



## 2018 Food Policy Platform

### INTRODUCTION

The Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council (FPAC) connects Philadelphians and their local government to create a more just food system. This policy platform is intended to guide the City in creating policies that promote greater accessibility and affordability of healthy, sustainable, culturally appropriate, local, and fair food.

Since FPAC released its last policy platform in 2014, [A Philadelphia Food Policy Road Map](#), the City has made great progress. Last year, Mayor Kenney passed an executive order establishing the Zero Waste and Litter Cabinet to help the City reach zero waste by 2035. City Council passed legislation promoting equitable water access in schools. The Administration has also continued to uphold healthy nutrition standards and passed a sugar-sweetened beverage tax. These policies demonstrate that Philadelphia is a leader in food policy and is moving towards a stronger, healthier, and more just food system.

There is more work to do in continuing our city's trajectory and FPAC is committed to supporting the Mayor, Administration, and City Council to move these policy recommendations forward. The following have been drafted, vetted, and finalized by the collective expertise of FPAC's members and public subcommittees.

### GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Prioritize the role of the Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council as a convener of food systems leaders brought together to shape food systems policy while prioritizing transparency, inclusion, and diversity in the Council.
- Actively engage with FPAC by attending yearly meetings, directing FPAC to address relevant policy questions, and publicly supporting FPAC's food policy recommendations.

Sufficient funding is critical for Philadelphia to continue to lead in food policy work. FPAC recommends that the City of Philadelphia:

- Dedicate funding and staff for FPAC within the Office of Sustainability.
- Consider appointing a Food Policy Director who is empowered to work with staff across agencies. New York City, Los Angeles, Boston, Baltimore, Seattle, Austin, Louisville, Providence, and Portland all have full-time food policy directors or advisors, which allows for interagency access and collaboration.
- Make sufficient funding available to support critical programs like:
  - The *Get Healthy Philly* program in the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH), which drives good food procurement work, and continue to support and implement nutrition strategies outlined in PDPH's strategic plan and community health plan.
  - The FarmPhilly Program at Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR), which supports the creation and maintenance of urban agriculture projects on PPR land, such as orchards, youth education gardens, community gardens, and market farms.

## ANTI-HUNGER

1. Become a national leader and a local proponent of food policy by advocating for programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs (FMNP), Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs (SFMNP), State Food Purchasing Program, Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System program (PASS), Neighborhood Assistance Program, healthy school meals, and other nutritional supports.
  - a. City Council should advocate for the positions that FPAC supports through the media, lobbyists, and other outlets.
2. Engage collaboratively in discussions on food and farm policy pertaining to the 2018 Farm Bill and share priorities with key elected officials including Senator Bob Casey and Congressman Dwight Evans, each of whom serve on their respective chambers' Agriculture Committee.
  - a. Oppose any future SNAP cuts and prohibitive work requirements in the Farm Bill, which will negatively impact families, children's health and academic performance, and sales at grocery stores and farmers markets in low-income communities, where SNAP dollar are critical to weekly sales.
3. Establish programs to support households constrained by distance, cost, time, and other practical and economic barriers to food access.
4. Engage in the reauthorization of The Child Nutrition Act and advocate for higher reimbursement rates.
5. Increase participation in school breakfast programs, which is a federal program that Philadelphia schools could be using more effectively to feed hungry children and set them up for success in the classroom.
  - a. Increase federal funding going directly to support healthy school meals served by the School District.
6. Engage with City Council to expand the ability of schools and partner agencies to provide meals for students on planned days off from school.
7. Address the decline in redemption of summer meals, a federal program that feeds children while they are out of school.

## FOOD & HEALTH

1. Expand the adoption of nutrition standards and healthy habits to early childcare settings, such as the Philadelphia Department of Public Health Board of Health's new resolution on promoting healthy beverages, and support outreach to childcare providers to implement these standards.
2. Support and provide funding for the expansion of farm to school food programs for K-12 schools to improve student nutrition, provide agriculture, health and nutrition education opportunities, and support local and regional farmers.
3. Foster a healthier school environment by promoting and reinforcing the School District of Philadelphia's Wellness Policy, particularly its healthy vending policies.
4. Support the creation of sugar and sodium warning labels and the elimination of soft drinks as the default choice from kids' menus at restaurant chains.
5. Maintain existing PDPH nutrition programs for pregnant women, mothers, and infants, such as those found in PDPH and *Get Healthy Philly's* strategic plans and community health improvement plan. Encourage and promote policies that provide supportive environments for breastfeeding mothers.
6. Draw on Philadelphia as an "Eds and Meds" center and establish a task force on food as medicine to integrate healthy food as preventative healthcare throughout the city, using as leverage the IRS ruling that nonprofit hospitals can claim the help they provide their communities to "ensure adequate nutrition" as part of their exemption from federal taxation.
  - a. Continue to support collaborative approaches in developing community health needs assessments and improvement plans through PDPH's Good Food, Healthy Hospitals initiative and the Collaborative Opportunities to Advance Community Health Initiative (COACH).
  - b. Advocate for the protection of the Affordable Care Act's Community Health Provision at the federal level and cement this provision as public policy.
7. Promote Healthy Food Financing initiatives that incentivize supermarkets and retail stores selling healthy food to operate in underserved areas.
8. Build relationships with Philadelphia corner stores and provide support, training, and incentives for increasing store capacity to sell and market healthy items, and remove barriers to healthy produce sidewalk sales.
9. Discourage predatory marketing of unhealthy foods and sugar-sweetened beverages, which disproportionately target communities of color.

