

# Interim One Year Plan 2016

## Good Food Central Florida Policy Council Members

The following are agencies, students and businesses which have volunteered their staff's time to participate in Good Food Central Florida during 2015:

- [Community Food Outreach](#)
- [East Central Florida Regional Planning Council](#)
- [East End Market](#)
- [Farm Workers Association](#)
- [FL Department of Health](#)
- [Health Council of East Central Florida](#)
- [Hebni Nutrition Consultants, Inc.](#)
- Joseph England, USF Ph.D Student
- [Orange County-Environmental Protection Division](#)
- Sarah Stacke- Private Health Consultant
- [Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida](#)
- [The City of Orlando-Office of Sustainability and Energy](#)
- [The City of Orlando- Planning Division](#)
- [The City of Orlando- Parramore Kidz Zone](#)
- [The City of Winter Park](#)
- [University of Florida IFAS Extension](#)
- [Vinca Marketing and Communications](#)
- [Winter Park Health Foundation](#)
- Yarissa Matos Soto- Formerly with DOH at Lake County and concerned citizen
- [YMCA Central Florida](#)

## Good Food Central Florida Vision:

We envision a vibrant local food economy that supports access to affordable, healthy food in every neighborhood.

## Good Food Central Florida Mission:

GFCF advocates for policies and programs that support a healthy equitable and economically viable food system. We seek to: Create access to and understanding of the foods that promote health; educate the public about our regional food system; and foster collaboration and build capacity among all

sectors of the local farm-to-table network (consumers, distributors, government, growers, non-profits, retailers, processors and waste recyclers).

## **What is a Food Policy Council?\***

Food Policy Councils are comprised of stakeholders from various segments of a local food system. Councils may be formed through grassroots efforts and operate without an adopted plan, while others are created by local governments and housed within the government administrative structure. Councils, by their very nature, are innovative and fluid collaborations among citizens, farmers, industry, businesses, agencies and government officials which address food related problems or opportunities and give voice to the concerns of many who have been underserved or unrepresented by the local food system. At its most fundamental level, councils serve to educate and share information. People involved in various parts of the food system can meet to learn more about what each other does and consider how their actions impact other parts of the food system. The primary goal of most Food Policy Councils is to make recommendations for food system improvement through public policy change and the support of partner programming and projects. \*Special thanks to Mark Winne and his publication- *Food First and the Community Food Security Coalition, Food Policy Councils: Lessons Learned.*

## **Why Create a Food Policy Council in Central Florida?**

Feedback from various Central Florida stakeholders indicates that there is a need for a food policy council in Central Florida. In particular, citizens and agencies would like to become better educated about the local food system and how to make it more resilient. As a consequence, Good Food Central Florida was formed. Founding members include East End Market, East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, Second Harvest Food Bank, Winter Park Health Foundation, and the City of Orlando- Get Active Orlando. The council has expanded to include broader representation and now includes Orange County Environmental Protection Division, Farmworkers Association, Hebni Nutrition, the City of Winter Park, IFAS, and the Orange County Department of Health. The council's 2016 target area is Orange County Florida which includes the City of Orlando and the City of Winter Park.

## **History: Overview of Good Food Central Florida Planning Efforts- 2015 Interim Plan and Key Outcomes**

In the fall of 2014 Good Food Central Florida created its first one year plan (November 1, 2014-October 31, 2015). The majority of the GFCF members decided to create an interim one year plan rather than a multi-year plan so as to better understand the planning needs of the organization. This 2014/2015 plan, can be broken down into key areas of the traditional food system: Production, Processing and Distribution, Waste, and Education and Outreach (consumer) as well as Critical Resources (Food Banks). This latter category was added due to the growing importance of emergency food access. The overall focus of the 2014/2015 plan was local food system research, education and outreach. Goals have been developed for each area along with the strategies based on SMART goal principles, to allow measurable outcomes. Plan related accomplishments include the following:

