55 specific action steps, including a recommendation for the establishment of Food Policy Council.

The purpose of the Good Food Agenda is to promote a “good food system” that is healthy, affordable, fair and sustainable. A good food system sets as its goals the following:

- Prioritizes the promotion of health and well-being in the community
- Promotes access to affordable healthy, high quality
- Contributes to a sustainable, fair and flourishing economy where all participants in the “food supply chain receive fair compensation and fair treatment.”
- Seeks to protect and strengthen policies and program that promote biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources

The six main priority action areas and specific actions outlined in the Good Food for All Agenda are as follows:

Priority Action Area	Specific Action Steps
Promote a Good Food Economy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop plans with partners for Los Angeles Regional Food Hub 2. Establish incentives and develop policies for food producers to meet demand for Good Food 3. Conduct a Foodshed Assessment 4. Link public investment to creation of good jobs and small food enterprises 5. Review update regulations to enhance the Good Food System
Build A Market for Good Food	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Develop City and Country Good Food procurement policies and urge school districts to participate 7. Integrate Good Food Criteria into Green Business Certification Programs 8. Promote the Good Food brand
Eliminate Hunger in Los Angeles	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Increase Food Stamp Program enrollment 10. Require full EBT and WIC participation at farmer's market 11. Promote funding opportunities and technical assistance for farmers' markets
Ensure Equal Access to Good Food In Underserved Communities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Support the CRA/LA's effort and strengthen Market Opportunities Incentives for Food Retailers 13. Link public investment in healthy food retail to responsible retailers 14. Urge Congress and CA legislature to Healthy Food Financing Initiatives and develop innovative healthy food retail proposals 15. Incorporate public health strategies into land use documents
Grow Good Food in Our Neighborhoods	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16. Streamline permitting and public land leases for community gardens 17. Expand joint use agreements with school/community gardens 18. Introduce Healthy Food Access Components in affordable housing developments
Inspire and Mobilize Good Food Champions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 19. Urge Congress to expand definition of SNAP-ED to include school gardening and cooking programs 20. Leverage Project RENEW funds to promote Good Food efforts underway
21. Establish Regional Food Policy Council to Strengthen the Good Food Agenda	

In July 2010, the Task Force presented its Good Food for All Agenda to Mayor Villaraigosa. Based on the recommendations of the Task Force, Mayor Villaraigosa established the Los Angeles Food Policy Council (LAFPC). The goal of LAFPC is to make progress in the six priority action areas outlined by the “Good Food for All Agenda.”

Structure and Membership

The structure of the LAFPC provides for an influential role in city governance, while it remains an independent and innovative institution. Its structural framework consists of multiple, independent stakeholders housed in the Los Angeles Mayor’s Office. It has six staff persons.

The LAFPC’s Leadership board of 40 members includes experts in various fields (public planning, nutrition, health, agriculture), representatives from various sectors of the food system, and diverse stakeholders in the community. Experts are selected from various participating organizations that are representative across “sectors and geographic and ethnic communities” and are nominated by the Coordinating Committee and approved by majority vote of members of the LAFPC.

The LAFPC also includes 500 individual stakeholders and over 150 organizations from the public, private, nonprofit and academic sectors. To promote “inclusive collaboration” seven working groups, subcommittees, were formed to pursue the goals outlined in the Good Food for all Policy Agenda. Further creation of Working Groups will be proposed by the leadership as new issues arise. A chairperson is elected to head each of these working groups, in which members of the LAFPC gather to create new programs, events, policies and campaigns on a monthly basis. Participation is welcomed and individuals and groups are encouraged to become involved in the discussion and process undertaken by the Working Groups. Requirements for participation in a Working Group include attendance to an LAFPC orientation workshop, commitment to the LAFPC, and approval by the Working Group Chair.

LAFPC Network

LAFPC Network participants include diverse stakeholders from different sectors and geographic communities which meet at on a bi-monthly basis at network meetings and LAFPC-sponsored events and informally participate in the LAFPC Projects. Network events are open to the public and individuals who participate in Network Meetings are able to become part of Working Groups if they meet the requirements explained in the section above.

