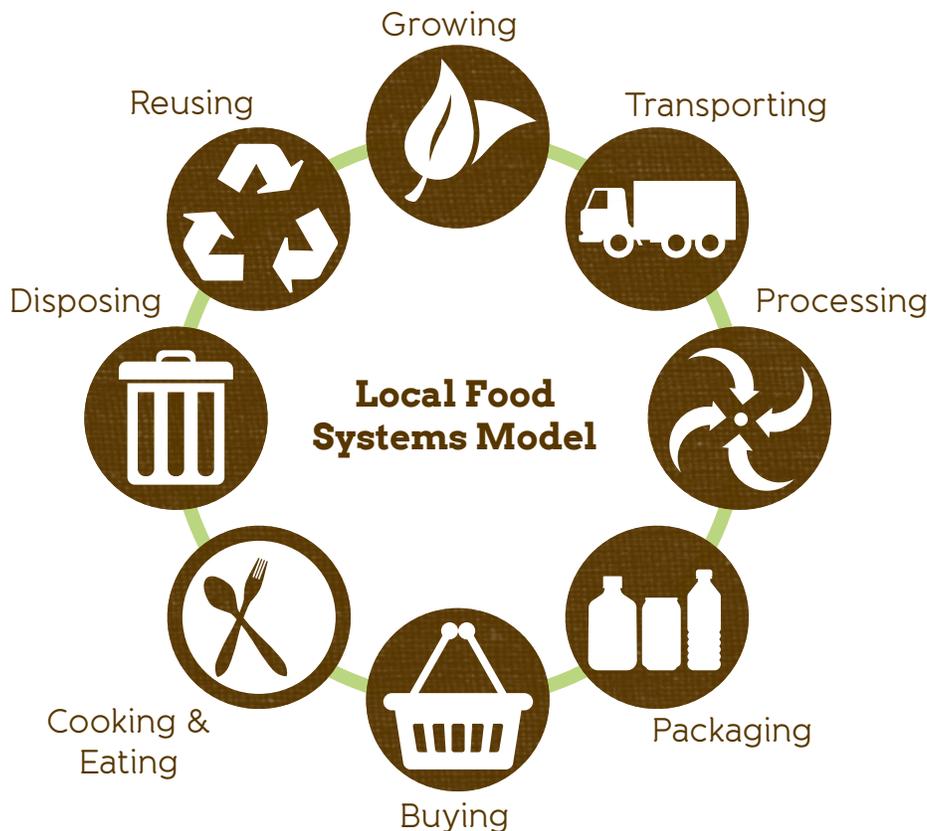


OUR FOOD SYSTEM

- DOUGLAS COUNTY, KANSAS -

Our food choices impact every aspect of our society and economy.

How we currently get food from the farm to our plates is a mystery to many of us. Food distribution and procurement is a global system. It encompasses farmers, eaters, and all of the industries that link them together. Decisions are made every day by our local governments, businesses, and organizations that influence where our food is grown, how it is prepared, distributed, and served.



Local food systems are composed of all of the interdependent steps and actors that go into producing the food that is grown and raised in a region: This includes planting, harvesting, storing, transporting, processing, packaging and retailing of food.

Consumers seeking out locally grown food is an emerging trend in our region. From the phenomenal growth in farmers' markets in our county, to the growing interest in school gardens, to the restaurants and grocers selling local foods - members of our community care about what they eat and how it impacts the county they call home.

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WELLNESS

The healthy (or not-so-healthy) foods we choose impact our individual health and can create burdensome healthcare costs for all.

EQUITY

Not all members of our community have equal access to healthy, quality foods – leaving them vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition.

ECONOMY

Where we buy food shapes our local economy. Buying locally-grown foods supports local farmers, and helps small and mid-sized agribusinesses create new jobs.

ENVIRONMENT

Food production and shipping can impact our landscapes and quality of life.



What is the Douglas County Food Policy Council?

Established by the County Commission in September, 2009, the Food Policy Council seeks to identify the benefits, challenges and opportunities for a successful, sustainable local food system in Douglas County. The Douglas County Food Policy Council is one of 100+ councils organized by local governments nationwide.

The FPC serves as a forum for discussion, coordination and promotion of community-wide efforts to improve the Douglas County community's access to local food supply and distribution networks.

We represent a wide range of stakeholders in our food system – from agricultural producers to retailers to health and food security advocates.

But most importantly, we are Douglas County residents who care about preserving the rich agricultural heritage of our region, and providing healthy, local foods to feed our citizens and support our local economy.



- Key Priority Areas -

1. Economic development and entrepreneurial opportunities related to local food production and consumption
2. Improved health outcomes
3. Positive environmental quality impacts
4. Increased access to, and distribution of wholesome, local food
5. Support for local producers of sustainable food products
6. Identification, preservation, and/or sustainable development of local resources including soil, agricultural land, important breeds/cultivars, water, skilled labor, capital, and markets
7. Increased education and awareness on the part of Douglas County residents regarding the benefits of locally produced foods

For more information about the Douglas County Food Policy Council and how you can participate in creating a vibrant local food system, visit: <http://www.douglas-county.com/sites/fpc> or

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