



# Homegrown Minneapolis

## Community Food Forum

April 17<sup>th</sup> 2019

Event Overview and Breakout  
Group Notes by Topic

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# Community Food Forum 2019

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Homegrown Minneapolis, in partnership with the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council and University of Minnesota, hosted a community event on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to launch a food action planning process for the City of Minneapolis (description below) and gather initial feedback. Over 100 participants gathered together to share and discuss their experiences and ideas surrounding food systems in Minneapolis and the region. During the event, an overview of the upcoming Minneapolis Food Action Plan process was provided followed by topical breakout sessions. Attendees divided into six sub-groups to discuss the topics. Food Council discussion leaders recorded group discussion notes and participants were also given the option of submitting an individual note sheet. Each breakout group discussed the same three prompts for their topic area.

This report is a compilation of the notes received from the event breakout sessions. Due to repetition, some notes were combined. This information gathered will be used as initial input for the process. The responses were not prioritized or assessed for feasibility, accuracy or impact.

Following the event, the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council will use existing meeting times every other month, beginning in May 2019, for presentations of information about six rotating topics, gathering input and discussing priorities. University of Minnesota research partners will gather and present information related to the designated topics and outcomes at each meeting. City and outreach partners will facilitate additional ongoing community engagement and input on data and priorities. The Food Council will hold discussions to determine priority strategies and City staff will present a draft plan to Minneapolis City Council and Mayor for consideration in mid-2020. Anticipated adoption of the plan will be followed by implementation planning and subsequent implementation of priority strategies.

## Minneapolis Food Action Plan

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The City of Minneapolis is developing a roadmap toward a more equitable, climate resilient, just and sustainable local food system and local food economy. The goal of the Minneapolis Food Action Plan (MFAP) is to develop a 2030 roadmap for Minneapolis food systems action, building on previous efforts and plans, aligning with Milan Urban Food Policy Pact and incorporating data and community input. MFAP will serve as an appendix to the City's Climate Action Plan and a stand-alone framework with food systems data and recommended goals, strategies, tactics and measurable indicators for City of Minneapolis policy and investment and Food Council action.

In 2009, the City of Minneapolis adopted the Homegrown Minneapolis recommendations, followed by an Urban Agriculture Policy Plan in 2011 and establishment of the Food Council in 2012. In 2013, the City of Minneapolis adopted the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan, which is the City's roadmap to reducing Citywide greenhouse gas emissions. In 2017, the City of Minneapolis signed onto the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact. Most recently, the City of Minneapolis adopted Minneapolis 2040, the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Climate Action Plan defers to Homegrown Minneapolis for proposed climate change-related food systems actions, which this effort intends to advance, through the framework of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact with research partnership from the University of Minnesota.

# Topic 1 Breakout Group: Food Justice & Equity

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## **Working Descriptions:**

### **City of Minneapolis equity and racial equity definitions (2014):**

*Equity - Fair and just opportunities and outcomes for all people*

*Racial Equity Programs - The development of policies, practices, and strategic investments to reverse racial disparity trends, eliminate institutional racism, and ensure that outcomes and opportunities for all people are no longer predictable by race.*

### **Sustainable Healthy Cities definition of equity & justice with focus on measurements:**

*Inequality is a measure of sameness or difference across any population. Equity addresses both inequality and fairness in distribution of burdens and benefits across society (Dempsey et al.), with attention to underserved or populations, i.e., by gender, race, economic class, disability, sexual orientation (Ramaswami 2019). Social justice provides greater attention to the historical and institutionalized roots of inequities. Equity can be measured both in terms of differences in the distribution of determinants (food access, etc.) and outcomes (health, life expectancy) as well as procedural equity (participation).*

***We will work with community and the Food Council to identify a food justice definition and framework for the purposes of this planning process.***

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**Discussion Question: What are past or current initiatives, programs, or projects are you aware of related to this topic area?**

## **Breakout Group and Individual Responses:**

- Local farmers markets
- Urban garden plots
- Northside Fresh [Coalition]
- Projects/initiatives surrounding food sovereignty
  - Indigenous Food Network
  - Sovereignty versus food justice
    - Determining your own food sources
  - Defining the economy of your food system
- Where you spend your food money
  - Locally owned business versus corporate chains
- Reclaiming justice
- Food apartheid

**Discussion Question: What data, reports, or research are you aware of related to this topic area?**

**No notes were received or recorded for this question.**

## Discussion Question: Do you have other ideas, comments, and/or questions related to this topic area?

### Ideas/comments

- Food deserts in Minneapolis
  - Wealthy areas have many more grocery stores
  - We have 3 expensive ones in the Northeast/University of Minnesota area
    - I drive 5 miles one-way to shop

# Topic 2 Breakout Group: Diets & Community Demand

*Working Description: All food consumed and used city-wide, including food eaten by residents both in and outside the home (with attention to individual diets shaping this demand); by visitors to the city and by industrial food processors (processing food for both local consumption & export)*

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**Discussion Question: What are past or current initiatives, programs, or projects are you aware of related to this topic area?**

