
STATE OF THE RESEARCH

AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY
ON EXISTING, EMERGING,
AND NEEDED RESEARCH ON
FOOD POLICY COUNCILS

3rd edition

2026

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ABOUT THE CENTER FOR A LIVABLE FUTURE

Since 1996, the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future has been addressing some of the most pressing issues in the food system while advancing public health and protecting the environment. As an interdisciplinary academic center based within the Bloomberg School of Public Health, the Center for a Livable Future is a leader in public health research, education policy, and advocacy that is dedicated to building a healthier, more equitable, and resilient food system. For more, visit: www.jhsph.edu/clf.

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INTRODUCTION

A food policy council (FPC) is an organized group of stakeholders from various sectors that work to address food systems issues and needs at the local (city/municipality or county), state, regional, or tribal nation levels through policy, program and partnerships. An FPC may be sanctioned by a government body, or it may exist independently of government. We use the term food policy council to refer to these cross-sectoral stakeholder groups, though they go by many names, including coalition, alliance, partnership, committee, and board. The Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future seeks to advance the field of study of FPCs by providing a comprehensive compilation of research about FPCs. This report is an updated version of the second annotated bibliography released in 2020. It includes 84 resources not found in the previous edition, of which 75 were published between 2020-2026.

This annotated bibliography includes peer-reviewed journal articles, reports and magazine articles, books and book chapters, and doctoral dissertations and master's theses. While peer-reviewed literature represents the gold standard of academic research, we believe it is worth including non-peer-reviewed research to provide a fuller understanding of FPCs. Given the rise of FPCs globally, we include research on FPCs in the United States and internationally, mostly in countries in the Global North.

If you know of completed or ongoing research that has not been included in this list, or have additions to the research gaps section, please email awainer1@jh.edu.

GUIDE TO 3RD EDITION

Due to the prolific publication of research on FPCs in the last five years, this 3rd edition of the State of the Research annotated bibliography presents a new organization of the resources based on topics or subject matters. Previous versions distinguished publications based on the number of FPCs, individual, multiple or movement of FPCs, and the FPC country of origin, North America or Europe. This new edition categorizes publications based on the primary area of study and does not distinguish between the number or country of origin of FPCs for the study. The table below describes the categories used to organize resources.

A letter immediately before the citation is used to distinguish the resource type.

- A:** Academic article
- D:** Doctoral dissertation or master's thesis
- B:** Book or book chapter
- R:** Report
- P:** Conference presentation
- M:** Magazine article or piece of journalism

References were formatted with Zotero 7.0.27 using the seventh edition APA style.

To accompany this report, we created a publicly accessible [***Zotero Food Policy Council Bibliography***](#). This Zotero group bibliography will be periodically reviewed and updated as new resources on FPCs are published.

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION	KEY TERMS
Engagement	Resources focus on issues related to community engagement in FPC operations, activities, research, or policy decisions. This includes FPC engagement of specific populations, such as youth, FPC relationships with partner organizations, or FPC membership representation.	Community engagement, civic engagement, partnerships, representation, membership
Equity	Resources examine how FPCs address equity, justice, and values in their operations and how these values shape their processes and policy work.	Food justice, (in)equity, marginalized communities, social or environmental justice, diversity, race, food sovereignty
Evaluation	Includes resources that evaluate the impact of individual FPCs, a group of FPCs, or the FPC movement writ large, or that provide tools for FPCs to use to evaluate their work, such as a policy audit or food system assessment.	Food policy audit, food system assessment, formative evaluation, metrics, program evaluation, toolkit

