

The Minneapolis Food Vision

The City of Minneapolis is proposing a 2033 vision toward a more equitable, climate resilient, just and sustainable local food system and economy. The Minneapolis Food Vision builds on previous efforts and plans, aligns with the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact and incorporates data and community input.

The Minneapolis Food Vision will serve as a companion to the City's Climate Equity Plan. The vision is also a stand-alone framework with food systems goals and strategies for City policy and investment as well as action by the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council and broader community.

History

- In 2017, the City of Minneapolis signed the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact.
- In April 2019, planning was launched with the Homegrown Minneapolis Community Food Forum.
- In fall of 2021, work fully resumed after COVID delayed work during much of 2020 and 2021.
- In December 2022, Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council endorsed the draft vision document.

Partners

The project is led by the Minneapolis Health Department in partnership with the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council, University of Minnesota, Princeton University, Sustainable Healthy Cities Network, and community. Facilitation and drafting support were provided by Terra Soma, a consulting firm.

Community Engagement

Work began on the vision in 2019 with multiple Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council meetings, individual interviews, focus groups, and other engagement events. Through this engagement, six priority areas and 29 related strategies were identified. Events were held in fall of 2021 to vet and refine these. In spring 2022, nearly 1,000 respondents gave feedback through a city-wide survey asking to rank the priorities and strategies and offer additional feedback.

During that time, five organizations were funded to host culturally specific community conversations:

- Appetite for Change
- American Hmong Association
- CLUES (Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio)
- Harvest from the Heart
- Somali American Farmers Association

A next-to-final draft was reviewed fall 2022 by community peers, and the public was invited to provide feedback.

Throughout the process the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council helped guide the engagement effort, gave staff feedback on the ongoing work, and helped with outreach. The Food Council ranked the six priorities and strategies for implementation. (See back of this page.)

Implementation

In coming years, the Minneapolis Food Vision will be collaboratively implemented by numerous parties including City government, members of the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council and community partners. The Food Council will partner with local food system leaders and a diverse group of organizations to identify available resources and decide how best to advance strategies described in this plan. Progress will be shared with the community, City officials, and funders.

The Food Council has begun implementation planning to identify action steps and ways to measure success.

Minneapolis Food Vision Priorities and Strategies

| Priorities | Strategies |
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| Local Food Supply | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide financing mechanisms and business development support to facilitate connection between local production and local consumption 2. Increase purchasing of locally and sustainably grown foods by institutions and businesses within the city 3. Improve accessibility to and increase the number of places selling locally grown and made products 4. Increase support by local and state agencies for local growers 5. Decrease regulatory and logistical barriers to selling local food |
| Urban Agriculture | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase, maintain, and improve land access within the city for growers and year-round growing 2. Increase access to materials, equipment, water, lighting, and other resources for growing food using sustainable production methods within the city 3. Strengthen food skills to grow, prepare, and preserve healthy, culturally relevant foods for all people, with a focus on underserved communities 4. Protect and improve pollinator habitats and water resources |
| Local Food Businesses | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve opportunities for food system workers and small business owners, including fostering collaborative business models and other actions 2. Improve economic opportunities for growing food in the city 3. Improve protections and support for food system workers and small business owners, with special attention to people who are typically underserved 4. Enhance workforce development, including job skills training and support for the food system workforce 5. Provide support for local food businesses that offer culturally relevant food options |
| Healthy Food Access and Healthy Food Skills | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve accessibility to and availability of nutritious, culturally relevant, locally and sustainably grown foods at places such as schools and universities, hospitals, care facilities, childcare providers, correctional facilities, hunger relief programs, and worksites and any places where food is sold 2. Offer opportunities for all ages to gain skills to learn about healthy eating, culturally relevant foods, and the health-promoting benefits of food, as well as growing and preparing these foods, strongly emphasizing children and youth 3. Improve accessibility and affordability of nutritious, locally grown, and culturally relevant foods 4. Encourage greater consumption of a well-rounded, nutritious, plant-rich diet and reduce consumption of unhealthy foods and foods with a high environmental impact. 5. Place greater emphasis on nutritious eating as part of healthcare provided by mainstream healthcare organizations |
| Wasted Food | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish policies including financial incentives to manage food at its highest and best use and prevent food loss (waste reduction, food to people, and food to animals before composting or anaerobic digestion) 2. Create and maintain food waste management systems that are widely accessible, sustainable, and contribute additional benefits to our food system (such as composting) 3. Introduce policy changes to improve connections between excess food and those in need 4. Provide support for farmers, food establishments, and other parties to better enable them to donate edible food |
| Food Systems Research and Outreach | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pursue research and collaborations with organizations that work across the food system 2. Raise awareness of food system activities and research findings in multiple languages across the city by strengthening networks, collaboration, and partnerships 3. Continue studying ways to best achieve health, environmental, economic, equity, and justice outcomes 4. Conduct research to better understand the relationship between access to healthy food and consumer demand 5. Expand availability of data and data analysis around wasted food to inform actions 6. Develop nutrition education that is catered to community-specific and health-specific needs |