

## FOOD SYSTEM POLICY COUNCILS:

Food Policy Councils bring together food activists, community members, urban and rural planners, and local, municipal and state governments as partners in creating local food initiatives. Food policy councils support communities in their efforts to rebuild, with existing community assets, local and regional food systems. This collaboration assists partners within various scales of communities to move forward in food system change through coordinated efforts for policy change. These coalitions of leaders give a voice to numerous, compassionate individuals and organizations within the community. Food policy councils defend and articulate the priorities of the community that inform local and regional policies to continue to enhance the opportunity for implementation of local food systems.

### Public Input Sessions:

- Discuss barriers to selling fish from M. River
- Dubuque – Dubuque area needs a safety and innovation net for future planning and resiliency
- Key West (maybe by Casey's?): I'm a Key West resident. It's a food desert. I'm interested in getting folks connected to healthy foods (maybe a community garden?) here. Stacy Larrison: 563-590-8200

### Education

NUMBER OF FOOD POLICY COUNCILS NEARLY DOUBLED FROM 111 COUNCILS IN 2010 TO 193 COUNCILS IN 2012: REPRESENTING AND ADVOCATING FOR HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, ECONOMIC VIABILITY AND SOCIALLY JUST FOOD SYSTEMS.

### Natural Systems

THE CATFISH CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN (2014) identifies specific sites on public and privately held land in the Dubuque area that are in need of restoration. The report identifies specific sites in the watershed that are, for example, in need of riparian buffer restoration, woodlands in need of understory management, as well as noting where privately-owned farms' grazing and crop production practices threaten the health of the Catfish Creek watershed.

DUBUQUE COUNTY REGIONAL SMART PLAN (2013) IDENTIFIES SEVERAL GOALS RELEVANT TO LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING

#### AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES:

- 1.1. Encourage expansion and recruitment of environmentally conscious businesses.
- 3.4. Support economic development efforts to diversify the farm economy through "value added" products, organic farming, and alternative crops and livestock.
- 10.3. Expand food scrap and backyard composting options and awareness.
- 11.2. Encourage clean-up, beautification, and landscaping for the public, private, and business sectors, i.e. parkland, roadway, and shoreline adoption programs.

To include all community projects, businesses, etc. that involve production (recycling, reducing, recovering, reusing, composting) of food or other natural resources

### **Discussion from coalition meetings:**

### **Waste Management**

INTEREST IN LOOKING ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF AGRICULTURE OR WATER MANAGEMENT:  
ROADSIDE MANAGEMENT/ PRAIRIE RESTORATION/ POLLINATOR HABITAT—OPPORTUNITY FOR  
AWARENESS ON VARIOUS PRACTICES FOR FARMERS

### **Environment:**

CHNA & HIP PRIORITY GOALS:  
(DUBUQUE COUNTY HEALTH), (IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH)

#### **PROMOTE HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS:**

By 2016 the air quality in Dubuque County will be in compliance with the Clean Air Act standards by the number of days of moderately unhealthy and unhealthy air days being reduced (from 22 and 2) and by maintaining attainment standards for PM 2.5.

Current air quality is poor: Dubuque County Particulate Matter days=4 days; State of Iowa=2 days

Increase Environmental Health Community Education for general public.

Provide safe storage of food to increase safety of food from producer to consumer.

Improve surface water protection.

Explore mass transit options and promote use of public transportation.

Promote/explore use of alternative energy including ways to reduce carbon footprint; expand/promote for sustainable community and energy efficiency.

### **FOOD RECOVERY**

Bridge between food waste and fighting hunger. Food recovery works to offer opportunities for individuals, organizations, and farmers to donate food that is not used rather than throwing it away. This can be done through gleaning programs at farms or supermarkets where non-sold goods are donated to food banks; or can be offered through new programs like phone applications where individuals and businesses can link up with food banks and food pantries for needed donations of food.