Leadership

LAFPC Chair - The LAFPC Chair is nominated by the Coordinating Committee with the consultation of the LAFPC Leadership Board and approved by a majority vote of the members of the LAFPC. The role of the Chair is to provide leadership and guide meetings.

Coordinating Committee - The nine-member Coordinating Committee ~~will~~acts as an executive committee for the LAFPC; helping to manage operational issues, developing proposed agendas, maintaining the roster of members, and ensuring that the processes moves forward. LAFPC Leadership Board members ~~will~~select Coordinating Committee members through discussion.

Funding - One of the strengths of the LAFPC is its hybrid funding model. The LAFPC is funded by private grants from non-profits and foundations and also receives in-kind donations from the

City of Los Angeles. Having a hybrid model of funding allows the LAFPC to remain independent.

LAFPC Staffing - The LAFPC is staffed by six experts in food system policy research and urban planning. The staff includes a: Managing Director, Director of Policy and Innovation, Communications Coordinator, Policy Analyst, Community Outreach Coordinator, and Network Coordinator.

LAFP Working Groups

The LAFP has identified the following areas as priorities for the LAFP and has set up Working Groups to focus on addressing issues in these areas:

Farmer Markets for All

Farmer Markets for All seeks to improve availability and access to fresh, nutritious food for all residents through the establishment of farmer market programs. Initiatives include increased acceptance and usage of SNAP and WIC benefits at Farmer Markets through policy change and outreach to SNAP & WIC recipients. In addition, it works to establish a county wide “Market Match Fund” as an incentive for SNAP participants purchasing at Farmer Markets.

Healthy Food Retail

Healthy Food Retail seeks to increase the availability of healthy food in retail and reduce the availability of unhealthy food in communities of color. This working group seeks to assess accessibility to local food and the impact that it has on low-income communities’ health and economic well-being.

Sustainable Seafood

Sustainable Seafood brings together key players from nonprofits, food industry, aquaponic farmers, and local aquariums to develop a series of panel discussions on the issue of fisheries and sustainable aquaculture.

Urban Agriculture

The goal of this working group is to promote “a sustainable, local, food growing system in LA,” through the creation, advocacy and implementation of policies that address the need to expand the farming, distribution, and selling of local foods.

Academic Partnerships

The Academic Partnership Working Group seeks to promote academic research in colleges and universities that advance a “good food” system and supports projects and policies adopted by the LAFPC. The following have a partnership with the LAFPC: UCLA, USC, Occidental College, Cal Poly-Pomona, Pierce College, UC Riverside, Antioch University, and Whittier College.

Good Food Economy

The main role of the Good Food Economy Working Group is to work in the promotion a vibrant food economy. Recommendations are made regarding the legal structure and infrastructure

needed for the growth of a Food Economy. Activities by this working group include: review of municipal codes that may restrict Good Food activities, mentorship to enterprise initiatives, and facilitating cooperation between labor and food advocates

Street Food:

The Street Food Working Group provides support to the vibrant and diverse street food culture in Los Angeles. Some of the Working Group goals include:

- Developing and promoting a set of nutritional guidelines to help street vendors increase the nutritional quality of their food.
- Supporting “Good Street Food” vendors and events to raise awareness in the community about healthy food and street vending, gather and exchange information, organize and train street food vendors, and experiment and innovate.
- Supporting the creation of new street-food oriented markets.

NYS Food Policy Council

Governor Spitzer issued an Executive Order in 2008 re-establishing a NYS Food Policy Council; it has since been extended by Governors Paterson and Cuomo. A Food Policy Council had existed during the last term of Governor Mario Cuomo but the Executive Order creating it was not renewed by Governor Pataki. The State Legislature under the leadership of Assembly Felix Ortiz, Chair of the Assembly Task Force on Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy, along with Senator Catherine Young, had introduced legislation to re-establish the Council a few years prior.

Hunger Action Network recently completed a review of the first six years of the Council.⁵

Advocates of a NYS Food Policy Council preferred that it be established by legislation rather than Executive Order, since the former is permanent while the latter depends on each Governor renewing. In addition, the Education Department is under the Board of Regents rather than the Governor, so they are not covered by an Executive Order (e.g., school meals programs).