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION	KEY TERMS
Evolution	Resources document the formation or development over time of an FPC, and in some cases, the dissolution of an FPC. Resources may focus on the history of early FPCs or challenges faced by FPCs.	History, organizational development, dissolution, formation
Food access	Resources examine the activities, policies, and efforts of FPCs to address food access, availability, affordability, emergency food provision, or food insecurity	Food security, affordability, health outcomes, nutrition, emergency food, food retail
Funding	Resources that report on funding mechanisms and fundraising strategies for FPCs	Funders, grants, fundraising, messaging
Governance	Resources that dive into the organizational, structural, membership, operations, or decision-making aspects of FPCs.	Membership, coalition models, organizational structure, collective impact models, institutional practices
Government	Resources that investigate how local and state governments are working on food systems and/or the relationship between FPCs and local or state government agencies.	Local or state government, government agency, food policy staff
Movement building	Resources that explore FPCs as a method for creating a movement or network to build power to change systems and policies.	Grassroots, power, collective action, networks, leaders
Planning	Resources focused on building healthy, sustainable, and equitable community food systems through municipal plans or policies.	Food systems plan, community food system, planning, assessment, urban food strategy
Policy process	Resources that focus on the role of FPCs in developing, implementing, and advocating for policies.	Policy development or implementation, legislation, policymaking, policy change, political process, policy framework
Urban agriculture	Resources about FPCs implementing and supporting urban agriculture through policy, programs, and advocacy.	Land use and zoning, vacant lots, land ownership, community gardens

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Engagement

A: Blackmar, J. M. (2014). Deliberative Democracy, Civic Engagement and Food Policy Councils. *Rivista Di Studi Sulla Sostenibilita*, 2014/2. <https://doi.org/10.3280/RISS2014-002004>

This article explores five county/city food policy councils in the United States through the lens of deliberative democracy. In particular, it examines questions of representation, inclusivity, and diversity of FPCs.

A: Calancie, L., Stritzinger, N., Konich, J., Horton, C., Allen, N. E., Ng, S. W., Weiner, B. J., & Ammerman, A. S. (2017). Food Policy Council Case Study Describing Cross-sector Collaboration for Food System Change in a Rural Setting. *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action*, 11(4), 441–447. <https://doi.org/10.1353/cpr.2017.0051>

This article explores how the Adams County FPC (Pennsylvania) facilitates collaboration across sectors through the activities that members can do to further their council’s mission and the impact similar councils in rural areas could have on their community’s food system and health.

A: Clark, J. K. (2018). Designing Public Participation: Managing Problem Settings and Social Equity. *Public Administration Review*, 78(3), 362–374. <https://doi.org/10.1111/puar.12872>

Using data drawn from eight county government food policy steering committees, this research finds that designers of public participation opportunities—who determine who participates, how, and to what end—are not neutral parties. Their political efficacy and ability to be reflexive affect the strategies they adopt to engage community members.

D: Fiore, F. (2022). *Scaling Impact of Grassroots Initiatives for Sustainability within Food Policy Councils* [Master’s thesis, Utrecht University]. https://studenttheses.uu.nl/bitstream/handle/20.500.12932/42888/Fiore_0530638_Thesis.pdf?sequence=1

This thesis presents a comparison of two FPCs in Europe, one in the Netherlands and one in Italy, studying how FPCs, as one type of grassroots sustainability initiative, scale their impact through collaboration and relationship building.

D: Fiser, D. (2006). *Democratic Food: Food Policy Councils and the Rebuilding of Local Agriculture* [Master’s thesis, University of Chicago].

This dissertation assesses the potential for FPCs to create local-level food policy by soliciting input from stakeholders across the food system and foster a sense of “food democracy.” The empirical evidence in the paper is focused on the Chicago Food Policy Advisory Council (Illinois).

A: Franzen-Castle, L., Remley, D., McCormack, L., Adamski, R., Henne, R., Eicher-Miller, H. A., Mehrle, D. J., & Stluka, S. (2022). Engaging Rural Community Members with Food Policy Councils to Improve Food Access: Facilitators and Barriers. *Journal of Hunger & Environmental Nutrition*, 17(2), 207–223. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19320248.2021.1997858>

This article assesses barriers and facilitators for community residents and food pantry shoppers to engage with FPCs in rural Midwestern communities based on a three-year panel survey. Facilitators for successful FPC engagement included representation across sectors such as cooperative extension, hunger relief, public health, and nutrition. Barriers to engagement included a need for more awareness, logistical issues such as transportation, and feeling unqualified to participate.