## Breakout Group and Individual Responses:

- Delivering leftover prepared foods to a place where it will be consumed
- Wholesome Minnesota
  - Plant-based meals to schools/hospitals/nursing homes
- Urban agricultural policies
  - Bolster this approach
- Support for community gardens
- Support for farmers markets
  - Keep them sustainable
- Twin Cities Veg Fest
  - How can it preview in North Minneapolis

**Discussion Question: What data, reports, or research are you aware of related to this topic area?**

## Breakout Group and Individual Responses:

- Where is there good data (city-wide)?
  - Connect with Anu Ramaswami
  - Yuki Wang (Rob King, University of MN) Extrapolate country data to identify local demand
- N+1 Health & Nutrition Survey
- Other opportunities to downscale national level data
- Purchase data at a county level
- Hospital level data by zip code

**Discussion Question: Do you have other ideas, comments, and/or questions related to this topic area?**

## Questions

- What are the barriers to getting or sharing data?
- What are the changes in demand relative to equity?
- Is there room for new data gaps/research?

# Topic 3 Breakout Group: Agricultural Food Production

*Working Description: Production of agri-food (agriculture for food products including: oilseed, grain, vegetable, fruit, nut, greenhouse, sugar, other crop, poultry & egg, dairy, beef, other animal and fish farming) serving urban demand both within and outside the city, as well as local production for local consumption & export from the city*

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**Discussion Question: What are past or current initiatives, programs, or projects are you aware of related to this topic area?**

**Breakout Group and Individual Responses:**

- City growers – New York City- Brooklyn grange
- Gardening Matters (yearly census of agricultural plots)
- Plot referrals for those looking for land
- Advocates for Urban Agriculture (Chicago)
- Neighbor Space (city, county collaboration hold & ensure land for agriculture)
- Co-subsidizes labor costs
- Rid-All – 100 year leases (Cleveland)
- Minnesota: No tax exemption for urban agriculture
- Grow That Youth farm (New Orleans)

**Discussion Question: What data, reports, or research are you aware of related to this topic area?**

**Breakout Group and Individual Responses:**

- New report on Urban Controlled Environments and Agriculture (CEA) by Goodman, Minner, et al.
- Chieri Kubota at Ohio State (CEA)
- United States Department of Agriculture census
- AR report: barriers to urban agriculture (main barriers: racial disparities)
- \$1000 per year
- Extension specialist on agriculture production
- Ecological benefits (Jelinski, University of Minnesota)
- Urban Agriculture & Heat Islands (University of Minnesota)

**Discussion Question: Do you have other ideas, comments, and/or questions related to this topic area?**

**Breakout Group and Individual Responses:**

- What city services, funding, infrastructure could be used for urban food?
- How can we creatively use land (or not land) to garden and grow food?
- Opportunity for youth into agriculture production?
- Urban farms are not allowed to have animals, which seems counter intuitive to creating and sustaining a diverse biological system. Can this be changed? (i.e. chickens)
- I think education (especially youth) regarding sustainable practices should be an initiative worked on
- Urban river partnerships related to infrastructure, knowledge exchange and equipment exchange.
- City needs steady, good indicators
- Economic viability of urban ag – realistic
- Lack of greenhouse space, need infrastructure
- LCA [Life Cycle Assessment] – cyclical, inputs, outputs, support structures

# Topic 4 Breakout Group:

## Retail, Wholesale, Processing & Distribution

*Working Description: All activities related to distribution, processing and sale of food and beverages between the stages of production & final consumption*

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**Discussion Question: What are past or initiatives, programs, or projects are you aware of related to this topic area**

### Breakout Group and Individual Responses:

- Food Hubs\*
  - Food hub groups
    - Regional center
    - Food charter
  - Good Acre - Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Farm share connecting small farmers with large customers like public schools
- Market initiatives/programs\*
  - North market [in Minneapolis]
  - Co-ops and partnerships
  - Worked at Eastside food co-op
  - Farmers Markets
- Food Access\*
  - Food shelves – different ways is mobile
  - Opposite food trucks
    - Donations
- Innovative transportation via Minnesota Department of Transportation
  - Fresh food flow
  - Response to disasters
- Back hauling food from farms South of state
  - Weaving threads together
- Processing/production\*
  - Processing
    - Regulation barriers
    - Grass fed production
  - Meat processing/processers
  - Grass fed production
  - Paradigm Shift to soil health with livestock integration
- Farm to Table\*
  - Connecting farmers of all different sizes
  - Hmong America Farmers Association (HAFA)
  - Big River Farms
    - Minnesota Farmer's Association
  - Good Food Purchasing Program
  - BIX
- Latino Economic Development Center
- Layer multiple benefits

**Discussion Question: What data, reports, or research are you aware of related to this topic area?**

No notes were received or recorded for this question.

