



Mission

The DC Food Policy Council (DCFPC) will promote food access, food sustainability, and a local food economy in the District. The DCFPC is made up of 12 diverse residents of the District of Columbia appointed by the Mayor.

Duties of the Food Policy Council

1. Monitor barriers to the development of a local food economy, including barriers to the operations of farmers markets, existing food assets in the local food economy, and job creation potential in the local food economy
2. Collect and analyze data on the local food economy and food access in the District, including an assessment of food deserts; and
3. Monitor and research national best practices in food policy, including public health policy for dietary-related illness, and determine how they could be implemented in the District.
4. Advise the Food Policy Director on how to promote
 - a. food access,
 - b. food sustainability, and a
 - c. local food economy in the District,
 - d. reduce regulatory barriers to the development of a local food economy,
 - e. implement national best practices in food policy in the District.

How to Get Involved

The activities of the DC Food Policy Council are accomplished primarily through our working groups, led by appointed Council Members and populated by residents, organizations, and businesses with a shared commitment furthering the goals of the DCFPC. These working groups develop policy recommendations, execute and support events and programs, and facilitate partnerships connected to their specific goals.

Anyone is invited to join the Working Groups, which meet on alternative months from the DC Food Policy Council whole council members. Equitable engagement in our working groups is essential for our collective success and we welcome all volunteers to join us.

Please contact dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov if you or your organization/business is interested in getting involved. Information on the mission, projects, and current meeting details is available on each Working Group page.

1. Local Food Business and Labor Development

2. Food Equity, Access, and Health and Nutrition Education

3. Sustainable Food Procurement

4. Urban Agriculture and Food System Education

What Can I Do?

1. **Buy Local Food** – Food travels on average 1,500 miles from farm to table. Choose locally grown food, which is fresher, more nutritious, and requires fewer greenhouse gases to transport.
2. **Grow Your Own** – The Department of Parks and Recreation has more than 50 community gardens in our local parks. Find the one closest to you and start growing today, or plant a fresh herbs or vegetables in your own home.
3. **Start Early** - Good eating habits start at a young age, which is why it is important that kids are eating healthy, nutritious food. Ask about school gardens, healthier school menus, and farm field trips for all DC's kids.
4. **Support Local Businesses**- Compared to chain stores, locally owned businesses recycle a much larger share of their revenue back into the local economy, enriching the whole community.
5. **Try a Farmers' Market**- With the metropolitan area DC containing about 70 farmers markets, you can easily find a market near you. Farmers' markets encourage you to eat healthily, support local businesses, and foster the growth and stability of local crops and markets.
6. **Support a Healthy Corner Store** – There are more than 60 corner stores in the Healthy Corners Program ensuring DC residents can buy healthy foods and fresh produce in their neighborhoods. This allows for DC residents to have access to fresh produce when grocery stores may be harder to access.
7. **Volunteer Your Time**– We need you! Be a part of the food policy movement but coming to DC Food Policy Council meetings, helping at an emergency food pantry, or community garden.



Interested in being part of one of our working groups, joining our email listserv or learning more about the DC Food Policy Council? Find us online or in person below.

Visit www.dcfoodpolicy.com

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