Local/ Regional Food Systems: Opportunities for Community Engagement and Policy

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Policy Opportunities: from Farm to Fork
What’s on the plate?

- The food system context
- Food system assessments and the path to food policies
  - Food policy examples
  - Health and economic outcomes from policies
- Building political spaces for food systems
Food System Framework

Food systems challenges

Sustainable, Local Food Systems are:

- Economically viable
  Profitable, Productive

- Environmentally Sound
  Natural Resources, Biodiversity

- Socially Responsible
  Quality of Life, Policy, Human & Community Resources
Refocus attention on…

- Food production systems
- Distribution systems
- Consumption patterns
- Food policies
Food System Assessments
What is a community food system assessment?

- A systematic, comprehensive community or regional analysis of the food system from “farm to fork”
  - Environment
  - Production sector
  - Processing, distribution sectors
  - Consumption, food access
  - Waste stream
Hallmarks of Food System Assessments

- Place-based (countywide)
- Engage diverse communities
- Gather data from farm to fork (all in one place)
- Examine intersections
Underlying values

- Better Health and Well Being
- Sustainable Food System
- Stewardship of Environmental Resources
- Economic Growth and Jobs
### The San Diego Process: Assessment Vision & Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vision 1: Better Health and Well-being of San Diego County Residents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 San Diego County residents know where their food comes from, how it grows, and who grows it</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.2 San Diego County residents, from infants to seniors, consume more healthful foods</td>
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<td>1.3 All San Diego County residents have access to affordable, healthful, culturally desirable foods at all times</td>
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<td>1.4 Initiation and duration of breastfeeding, the healthiest first food, increases in San Diego County</td>
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<td>1.5 San Diego has local, accessible, adequate food supplies for emergency preparedness</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vision 2: Agricultural Stewardship of San Diego County’s Environmental Resource Base</th>
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<tr>
<td>2.1 San Diego County increases its working lands for urban and rural food production</td>
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<td>2.2 San Diego improves its waterways as healthful, sustainable food sources for San Diego County residents</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.3 San Diego County food producers and processors employ practices that support animal welfare</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.4 San Diego County prioritizes food production in allocation of available water resources</td>
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<td>2.5 San Diego County recycles its organic wastes locally and makes compost available for local food production</td>
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<th>Vision 3: Thriving Communities and Sustainable Economic Growth</th>
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<tr>
<td>3.1 Local and regional procurement/sale of food grown in San Diego County increases</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2 Fishing, farming, and ranching increases for diverse groups in San Diego</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.3 The San Diego food system (production, distribution, processing, disposal) provides safe, fair, meaningful work</td>
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Unpacking the Assessment

- **Components**
  - Quantitative information:
    - Indicators
  - Qualitative information:
    - Interviews
    - Surveys
    - Focus groups

![Graph showing percent of farms with direct sales](image-url)
Participatory Process

- Value of coalition/group identity
- Value of “ownership”
- Opportunities to explore diversity
San Diego
New Roots Community Farm/ IRC: The power of story

- 2.3 Acre strip of city-owned land
- Tended by local refugee and immigrant communities: 80 families, organic crops
  - Somali Bantu
  - Hispanic
  - Hmong
- Growing, cooking, eating traditional foods
- Local restaurant sales
Conclusion & Recommendations

- Value of synthesis
- Recommendations should relate to policy priorities
- The San Diego Action Plan

http://www.sarep.ucdavis.edu/sfs/
Food Policy Councils

Healthy and Sustainable Food for San Francisco Project Organization

- Nutritional Standards
  - Vending
  - Leases
  - Mobile permits
  - Events/meetings

- Project Management Office
  - Paula Jones, Director of Food Systems
  - Project oversight
  - Coordination
  - Communication

- Policy
  - Ordinances
  - General Plan integration
  - Administrative policy

- Food Business
  - Action plan
  - Recognition program
  - Wholesale Produce Mkt.

- Urban Agriculture
  - Land audit
  - Education & support

- Food Policy Council
  - Integration of directive into municipal code, general plan and other policy related areas
  - Monitor progress of implementation
  - Provide guidance and oversight

- Urban Agriculture
  - Farmer’s Markets
  - Procurement

- Fisheries
  - Fish Market project
  - Aquaculture

- Hunger/Food Security
  - HSA foodstamp remotesites
  - Benefits SF
  - School lunch program

- Reporting, Evaluation & Transition
Food Policy Councils

- Convenes citizens and government officials to create a comprehensive local/regional/state food system plan
  - Policies influence food programs, businesses, individuals and communities
Examples of Food Policies: Community Health

- Berkeley soda tax
- LA Good Food Purchasing Pledge: procurement policy for city institutions
Examples of Food Policies: Land Use

- Ag land preservation policies
- Urban ag: CA AB 551 (Urban Ag Incentives Zones Act)
Examples of Food Policies: Farmer Markets

- CA AB 1871: FM enforcement
- EBT machines at FMs
- Double up coupon programs for SNAP at FMs
Kentucky Food Policies

- Created “Kentucky Proud” (2008)
- Created Legislative Task Force on Childhood Obesity (2011)
- Tax credits for farmers for edible ag products donated to food banks (2013)
Do policies make a difference?
Outcomes resulting from food policies

San Diego Food System Assessment
Percent of Youth Consuming 2 or more Sugary Drinks Yesterday

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>San Diego</th>
<th>California</th>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>19.7%</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
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Outcomes resulting from food policies

- Local procurement increases in schools
Outcomes resulting from food policies

- Produce consumption increases

Winters Joint Unified School District
Produce Selection & Consumption
Outcomes resulting from food policies

- Sales to regional farms increase

**Direct Farm Sales to Yolo County Schools**

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sales (in $)</th>
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<td>Baseline (2011-12)</td>
<td>$25,276.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1 (2012-13)</td>
<td>$31,197.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2 (2013-14)</td>
<td>$79,189.40</td>
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- **213% increase over baseline**
- **23% increase over baseline**
Creating spaces for more robust, resilient food systems

- Economic spaces
- Environmental spaces
- Social spaces
- Political spaces