- Presentation on Food System Policy to the Orange County Sustainability Board by Dr. Richard Tyson, IFAS, and Ms. Jane Gregory, Orange County Environmental Protection Department.
- Award of \$30,000 grant from the FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity to the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council on behalf of GFCF. As detailed in Luis Nieves' application, the purpose of the grant project is to study the nature and extent of production, distribution and processing in Orange County Florida, consistent with a standard food assessment, and which will allow the identification of the food system deficiencies and strengths which will allow the development of policies and strategies to expand and strengthen the local food system (Food Production Strategic Plan).
- Creation and presentation of the City of Orlando Food Policy Audit by Mark Cassidy and Lucas Fernando Lopez, which provided a summary of the City of Orlando food policies and identified areas of policy strengths and weaknesses.
- Creation of the GFCF website and the expansion of the GFCF Facebook page- Abby Gulden, Caitlyn Glatting and Maria Iftikhar.
- Grant application support for the YMCA's \$100,000 Farmer's Market Promotion Program Grant application to allow the expansion of farmers markets and community gardens in Orange County.
- Became a member of Lift Orlando's 2015-2017 Strategic Plan-Economic Development Component
- Presentation at the 2015 Florida American Planning Association Conference-Social Entrepreneurship (Luis Nieves & MS Droege).
- 2015 Educational Speaker Series included: UCF, Dr. Jim Wright, Food Insecurity in Orange County Florida; Susan Reimer Sifford, Director, Darden Restaurants Inc.; Hebni Nutrition Inc., Roneice Weaver, Founder; IFAS, Dr. Richard Tyson; Florida Dept. of Health at Orange County, Environmental Health, Lea Williams; State of Florida Department of

Business and Professional Regulation Division of Hotels and Restaurants,  
Valerie Freeman (Food Safety).

## **Good Food Central Florida Planning Efforts-2016 One Year Plan**

Pursuant to a planning session held at Leu Gardens in mid October 2015, attending GFCF members provided feedback and the plan was updated for one year as follows:

**Production Goal 1: Promote the expansion of commercial and 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 December 31, 2016.**

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.

**Processing Goal 1: Identify and research at least five regulatory or institutional barriers in the local Orange County food processing system and share these findings with food policy council members by December 31, 2016.**

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. Participate in several policy development sessions to increase healthy sustainable local processing.

**Processing 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 December 31, 2016.**

Strategies:

1. Provide several networking opportunities between local producers and identify ways to strengthen their connections.
2. Support the expansion of healthy and sustainable food processing sites through the support of planning best practices and the development of economic incentives.

**Distribution Goal 1: Assist in the identification and research of at least three regulatory or institutional barriers in the local Orange County food distribution system and share these findings with the food policy council members by December 31, 2016.**

Strategies:

1. Conduct primary and secondary research addressing the Orange County food distribution system and identify key barriers.
2. Identify optimal processing locations and appropriate zoning performance criteria for local food distribution.
3. Participate in several policy development sessions to increase healthy and sustainable local food distribution.

**Distribution Goal 2: Support the development and siting of food hubs, cooperatives and farmers markets which support sustainable healthy local food access in the City of Orlando and Orange County west-side neighborhoods, identified as food deserts, by December 31, 2016.**

Strategies:

1. Identify policy and institutional barriers to food hubs, cooperatives and/or farmers markets; and as part of this process identify best practices administrative solutions.

2. Support the use of SNAP and EBT by farmers markets through a multidisciplinary approach which may include education and hands-on training by GFCF partners, as part of the farmers' market grant application as well as general council outreach efforts.
3. Research the wholesale and retail food distribution system to better understand their respective roles and the impacts on the overall food system and the distribution of food in low income food deserts.

### **Food Waste Goal 1: Expand availability and accessibility of resources regarding food waste diversion in the Central Florida region**

Strategies:

1. Compile a list to post on GFCF web-page containing the following topic headings
  - Organics/food waste haulers
  - Food recovery agencies
  - Large commercial generators
2. Incorporate more food waste related posts to GFCF social media (weekly)
3. Compile list of commercial facilities which currently participate in orlando's food waste collection program.
4. Reach out to other waste haulers to obtain client lists
5. Provide data reported to FDEP regarding trends in food waste diversion for the past few years
6. Create how-to guidance for implementing successful food waste diversion programs based on local organizations' outcomes

### **Community Outreach and Education Goal 1: Gather and disseminate information on developing a sustainable healthy local food system and related activities through a variety of actions by December 31, 2016.**

Strategies:

1. Maintain the GFCF Facebook page with current local food system policies, programs and activities.
2. Maintain and enhance the GFCF website with healthy and sustainable local food information, including studies, programs and projects.
3. Post local food system educational material on the GFCF website which can be used by citizens of all ages and abilities.

4. Participate in local food system conferences and community meetings to provide technical information and represent GFCF.
5. Support citizen involvement in GFCF.

**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 three to four 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.

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