

How to Convene a Local Food Council for Positive Impact in Your Community

Purpose

The local food movement is creating jobs and improving health by expanding our “food system” (the growing, processing, distributing, consuming, and composting/recycling of food). Communities are supporting sustainable farming and providing better access to food insecure areas.

But how do you bring everyone together to make things happen? One idea is to develop a Local Food Council. This program will help connect citizens, public policymakers, private business leaders and not-for-profit institutions to make an impact.

Impact

Miami County residents formed an umbrella group that is creating a virtual farmers market, a shared-use commercial kitchen, a food summit, a locavore dinner, and other marketing materials and directories.

The Miami County Virtual Market team received a \$45,000 USDA grant to hire a manager and launch an online market in 2016 to connect consumers with local foods through technology.

Ohio State Colleges/Units Involved

College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences
OSU Extension
Glenn College of Public Affairs

Community Partners Involved

The Miami County Foundation
Miami County Public Health
Edison State Community College
Miami County Commissioners
University of Dayton



In September 2015, a Food Summit (82 participants) and a Locavore Farm Dinner (140 persons) highlighted efforts to expand local food production, distribution, consumption; business-to-business connections; and networking for collaborations.



How you can get involved:

- Start a Food Council in your town or county
- Partner with the local Extension office to offer programs or host events (e.g., Locavore Farm Dinners to promote local foods)
- Volunteer to help conduct a Food Summit to raise awareness of: food security, food justice, local food as economic development, etc.

To get involved, contact:

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