Governor Spitzer was a strong supporter of food policy and agriculture issues, including having recently purchased an organic farm in Columbia County that his family had rented for many years. With the first few months of his tenure mired in gridlock and debate over the state budget, creating a Food Policy Council by Executive Order gave him a needed victory on one of his priorities.

The Executive Order (EO) was based on the pending legislation. However, the EO is relatively short and a number of key points were left out of it due to the length, including the creation of an advisory council. The Governor's office said that the Chair of the Council could establish an Advisory Council if they wished. The Advisory Council had driven the agenda of the first state Food Policy Council. The present council has suffered from the lack of it. The EO was also weaker in terms of addressing hunger.

Executive Order No. 13 states that the Council shall do the following:

- Develop and recommend a food policy for the State which recognizes that it is in the best interests of the State to ensure the availability of an adequate supply of affordable, fresh nutritious food to its residents;
- Develop and recommend State policies to expand agricultural production, including locally-grown and organically grown food;
- Develop and recommend a strategic plan for implementation of the State food policy, including benchmarks and criteria for measuring progress in achieving State food policy objectives; and
- Offer comments on State regulations, legislations and budget proposals in the area of food policy, to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive inter-agency approach to food policy issues.

Unfortunately, the Council has failed to fully implement the four charges given to it. Particularly without a strategic plan, there is a lack of targets and related criteria for measuring the Council's food policy objectives for the state. The previous Council had developed a 5 Year Plan to guide its actions. Respondents cited a lack of leadership and a clear path of what the Council is seeking to accomplish, as well as a failure to engage outside stakeholders.

⁵ <http://www.hungeractionnys.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/FoodPolicyCouncilStudy2013.pdf>

Questions to Answer in Creating a New York City Food Policy Council

There are various models that can be used to create a food policy council. Models such as the one used in the establishment of the Los Angeles Food Policy Council can serve as examples of possible approaches the City of New York and its leadership can take in addressing Food System Issues. Regardless of the model chosen by New York City, it is important to ensure openness, inclusiveness and strong citizen support, adequate staffing resources, and some mechanism to link the Food Council with the local government.

Dr. Jan Poppiendick lays out many of the questions in the Food Policy Councils Background Memo⁶ prepared for City Council Member Brad Lander by the NYC Food Policy Center at Hunter College.

Some of the questions that have to be addressed are: the relationship to city government; staffing and resources; the role and tasks of the council; staffing and resources; membership.

Some food policy councils are entirely an arm of the government. The members are all government officials and staff, appointed directly by the Executive or Council body. An outside board of advisors may be created. One example would be the NYC Mayor's Office of Food Policy. This model often focuses on coordinating intra-agency work on food related issues. One benefit of this model is that if the members agree on an initiative or policy, they have the authority to implement it.

The model at the other end of the spectrum is completely outside of government. It instead serves as a think tank or advocacy group, developing recommendations for government action on food that it hopes it can persuade local officials to adopt and implement.

Models also vary as to the balance between providing advocacy and issue input into direct hands-on implementation of food related initiatives (e.g., creation of a local wholesale farmers market).

The Hunger College memo states: Three quarters of the FPCs then in existence are independent while about a quarter were public entities. Most independent FPCs, reports food policy council expert Mark Winne, "do have government representation on the council, reflecting the need for government cooperation to translate food policies into action." Further, a substantial number, about a quarter, of the independent councils had been created by government action, sometimes involving government start-up funding."

Non-Profit Grassroots Approach to Food Policy Council Creation

One way to establish a Food Policy Council would be to take a grassroots approach, non-profit model and convene a meeting of potential stakeholders and members interested in becoming active in food issues in the New York City metropolitan area. Possible stakeholder should represent diverse sectors including health care, non profits, business, agriculture, and government. A list of possible stakeholders includes:

⁶ <http://nycfoodpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/FoodPolicyCouncilMemo.pdf>

- operators of farmers' markets/stands
- sustainable agriculture interests
- environmentalists
- food retailers of all sizes
- business leaders
- labor organizations
- food-processing industry representatives

- anti-hunger advocates
- emergency food providers
- health-care professionals
- religious organizations
- neighborhood/community organizations
- local and regional government officials
- general public

In this model, the food policy council is established as an independent organization to provide advice to the local government on food policy issues. Such councils usually seek some form of relationship to the local government (e.g., the Mayor and other elected officials appoint some of the members of the council).