**Discussion Question: Do you have other ideas, comments, and/or questions related to this topic area?**

**Breakout Group and Individual Responses:  
Questions**

- How much do households or individuals spend on food?
  - As a portion of income?
  - Compared historically?
  - On groceries versus on restaurants?
  - Should we plan goals on this?
- What quality of food (nutrition/diets – organic, vegetarian, local) for what value are consumers getting?
- What is the role (of local government and) of stores serving thousands of consumers, in implementing strategies? Regulations?
- What percentage of individual food is local?
- What are communications strategies to promote local food purchases?
- Is supply meeting demand?

**Ideas/comments**

- Frame it as economic development and it plays well with planning
- [This topic] links with transportation too
- City use of economic center to incent[tivize] local purchases
- City purchase processes
- How to connect organic food system to city – understand intersections & use city center to purchase local food

## Topic 5 Breakout Group:

### Food Waste Generation & Distribution

*Working Description: Generation and management of food waste both avoidable (i.e. edible) & unavoidable (i.e. peels, kitchen scraps) across all stages of the supply chain (production, processing, distribution, retail, final consumer)*

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**Discussion Question: What are past or initiatives, programs, or projects are you aware of related to this topic area**

#### Breakout Group and Individual Responses:

- Fertile Ground – bike composting co-op
- Renaissance Soil (Non-profit)
- Kasandra Brown composting/vermicomposting workshops
- Institute for Local Self-Reliance
- Imperfect produce brands
- Gleaning efforts
- Food group
- Save the Food (NRDC)
- Open Feasts
- Food Waste Forum
- Provision (restaurant opening soon, will use food waste)

**Discussion Question: What data, reports, or research are you aware of related to this topic area?**

#### Breakout Group and Individual Responses:

- Local waste reporting by Institute for Local Self-Reliance

**Discussion Question: Do you have other ideas, comments, and/or questions related to this topic area?**

#### Breakout Group and Individual Responses:

##### Questions

- Does this include packaging? Consider including this in definition
- Broad definition – what do we zoom in on? Where does city want to pick the battle? (Schools)
- How do we educate community residents about recycling and organics?
- Is food waste generation and management two different topics?

# Topic 6 Breakout Group:

## Governance, Finance & Implementation

*Working Description: Governance, finance and implementation mechanisms to achieve food system outcomes*

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**Discussion Question: What are past initiatives, programs, or projects are you aware of related to this topic area**

### Breakout Group and Individual Responses:

- Organizations/Programs/Initiatives\*
  - Campus Kitchen (foodrescue.org)
  - Compassionate Action for Animals
    - “preview of Veg Fest in North Minneapolis”
  - Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR)
  - Wholesome Minnesota
  - Minneapolis Garden Collaborative
  - Dr. Gregor
- Food Access\*
  - Food access - Farmers Markets Coalition coordination
    - Ex. EBT/SNAP system implementation
    - Cost sharing
  - Mobile markets
  - Mobile market policy
- Park system policy to allow onsite gardens
  - Invests, manages, administers free/low cost land access
- City Government\*
  - Minneapolis Public Schools
    - local foods procurement policies
  - City of Minneapolis \*
    - Food policy and implementation
    - Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board Garden Lease programs
      - Implementations/designated urban ag zones/community
      - Purchasing gardens/parcels of land
      - Racial equity
      - Capital improvement
      - Park system’s policy to allow (master plan) gardens on site.
      - Urban ag/orchard zones. Park manages garden purchase county parcels for garden. Free to gardeners/willingness to purchase tax foreclosed spaces for garden usage
  - Minneapolis local foods and contracts navigation of policy
    - Food contract with Good Acre
    - “Real Food Challenge”
- Lease/insurance process and policy

## Discussion Question: What data, reports, or research are you aware of related to this topic area?

### Breakout Group and Individual Responses:

- University of Minnesota Research, Anu Ramaswami
- University of St. Thomas Sustainable Communities Partnership
- County level purchasing data and hospital records
- Concrete data surrounding impact of plant based diet
- From environmental, cultural and economic perspectives
- United Nations (World Health Organization Website)
- Doug Gierian – Sherman is a former Environmental Protection Agency scientist who worked on the agriculture part of the Green New Deal and is local. There was a plant rich initiative he worked on in Europe and he can be contacted via science Twin Cities (via University of Minnesota)
- Consumer behavior reports and data – implement
- Garden lease reports and data

## Discussion Question: Do you have other ideas, comments, and/or questions related to this topic area?

### Breakout Group and Individual Responses:

#### Questions

- How does demand change across neighborhoods in the city?
  - What influences those differences?

#### Ideas/comments

- Farmers market Council
  - EBT/SNAP
- Farm to school
  - Good Acre Contract
- Cart produce sales permits
- Plant based movement is huge and only continues to grow
  - Huge health and environmental benefits
- Morrison food service (in St. Cloud hospital) has current goal to be plant based within the next 10 years
  - Not local per se, but could be an idea for how to get meat out of hospitals
- Because carbon emissions can be decreased at such a significant level with a plant-rich diet (#4 Drawdown) and plant-rich diets can have a significant improvement on people's health (so much data on dairy, for example, and people of color), this is a huge issue to tackle but one that is essential to do

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