## GOOD FOOD PROCUREMENT

1. Pledge to support changes to the City's procurement and contracting that will increase competition and food quality:
  - a. Pledge to support efforts to decrease the period between order delivery and invoice payment, which will increase competition for food contracts.
  - b. Pledge to support increased transparency through the inclusion and use of reporting requirements in contracts for food vendors and providers.
  - c. Pledge to support the employment of Best Value for awarding food and food service contracts, by considering previous vendor performance, adherence to nutrition standards, and other factors relevant to the provision of healthy, high-quality food.
2. Pledge to support the findings of the baseline assessment of food purchases for four City departments and encourage departments to consider opportunities to source foods that meet higher sustainability and labor standards and better support the local economy.
3. Pledge to institute a citywide 'good food' policy that compels City departments and their food service contractors to purchase foods that are healthy, sustainably grown, produced with fair labor practices, and supportive of local businesses and the Philadelphia economy.
4. Sponsor the creation of an internal taskforce with representatives from City departments (including Commerce, Controller, Office of Economic Opportunity, Planning, Procurement, Public Health, Sustainability, and FPAC) to increase the number of Philadelphia jobs and businesses that work toward the provision of food that is healthy, sustainably grown, fairly produced, and supportive of the Philadelphia economy.

## URBAN AGRICULTURE

1. Provide ample resources to the Philadelphia Land Bank to preserve and expand urban gardens and enhance opportunities for other productive reuse of land that promotes food access and food-related economic development.
  - a. Ensure that the Land Bank Strategic Plan is implemented effectively with sufficient funding and staffing, a Community Advisory Board with representation from the urban ag sector, and cooperation among the Land Bank, Revenue, and other related City agencies.
  - b. Ensure the prevention of tax lien sales or securitization, which would create long-term insurmountable barriers to Land Bank implementation.
  - c. Streamline and ease the path to land ownership for gardeners by providing additional resources and trainings, such as the Vacant Land 215 workshops, and encouraging the Land Bank to be more responsive and accessible to the public.
  - d. Equitably enforce the rights of gardeners during sheriff sales by providing advanced notification when a garden goes to sheriff sale.
2. Support and provide funding for a citywide Urban Agriculture Strategic Plan, which gardeners and advocates are working with City government officials at PPR, the Office of Sustainability, and the Philadelphia City Planning Commission to create.
  - a. Strengthen food security by establishing urban agriculture, community gardening, and greening as stated priorities for all public landholding agencies and mandate interagency coordination and planning to support these initiatives via an urban agriculture policy.
3. Commit to at least 5 new acres (220,000 square feet, does not have to be contiguous) of cultivated land on public property in each City Council district within three years.
4. Provide and facilitate access to a variety of resources for gardeners such as tools, heavy equipment, soil, compost, lumber, and other materials necessary for starting and sustaining operations. The City should encourage and provide incentives for collaboration between businesses, nonprofits, and individuals through initiatives like membership-based tool shares.
5. Foster collaboration between City agencies, the School District of Philadelphia, urban agriculture organizations, and workforce improvement organizations.
6. Collect and publish annual data on gardens, using metrics identified by gardeners and other stakeholders, to track progress and identify opportunities for growth in urban agriculture.

## **WORKFORCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

1. Commit to livable wage policies and efforts that promote a healthy and sustainable workforce, such as the Philadelphia 21st Century Minimum Wage and Benefits Standard requiring a livable wage for city contractors.
2. Increase transparency, speed of implementation, access to services, language access, and enforcement of ordinances such as anti-wage theft, earned sick leave, ban-the-box, and equal pay to ensure they do what they were designed to do: protect low-wage workers like those working in restaurants.
3. Commit to supporting policies that require employers to promote stable schedules and full-time employment, especially for those in the retail, food service, urban agriculture, seasonal, hospitality, and janitorial positions.
4. Commit to policies that support Philadelphia employees with extended medical leave so that they can take care of themselves and their family members.
5. Support the elimination of the two-tiered wage system and extend tip protections to tipped workers.
6. Foster collaboration between City agencies, food-related industries, and food-related industry workers.

## ZERO WASTE

1. Increase the City's adoption of Zero Waste practices through the continued expansion of Philacycle (formerly Waste Watchers) at public events and explore including sustainable waste management practices in Requests for Proposals for the Convention Center and other City-controlled facilities.
2. Support increased surplus food donation by creating a dialogue with City agencies, Philabundance, and other leading food rescue organizations to understand how the City can better support their efforts in reducing food waste.
  - a. Continue to support PPR in expanding a food recovery pilot at PPR facilities.
  - b. Foster relationships between food rescue agencies and local composting facilities to lower the cost of disposing of spoiled food donations.
3. Emphasize the necessity of properly preparing source-separated materials and maintain strict material acceptance standards, which are critical for the success of all composting operations.
4. Strengthen the food composting option for commercial food establishments by encouraging a dialogue between the Recycling Office and PDPH to make food composting an effective option for commercial food establishments, such as through a zero waste restaurant competition.
5. Promote and support backyard composting by partnering with local organizations and educating residents about composting benefits, backyard composting methods, and compost bins that can be purchased or built.
  - a. Use the City's website as a resource and actively sponsor and promote training programs in neighborhoods.
  - b. Seek funding support to subsidize compost bin costs.
  - c. Continue to promote backyard composting at community events, such as block captain rallies.
6. Support the growth of community-based composting by promoting existing successful models and offering Master Composting training sessions, similar to those offered in New York City.
7. Encourage compost use and production at urban agriculture sites owned by public agencies.
8. Explore a public/private partnership to connect the City to compost and engineered soils for Green City Clean Waters projects and other green infrastructure initiatives.