R: Ismach, A. B., Spiker, M. L., Collier, S. M., & Otten, J. J. (2024). *Learning About and Connecting Food Policy Entities in Washington: An Effort of the Washington State Conservation Commission, Washington State Department of Agriculture, and Washington Food Policy Forum*. University of Washington, Food Systems, Nutrition, and Health Program. <https://foodsystems.uw.edu/resource/learning-about-and-connecting-food-policy-entities-in-washington-an-effort-of-the-washington-state-conservation-commission-washington-state-department-of-agriculture-and-washington-food-policy-foru/>

This report shares findings from an assessment of 25 food policy entities in Washington State that sought to summarize the activities of food policy entities in the state and determine needs and opportunities for coordination among the entities. The types of support said to be most needed were funding, followed by partnerships and data sharing.

A: Koski, C., Siddiki, S., Sadiq, A.-A., & Carboni, J. (2018). Representation in Collaborative Governance: A Case Study of a Food Policy Council. *The American Review of Public Administration*, 48(4), 359–373. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0275074016678683>

This paper contrasts different forms of representation observed in a collaborative governance arrangement and identifies factors contributing to observed patterns in representation therein. Empirical evidence concentrates on a regional food policy council in the Western United States that remains anonymous.

D: Kravet, E. (2013). *Emerging Models of Youth Involvement in Food Policy Councils: Four Case Examples* [Master's thesis, Tufts University]. <https://www.proquest.com/docview/1461392646/abstract/984AF3B97B1E4A0EPQ/1>

A review of four FPCs with high participation from or led by high-school-aged youth that offers recommendations for how FPCs can better involve youth and argues that youth involvement is an important component for FPCs committed to democratic processes.

A: Levkoe, C., Andrée, P., Ballamingie, P., Tasala, K., Wilson, A., & Korzun, M. (2023). Civil Society Engagement in Food Systems Governance in Canada: Experiences, Gaps, And Possibilities. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 12(2), 267–286. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2023.122.005>

This research summarizes findings from a survey of FPCs in Canada from November 2019 to March 2020 and interviews with FPC leaders from 2020 to early 2022 centered on governance, with a focus on participatory governance. The paper identifies five themes for further exploration in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A: Levkoe, C. Z., Schiff, R., Arnold, K., Wilkinson, A., & Kerk, K. (2021). Mapping Food Policy Groups: Understanding Cross-Sectoral Network Building through Social Network Analysis. *Canadian Food Studies / La Revue Canadienne Des Études Sur l'alimentation*, 8(2). <https://doi.org/10.15353/cfs-rcea.v8i2.443>

This paper explores how Social Network Analysis can be an approach for understanding the networked organizational relationships of food policy groups, like the Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy, a food policy group established in 2007 in Ontario, Canada.

A: Manganelli, A., & Esteron, F. (2022). “Good Healthy Food for All”: Examining FoodShare Toronto’s Approach to Critical Food Guidance Through a Reflexivity Lens. *Canadian Food Studies / La Revue Canadienne Des Études Sur l'alimentation*, 9(1). <https://doi.org/10.15353/cfs-rcea.v9i1.503>

This paper examines reflexivity (the capacity of organizations to establish, reflect on, and scale food system principles) of FoodShare Toronto (Ontario, Canada) to strengthen its capacity to be a vehicle for transformative food change. The paper highlights the role of the Toronto Food Policy Council in connecting FoodShare with resources and partners.

D: McCullagh, M. (2012). *Food Policy for All: Inclusion of Diverse Community Residents on Food Policy Councils* [Master’s thesis, Tufts University]. <https://dl.tufts.edu/concern/pdfs/7m01bz004>

This paper explores how community residents who are most impacted by social inequities or who are most at risk for food insecurity are involved in food policy council activities. Examples drawn from interviews with a variety of FPCs shed light on current efforts of inclusion and inspire suggestions for improvement.

R: McCullagh, M., & Santo, R. (2014). *Food Policy for All: Inclusion of Diverse Community Residents on Food Policy Councils*. Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future. <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.18573.03045>

This report summarizes McCullagh’s master’s thesis, which explores how community residents who are most impacted by social inequities or who are most at risk for food insecurity are involved in food policy council activities.