The New Brunswick Community Food Alliance (NBCFA) of New Jersey is a non-profit model. Its community-based advisory board seeks to provide recommendation in regards to food issues to the City of New Brunswick and other stakeholders in the community. Although it has a non-profit community based model, the NBCFA has a partnership with the city that allows it to communicate with local officials, leverage resources, and influence the city to address pressing food system issues. General membership for the NBCFA is open to all individuals and organizations who are dedicated to creating a better food system. Voting membership is reserved for 17 members that include nine representatives from diverse working communities in the food system, five community representative and three representatives from city government (one representative each from the Environmental Commission, Mayor's Office and City Council).

Government Sponsored Food Policy Council - Executive and Legislative means of creating a Food Policy Council

Government sponsored food policy councils can be created through executive and legislative means. For instance, mayors and governors can issue executive orders creating food policy councils. Another framework for creating a food policy council is through state or local legislative bodies such as the New York City Council. In both cases, the food policy council acts as a key advisor city/state government.

In New York City, the City Charter gives most of the power over government to the Mayor. The City Council has a limited role to direct the action of city agencies.. Thus a City Council initiative on food policy would most likely require the active agreement and participation by the Mayor as well.

A city-sponsored Food Policy Council may extend formal membership to various government agencies such as the Department of Health. This type of Food Policy Council usually has an advisory board representing a wide range of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to promote interagency cooperation and community representation. In addition, it may have a formal decision making role in food policies adopted by the City.

Councils established by Executive Order are dependent upon any future Mayor agreeing to continue the Executive Order. The Executive Order establishing the New York State Food Policy Council was not renewed when Governor Pataki took office in 1993. The State Council was not renewed until Governor Spitzer took office in 2007.

Among the alternatives outlined by the Hunter background memo: "The Food Policy Council might be established as an Advisory Board to the Food Policy Coordinator in the Office of the Mayor, or it might be established as advisory group to the City Council. The latter option, of course, would be more effective if the City Council were itself to establish a Committee (or sub-committee) on food."

"A hybrid FPC organization that receives financial support from the City but maintains independence from any particular administration may also be a possibility. The Independent Budget Office (IBO) provides one possible model. The IBO consists of a director, a technical staff and an Advisory Board."

City-wide vs. Borough-wide Food Policy Councils

With 8.3 million residents, New York City is twice as large as the next largest American City - Los Angeles. Brooklyn with 2.5 million residents is only slightly smaller than Chicago, the third largest city. With a city so large, it is always a struggle over how best to ensure input from the many diverse communities will provide effective citywide management.

One possible approach is to create borough-wide food policy councils, either as stand along entities or a representative part of a city-wide council.

A concern with having a food council for each borough is that it may increase bureaucracy and processing time for policies and programs to take city-wide effect since each individual food council would have to take action regarding each specific issue. Therefore, the council may not be as effective in taking prompt action on a city-wide basis.

Another approach would be to have a central Food Policy Council for New York City that formally included representatives from each borough in addition to representatives from government and diverse food system stakeholders. A concern with this model is that it may not be representative of the diverse needs of the five boroughs. The borough representatives may not be able to have a City Wide-Food council include in its agenda the various concerns that each particular borough may have. For this food policy council model to be effective, there must be a mechanism in place that ensures that the needs of the various communities in the different boroughs are reflected and their voices are heard.

Resources for the Food Policy Council

A key component for the success of a food policy council is adequate resources, both funding and personnel. The Los Angeles Food Policy Council has six. The New York State Food Policy

Council generally has one lower level agency staff person assigned to support it and, as a result, the Council has struggled to move forward. You also want a staff person with enough authority to command the attention and action of other government staff, particularly if in different agencies.

It is important to establish a funding plan for the creation, maintenance and staffing of a food policy council. A food policy council may obtain funding solely from the city; state or local government or it can follow a mixed-model of funding and receive funds from the city, state or local government and from private donors.

