



Food Master Plan for Asheville and Buncombe County

MISSION: To identify, propose and advocate for policies, financial appropriations, and innovative solutions to improve and protect our local food system in order to advance economic development, social justice, environmental sustainability¹, and community resiliency.

VISION: All residents of Buncombe County have access to and the option to cultivate and prepare nutritious food within a resilient and sovereign² foodshed that sustainably harvests and conserves farmland, forests, and water resources, sustains our population, collaborates with neighboring counties, and ensures a thriving agriculture-related economy.

LONG TERM GOAL 1: Increase skills and volume of rural and urban food production, processing, and preservation to meet identified needs for local consumption and food sovereignty in Buncombe County.

Short-term Capacity:

- Support neighborhoods in identifying food growing assets and opportunities as part of their emergency food preparedness planning (Emergency Food Preparedness WG).
- Collaborate with WNC Food Waste Solutions to support an increased redirection of food waste into food production/processing/preservation resources.

Long-term Strategy:

- Collaborate with local and regional entities, including farmers, to increase food production and related goals.
- Collaborate with local schools and other large-scale land owners or institutions to increase available growing/processing space for food production and distribution.
- Investigate and promote innovative methods of urban production (intensive permaculture systems, aquaculture, vertical farming, rooftop gardens, etc.)

¹ **Sustainable Agriculture:** The term "sustainable agriculture" (U.S. Code Title 7, Section 3103) means an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will over the long-term: Satisfy human food and fiber needs; Enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agriculture economy depends; Make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm resources and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls; Sustain the economic viability of farm operations; Enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole. (Source:<http://goo.gl/aLiGvo>)

² **Food Sovereignty:** The right of peoples, communities, and countries to define their own agricultural, labor, fishing, food and land policies, which are ecologically, socially, economically and culturally appropriate to their unique circumstances. It includes the true right to food and to produce food, which means that all people have the right to safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate food and to food-producing resources and the ability to sustain themselves and their societies. (Source: "Food Sovereignty: A Right For All, Political Statement of the NGO/CSO Forum for Food Sovereignty," Rome, June 2002 (Source: <http://goo.gl/FMEpDi>)

LONG TERM GOAL 2: Increase access to nutritionally dense³ food for Buncombe County residents experiencing food inequities to meet identified need.

Short-term Capacity:

-Support neighborhoods in developing Outdoor Food Pantries/Mobile Markets where needed/wanted to meet emergent food security and ongoing mutual aid needs (Emergency Food Preparedness WG).

-Collaborate with WNC Food Waste Solutions to support an increased redirection of food waste into food access resources.

-Support neighborhoods and food growing/distribution entities in accessing refrigeration to support greater access to perishable foods (WNC Food Waste Solutions and Food Justice Planning Initiative).

Long-term Strategy:

LONG TERM GOAL 3: Work with neighboring counties to advocate for a plan to increase regional nutritional self-sufficiency⁴ and emergency preparedness through public-private partnerships.

Short-term Capacity:

-Support development of and collaborate with Regional Food Council (Food Justice Planning Initiative).

Long-term Strategy:

-Share neighborhood emergency food preparedness planning templates and processes to support replicability across the region.

-Share City of Asheville Food Policy Action Planning process and template to support replicability across the region.

LONG TERM GOAL 4: Increase agricultural viability centered in equity through various means including ownership, access, and preservation of farmland, ensuring access to business support and financial resources, increasing product demand through local sourcing, and other strategies.

Short-term Capacity:

-Support reparations for food security harms caused by City/County policies through coalition building and community informed solutions-finding/implementation.

Long-term Strategy:

-Support land access to growers of color through land redistribution efforts including but not limited to reparative action (such as restoring land lost/taken through City/County policies) on the local level.

Top Priorities (Hub/Working Group Responsible for Tracking and Leading Development of the Priority)*

1. Collect and organize data available related to quantity and types of local farming/growing and processing: Work with ASAP, Cooperative Extension, NCDA, FSA and other partners in order to collect, organize, and store data related to numbers of WNC farms,

³ **Nutritionally Dense:** nutrient density is understood as the ratio of the nutrient composition of a given food to the nutrient requirements of the human body. (Source: [What does nutrient density mean? \(definitions.net\)](http://www.definitions.net/define/nutrient-density))

⁴ **Self-Sufficiency:** The extent to which a community can satisfy its food needs from its own domestic or local production. (Source: <http://goo.gl/LVG72e>)

amount of farmland in production, and number and types of WNC processing facilities in order to better understand the gaps and opportunities for future agriculture and processing projects in support of greater food sovereignty for our region.

1. This would be a great project for a student/intern to work on
2. Currently available resources:

- a. 2021 NC Ag Statistics

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/North_Carolina/Publications/Annual_Statistical_Bulletin/AgStat/NCaStatBook.pdf

2. The ABFPC will work in partnership with the City/County, EOS, and other partners to support emergency food preparedness in neighborhoods and across the county:

- i. Meet with city, county, and community partner personnel to understand existing emergency plans, as well as food storage capacity and how that compares to Buncombe County's needs.
- ii. Explore what infrastructure is needed in order to better meet the emergency food needs of the City/County and of neighborhoods.
- iii. Assess emergency food distribution to identify any needed improvements.
- iv. Work with leaders of legacy neighborhoods and communities experiencing elevated rates of food insecurity to develop and implement neighborhood emergency food plans
 1. Support neighborhoods in accessing the resources, infrastructure, training, etc. necessary to effectively implement their neighborhood emergency food plans.

3. Improve food access in underserved communities by supporting the development of needed infrastructure and systems to acquire, store, and distribute food within neighborhoods, based on neighborhood preferences.

- A. i. Support outdoor pantry installations, development of cold storage facilities, and help to establish the partnerships needed to ensure that neighborhood based food distribution systems are able to remain well stocked.

4. Work with partners such as Food Waste Solutions and the Food Justice Planning Initiative to assess and support the potential for a citywide composting program:

- i. ABFPC partners with the City of Asheville's Office of Sustainability in support of FWS programming, coordination, and administrative tasks in order to help build a more robust local composting initiative.

5. Continue to partner with local food serving sites for those in need as coordinated by Buncombe County Feeding Coordinator for the purpose of collaboration and sharing of information and resources.

6. Increase community participation and organizational capacity of the ABFPC through targeted outreach initiatives and creative strategies for valuing the contributions of individuals and communities.

***Note:** Top priorities will be revised every year

Updated with revisions to Priorities by Policy Mobilization Hub 06/28/2022

Updated with revisions to Mission, Vision, and LTGs by General Council 7-13-21

Updated with approved definitions on 7-1-15

Updated with revisions to Mission, Vision, & LTG's by General Council on 4-27-15

Approved by General Council of the AB Food Policy Council on 8-27-12

Updated with Cluster Responsibilities by General Council on 9-25-12 and 1-9-13

Updated with definitions on 1-16-13

Updated with Cluster reassignments 1-31-13

Renamed "Food Master Plan" to avoid confusion w/ City's Food Action Plan 6-13-13