

GFCF Interim One Year Plan

November 1, 2014-October 31, 2015

Goals and Strategies by Subcommittee Area

The following is GFCF's interim one year plan, organized by our subcommittee. Subcommittees have been formed by volunteers with either a background or interest in the committee area. These areas are: Production, Processing and Distribution, Waste, Critical Resources, and Community Education and Outreach. Information found within the plan can be accredited to emerging research from the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council and Luis Nieves-Ruiz. Each subcommittee provided its own plan and discussed it with the volunteer council while the plan was developed. This document is currently being used as an in-house guiding document for the 2015/2016 plan period. Pursuant to the completion of the Community Food Audit, a new plan will be drafted to address a multi-year planning period.

PRODUCTION

Goal 1: Promote the expansion of commercial urban agriculture production by providing clarity and guidance regarding existing code and policy as it pertains to the sale of produce grown in backyard gardens, community gardens, urban farms and other agricultural practices within the urban environment by October 31, 2015.

Strategies:

1. Through survey and conferring with municipal staff, this committee will identify any zoning, design, or other policy that would restrict the sale of produce harvested from backyard gardens, community gardens, urban farms and other agricultural practices within the urban environment.
 2. Provide educational materials and presentations to regional policy makers and municipal staff regarding the benefits of expanding commercial urban agriculture production and proposed amendments to existing policy to make this expansion possible.
 3. Network and establish a cohort of interested citizens and community partners eager to see commercial urban agriculture opportunities expanded in our region.
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PROCESSING AND DISTRIBUTION

Processing

Goal 1: Identify and research at least three regulatory or institutional barriers in the local Orange County food processing system and share these findings with food policy council members by October 31, 2015.

Strategies:

1. Conduct primary and secondary research addressing the Orange County food processing system and identify key barriers.
2. Identify optimal processing locations and appropriate zoning performance criteria for local food processing.
3. Following best practices, develop draft zoning ordinance and Comprehensive Planning language to support the expansion and development of local processing uses and facilities.

Goal 2: Promote the establishment of professional connections between local producers and processors to identify economic opportunities, help strengthen the local food system, reduce consumer cost and increase food accessibility in low moderate income neighborhoods by October 31, 2015.

Strategies:

1. Increase the number of food processing operator partnerships at the food council.
2. Educate local officials and policy decision makers about the importance of local food processing in the overall health of the local food system.
3. Encourage quality local food processing through the identification and/or development of cross jurisdictional public policies and economic incentives.

Distribution

Goal 1: Support Orange County food hubs, cooperatives and farmers markets in expanding healthy local food access in at least two low moderate income Orange County or City of Orlando neighborhoods, classified as food deserts, through either research, education and/or outreach by October 31, 2015.

Strategies:

1. Identify policy and institutional barriers to food hubs, cooperatives and/or farmers markets; and as part of this process identify any administrative solutions.
2. Research and summarize farmers' markets, cooperatives and food hub best practices and inform council partners.
3. Support the use of SNAP and EBT by farmers markets through a multidisciplinary approach which may include education and hands-on training by GFCE partners, as part of the farmers' market grant application as well as general council outreach efforts.
4. Research the wholesale and retail food distribution system to better understand their respective roles and impacts on the overall food system and the distribution of food in low income food deserts.
5. Partner with local food guides in the promotion of literature which provides lists of community gardens, farmer's markets, farms and food co-ops to the general public.
6. Work with local transportation agencies to improve access to healthy food options. Agency interventions could include the siting and installation of bike racks, bike lanes, as well as improved sidewalk connectivity and parking or car share opportunities at food hubs, grocery stores, cooperatives and farmers markets.
7. Promote and support mobile food markets in low moderate income food deserts.

Goal 2: Identify and research at least three regulatory or institutional barriers in the local Orange County food distribution system and share these findings with food policy council members by October 31, 2015.

Strategies:

1. Conduct primary and secondary research addressing the Orange County food distribution system and identify key barriers.
2. Identify the nature and extent of liability related barriers encountered by small farmers who market to established commercial distributors.
3. Identify optimal percentage of organic/local food options for commercial distributors.

FOOD WASTE

Goal 1: Using 2013 State of Florida data as a baseline, decrease volume of Orange County food waste going to landfill by 5% by October 31, 2015.

Strategies:

1. Compile all food waste legislation that applies to Orange County, including municipalities.

2. Provide status updates and alerts to GFCF regarding changes to federal, state, and local legislation that might impact food waste management.
 3. Inventory food waste recycling services available to Central Florida, create a living document/spreadsheet of all resources with points of contact.
 4. Identify strengths and weaknesses of available food waste management options, including local and nonlocal barriers to food waste recycling.
 5. Survey foodservice establishments to determine a baseline of how many have active food waste diversion practices in place, what are the roadblocks to participation in diversion programs, and whether hospitality facilities have “front of house” or “back of house” food collection/diversion practices in place.
 6. Develop a list of commercial facilities diverting their food waste from disposal.
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CRITICAL RESOURCES

Goal 1: Improve senior food access, through a comprehensive approach, thereby starting to strengthen sustainable and healthy senior food security within the next 3 – 5 years.

Strategies:

1. Support the expansion of nutrition education programming for seniors.
2. Support the establishment of expanded senior feeding programs in the Orange County area.
3. Encourage the creation of a broad senior provider coalition.
4. Support the implementation of senior food security demonstration projects or programs.
5. Support the Florida Department of Agriculture in their move to secure the Community Supplemental Food Program (CFSP) in the State of Florida.

Goal 2: Promote best practices research to increase community-wide senior hunger awareness and understanding by October 31, 2015.

Strategies:

1. Partner with GFCF members and other senior food providers to identify key local, regional and national best practices.
 2. Evaluate existing programs based on best practices and publish findings.
 3. Support University of Central Florida (UCF) and other research institutions in their efforts to expand senior hunger research.
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COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Goal 1: Improve communication and effectiveness of healthy eating and nutrition programs utilized by Orange County Public Schools by October 31, 2015.

1. Establish and develop a reliable network of staff within the Orange County Public School System, including but not limited to the OCPS Area Superintendents.
2. Develop and distribute questionnaires that evaluate the need for programs and ways of improving the efficiency of current programs to Orange County Public School System staff.
3. Survey the schools and assess what programs are actively being implemented.
4. Research and compile the programs into a comprehensive database.
5. Hold an informative meeting with key representatives of the Orange County Public School System to foster cross-school discussion on what programs and school garden based curricula best meet the needs of District educational goals and standards.
6. Prepare presentation and materials for Open House events and School Board meetings to educate parents and School Board members on the value of school based gardening curricula, both educational and for impact on health and wellness.

Goal 2: Improve communication and effectiveness of healthy eating and nutrition programs utilized by Community Centers in Orange County by October 31, 2015.

1. Identify effective methods of communication and key members in community centers within Orange County
2. Research, modify, and distribute questionnaires to evaluate the need for programs, and ways of improving the efficiency of the programs for community managers
3. Survey the community centers and assess what programs are actively being implemented.
4. Research and create a comprehensive database of healthy eating and nutrition awareness programs for community managers.
5. Prepare an online resource for community member and managers of community centers on currently available programs and best practices.

(Note: Healthy Eating and Nutrition Awareness program is a broad term that could be used to describe activities and initiatives, such as a school garden, healthy snacks, get active activities, and engagement discussion about what is healthy.)