One problem with foundation funding is that priorities of foundations change frequently, so they are unreliable for long term support. And while New York City does have a large number of foundations, it is an even larger number of worthwhile non-profits that compete for support.

New York City does have a number of academic institutions that are increasingly focused on food policy issues, such as Hunter, New School and Columbia. They may be willing to provide academic support for such a council - though they undoubtedly would also like funding to support such efforts.

From the Hunter memo: "More than 40% of the local FPCs studied in a recent survey had no paid staff, and another half had only a part-time worker. Many of these FPCs are young, recently organized, and seek funding to enable them to hire staff. Access to staff time in public agencies or public funding for staff time is frequently cited as an argument for basing an FPC within government. For local FPCs, Foundation grants have been the most common source of funding (32%) with local government funds (16%) the next most important. Individual donations supplied 11% of funds, sales and fees have supplied 6% and 6% has come from in-kind donations. 28% reported having no funding at all."

What challenges Would a Food Policy Council Face?

There are challenges to the creation and maintenance of a food policy council. Lack of access to funds has been a major barrier to the work of food policy councils. Funds are needed both for staffing and for implementation of recommendations. For instance, the need for investment in small-scale food processing for family farms was identified as a high priority need by the first state food council in the early 90s. Two decades later it is still a problem. Virtually everyone agrees that schools should serve more locally-grown food. However, there are policies and investments needed in school cafeteria equipment, food processing and distribution that are needed to be fully successful..

Councils may also face the challenge of "effective buy-in" to their work either from the sponsoring government entity or from outside stakeholders. Without that buy-in from government actors, the food policy council may find that its recommendations are not implemented. Strong, direct leadership from the top is often essential to create the needed sense of urgency and willpower.

The council membership structure can also provide challenges. Having a council primarily established as a government entity helps ensure that policy decisions and recommendations will be implemented. On the other hand, a council composed primarily of non-government representatives may find it easier to develop positions on cutting edge issues in a more timely fashion and advocate for policies more freely. Food policy councils that exist independent of

government may have more leeway to be critical of existing policy, while councils that are embedded in government may need to be more cautious in their approaches to criticizing existing policy.

A Food Policy Council will probably be more productive if it focuses on food issues in which there is strong interagency and cross-sector agreement, where the challenge primarily involves addressing barriers to implementation. As with any institution, there may also be competing priorities and organizational cultures among different government agencies.

A study of food policy councils by the Community Food Security Coalition identified common challenges and limitations, including:

- Achieving and working with diverse membership and constituencies
- Working in complex political climates
- Designing an effective organizational structure
- Obtaining adequate funding
- Balancing focus between policy and program work and between structural and specific areas of focus
- Adequately evaluating a council's impact

NYC City Council Legislation on a FPC

NYC Council Member Brad Lander submitted a bill proposing the establishment of a food policy council in December 2014. A copy is below.

The proposal would divide responsibilities for appointments to the Council between the Mayor and the Speaker of the Council.

The Council would create a food policy plan during its first year, with recommendations for action. We would suggest that the plan have a more formal status, being adopted by the City Council with the approval by the Mayor. This would give its recommendations more status.

Section 197-a of the New York City Charter authorizes community boards and borough boards, as well as the Mayor, the City Planning Commission, the Department of City Planning, and any Borough President, to sponsor plans for the development, growth, and improvement of the city. Proposed 197-a plans are reviewed by the affected community boards and borough presidents, and by the City Planning Commission and City Council in accordance with the procedures and timetable set out in "Rules for the Processing of Plans Pursuant to Charter Section 197-a". Once approved by the Commission and adopted by the City Council, 197-a plans are published and distributed, together with any modifications made by the Commission and Council, so that they may guide subsequent actions by city agencies. Twelve plans have been adopted to date.

The proposed FPC does not appear to have a role in increasing coordination among city agencies working on food related issues.

The bill could also be stronger with respect to participation by community residents. The LA approach was to have a task force develop an initial plan with community participation. Once the plan was adopted, a food policy council with broad representation was created to oversee implementation.

In addition, the bill would benefit from providing the structural means for greater representation and participation of community members in the 5 boroughs. By creating Working Groups and open meetings that allow for more open participation from the community, the food policy council will better represent and support the diverse needs of the community.

