About This Report

• This report has been prepared for the City of Lawrence Commission by Helen Schnoes, Douglas County Sustainability & Food Systems Planner, on behalf of the Douglas County Food Policy Council.

• A full or condensed presentation of this report or any of the programs or policy initiatives highlighted herein is available to the full Commission or interested Commissioner upon request.

• Contact: Helen Schnoes at hschnoes@douglascountyks.org or (785) 832-5157
2018 Overview

- Food System Plan implementation across 5 goal areas
- Building capacity
- Strong foundation set for 2019 progress
- Strategic renewal
  - Food Policy Council
  - Sustainability Office
The Douglas County Food Policy Council

• Established by the County Commission in 2010
• Convened as a joint City-County Council in 2013
• Identifies the benefits, challenges and opportunities for a successful food system
• Recommends local policies to support food system
• Represents a wide range of stakeholders in food system

www.douglascountyks.org/fpc

Staff support from Lawrence-Douglas Co. Sustainability Office
• 1st full time staff, 2010
  ❖ Sustainability Director
• 2nd full time staff (not grant funded), 2017
  ❖ Sustainability & Food Systems Planner
# Benefits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic vitality</th>
<th>Wellness</th>
<th>Ecology</th>
<th>Equity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Profitable agricultural businesses</td>
<td>- Access to nourishing foods</td>
<td>- Healthy and abundant soils and waters</td>
<td>- Good food for all</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Successful food entrepreneurs</td>
<td>- Food and gardening skills</td>
<td>- Ability to endure extreme weather events</td>
<td>- Celebration of diversity</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Good jobs and career opportunities</td>
<td>- Great tasting local produce</td>
<td>- Waste reduction and reuse</td>
<td>- Empowerment and inclusion</td>
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</table>
Food System Plan (Adopted 2017)

10-year guiding document; incorporated by reference into forthcoming Plan 2040

Goal 1: Thriving Regional Food Economy

Goal 2: Conservation & Resilience

Goal 3: Healthy Food Access

Goal 4: Equitable Food System

Goal 5: Food Waste Elimination

https://www.douglascountyks.org/fpc/food-system-plan
Plan Implementation

FPC Working Groups

Goal 1: Thriving Regional Food Economy

Goal 2: Conservation & Resilience

Goal 3: Healthy Food Access

Goal 4: Equitable Food System

Goal 5: Food Waste Elimination

Role of FPC and staff:
- Prioritize initiatives
- Clarify responsibility
- Assess progress
- Maintain community engagement
- Ensure accountability

https://www.douglascountyks.org/fpc/food-system-plan
Goal 1: Thriving Regional Food Economy

The FPC led organizing of this state-wide event in May 2018.

Scan of farmers market permanence, public-private partnerships

- 2019 Downtown Lawrence Master Plan engagement

New publication in development to explain our agritourism regulations, encourage business development

Community Partnerships

OBJECTIVE #2: Promote local food, farms, and agricultural heritage tourism

Inspired by the Farmers Market Scan developed by Sustainability Office intern Bryson Risley, a class of 2nd year KU Architecture students developed conceptual designs for a downtown permanent farmers market structure.
Harvesting Opportunity in Kansas

Sponsors

Events inspired by two national publications: Harvesting Opportunity by Federal Reserve of St. Louis and Economics of Local Food Toolkit from USDA.
Harvesting Opportunity in Kansas

New KS tools developed to share

- Video to inspire
- StoryMap with event resources
  - Won KS Asso. of Mappers award for best web app!
- For Food Councils and community coalitions
- For KS eco devo professionals

2019: Continuing the Conversation
- Contract with Kansas Rural Center to incorporate into statewide convenings
- Information sessions with state legislative committees
Goal 2: Conservation & Resilience

- Planning under way for first Kansas Growing Good Neighbors event in April with state agriculture and environmental partners to discuss pesticide drift

Goal 3: Healthy Food Access

- Lawrence Transit partnership on Public Service Announcement pilot project

- FieldWatch

- Farmland and land use change analysis with American Farmland Trust
  - June 2018 presentation
  - Spring 2019 visit in development

- Community Health Improvement Plan support

- Community garden program evaluation
Common Ground

✓ Started in 2012, with 9 sites
✓ Utilizes vacant city owned properties
✓ FREE lease to community gardeners

- Plots: 116 + 4 cooperative areas
- Gardeners/farmers + volunteers: 272
- Community events & classes: 35
- Pounds of produce donated: 1539 lbs.
- Plus 2 sites open to community harvest!
- Mini-grants awarded: 4 for $1835*

