Poll Question

- What is the current status of the FPC?
  - Active (meets multiple times a year)
  - In development (formed within the last 12 months)
  - In transition (meets infrequently, redefining the purpose and/or structure of the council)
  - Inactive
Poll Question

- What is the purpose of your food policy council?
  - Advocacy and policy work
  - Community engagement
  - Partnership building / Networking
  - Education
  - Programming
  - Research and data collection
  - Strategic or policy planning
  - All that apply
Moving from programs and partnerships to policy: the case for food policy councils

ANNE PALMER & KAREN BASSARAB
OHIO FOOD POLICY NETWORK
Overview

- Why FPCs, why food systems and why policy
- How do you get started
- Leadership, vision, mission
- Membership- who should be involved
- Governance structure
- Decision-making, consensus building
- Deciding what policies to work on
What is a food policy council?

- Groups that represent multiple stakeholders, which may be sanctioned by a local or state government body or may exist independently of government, that address food-related issues and needs within city, county, state, tribal, multi-county or other designated region.
Programs, Partnerships, and Policies

- Programs – synergies from working together
- Educational function - provide a forum for food system stakeholders to understand and appreciate respective areas of expertise
- Partnerships - Coordinate efforts of food system stakeholders within a specified geography and jurisdictions
- Policies - Influence government or institutional food policies, especially ones that promote equity, health, and sustainability
Why bother with a Food Policy Council?

“No major famine has ever occurred in a functioning democracy with regular elections, opposition parties, basic freedom and relatively free media (even when the country is very poor).”

Amartya Sen, Nobel Laureate Economist

“Decisions on important matters should not be made by one person alone. They should be discussed with many.”

Anonymous Chesapeake Buddhist
(Japanese Buddhist Constitution, 604 AD)

“Food policy councils could be leaders in raising and encouraging research and action on salient systems questions”

Kate Clancy, Visiting Scholar, Center for a Livable Future
“A system is a set of elements or parts that is coherently organized and interconnected in a pattern or structure that produces a characteristic set of behaviors often classified as the system’s purpose or function.”

Donella Meadows
What is public policy?

- Law
  - Statutes, ordinances
  - Regulations
  - Permits and licenses
- Economic decisions
  - Budgets
  - Trade agreements
  - Funded scholarship
- Statements of Intention or Direction
  - Resolutions
  - Executive orders
And why is it important?

- What are the benefits of programs?
  Programs address individual behavior, influence norms, empower communities

- What are the benefits of policy?
  Policy improves environment in which programs operate, incentivize/rewards good behavior, penalizes negative behavior

- Needed to “raise all boats”

- Some revenue neutral; some cost
Different Levels of Policy

- International
- Federal
- State
- Local
- Institution/organization
Features of every organized group

- Leadership – inspire & motivate
- Shared vision
- Membership, roles, committees
Leadership Models

- Hierarchy

- Flat (self-managed organization)
Shared Vision

A shared vision is a desired future state shared by a collective of persons

• Must be physically possible
• May not be easily imaginable
• Must be owned (felt) by the members of the group

Shared visions cause people to invest in the vision and the organization/coalition

Success can be reached without a shared vision, but substantial levels of control and expendable resources are needed
Membership, roles, committees

- Application
- Appointed
- Open

Do they know why they are there? (the meeting before the meeting)

- Membership materials
- Skills & experience matrix
- Roles and expectations defined
- Committee structure
Membership

- Right people at the table?
- Reflection of the greater community in which you work?
- Do you have balance between policymakers, food system stakeholders, and grassroots?
  - Top down (grass tops): Mayors, local government staff, and larger businesses
  - Bottom up (grass roots): non-profit organizations, neighborhood groups, small business
- How many people will serve on the council?
- How will members be selected?
- How will members engage?
- How will information be communicated?
FPC Top Priorities

- Healthy food access
- Anti-hunger
- Economic development
- Food Procurement
- Land use planning
- Food Waste/Recovery

Graph showing the comparison between 2016 and 2015 priorities.
Douglas County FPC, Kansas

- Formed in 2009
- Embedded in government
- 23 members with designated seats for agricultural producers
- **Achievements:**
  - Douglas County Food Systems Plan, 2017
  - Food Hub Feasibility Study for 16 counties in northeast Kansas
- **Challenges:**
  - Educate community leaders on why planning and policy matter
  - State preemption
Madison Food Policy Council

About the Council
- Formed in 2012
- City
- Embedded in government

Policy Action
- Healthy Retail Access Program
  - Established in 2015, $100,000 in Capital Budget
  - 25% support technical assistance (business planning, marketing, outreach)
  - Up to $35,000/project
  - Fall in food access improvement map – areas of focus
  - Fund equipment, distribution, transportation and SNAP projects
Worcester Food Policy Council, MA

- Non-profit organization
- Mayor decree, seats for gov. officials
- Worcester Urban Agriculture Ordinance - 2016
- Advocated for raising the state minimum wage
- MA Food Trust (state, 2014)
- School Nutrition legislation (state, 2010)
- MA Food Policy Council (state, 2010)
Pittsburgh Food Policy Council

### About the Council
- Formed in 2009
- City
- Embedded in Extension (non-profit)

### Policy Action
- Updated Agriculture Zoning Code:
  - Permit urban agriculture in residential areas
  - Permit bees, chickens, ducks and goats in residential areas
  - Simply process and cost by removing permit requirement
Policy Criteria

- Reflects the group’s shared mission and vision
- Has a broad consensus with FPC members
- Aligns with other (non-FPC) community initiative
- Responsive to a food plan or strategic plan
- Has data supporting its efficacy
- Has a champion(s)
- Has a significant impact – short term; long term
- Politically, financially, legally feasible
- Addresses social, economic, and environmental equity
- Opposition is limited or insignificant
- Easily communicated to the public and policy makers
- There are logical partners and an ample constituency
Decision-making

Washentaw Food Policy Council Issue Criteria:

- Is there a direct connection between the issue and the vision, mission and strategies?
- Is it an immediate issue that will have a major impact on the food system?
- Is the issue urgent or time sensitive?
- Does the issue build or sustain an existing effort?
- Can the FPC make a difference or influence the issue?
- What community or affiliation are we trying to influence?
- Does the FPC have the resources to commit to the issue?
- Do we know enough to decide?
- What are the basic pieces of information we need to take this on?
- Who else is working on the issue?
How to keep people engaged?

- Keep meeting style interesting, educational and engaging
- Sunset committees when interest wanes, review annually
- Makes sure everyone contributes (reaching the introvert)
- Develop “actionable” agenda items
- Invite outside speakers
- Make time for networking
- Bring food

CREATE A MEETING YOU WOULD WANT TO ATTEND
Get it Toolgether: Evaluation Toolkit

1. Organizational assessment
2. Advocacy goals, plans, and strategies
3. Conducting advocacy
4. Advocacy avenues
5. Organizational operations to sustain advocacy
6. Policy implementation
NATIONAL HUB

• FPN listserv with ~1400 members
• Food Policy Council Directory of 300+ councils
• Food Policy Resource Database with 1,000+ resources
• Monthly webinars on federal, state and local food policy
• Training and technical assistance

www.FoodPolicyNetworks.org
It's the 5th Annual Food Policy Council Directory Update!

https://jhsph.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7OJuGlsY9qTlo21

Complete it by **February 16, 2018**

and entered to win a one-on-one consultation with Mark Winne or another content area expert

Or

Mark Winne’s new book, *Stand Together or Starve Alone.*