R: Minkoff-Zern, L.-A., Robinson, J., & Sarfo, F. (2024). *Food Policy Councils and Food Chain Labor: Setting the Table for Labor Justice*. Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future. <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/sites/default/files/2024-11/FPN-food-chain-Labor.pdf>

This report summarizes research on the experiences of FPCs working to confront labor injustices in the food system through their policy work and grassroots advocacy efforts. The authors use mixed methods, including interviews, focus groups, and surveys of FPC representatives and collaborators to explore how FPCs navigate organizational tensions between labor advocates and small food and farming business interests.

A: Minkoff-Zern, L.-A., Robinson, J. A., & Sarfo, F. (2026). Labor, Power and Scale: An Analysis of Food Policy Councils and Food Labor Advocacy in the United States. *Geoforum*, 170, 104561. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2026.104561>

This study examines how FPCs' focus on regional scale can be both a challenge and an opportunity for prioritizing food system labor. The authors argue that FPCs are finding ways to contribute to social movements and policy change regarding food workers' rights on a regional scale.

B: Moragues-Faus, A. (2017). Urban Food Policy Alliances as Paths to Food Sovereignty? Insights from Sustainable Food Cities in the UK. In *Public Policies for Food Sovereignty*. Routledge.

This chapter draws attention to the value of building new alliances between local authorities and the public in the United Kingdom while also pointing out the challenges to developing a truly inclusive food system. It mobilizes political ecology approaches, the post-political scholarship, and participative justice debates to examine key tensions arising in these food policy alliances to achieve food sovereignty.

A: Mui, Y., Adam, A., Santo, R., Bassarab, K., Wolfson, J. A., & Palmer, A. (2024). Characterizing Food Policy Councils' Network Partnerships and COVID-19 Responses. *Nutrients*, 16(7), 915. <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu16070915>

The COVID-19 pandemic increased food insecurity in the United States, prompting food policy councils to play a vital role in coordinating cross-sector responses. Using Social Network Analysis, the study examines FPCs' partnerships and attempts to understand how the networks formed by FPCs relate to their advocacy and policy work.

R: Mutuma, B. (2014). *The Politics of Community Engagement: How to Involve Community in Needed Food Policy Reform*. Detroit Food Policy Council. <https://communityfoodstrategies.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/the-politics-of-community-engagement-mutuma.pdf>

This report offers strategies to increase engagement with community members in food policy decisions, using a case study of the Detroit Food Policy Council (Michigan).

A: Packer, M. M. (2014). Civil Subversion: Making "Quiet Revolution" with the Rhode Island Food Policy Council. *Journal of Critical Thought and Praxis*, 3(1). <https://www.iastatedigitalpress.com/jctp/article/id/586/>

Drawing primarily from civic engagement and community organizing scholarship, this paper explores the Rhode Island Food Policy Council's capacity to achieve food justice in light of its participatory, democratic potential.

A: Parzonko, H., Sonnino, R., & Timotijevic, L. (2025). 'Beyond Inviting to the Table': Engaging the Farming Community in Food System Governance in the US and the UK. *Geoforum*, 165, 104367. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2025.104367>

This article examines the enablers and barriers to farmer participation in FPCs using data from 25 FPCs in the US and the UK.

D: Porter, C. (2018). *Food Democracy: Public Participation in New England Food Policy Councils* [Master's thesis, University of New Hampshire, Durham]. <https://scholars.unh.edu/thesis/1253>

This research surveyed all 26 FPCs and networks in New England to identify how councils engage the public, as well as in depth case studies of two food policy efforts: the Portland, Maine School Food Security Assessment and the Massachusetts Food Systems Plan. The findings highlight important questions for FPCs to consider about the representation and empowerment of underrepresented audiences in food policy efforts.

