



Planning a Healthy, Sustainable Food System

The American Planning Association's **Planning and Community Health Research Center** is dedicated to strengthening the connection between urban, regional and rural planning and community health. The Center engages in collaborative, multidisciplinary research; education and outreach activities; and policy development work aimed at addressing today's pressing health issues (such as social inequities, physical inactivity, poor food access) through urban, regional and rural planning.

This brochure provides an overview of APA's resources, publications, and activities related to food system planning.

What is food system planning?

Planners play an important role in the development of healthy, sustainable local and regional food systems to support and enhance the overall public, social, ecological, and economic health of communities. Community food system planning is the collaborative planning process of developing and implementing local and regional land-use, economic development, public health, and environmental goals, programs and policies to:

- 1) Preserve existing and support new opportunities for local and regional urban and rural agriculture;
- 2) Promote sustainable agriculture and food production practices;
- 3) Support local and regional food value chains and related infrastructure involved in the processing, packaging, and distribution of food;
- 4) Facilitate community food security, or equitable physical and economic access to safe, nutritious, culturally appropriate, and sustainably grown food at all times across a community, especially among vulnerable populations;
- 5) Support and promote good nutrition and health, and;
- 6) Facilitate the reduction of solid food-related waste and develop a reuse, recovery, recycling, and disposal system for food waste and related packaging.

PLANNING & COMMUNITY HEALTH RESEARCH CENTER

<http://planning.org/nationalcenters/health>



American Planning Association

Making Great Communities Happen

WEBPAGES

Planning & Community Health Research Center Homepage
<http://www.planning.org/nationalcenters/health/>

Food System Planning
<http://www.planning.org/nationalcenters/health/food.htm>

Access to Healthy Food
<http://www.planning.org/nationalcenters/health/food.htm>

PUBLICATIONS

Community and Regional Food Planning (PAS Memo, Sept 2007),
<http://www.planning.org/pas/memo/2007/sep/index.htm>

Farmland Preservation (APA Education CD-ROM)
<http://www.planning.org/apastore/Search/Default.aspx?p=3419>

Food Systems Planning (PAS Essential Info Packet 16)
<http://www.planning.org/pas/infopackets/pdf/EIP-16.pdf>

Old Cities Green Cities: Communities Transform Unmanaged Land (PAS Report 506/507)
<http://www.planning.org/apastore/Search/Default.aspx?p=2420>

A Planners Guide to Community and Regional Food Planning (PAS Report 554)
<http://www.planning.org/apastore/search/Default.aspx?p=3886>

Planning Magazine, The Food Issue (August/September 2009)
<http://www.planning.org/planning/open/aug/>

Policy Guide on Agricultural Land Preservation (APA Policy Guide)
<http://www.planning.org/policy/guides/adopted/agricultural.htm>

Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning (APA Policy Guide)
<http://www.planning.org/policy/guides/adopted/food.htm>

Regulating Temporary Summer Uses (PAS Essential Info Packet 9)
<http://myapa.planning.org/APAStore/Search/Default.aspx?p=3846>

QuickNotes: Food Systems Planning
<http://www.planning.org/pas/quicknotes/pdf/QN24.pdf>

Zoning for Public Markets and Street Vendors (Zoning Practice, February 2009)
<http://www.planning.org/zoningpractice/2009/pdf/feb.pdf>

Zoning for Urban Agriculture (Zoning Practice, March 2010)
<http://www.planning.org/zoningpractice/2010/pdf/mar.pdf>

INTEREST GROUPS

Food Interest Group (FIG)

FIG is a member lead and initiated group of practicing planners, students, and professors interested and engaged in food system planning practice at the local, regional or state levels.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Community-Based Brownfields Redevelopment Strategies Workbook (2006-present)

<http://www.planning.org/research/brownfields/index.htm>
With funding from EPA, the Planning & Community Health Research Center is developing an education and training product that community development corporations, organizations, and residents across the country can use to support the active involvement of their communities in brownfields redevelopment.

Urban Agriculture and Resilient Cities (2009-present)

With funding from EPA and in collaboration with the Center for Resilient Cities, and MetroAg: Alliance for Urban Agriculture, the Planning & Community Health Research Center is developing a Planning Advisory Service Report on the role of planning practice and local government policies in developing and supporting urban and peri-urban agriculture.

Planning for Food Access (2009-present)

<http://www.planning.org/research/foodaccess/index.htm>
With funding from Healthy Eating Research, a National Program of RWJF, the Planning & Community Health Research Center will identify and evaluate food access goals in comprehensive and sustainability plans across the country and manage the development of a report for policymakers that identifies best practices in planning for food access.

Planning Healthy Communities Forum (2009-present)

<http://planninghealthycommunities.ning.com>
The Planning Healthy Communities Forum is an online public, social networking forum centered on planning and community health. It provides a central clearinghouse of information and an electronic meeting place for all stakeholders interested in topics related to healthy, sustainable communities, including air quality, brownfields, climate change, environmental justice, food systems, health impact assessments, housing choice & affordability, parks, open space & recreation, schools, social equity, transportation alternatives, urban design, and water quality.

For more information about the Planning and Community Health Research Center, contact Kimberley Hodgson at khodgson@planning.org.