

2018 FOOD COUNCIL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

WESTERN REGION



This selection of updates are from food councils and networks in North Carolina attending the 2018 Western Region Food Council Gathering. See back for more details.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Food Policy in Action
- Using Robo-calls
- Community forums
- Mapping urban edible plants
- Double-Up Bucks
- Food Hub
- Food Waste Reduction & Re-use Summit
- Restaurants sourcing local food

McDowell County Local Foods Advisory Council obtained 501c3 non-profit status.

Catawba County stakeholders made a commitment to be a food council identified Live Well Catawba as a backbone organization.

Rutherford County Food Council received financial support for a Food Systems/Security Coordinator.

Catawba County is exploring the integration of a food system assessment into their county health assessment process.

Rutherford County Food Council held a community forum to get input on what the community needs and wants from a food council.

ABFPC began implementing Asheville's Food Policy Action Plan by mapping edibles throughout the city.

Watauga Food Council hosted a two-day community food system forum.

ABFPC used robo-calls to inform community members about SNAP and Double-Up Bucks.

McDowell County Local Foods Advisory Council raised money for food pantries by hosting a farm-to-table dinner celebrating local food and farms.

Toe River Food Network collaborated with food banks and farm-to-childcare centers to expand work on food security.

ABFPC transferred Double Up Food Bucks program to Mountainwise as lead agency.

Toe River Food Network partnered with a local Episcopal church to explore planning a forum on communities of color's access and participation in food system.

Toe River Food Network is reforming their network to include more diverse members of food system.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & ASSESSMENT

LOCAL FOODS INFRASTRUCTURE

McDowell County Local Foods Advisory Council is supporting the establishment of the Foothills Food Hub.

Watauga Food Council launched the High Country Grown Marketing Initiative, verifying restaurants who source local food products.

ABFPC led the WNC Food Waste Reduction and Re-use Summit, followed by quarterly meetings.

FOOD ACCESS

ADVOCACY & POLICY

McDowell County Local Foods Advisory Council hosted a 2018 Candidate Forum to bring farm and food related questions to candidates running for office.

Watauga Food Council advocated for a Board of Commissioners resolution recognizing the food council and inviting food and farm policy recommendations.

ABFPC convened a day-long "Putting Resilience to Work: Food Policy in Action" event to collaboratively tackle the ideal of an equitable, resilient food system.

RACIAL EQUITY





ASHEVILLE BUNCOMBE FOOD POLICY COUNCIL (ABFPC)

- Participated in a Baseline Food Systems Assessment Pilot and began documenting the food landscape
- Began implementing Food Policy Action Plan by mapping edible plants throughout the city
- Convened a day-long “Putting Resilience to Work: Food Policy in Action” event to collaboratively tackle the ideal of an equitable, resilient food system.
- Used robo calls to inform the community about Double Up Bucks and SNAP options
- Restructured internally for greater engagement and collaboration
- Transferred administration of Double Up Food Bucks program to Mountainwise as lead agency
- Led WNC Food Waste Reduction and Re-use summit and quarterly meetings

CATAWBA COUNTY

- Engaged multiple community partners
- Made a formal commitment to be a food council
- Identified Live Well Catawba as the backbone organization
- Planned to start food system mapping and integrating a food system assessment into their county health assessment process.

MCDOWELL COUNTY LOCAL FOODS ADVISORY COUNCIL

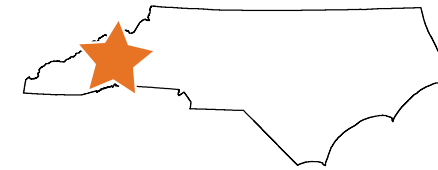
- Obtained 501c3 status
- Hosted a 2018 Candidate Forum for the public to bring farm- and food-related questions to candidates running for office.
- Supported the establishment of the Foothills Food Hub
- Hosted a farm-to-table dinner to celebrate local food and farms and raise money for food pantries
- Engaged new and existing community partnerships

RUTHERFORD COUNTY FOOD COUNCIL

- Received financial support for a Food Systems/ Security Coordinator position through the Rutherford County Health Department
- Held a community forum to get input on what the community needs and wants from food council
- Began conducting a Baseline Food System Assessment
- Developed relationships with other regional partners

Other partners attending the Gathering:

- Mountain Valley RC & D
- NC Local Food Council
- NC Rural Forward



TOE RIVER FOOD SECURITY NETWORK

- Partnered with local Episcopal church on racial equity work to explore planning a forum on communities of color’s access and participation in food system
- Reforming the Network to include more diverse members of food system
- Provided and launched collaborations focused on food security, including gleaning coordination of food banks and farm-to-childcare

WATAUGA FOOD COUNCIL

- Created a charter for a Watauga Food Council
- Gained official recognition as a food council when their resolution was accepted by county government
- Was invited by the Board of County Commissioners to provide food and farm policy recommendations
- Launched a Food Policy working group
- Hosted a two-day community food system forum
- Launched the High Country Grown Marketing Initiative verifying restaurants who source local products