Community Partners

- KU Big Event
- Sunrise Youth
- KU Permaculture and community-based classes
- Just Food
- Sunrise Project
- Area foster homes
- Bishop Seabury
- Office of Multicultural Affairs (KU)
- KU Campus Cupboard
- KU Center for Community Outreach
- Kaw Valley Seed Fair
- Lawrence Public Library
- GreenWish Lawrence*
- Oread Friends
- K-State Research & Extension
- Douglas County Conservation District
- Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department
- KLWN
- KU Super Service Saturday
- Wichita’s KKGU College Access Advisor

2017-2018 Urban Ag Grant with Douglas. Co Conservation District

- Garden Management Guide
- Program Evaluation
- Fall Garden Tour + Stakeholder Visioning

Mini-grants awarded: 4 for $1835*

*See Full Annual Report at:
www.lawrenceks.org/common_ground
Goal 4: Equitable Food System

- Kansas Alliance for Wellness grant awarded for 2019 healthy food access collaboration with ethnic food retailers, ID policy barriers and opportunities

Goal 5: Food Waste Elimination

- Another year of state funding for food waste efforts

- Relationship building with community partners

- Kansas Health Foundation awards Sunrise grant for community-based Food System Plan implementation in 2019

- FPC proposed changes in Council structure to increase opportunities for participation (overview on next slides)
Restructuring the FPC

• Why?
  ➢ Bylaw review in Food System Plan’s Implementation Framework
  ➢ Work has evolved for Council, staff – successes allow for renewed focus
  ➢ Large size (23) and narrow appointment criteria has presented challenges
    ▪ May create barriers for some community members
    ▪ Administratively heavy – need to make sustainable

• Process
  ➢ Working group formed July, met several times with staff to review bylaws, research other Food Councils, local advisory boards
  ➢ Facilitated conversation in October
  ➢ Council review of key ideas, proposals -- approved framework in December
Major changes proposed

• Membership simplification
  • Reduce size from 23 to 16
  • Loosen defined membership “roles”
    • Ensure diversity, agricultural producer engagement
    • Retain liaison relationships

• Purpose, goals, duties revision
  • Refocus on policy
  • Revise due to increased staff capacity
  • Recognize Food System Plan
Council original purposes

→ Proposed changes as duties

**Strengthen Council’s Role**
- Advisory board on food systems policy, economic development
- County-wide food policy (plan!)

**Clarify Council’s Role**
- Serve as community forum, clarify to “convene” not “coordinate”

**Shift to Staff Role**
- Establish benchmarks
- Clearinghouse / coordinator of objective data
- Infrastructure to support local food distribution
- Contribute to local food buying guide
- Contribute to informational website
FPC Past Success

- University of Kansas research, course collaborations
- Food Hub Feasibility Study (2014) and implementation
- Various local food promotion events, campaigns, resources

Shift to Staff Role

- Establish benchmarks
- Clearinghouse / coordinator of objective data
- Infrastructure to support local food distribution (+ within Food System Plan)
- Contribute to local food buying guide
- Contribute to informational website
Clarify Council’s Role

- Serve as community forum, clarify to “convene” not “coordinate”

FPC Past Success

- Incubation of programs, events
  - Market Match (Double Up Food Bucks)
  - Chefs Challenge at County Fair
- Host / launch community conversations
  - Downtown food desert (2014)
  - Agricultural land preservation (2011)
  - Local food procurement, distribution
- Engagement with KS Legislature’s Local Food and Farm Taskforce (2014-2016)
Strengthen Council’s Role

- Advisory board on food systems policy, economic development
- County-wide food policy (plan!)
New Purpose

The Food Policy Council seeks to support a successful, sustainable local food system in Lawrence and Douglas County. To this end, the purpose of the Food Policy Council is

• To advise elected officials on food-system related policy issues and
• To provide a community forum for local food system development.

