
A Template for Healthy, Equitable, Sustainable Food Systems Resolutions



~The mission of the Greater Cincinnati Regional Food Policy Council is to promote a healthy, equitable, and sustainable food system for all within Greater Cincinnati's ten-county region.~

This document is a template for municipalities, counties and other local governments to resolve to incorporate healthy, equitable, sustainable food systems into their governmental functions. Greater Cincinnati Regional Food Policy Council (GCRFPC) members and other stakeholders can use this template language to guide a conversation with their local leaders about how governmental policy can impact and shift outcomes in our food system. We encourage citizens and leaders to adjust the language of this template as appropriate for their community.

Other templates and technical assistance in implementing health food systems resolutions and policies are also available through some GCRFPC members. We encourage anyone considering this healthy food resolution to also reach out to these partners:

- WeTHRIVE! Initiative of Hamilton County Public Health <http://www.watchustrive.org/>
- Clermont County Public Health Coalition for Activity & Nutrition <http://www.clermonthealthdistrict.org/ClermontCANMain.aspx>
- LiveWell NKY <https://www.facebook.com/LiveWellNKY/>

More information on food systems policies and the Tri-State Region's food system is available at the GCRFPC website, <https://greenumbrella.org/Greater-Cincinnati-Regional-Food-Policy-Council>. If you would like to work with the GCRFPC in developing, reviewing, advocating for, or adopting specific policies that support these resolutions, please contact the Director, Michaela Oldfield, at michaela@greenumbrella.org.

XXX Special Resolution No. X,

A **Special Resolution** supporting a regional food system that provides everyone access to healthy and nutritious food, enhances eco-systems services, and creates meaningful economic and civic opportunities.

Whereas, there is a lack of access and availability of affordable healthy food in many communities in the Greater Cincinnati region. Lack of access and availability of healthy food, including fresh fruits and vegetables, is a known contributor to negative health outcomes including higher than average rates of cancer, diabetes, obesity and other health concerns.ⁱ; and

Whereas, only 18% of residents in our region get the recommended five or more cups of fruits and vegetables per day;ⁱⁱ children in some communities reside in “food deserts,” which contain very little access to healthy food within convenient distance to their homes; access to healthy food options in food deserts needs to be improved; and

Whereas 16.1% of households are food insecure,ⁱⁱⁱ and Ohio and Kentucky have food insecurity rates that exceed the national average by statistically significant amounts.^{iv} Households with children have rates of food insecurity far exceeding the general population, with more than one in five households with children in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky being food insecure;^v and

Whereas, approximately 64% of adults and about 32% of children^{vi} in Greater Cincinnati are overweight or obese.^{vii} Obesity is a major contributor to heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancer, arthritis, and diminished overall quality of life; and

Whereas, the 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans recognize that nutrition and health are closely related, and that everyone, including governments and communities, has a responsibility to support healthy eating patterns.. Healthy families are the foundation of a healthy region; and

Whereas, agriculture and food production are potentially significant contributors to the local economy. According to State of Local Food, “estimates show that a 10% shift to local food purchases by 10% of our region’s population would result in \$49 million spent on local foods in our nine-county area.^{viii}

Whereas, a strong regional food system of food production, processing, distribution, storage, access, and reuse protects our natural resources and contributes significantly to the social, economic, and environmental well-being of our region;^{ix} and

Whereas, the United States spends \$218 billion a year growing, processing, transporting, and disposing of food that is never eaten. This consumes 21% of all fresh water, 19% of all fertilizer, 18% of all cropland, and 21% of landfill volume in the United States;^x and

Whereas, the National Academies of Science has recognized that policies are a driving force affecting farms’ (of all sizes and types) abilities to meet the consumption demands and resource constraints of the 21st Century^{xi}; and

Whereas, a robust, diversified local and regional food system will strengthen XXX (local unit of government) resilience and adaptive capacity to prevent and recover from disruptions in the global food system;^{xii} and

Whereas, this resolution is consistent with the (XXX plan); and

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE (XXX Governing Council) OF THE (XXX Local Unit of Government, State):

SECTION 1. The (XXX Governing Council) supports a regional food system that provides everyone access to healthy and nutritious food, enhances ecology, and creates meaningful economic and civic opportunities.

SECTION 2. The (XXX Governing Council) supports the work of the Greater Cincinnati Regional Food Policy Council, a coalition of nonprofit, business, government, and citizen leaders whose mission is to promote a healthy, equitable, and sustainable food system for the Greater Cincinnati region to improve the health and quality of life for all. The (XXX Governing Council) designates (position within government) as the Liaison for the Director and members of the Greater Cincinnati Regional Food Policy

Council. The Liaison will facilitate communications between (XXX's) agencies, neighboring governments, and members and partners of the Greater Cincinnati Regional Food Policy Council.

SECTION 3. The (XXX Governing Council) supports improved access to healthy food for XXX (city) residents.

SECTION 4. The (XXX Governing Council) supports preservation of existing agricultural lands, and the reuse of vacant or underutilized land for agricultural production.

SECTION 5. The (XXX Governing Council) encourages the elimination of waste through food recovery and composting.

SECTION 6. The (XXX Governing Council) will, through the use of economic development tools, work to eradicate food deserts and increase food security in our Region.

SECTION 7. The (XXX Governing Council) will encourage the full use by residents of national food access programs.

SECTION 8. The (XXX Governing Council) will spur economic development and create jobs through encouraging the regional food economy, supporting farmer's markets, urban farms, and farm-to-school projects.

SECTION 9. The (XXX Governing Council) encourages agricultural practices that minimize greenhouse gas emissions, destruction of natural habitat and nutrient runoff.

SECTION 10. The Mayor is invited to join in this resolution by affixing his/her signature hereto.

SECTION 11. This resolution shall be in full force and effect upon adoption and compliance with XXX.

This Special Resolution was sponsored by Councilor XXX and was passed by the (XXX Governing Council) this XXh day of (month), 20XX.

Signatures and Seal

ⁱ 2015-2017 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, <https://health.gov/dietaryguidelines/2015/guidelines/table-of-contents/>.

ⁱⁱ Research, Interact for Health

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2014/overall/ohio/organization/freestore-foodbank>

^{iv} Household Food Security in the United States in 2015, ERR-215, Economic Research Service/USDA

^v Feeding American, Map the Meal Gap 2016: Highlights Of Findings For Overall And Child Food Insecurity

^{vi} Ohio Dept. of Health: A report of the BMI of Ohio's 3rd Graders, 2009-2010, Hamilton County

^{vii} BRFSS SMART City Data 2009-2012, Cincinnati-Middletown OH-KY-IN Metropolitan Area, Includes Boone, Bracken, Campbell, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, and Pendleton Counties in Kentucky; Brown, Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, and Warren Counties in Ohio, and Dearborn, Franklin, and Union Counties in Indiana

^{viii} Kristin Gangwer, State of Local Food in the Central Ohio River Valley (2012)

^{ix} Kristin Gangwer, State of Local Food in the Central Ohio River Valley (2012)

^x ReFED Roadmap to Reduce US Food Waste by 20 Percent (2016).

^{xi} The National Academies of Science, Toward Sustainable Agriculture Systems in the 21st Century (2010)

^{xii} Barr, Stewart, and Patrick Devine-Wright. "Resilient communities: sustainabilities in transition." *Local Environment* 17.5 (2012): 525-532, Foley, Jonathan A., et al. "Solutions for a cultivated planet." *Nature* 478.7369 (2011): 337-342.