Lander Proposed Food Policy Council Law

In relation to creating a food policy council to be charged with advising city agencies on programs that are aimed at ending hunger, increasing local procurement of food, and increasing a healthy diet for New York city residents and school children.

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. a. There shall be a food policy council to develop comprehensive food policies and to advise city agencies on issues that affect municipal food policies in New York city.

b. Such food policy council shall consist of fifteen members as follows:

- i. Eight members shall be appointed by the mayor, provided that appointees will have backgrounds in the following areas: anti-hunger; public health; environmental sustainability; community gardening; labor; food manufacturing; food delivery; and food wholesale and retail.
- ii. Seven members shall be appointed by the speaker of the council, provided that appointees will have backgrounds in the following areas: finance; education; child welfare; health promotion; urban agriculture; food justice; and public assistance advocacy.
- iii. At its first meeting, the food policy council shall select a chairperson from among its members by a majority vote of the food policy council.
- c. Each member shall serve for a term of four years to commence after the final member of the food policy council is appointed. Any vacancies in the membership of the food policy council shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. A person filling such vacancy shall serve for the unexpired portion of the term of the succeeded member.
- d. No member of the food policy council shall be removed from office except for cause and upon notice and hearing by the appropriate appointing official.
- e. Members of the food policy council shall serve without compensation and shall meet as necessary.
- f. The food policy council shall issue a report to the mayor and the speaker of the council no later than twelve months after the final member of the food policy council is appointed. Such report shall include recommendations on the following areas including, but not limited to:
 - i. Reducing hunger;
 - ii. Improving nutrition and reducing obesity;
 - iii. Increasing the local procurement of food;
 - iv. Reducing food desert areas;
 - v. Improving work conditions and job quality of food workers;
 - vi. Reducing food and food packaging waste;
 - vii. Increasing healthy diets of New York city residents and school children.
- g. The food policy council shall meet quarterly following the publication of the report to review progress on the recommendations of the report. The food policy council shall issue annual updates of the status of recommendations to the mayor, city council and public.
- h. The food policy council shall be empowered to issue reports on municipal food policies in addition to the report described in subdivision f of this local law.

Appendix - Food Policy Council Resources

American Planning Association

<http://www.planning.org/nationalcenters/health/briefingpapers/foodcouncils.htm>

List of Food Policy Councils North America

<http://www.markwinne.com/list-of-food-policy-councils-in-the-usa/>

Doing Food Policy Councils Right- A Guide to Development and Action by Mark Winnie

<http://www.markwinne.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/FPC-manual.pdf>

Good Law & Good Food-Putting State Food Policy to Work For Our Communities Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic

<http://www.markwinne.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/food-toolkit-2012.pdf>

Good Law & Good Food-Putting Local Policy to Work For Our Communities Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic

<http://www.markwinne.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/food-toolkit-local.pdf>

Food Policy Network Resource- Center of Livable Future- Johns Hopkins School of Public Health

<http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-a-livable-future/projects/FPN/>

Strategic Action Plans for Various Councils

http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-a-livable-future/projects/FPN/resource/strategic_plans.html

Los Angeles Food System Snapshot 2013- A baseline report of the Los Angeles Regional Foodshed

<http://goodfoodla.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/LA-Food-System-Snapshot-Oct-2013-small.pdf>

Los Angeles Food Policy Council

<http://goodfoodla.org/>

How-To Guides (Getting Started: Organizing for Food System Change)

http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-a-livable-future/projects/FPN/resource/how_to_guide.html

How-To Guides (Laws, Policies, and Economic Development)

http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-a-livable-future/projects/FPN/resource/how_to_guide_2.html

Urban Community Planning

http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-a-livable-future/projects/FPN/resource/urban_community_planning.html

Ordinances and Model Policies

http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-a-livable-future/projects/FPN/resource/ordinance_model_policies.html

Academic Literature

http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-a-livable-future/projects/FPN/resource/academic_literature.html

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<http://www.planning.org/nationalcenters/health/briefingpapers/foodcouncils.htm>

Food Policy Council Background Memo: NYC Food Policy Center at Hunter College

<http://nycfoodpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/FoodPolicyCouncilMemo.pdf>

