Planning and Urban Design

Public Health and Equity

Sustainability & Climate Change

Research & Applied Evaluation
A healthy food system is one that:

- Ensures that all residents have access to healthy, affordable food options
- Minimizes the environmental impact of food production and transport
- Facilitates and encourages local food production and processing
- Creates jobs that provide fair working conditions and a living wage
- Benefits economies by supporting food producers, retailers and businesses
- Maximizes resources through collection & reuse of organics (food waste)

[http://www.sustainablecitiesinstitute.org/topics/food-systems](http://www.sustainablecitiesinstitute.org/topics/food-systems)
Local Food System Components

1. Production
2. Processing
3. Distribution
4. Access
5. Consumption
6. Waste Recovery
Planning Tools Can Strengthen Food Systems

- General plan policies and land use
- Zoning
- Ordinances
- Community based initiatives
- Programs + regulatory and incentives
Nine Strategies for a Healthy Food System
1. Use land use tools to preserve farmland

- Urban growth boundaries
- Conservation easements and land trusts
- Pesticide buffers (homes and schools)
- Incentives for organic practices
- Clustering
- Density transfer / transfer of development rights

New Jersey Ag-friendly Zoning / Land Use

- Encourages agribusiness
- Reduces the incidence of farmer-homeowner nuisance issues
- Allows farms and support businesses as permitted uses
- Reduces regulatory barriers to auxiliary farm operations (such as housing for farm labor)

http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/innovativeconservationplanning.pdf
2. Support processing and distribution channels

Agriculture and Land Based Training Association (ALBA) Salinas, CA

- ALBA Organics Food Hub
  - Aggregates, markets and ships farmers’ products to growing markets around California
- Farmer education course
- Organic farm incubator
- Farmers’ Market Match Program (1:1 match for CalFresh participants)
- Environmental education with schools

www.albafarmers.org/
3. Grow food in public spaces

**Support urban farms**
- Vacant property tax incentives to allow temporary urban farms
- Urban agricultural zoning

**Create community gardens**
- Community gardens GP & zoning
- Public support for gardens (*public land, financial, water, etc.*)
- School gardens

**Allow edible landscapes**
- Fruit trees in parks and on sidewalks

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**Homegrown Baltimore: Grow Local Plan**

- Revised zoning to allow farms and urban gardens
- Promote the use of vacant city lots for green space and food production

4. Allow people to grow/raise their own food on private property

- Urban chicken and livestock ordinances
- Landscape ordinance that allows food gardens in the back, side, AND front yards
- New multifamily developments with community gardens plots, balcony/window gardens, and/or rooftop gardens
- Facilitate surplus food harvesting

5. Provide access to healthy foods

**Food Retail**
- Incentives for supermarkets
- Limits on liquors and fast foods
- Farmers’ markets

**Food Desert Alleviation**
- Remove regulatory barriers to new small markets (e.g., parking)
- Mobile Produce Vendors (“Green Carts”)
- Healthy corner store conversions

**Supplemental Food Programs**
- Increase enrollment in WIC + CalFresh and encourage retailers to accept them
- Farm to school procurement program
6. Create programs and incentives for healthy eating

- Healthy and local food sold in public buildings (vending and cafeterias)
- Limits on unhealthy foods and beverages served at public meetings / events
- Healthy meals served (hospitals, jails, senior residential facilities, schools, etc.)
- Healthy snacks and beverages at park concession stands

Municipal nutrition standards

Santa Clara County Nutrition Standards:
7. Reduce food waste

**Prevention**
- Standardized date labeling
- Consumer education

**Food Recovery**
- Encourage food bank donations through:
  - Policy
  - Tax incentives
  - Business education

**Food Recycling**
- Municipal and residential composting programs
- Sell compost to local farms and give to residents
- Anaerobic digestion
  - Energy for cities + trucks

[https://www.refed.com](https://www.refed.com)
8. Take care of people in the food industry

Farmworker housing

• Allow housing on agricultural lands
• Develop affordable housing (Napa Co. Farmworker Housing Centers)
• Plan for seasonal / migrant workers

Fair wages and working conditions

• Farms, processing, retail, restaurants, truck drivers, etc.

Avoid toxic exposure

• Incentives for organic farming
• Showers in workplace so workers don’t expose families
• Pesticide buffers (homes and schools)
Create a food policy council and a Health in All Policies (HiAP) group focused on food
Resources

http://www.changelabsolutions.org/landing-page/creating-healthier-food-environments
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/255650805_Land_Use_and_Planning_for_Secure_Regional_Food_Systems
http://ngfn.org/
https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional/food-hubs
http://www.healthyfoodaccess.org/
http://cafreshworks.com/
http://ucanr.edu/sites/CESonomaAgOmbuds/files/203475.pdf
http://lohp.org/restaurant-workers/
http://www.baltimarket.org/virtual-supermarket/
http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/green-carts.page
thank you!

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