



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

STRATEGIC PLAN

One of the council's greatest achievements this year was the creation of a new Strategic Plan for 2021-2023. The plan was approved in August after several months spent crafting goals, objectives, strategies, and tactics that will help the council create a more **equitable, resilient,** and **community-based** food system.

GOALS

- 1 Support community connections in the food system
- 2 Create and share transformational narratives to shape the food system
- 3 Identify and advocate for inclusive, community-led policy solutions and public investment opportunities

View the Strategic Plan on the county's website.

CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS

This year, the council focused on building connections to better understand needs, direct people to resources, and engage in open conversations about challenges and opportunities present in our community-based food system.

-  Built relationships with organizations committed to racial and social justice
-  Volunteered at Coralville Community Food Pantry's Free Community Meal
-  Hosted **4** guest speakers who presented on a range of topics
-  Toured **3** local kitchens and processing facilities
-  Connected with Food Policy Councils across the U.S. at the Power of Food Forum
-  Received updates on statewide food system planning from the Iowa Food System Coalition

WE HOSTED OUR 1ST VIRTUAL PUBLIC FORUM!

BUILDING A NEW TABLE: FOOD & FARM STORIES



The council hosted our 7th annual public forum online. This year's forum centered conversations about inequities present in the food system and featured stories from community leader, Hài Huỳnh, and food business entrepreneurs, El Sadig Ahmed and Mohamed Barbiker, with supporter Ed Williams, from Black Diamond Halal Meats.

Watch the recording on the county's website.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Giselle Bruskewitz, Chair
 Molly Schintler, Vice Chair
 Kristy Walker, Past Chair
 Will Kapp, Secretary
 Hannah Shultz, Outreach & Events Chair

Debbie Klein
 Ayman Sharif
 Bill Weedman Jr
 Joseph Klingelhut
 Mike Roelf
 Deborah Kuiken

WORKING GROUPS 2021

The council's working groups meet to research, organize, & draft recommendations on the following topics.

INFRASTRUCTURE FOOD PROCESSING & STORAGE

Throughout 2021, members gathered input from stakeholders to better understand local food infrastructure needs in Johnson County. This input was collected through interviews, surveys, a Local Food Storage and Processing Roundtable event, and three tours of local kitchens and processing facilities (1105 Project Kitchen, Old Brick, Open Gates Group). The group has found that our community is full of value-added entrepreneurs who are excited about processing and selling their products. **While there are several great resources available for local food processing, more space is needed to support the number of current and aspiring value-added business owners.** Through our network, we have learned that a few community organizations are planning to build additional processing space in the near future. Stay tuned for updates on these new spaces!

EQUIPMENT SHARING REDUCING GROWER BARRIERS

Members supported the development of Iowa Valley RC&D's Equipment Share Program by reaching out to stakeholders to ask about needs, providing feedback, and writing a letter of support to present to the Board of Supervisors.

MARKETING SPREADING THE WORD

This group helped plan the public forum, including the forum theme, guest speakers, and marketing plan. Members learned how to navigate hosting an online forum and providing translation services.



FOOD JUSTICE COMMITMENT TO EQUITY

Members worked to build connections with local organizations committed to racial and social justice to better understand their needs and priorities, identify where their work intersects with the council's work, and discuss how the council can work in partnership with them. This group also facilitated Food Justice discussions at council meetings which helped build a habit among council members of prioritizing equity in all conversations and decisions made about food system issues.

\$200,000 ALLOCATED TO LOCAL FOOD!

The Board of Supervisors allocated \$200,000 of American Rescue Plan Act funds to support local food initiatives and increase access to healthy, local options over the next three fiscal years.

LOOKING FORWARD...

- 2022 Local Foods Roundtable
- 2022 Public Forum
- Local Food Grant Program
- Local Food Procurement Policies
- Healthcare for Food and Farm Workers

WANT TO GET INVOLVED? CONTACT:

Ilsa DeWald, Local Foods Coordinator
(319) 688-5840
idewalde@johnsoncountyiowa.gov
Scan the barcode to visit our website.



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