List of Food Policy Councils North America

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<http://goodfoodla.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/LA-Food-System-Snapshot-Oct-2013-small.pdf>

Los Angeles Food Policy Council

<http://goodfoodla.org/>

<http://www.nyscfp.org/>

<http://www.michiganfood.org/>

<http://treasurevalleyfoodcoalition.org/?p=998>

<http://www.boisehighlights.com/2013/05/15/tomato-independence-project/>

<http://www.missoulacfac.org/landlinkmontana.html>

http://newwest.net/city/article/land_link_montana_launches_to_match_farmers_with_ground/C8/L8/

<http://www.fairfoodnetwork.org/connect/blog/double-food-bucks-expands-grocery-stores>

<http://www.doubleupfoodbucks.org/>

<http://adamsfoodpolicy.org/healthyoptions.html>

<http://gettysburgbattlefieldcommunitygardens.wordpress.com/2013/07/01/healthy-options-in-adams-county/>

<http://cccfoodpolicy.org/working-group/local-purchasing>

Appendix B - A Food Justice Agenda for Mayor de Blasio's First 100 Days

1. Appoint a Deputy Mayor for Food and create and fund an independent Food Policy / Systems Council. Adopt a New York City Food Plan as provided for in Section 197-a of the City Charter
2. Mandate breakfast in the classroom in all schools.
3. Enact free universal school lunch (<http://www.lunch4learningnyc.org/>). Increase the nutritional value and quality of school meals by enhancing kitchen staff skills and increasing kitchen capital investment.
4. Use the City's food purchasing power to improve the nutritional quality of the meals it serves and support regional, New York, farms by aggressively employing regional preference and freshness criteria in food purchasing for meal service by City agencies, including the Department of Education. Establish a short term goal that 25% of the food purchased by city government is local
5. Make it a goal to reduce hunger in NYC by 50% in the first year, 75% during term. Increase funding for emergency food (EFAP) to at least \$15 million. Simplify - and integrate - the application process for SNAP and other public benefits. Increase funding for initiatives such as Health Bucks.
6. Enact policies to assist in preserving preserve farmland in the regional, New York, food shed. (see [Securing Fresh, Local Food for NYC and the Hudson Valley](#), Scenic Hudson)
7. Be a national spokesperson in defending SNAP. Push for the Farm Bill to increase - not cut - funding for SNAP. Support a farm bill that promotes healthy food, supports family farmers and food workers, protects the environment, and reduces hunger. (<http://foodbillnyc.wikispaces.com/>)
8. Support sustainable Re-development of Hunts Point . Provide the neighborhood with a new outlet for fresh fruit and vegetables provided by regional farmers. Jobs should be provided to the local residents and the impact of transportation and air quality on the neighborhood needs to be reduced. Establish a NYC Wholesale Farmers Market.
- 9 . Sign an Executive Order implementing the Transitional Jobs Bill passed by the City Council in 2000 but ignored by the prior Mayor. Create at least 10,000 jobs
10. Appoint an HRA Commissioner committed to ensuring that New Yorkers are able to access safety net benefits they are legally entitled to, and who is committed to helping welfare participants become employable including embracing access to job training and education. Admit that workfare and the Work First approach has been unsuccessful in improving employability. Significantly reduce the rate and practice of sanctioning.
11. Increase access to healthy foods. Extend cost-effective SNAP EBT processing capabilities to more farmers' markets and other food providers, including Green Carts, increase Health Bucks funding, and supplement Farmers Market Nutrition Program funding.
12. Make it a priority to eliminate the \$1 billion annually in wage theft. Support safe working conditions, availability of paid sick days, health benefits, and the right to organize for every City food chain worker. Request state legislation to enable NYC to establish a higher minimum wage for all NYC workers.
13. All publicly funded food processing and distribution (FRESH, EDC) should ensure that beneficiaries: provide adequate food health and safety precautions; require or provide subsidies for local procurement; support local labor movement; provide living wages. Manufacturers receiving public funds should have to sign on the Manufacturer's Code of Conduct developed by Brandworkers International and the administering agency to agree to transparency in the award process.