



## Greater Cincinnati Regional Food Policy Council

A PROGRAM OF  Green Umbrella

# FPC Council Member Application for 2024

Are you involved in food in some way? Don't forget that everybody eats!

Do you live or work in the [Greater Cincinnati region](#)?

Do any of our belief statements resonate with you?

- **Farms and Land Use:** Local farms are the bedrock of our local food system.
- **Access & Education:** The ability to consume nutritious food is a key social determinant of health.
- **Infrastructure:** A strengthened local and regional supply chain will increase resilience for our communities.
- **Institutions:** Institutions like hospitals, schools and businesses create and expand markets for local food with their purchasing power.

Then you belong with us! **Join the Greater Cincinnati Regional Food Policy Council in a leadership role.**

Specifically, we are looking to bring in folks with experience in food production, processing, and retail (like farmers, restaurant workers, and artisans), and to get a broader representation across our region in Butler, Warren, and Clermont Cos. in OH; Boone, Kenton, Campbell, and Grant Cos. in KY, and Dearborn and Franklin Cos. in IN. We would like the Council to represent a range of ages, backgrounds, and identities (race, class, gender), with some seasoned Council veterans and some new faces. And we also seek those with organizational expertise that can help us expand our impact.

**If you're interested, apply today, using [this form](#)!**

If you applied last year, fill in the form with any updated info and add a note to consult your more detailed application last year.

Please share the form with other people and networks you think would be interested, too.

**Application deadline: 11:59pm ET, Dec. 31, 2023.**

There is a bunch more information below. If you have questions, read below first. If you have any trouble completing the form or have any urgent questions, email our director, Maddie Chera, at [maddie@greenumbrella.org](mailto:maddie@greenumbrella.org).

# Information about Council Nominations

What is the Food Policy Council, and what is this nomination all about?

**The Greater Cincinnati Regional Food Policy Council is an initiative of the Regional Climate Collaborative Green Umbrella.**

The Food Policy Council began as the Local Food Action Team about a decade ago, and since then it has grown to a staffed program with proven impact in making fresh, local, healthy, and delicious food more accessible to our neighbors and to institutions like schools, hospitals, and businesses. Check out the [Impact section of our blog](#) for information on recent accomplishments with our members, partners, and supporters.

In the summer of 2022, the Food Policy Council underwent a strategic planning process that left us with recommendations to further build our capacity and our buy-in by making some updates to the Council.

What does a Council Member do?

- **Collaborate with the staff team and rest of the Council to ensure that Committee work and recommendations are in keeping with the Council’s vision, mission, and goals.**
- Participate in all bi-monthly Full Council meetings (in-person).
- Serve in the role of Facilitator (like a Chair) or Communicator (like a Secretary) on at least one Committee:
  - Policy Committees
    - Farms & Land Use
    - Access & Education
    - Infrastructure
    - Institutions
  - Steering Committee, with focus areas including:
    - Communications & Outreach
    - Governance & Membership
    - Equity
- Review all relevant material before meetings and carry out individual tasks in between meetings.
- Represent the interests of the Council in public venues and advocate for support of the Council’s operations and priorities, including encouraging organizations of which you are a part to become Green Umbrella members.

## What does a Council Member get?

- **Share about issues you see in your community and inform the way our regional food system grows by collaborating with other resident leaders and influencing policy through advocacy.**
- Weigh in on Council action items and shape our decision-making and collective impact. Voting happens in Full Council meetings and sometimes asynchronously via digital means.
- Learn from experts in the field about the issues of our time through curated guest speakers, one pagers, and more.
- Public recognition of contributions to the Council and a profile on the Food Policy Council website.
- Research, communications tools, process support, and other resources provided or coordinated by the staff team to make possible fulfillment of Council Member responsibilities.
- Priority in communications of news and opportunities to the Food Policy Council network.
- Priority access to the staff team's support and time.

## Are there other ways to be involved?

**Yes!** There are several.

- *Network Members* are people who are involved in or interested in the regional food system and participate in our activities in some way, including attending social events, donating to or sponsoring the Council's work, reading and sharing our news, contributing to our shared information, taking action on advocacy campaigns, volunteering with us, and more.
- *Committee Members* Network Members who do not hold a Council seat at any given time can still participate in committees (and we need them to do so!). Committee Members agree to attend committee meetings and complete specific tasks between each meeting.
- *Ex-Officio Members* Food Policy Council staff, other Green Umbrella staff, and contractors hired on grants or sub-awarded grants can serve on committees, but do not have voting privileges.

## What makes a good Council Member?

- **passionate commitment to our vision of a resilient regional food system**
- expertise/experience in food system issues and/or expertise/experience in process management and governance in any field
- ability to commit to fulfilling the responsibilities for a full term (terms will be staggered, so for this cohort, they will be 1-3 years based on availability and makeup of the Council)
- networking capacity to share Council information and messaging with your networks

## Do I have to work for or represent a food organization?

**No!** While historically, many of our members have worked professionally in a food-focused organization, that is not a requirement for service as a Council Member.

- We welcome those with organizational affiliations to serve with that “hat” on and to use their work time and connections to contribute to this work.
- We also welcome folks without those kinds of affiliations or who want to serve solely in their capacity as resident leader.

## What do Council Members make decisions on?

- **Council Members make decisions on most of the strategic and operational decisions of the Food Policy Council**, including our policy and implementation goals for the year and our public advocacy on specific policies and legislation.

## How do Council Members guide Food Policy Council priorities?

- **Council Members guide our priorities through goal-setting and facilitating Committees to work toward those goals**, contributing resources, and communicating across their networks as well as throughout the Council Network.

## What time commitment is required of Council Members monthly?

- Expect to commit an **average of five to seven hours per month** for meetings (at least one Committee meeting monthly and a Full Council meeting every other month) and communication, preparation, and other work between meetings.
- The time commitment will likely be greatest at different points of the year, including during Onboarding, when reports are due or special events occur, or based on the projects that each Committee takes on.

## Where and when will the meetings take place?

- **Full Council meetings will be held in person**, usually at the Green Umbrella office on University of Cincinnati’s campus in Cincinnati (3080 Exploration Ave., off Lincoln Ave., near Reading Rd., 71, and MLK Jr. Blvd.). There will be an opportunity for asynchronous contributions. Full Council meetings take place six times per year. In 2023, the meetings have been at 11am on the second Tuesday of February, April, June, August, October, and December. This is open to discussion based on Council Members’ availability.
- **Committee meetings are held monthly, scheduled at the discretion of each Committee** to maximize engagement and participation by Committee Members.