



Food Master Plan for Asheville and Buncombe County

MISSION: To identify, propose and advocate for policies, financial appropriations, and innovative solutions to improve and protect our local food system in order to advance economic development, social justice, environmental sustainability¹, and community resiliency.

VISION: All residents of Buncombe County have access to and the option to cultivate and prepare nutritious food within a resilient and sovereign² foodshed that sustainably harvests and conserves farmland, forests, and water resources, sustains our population, collaborates with neighboring counties, and ensures a thriving agriculture-related economy.

LONG TERM GOAL 1: Increase Buncombe County rural and urban food production for local consumption according to identified need until demands are met.

LONG TERM GOAL 2: Increase access to nutritionally adequate food for Buncombe County residents experiencing food insecurity according to identified need until demands are met.

LONG TERM GOAL 3: Work with neighboring counties to advocate for a plan to increase regional nutritional self-sufficiency³ and emergency preparedness through public-private partnerships.

LONG TERM GOAL 4: Increase agricultural economic viability by advocating for preserving farmland through conservation easements, ensuring adequate access to affordable business and financial resources, increasing product demand through local sourcing by individuals and institutions, and working with community partners to establish realistic targets.

¹ **Sustainable Agriculture:** The term "sustainable agriculture" (U.S. Code Title 7, Section 3103) means an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will over the long-term: Satisfy human food and fiber needs; Enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agriculture economy depends; Make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm resources and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls; Sustain the economic viability of farm operations; Enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole. (Source: <http://goo.gl/aliGvo>)

² **Food Sovereignty:** The right of peoples, communities, and countries to define their own agricultural, labor, fishing, food and land policies, which are ecologically, socially, economically and culturally appropriate to their unique circumstances. It includes the true right to food and to produce food, which means that all people have the right to safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate food and to food-producing resources and the ability to sustain themselves and their societies. (Source: "Food Sovereignty: A Right For All, Political Statement of the NGO/CSO Forum for Food Sovereignty," Rome, June 2002 (Source: <http://goo.gl/FMEpDj>)

³ **Self-Sufficiency:** The extent to which a community can satisfy its food needs from its own domestic or local production. (Source: <http://goo.gl/LVG72e>)

Top Priorities (Cluster Responsible for Tracking and Leading Development of the Priority)*

- 1. County/ASAP data aggregated by FPC/grantees:** Create a baseline of quantity and type of food-growing in Buncombe County. (Asset Mapping)
- 2. County/ASAP data aggregated by FPC/grantees:** Create a baseline of quantity and type of food processing facilities to ensure long term food access across all communities within Buncombe County. Add two processing facilities in two areas of highest need, if this proves to be . (Asset Mapping)
- 3. FPC:** Review the County/City emergency plan to respond to short term food crisis. Look for any desired updates. (Legislation)
 - i. Meet with city, county, and community partner personnel to understand existing emergency plans, as well as food storage capacity and how that compares to Buncombe County's needs.
 - ii. explore whether we need storage facilities in order to meet long term goal 1.c. explore plans for storage facilities in areas of highest need.
 - iii. Assess emergency food distribution to identify any needed improvements.
- 4. City and County:** Encourage food distribution in underserved communities by providing initiatives to establish markets in each neighborhood, based on neighborhood preferences. Encourage mobile markets for low-income communities where desired, especially those in food deserts. Create food mentoring opportunities where wanted. (Access)
- 5. FPC:** Engage farmers in the Food Policy Council to identify their needs and how to help them through policy, programs and economic development planning. (not assigned yet)
- 6. County and City Schools:** Prioritize local, fresh foods in cafeterias of schools. Implement educational programs by creating curriculum and menus. Promote the adoption of healthy foods and funding for City and County schools, educators, consultants and any difference in expense for sourcing and processing locally grown food. (Education & Wellness)
- 7. SACEE/City Staff/FPC in collaboration:** Evaluate the existing Land Use Policy as it relates to urban and rural agriculture to ensure it supports our long term goals. Evaluate government policy – both local and federal road blocks – and remedy barriers to production and distribution. (Land Use)
- 8. City and County:** Designate funding/staff/CDBG monies to support a "Resilient Neighborhoods" program, to assist neighbors in developing awareness of food security and planning for food shortages, including planting gardens. (Access)
- 9. City:** Investigate the potential for a citywide composting program to complement trash and

recycling programs and create a central point for community access to compost. FPC: Support city efforts by aiding in promotion to related area agencies. (Legislation)

10. City: Support community gardens and urban agriculture through resolutions. Include requirements for GMO Free. Include incentives/programs to support the NC 10% in large institutions. (Legislation)

11. City and county: Open and encourage city- and county-owned parks and greenways to community designed gardens and ensure any landscape design by firms includes the purpose of growing healthy food. (Land Use)

- i. Utilize edible and medicinal landscaping in all public parks and rights of way and set target percentages of land devoted to food production
- ii. Allow the gleaning and distribution of products from edible trees, plants, etc. in parks and rights of way
- iii. Encourage partnerships and volunteerism in park gardens and greenways, which provide nutritional education and involve communities in food security and food appreciation.

12. City and County: Incent innovative methods of production (intensive permaculture systems, aquaculture, vertical farming, rooftop gardens, etc.) and include requirements for GMO-free. (Food Flow)

13. County/Beacon: Evaluate the need for additional food serving sites for those in need. Engage Parks/Rec with partners such as AB Tech, AIR DINER, GO, MANNA, ABCCM, Salvation Army, and Meals on Wheels to address needs. (Access)

14. City: Identify arable city-owned land and issue an RFP for organic, GMO-free food production, with a focus on Permaculture. (Land Use)

***Note:** Top priorities will be revised every year and were not included in this year's revision process.

Updated with approved definitions on 7-1-15

Updated with revisions to Mission, Vision, & LTG's by General Council on 4-27-15

Approved by General Council of the AB Food Policy Council on 8-27-12

Updated with Cluster Responsibilities by General Council on 9-25-12 and 1-9-13

Updated with definitions on 1-16-13

Updated with Cluster reassignments 1-31-13

Renamed "Food Master Plan" to avoid confusion w/ City's Food Action Plan 6-13-13