

# Tarrant County Food Policy Council



Orientation

# Agenda

- ☞ Welcome
- ☞ What is a Food System?
- ☞ What is a Food Policy Council (FPC)?
  - Stakeholders, Scope of FPC's, Objectives
- ☞ Introduction to Tarrant County Food Policy Council
  - Members, Working Groups, General Council Meetings, Getting Involved
- ☞ Q & A
- ☞ Sources
- ☞ Links

# What is a Food System?

*To understand what a Food Policy Council does, first you need to know a little bit about food systems.*

- ∞ A food system includes all processes involved in keeping us fed: growing, harvesting, processing, packaging, transporting, marketing, consuming and disposing of food and food packages.
  - ∞ It also includes the inputs needed and outputs generated at each step. Each step is dependent on human resources that provide labor, research and education.
  - ∞ The food system operates within and is influenced by social, political, economic and natural environments.
  - ∞ There are two kinds of food systems to consider: Conventional and Community.
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# Conventional Food System

## The Conventional (or Industrial) Food System:



- ∞ The conventional food system is a good thing. It brings us Washington apples, avocados from Mexico, New Zealand kiwi, grapes from Chile, coffee, chocolate, bananas and more from all corners of the globe.
- ∞ However, the conventional food system has gaps and weaknesses that have been identified to contribute to the problems of hunger, obesity, soil erosion, water contamination, loss of prime agricultural land, and a dwindling farmer population.

# Community Food System

## The Community (or Local) Food System:



# Community Food Systems

- ⌘ A community food system is one in which food production, processing, distribution and consumption are integrated to enhance the environmental, economic, social and health of a particular place, addressing the gaps and weaknesses inherent in the conventional food system.
  - ⌘ The concept of community food systems is sometimes used interchangeably with "local" or "regional" food systems.
  - ⌘ A community food system can refer to a relatively small area, such as a neighborhood, or progressively larger areas - towns, cities, counties, regions, or bioregions. This reflects an approach to building a food system, that holds sustainability—economic, environmental and social—as a long-term goal.
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# What is a food policy council?

Growing concerns about food deserts, obesity rates among children, dwindling farmer population, environmental problems and other food system issues have sparked the creation of Food Policy Councils (FPCs) in communities across the US.

## FPC PURPOSE

Food Policy Councils provide local, regional, or state governments with resources and information to address food system challenges. Through policy and programmatic strategies, FPC's use a community-based approach to ensure a healthy and sustainable food system.



A Food Policy Council aims to be:

