



Portland/ Multnomah Food Policy Council

March 2003



*City of Portland
Multnomah County*

Food Policy Council

a committee of the

Sustainable Development Commission

Dan Saltzman
City Commissioner
Maria Rojo de Steffey

District 1 County Commissioner

721 NW 9th Avenue #350
Portland, OR 97209
Phone: 503-823-7222
Fax: 503-823-5311
pdxosd@ci.portland.or.us
www.sustainableportland.org



In the past few weeks the Food Policy Council has presented a mid-year progress report to the city and the county. Both presentations have been met with enthusiasm on what we have accomplished and what we have planned. Here is what we have been working on.

Progress Toward Policy Recommendations

The Food Policy Council subcommittees are making progress towards identifying policy recommendations to present to the city and county. Examples of what the committees have been involved with include:

- The institutional purchasing committee is conducting telephone surveys to three target audiences of institutional purchasers, producers and growers, and distributors to identify programs and policies that encourage institutional purchasing practices.
- The food access group is working with Metro to build a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) database that will help us to analyze the distribution of grocery stores where people can access healthy and affordable food.
- The committee working on the capacity of local communities to engage in healthy food practices took part in the City of Portland Fix-It-Fairs to talk to people about what they need to be able to access and eat healthy and regionally produced food.
- The land use policy committee is interviewing growers, farmers markets, suppliers, non-profit groups and government organizations to determine which land use policies support a healthy regional food system and which create barriers.
- The group that is working on how to build local demand for regionally produced foods is formulating policies around establishing public kitchens, developing market places for regionally produced foods and "Buy Local" educational campaigns.

Due to the huge scope of the work the Council has requested to extend the deadline for presenting the recommendations to the city and the county from June 1 to November 1, 2003. This will give us more time to prioritize our recommendations and get feedback from stakeholders and relevant agencies. In addition, to accomplish this work the one-year terms of the Food Policy Council members will be extended by six months to December 31, 2003.

Guiding Principles

The Food Policy Council has developed a set of principles to help guide the City and County government in their decisions related to food and agriculture in our region. In addition to helping to inform and direct the work of the Council, the principles provide background information on some of the issues that we face in improving our food system and examples what other food policy councils have done to improve food systems. Please contact us if you are interested in reading the principles.

Public Outreach

The Council identified the need to get out and talk to the public to get input on our work and to get the message out about healthy food systems.

The Council charged the individual subcommittees with developing outreach plans that would reach members of the community that are affected by their specific area

of work. Events that we have participated in include the City of Portland Fix-It-Fairs, the Farmer Chef Connection Conference and the Farm Direct Marketing Conference. Also look for us this spring and summer at places such as the Earth Day Celebration and farmers markets.



GIS Map Is Underway

In an exciting partnership with Metro we are developing a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) database that will help us to understand some of the complicated issues involved with food access in our region. We will be able to look at the locations of grocery stores and other food retailers in relation to factors such as the average income levels of an area, ethnicity and proximity to bus routes as well as other factors. The map will also include the locations of community gardens, farmers markets and emergency food sources. The database will be a valuable tool for the Food Policy Council and others who are involved with improving access to healthy affordable food in our region.



Upcoming Meetings—Get Involved!

Portland/Multnomah Food Policy Council meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month from 4:00 to 6:00 PM at the Multnomah County Building at 501 SE Hawthorne. If you have input on the work we are doing or just want to come find out what's going on, we welcome you to join us! Dates for the upcoming meetings are:

Wednesday, March 12 4:00-6:00 PM

Wednesday, April 9 4:00-6:00 PM

Wednesday, May 14 4:00-6:00 PM

Food Policy Council Members

(affiliations are provided for identification purposes only)

Suzanne Briggs
Oregon Farmers Market Association

Rachel Bristol
Oregon Food Bank

Rosemarie Cordello
Sustainable Development Commission

Veronica Dujon Portland State University/
Sustainable Development Commission

Greg Higgins
Higgins Restaurant

Njeri Karanja
Kaiser Permanente

Steve Olson
S.C. Olson Consulting

Brian Rohter
New Seasons Market

Marcus Simantel
Agri-Business Council

Shannon Stember
Portland Public Schools

Pennie Trumbull
The Marketing Director

Betty Izumi
(liaison to Community Food Matters)
OSU Extension Service