- Align Council goals with Food System Plan goals
- Reference principles to guide the work
Duties of the FPC

Convene and engage diverse perspectives

- Urban-rural balance
- Equitable representation

Identify, address issues, challenges, and policy opportunities

- Assess / understand local conditions
- Models of best practice, local relevance
- Implementation and implications: timelines, financial, community impact, unintended consequences

Support Food System Plan implementation

- Prioritize initiative, Clarify responsibility, Assess progress and identify indicators, Maintain community engagement, Ensure accountability

Maintain regular communication

- County Commission, City Commission, City and county staff
# Douglas Co. Food Policy Council

23 appointed members – current structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County-appointed (14)</th>
<th>City-appointed (9)</th>
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<tr>
<td>At-Large</td>
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<tr>
<td>At-Large</td>
<td>Agricultural Producer</td>
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<td>Agricultural Producer</td>
<td>Retail Food Outlet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural Producer (Farm Bureau)</td>
<td>Sustainability Advisory Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retail Food Outlet</td>
<td>Food Security</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutional Food Purchaser</td>
<td>Farmers Market in Douglas County</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>Business Community</td>
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<td>Extension Service</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO- Health/Nutrition/MD</td>
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<td>NGO- Local Food Systems/Sustainable Ag.</td>
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<td>Youth Representative</td>
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<td>Senior Food &amp; Nutrition Programs</td>
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Douglas Co. Food Policy Council
16 appointed members – suggested structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County-appointed (9)</th>
<th>City-appointed (7)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Producer (Farm Bureau)</td>
<td>Sustainability Advisory Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chamber of Commerce in Douglas County</td>
<td>Professional / personal experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension Service</td>
<td>Professional / personal experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO - Local Food Systems/Sustainable Ag.</td>
<td>Professional / personal experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Department or public health org.</td>
<td>Professional / personal experience</td>
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<td>Professional / personal experience</td>
<td>Professional / personal experience</td>
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<td>Professional / personal experience</td>
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</table>

- Minimum 4 active agricultural producers from different sectors, production systems, and marketing channels.
- Bylaws encourage balance across food system issues, sectors
## Proposed New FPC Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food System Plan Goal Area (minimum, not designated seat for appointment)</th>
<th>County-Appointed</th>
<th>City-Appointed</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal 1</td>
<td>• Kansas Farm Bureau • Misc.</td>
<td>• Chamber • Misc. (retail)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 2</td>
<td>• Sustainable ag / Local food system non-profit • Misc.</td>
<td>• Sustainability Advisory Board</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goal 3</td>
<td>• Misc.</td>
<td>• Misc.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 4</td>
<td>• Misc.</td>
<td>• Misc.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 5</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Misc.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>• K-State Research &amp; Extension • Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department or public health org. • Misc.</td>
<td>• Misc.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food System Plan Goal Area</td>
<td>County-Appointed</td>
<td>City-Appointed</td>
<td>Total</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goal 1</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▶ Minimum 4 active agricultural producers from different sectors, production systems, and marketing channels.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▶ Welcome professional and experiential/lay expertise.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goal 3</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>▶ Allow for “designee” with liaisons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goal 4</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>▶ Add explicit language about intentional inclusion.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goal 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▶ Appointments not tied to specific goal area; used as minimums</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>• Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Misc.</td>
<td></td>
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Staff Recommendation: Consider approval of new Joint Resolution-Ordinance to reestablish Food Policy Council and update its bylaws

Douglas County Commission to consider on January 30, 2019

Lawrence City Commission to consider on February 5, 2019
Building Capacity

Douglas County received a Leadership Transformation Grant from KLC. Will provided for 2019 member trainings

Grant from KAW awarded for FPC:
• Leadership development
• Policy issue training
• New communications pieces to engage partners

Continued engagement with Comprehensive Plan update

FPC and Lawrence residents featured in Mother Earth News national magazine story about policy change for 2016 Urban Ag code updates.

Presentations in 2018 included:
• National Planning Conference
• Urban Food Systems Symposium
• KS-MO Bi-State Planning Conference
• Heartland Health Equity Conference
• Kansas Farmers Union Conference
• KS From the Land of Kansas Conference
Stay Connected

✓ All Council meetings are open to the public:
  ➢ Full Council: Third Monday, monthly
    • 6:30pm to 8:30pm
    • Location varies
  ➢ Working group meeting times vary

✓ Agendas, minutes, reports online:
  • https://www.douglascountyks.org/fpc

✓ Subscribe for emails:
  ➢ Agenda announcements:
    ➢ http://lawrenceks.org/subscriptions
  ➢ Food System Plan updates:
    ➢ https://www.douglascountyks.org/fpc/food-system-plan

Commissioner engagement welcomed!

FPC meetings in 2018 included a tour of Just Food by Executive Director Elizabeth Keever, and a potluck at the Flory Meeting Hall, with FPC member speed dating to learn more about each other!
Commissioner engagement about community goals and food systems opportunities welcomed in 2019!

- Food Policy Council
- Lawrence-Douglas County Sustainability Office
- Community partners

The FPC asked these three questions at the end of the Harvesting Opportunity in Kansas Symposium.