
Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Food Policy Coalition

-Est. 2007-

Promoting a healthy, equitable, and sustainable food system
in the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County

Food Access Issues in Cleveland

- Based on research and analysis conducted in conjunction with the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, fast food is 4.5 times more accessible to Cleveland residents than full-service grocery stores, and only 21% of Cleveland adults report adequate fruit and vegetable consumption.
- 26% of Cleveland's approximately 400,000 population live below the poverty line.
- The Journal of the American Medical Association reported that the inflation-adjusted cost of highly processed foods made from high-calorie commodities dropped 10% from 1982-2008. During the same period, the price of fruits and vegetables increased by 50%.
- In 2008, the *Steps to a Healthier Cleveland* Initiative reported that 10.8% of residents have been diagnosed with diabetes and 33.8% are obese.

Innovative Policies Supporting Increased Food Access

Access to Fresh, Local Food at Farmers' Markets

- In 2008, Cuyahoga County had 260,000 recipients of federal food assistance (20% of the total population). Net expenditures by the Ohio Direction Card totaled \$258 million in 2008.
- By the end of summer 2010, 6 of the 9 farmers' markets within Cleveland will accept Ohio Direction Card (EBT) benefits at their markets – compared to no markets 3 years ago.
- For Cuyahoga County as a whole, there are 17 producer/farmers' market initiatives with eight accepting Ohio Direction
- A pilot program at 4 of those markets doubles the amount of EBT benefit to entice new shoppers.

Local Purchasing Initiatives

- The FPC worked in partnership with Cleveland City Council and the Mayor's Office to develop a local purchasing resolution that was passed in April 2010 that provides 2% bid discounts on City contracts to businesses that are sustainable, locally-based, or purchase 20% of their food locally (max 4%). Supporting independent area producers enables them to practice or transition toward sustainable production methods and keeps more money in the regional economy.
- The FPC collaborated with the City of Cleveland and other partners to establish the Sustainable Street Food Pilot Program, which offers grants and favorable loans to new food cart operators who will provide healthy, locally-sourced menu items in a wide array of culinary styles.

Food Waste Recovery

- A food waste audit of the West Side Market (completed with cooperation of the Solid Waste District, City of Cleveland, Entrepreneurs for Sustainability, and OSUE) found that over 1 ton of food waste is generated per week. The majority of that is now being composted.



For more information go to:

www.cccfoodpolicy.org

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Community Gardens in Cuyahoga County

- Over 4,000 residents throughout Cuyahoga County maintain more than 210 community gardens.
- In 2009, 50 new community gardens were created by neighborhood groups.
- In 2009, community gardens in Cuyahoga County combined to produce \$2.6-3.0 million worth of fresh fruits and vegetables on more than 56 acres.

Urban Farms in Cuyahoga County

- 125 participants have completed the 12-week Market Gardener Training Program since 2006.
- 34 new enterprises in urban food production have been created since 2006.
- 20 new venues have been organized for the sale of fresh, locally grown food since 2006.

Innovative Local Policies that Support Urban Agriculture in Cleveland

Urban Garden District Zoning

A new zoning category was created by the City of Cleveland specifically for urban agriculture in 2007. Seven community gardens and three urban farms, comprising 34 parcels, have been zoned.

Gardening for Greenbacks

The City of Cleveland's Department of Economic Development began a new program in June 2008 that offers \$3,000 grants and low-interest loans to for-profit agriculture enterprises in Cleveland.

Farm Animals and Bees Ordinance

In February 2009, the City of Cleveland passed an ordinance that revised the zoning and health code to allow the keeping of small livestock, including bees, in all neighborhoods of Cleveland.

Re-Imagining a More Sustainable Cleveland

In partnership with Neighborhood Progress Inc. and the Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, the Food Policy Coalition developed a series of policy recommendations to encourage local food production that were adopted by Cleveland City Council and the Cleveland Planning Commission in December 2008.

- Community gardens in walking distance (1/4 mile) of every resident
- An affordable water policy for urban gardens and farms
- Revision of the land bank process for greening projects
- Long term leases and land tenure for urban agriculture

Education and Training Offered by The Ohio State University Extension

To the Garden We Grow: A Youth Program in Nutrition Education and Agriculture

Dig In! A Community Garden Training Program

Market Gardener Training Program



For more information go to:

<http://cuyahoga.osu.edu> or www.cccfoodpolicy.org