



Mission

The Dane County Food Council explores issues and develops recommendations to create an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable local food system for the Dane County region.

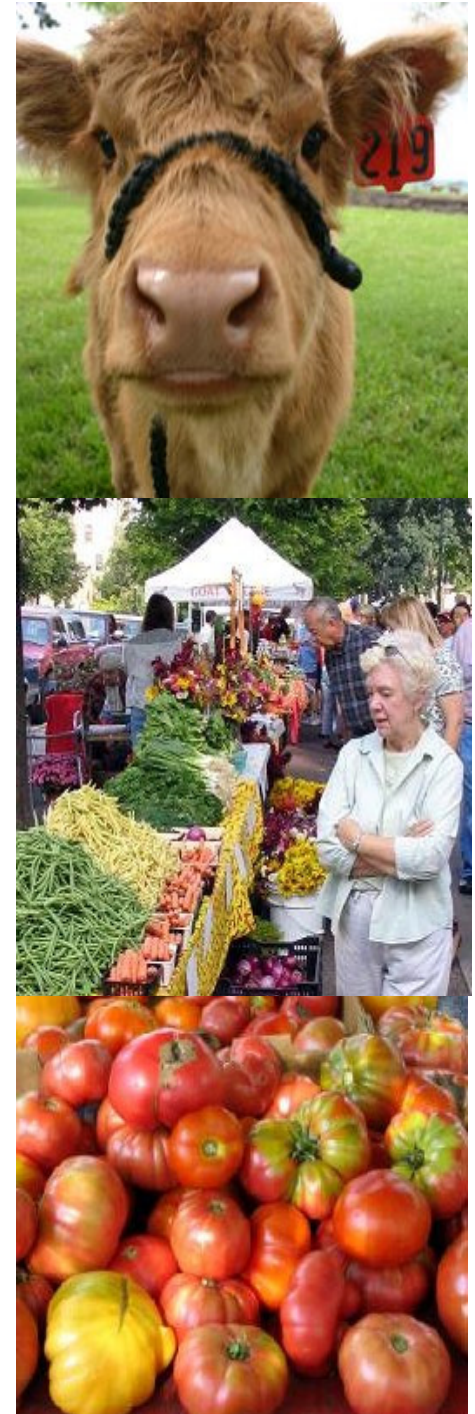


Contact

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Dane County Food Council



History

The Environment, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee (EANR) of the Dane County Board established the Local Food Policy Advisory Subcommittee (LFPAS) in 2004 to explore, develop, and recommend strategies to strengthen and improve the local food system. The LFPAS met regularly over the course of 12 months, convened a Local Food Summit conference in February 2005 that brought together key stakeholders, and wrote the "Recipe for Success" report outlining their recommendations.



The Dane County Food Council was created by adoption of Resolution 90 in October 2005, on recommendation of the LFPAS. The 12-member Food Council began meeting in January 2006, and its work is currently funded by Dane County, the University of Wisconsin - Madison, and the City of Madison.

Goals for Year 1

1. Food and Agriculture Initiatives

Released a web-based guide to food and agriculture initiatives in Dane County, including more than 70 organizations working to strengthen the local food system, increase access to locally grown and nutritious foods, stimulate the agricultural economy, and promote food-related enterprises. Available at: <http://www.co.dane.wi.us/foodcouncil>

2. Farmers' Market Network

Launch a network of farmers' markets in Dane County to increase direct market opportunities for producers and provide a forum for developing solutions to collective issues.

3. Market Basket

Support the expansion of a Market Basket program in Dane County, based on the model developed by *Growing Power*, a Milwaukee area non-profit. This Community Supported Agriculture-style food distribution program is designed to connect low-income consumers with small-scale, regionally produced fruits and vegetables.

4. Institutional Food Purchasing

Increase the amount of local-regional food purchased by Dane County and other area institutions. Work with County officials to identify opportunities and pathways for producers to sell products within the Dane County institutional system.

Get Involved

Food Council and sub-committee meetings are open to the public, and we welcome your input!

Check out the Dane County Food Council's webpage for information about meetings (minutes and agendas), reports, and links to other resources and organizations.

To receive email notices about upcoming meetings and participate in topical discussion via email, join the Food Council listserv by visiting our website.

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