Place-based  
Ecologically sound  
Economically productive

Socially cohesive  
Food secure  
Food literate

# Stakeholders of a Food Policy Council

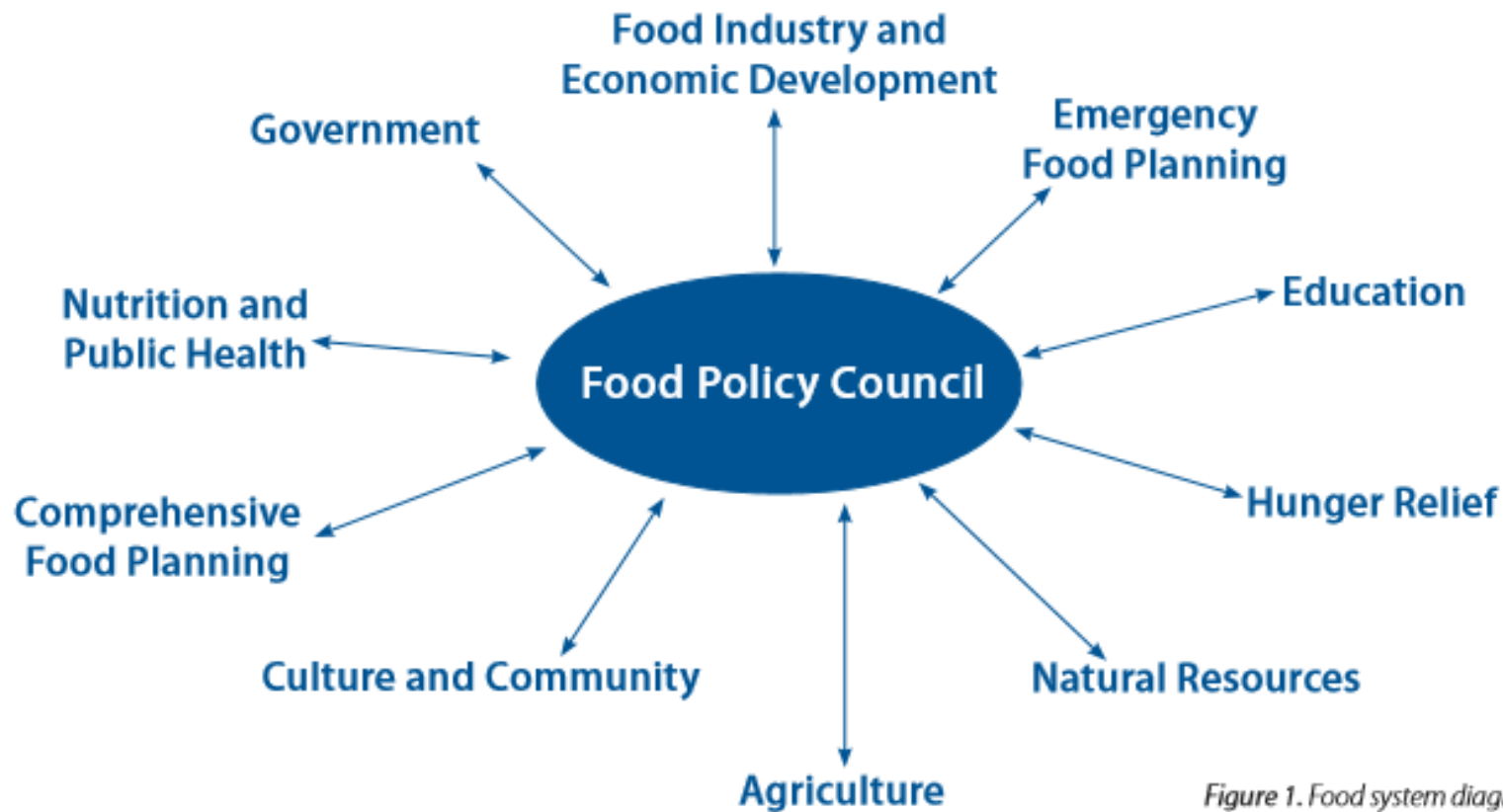


Figure 1. Food system diagram  
source: [www.fpcclane.org/overview](http://www.fpcclane.org/overview)



# Scope of a Food Policy Council

According to Mark Winne, co-founder of food and agriculture policy groups in Connecticut and New Mexico, the scope of Food Policy Councils generally include:

1. Identifying problems and creating problem statements for:
  1. Access
  2. Health
  3. Loss of farmers and farmland
  4. Sustainability (land, water, air quality)
  5. Food security
2. Exploring policy solutions for each problem\*
3. Exploring program solutions

\*Councils make policy *recommendations* to policy makers

# Objectives of a Food Policy Council

- Cultivate partnerships among a community's 5 food sectors
  - Production
  - Processing
  - Distribution
  - Consumption
  - Waste recovery
- Convene meetings that draw diverse stakeholders
- Research & analyze the existing conditions of a community's food system

# Objectives of a Food Policy Council

- Strategize solutions
- Advocate for policy change
- Communicate information about a community's food system to the public and community leaders
- Develop programs that address gaps

To collaborate with representatives of all aspects of Tarrant County's food system to catalyze creative solutions for ensuring equitable access to sufficient, nutritious, and culturally appropriate foods, and to advocate for local food policies that support this goal.

# TCFPC Membership

## Board Members

- Executive Board
  - Barbara Ewen--Chair
  - Ann Salyer-Caldwell--Vice Chair
  - Sherry Simon--Treasurer
  - Connie Nahoolewa--Secretary
- Shannon Fletcher
- Lyn Dart
- Celia Krazit
- Micheline Hynes
- Dawnetta Smith

## Organizational Members

- American College of Healthcare Executives
- City of Fort Worth
- Fort Worth ISD
- JPS Health Network
- Meals on Wheels, Inc. of Tarrant County
- Northside Inter-Community Agency (NICA)
- Senior Citizens Services of Tarrant County
- Southeast Fort Worth
- Tarrant Area Food Bank
- Tarrant County Commissioner Roy Brooks
- Tarrant County Public Health
- Texas Agrilife Extension Service
- Texas Christian University
- Texas Hunger Initiative
- The T (Fort Worth Transportation Authority)
- University of North Texas Health Science Center
- University of Texas at Arlington
- Westaid

# Working Groups

## Community Gardens & Urban Agriculture

Collaborative group that works to develop resources and programs related to community, school and backyard gardens. Additional efforts go toward urban agriculture initiatives.



## Neighborhood Initiatives

This group works to identify and address gaps in local food resources. Through their efforts they were able to identify areas in Tarrant county that are described as being food deserts.



## Research

This group works with other working groups as well as local civic leaders at all levels to promote the adoption of sound food policies recommended by the Food Policy Council.



# General Council Meeting

- ✎ The full Council meets the first Thursday bi-monthly.
- ✎ This gathering includes the board, working group leaders, and community stakeholders.
- ✎ Each meeting is a little different, but generally:
  - Working group leaders provide progress reports on their activities
  - Issues may be identified and discussed
  - Presentations may be included on educational topics or that feature other community groups with an interest in the food system

# How Can You Get Involved?

☞ *Interested in making good food more available in our community?*

- TCFPC is seeking interested government and civic leaders, food system stakeholders, corporate representatives, people familiar with food insecurity, and concerned consumers to join us.
- We welcome all individuals interested in joining TCFPC. As a start, we recommend visiting one of the working group meetings.
- For a schedule of working group and general councils meetings, or other upcoming events view our [Calendar of Events online](#).



# Sources

Content for this presentation came from:

- ✎ American Planning Association's Brief on Food Policy Councils  
<http://www.planning.org/nationalcenters/health/briefingpapers/foodcouncils.htm>
- ✎ Mark Winne Associates <http://www.markwinne.com/>
  - “Doing Food Policy Councils Right”, Michael Burgan and Mark Winne, Mark Winne Associates [September 2012]  
<http://www.markwinne.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/FPC-manual.pdf>
- ✎ Nourish Curriculum Guide [nourishlife.org/teach/curriculum](http://nourishlife.org/teach/curriculum)
- ✎ Tarrant County Food Policy Council's website <http://tarrantcountyfoodpolicycouncil.org/>
- ✎ Cornell University <http://www.discoverfoodsys.cornell.edu/primer.html>

# Links

For more information on what's happening locally, visit us at [Tarrantcountyfoodpolicycouncil.org](http://Tarrantcountyfoodpolicycouncil.org).

We also recommend visiting these national thought leaders on food policy and community food security:

- 🌀 American Planning Association [Planning.org](http://Planning.org)
- 🌀 Center for Science in the Public Interest [cspinet.org](http://cspinet.org)
- 🌀 Food Day [foodday.org](http://foodday.org)
- 🌀 Texas Hunger Initiative [baylor.edu/texashunger](http://baylor.edu/texashunger)
- 🌀 Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future  
[jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-a-livable-future/projects/FPN](http://jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-a-livable-future/projects/FPN)