A: Raja, S., Picard, D., Baek, S., & Delgado, C. (2014). Rustbelt Radicalism: A Decade of Food Systems Planning Practice in Buffalo, New York. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 4(4), 173–189. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2014.044.015>

This qualitative case study of Buffalo, New York demonstrates that incremental, persistent food systems practice and advocacy by nonstate actors, a group called the “rustbelt radicals,” followed by their collective engagement with municipal planning, can lead to transformations in municipal policy and planning for strengthening food systems.

R: Rehmann, M., & Colasanti, K. (2014). *Advancing a Local Food Council Network in Michigan: An Assessment*. Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems. https://www.canr.msu.edu/foodsystems/uploads/files/advancing_a_local_food_council_network_assessment.pdf

This report examines the potential for developing a statewide network of local food policy councils and similar groups in Michigan and demonstrates ways a local food council network and participating councils can advance Michigan Good Food Charter goals without duplicating the efforts of other local food networks.

A: Sands, C., Stewart, C., Bankert, S., Hillman, A., & Fries, L. (2016). Building an Airplane While Flying It: One Community's Experience with Community Food Transformation. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 7(1), 89–111. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2016.071.012>

This reflective case study describes the successes and challenges of the Holyoke Food and Fitness Policy Council (Massachusetts) over nearly a decade of work to advance equitable food systems. The case study investigates community engagement and effectiveness and offers insights into how to build from within the community.

D: Schroeder, A. (2017). *A Qualitative Analysis of Opportunities for Partnerships Among Key Informants in Wisconsin's Food System* [Master's thesis, Johns Hopkins University].

This master's capstone focuses on the value of coordination and collaboration in building a statewide collective approach to address food systems issues. Based on 24 semi-structured interviews with key informants, the study found that informants saw value in and a need for coordination and collaboration and were willing to spend the time to strengthen partnerships with other organizations.

Equity

A: Atoloye, A., Calancie, L., Luong, J., Bassarab, K., Borg, A., Frost, N., Palmer, A., & Stowers, K. C. (2025). Racial or Social Equity Framework Use Among Food Policy Councils and Associations with Councils' COVID-19 Responses. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 15(1), 1–22. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2025.151.015>

This study examines the characteristics of FPCs in the United States that use, develop, or do not use racial or social equity frameworks, and explores how the frameworks used relate to COVID-19 responses and partnerships.

A: Boden, S., & Hoover, B. M. (2018). Food Policy Councils in the Mid-Atlantic: Working Toward Justice. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 8(1), Article 1. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2018.081.002>

This study uses a mixed-methods approach, including participant interviews and website analysis, to look at three FPCs in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States and understand the relationship between the structure of the FPCs and their emphasis on food justice. The article concludes with recommendations on how FPCs can more effectively address food justice in their work.

A: Bohunicky, M., Levkoe, C., & Rose, N. (2021). Working for Justice in Food Systems on Stolen Land? Interrogating Food Movements Confronting Settler Colonialism. *Canadian Food Studies / La Revue Canadienne Des Études Sur l'alimentation*, 8(2), Article 2. <https://doi.org/10.15353/cfs-rcea.v8i2.452>

The goal of this article is to explore the tensions that exist when working for social and ecological justice on stolen land. The authors propose a continuum of actions to deepen engagement and solidarity with Indigenous Peoples based on interviews of settler-led food movements in Canada and Australia.

B: Farnsworth, L. D. (2017). Beyond Policy: Race, Class, Leadership, and Agenda-Setting on North American Food Policy Councils. In C. Etmanski (Ed.), *Food Leadership: Leadership and Adult Learning for Global Food Systems Transformation* (pp. 55–71). SensePublishers. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-6351-050-9_4

This chapter explores how food policy councils have negotiated challenges when working to create diverse membership, inclusive meetings, and relevant agendas. The chapter also raises the question about whether too much is demanded of FPCs to practically resolve broader social tensions.

B: Garth, H. (2026). *Food Justice Undone: Lessons for Building a Better Movement* [Paperback]. Univ of California Press. <https://www.ucpress.edu/books/food-justice-undone/hardcover>

This book analyzes broad structures and microlevel processes to reveal how power dynamics shape food justice movements in particular ways, including the Los Angeles Food Policy Council (California).

D: Henson, Z. F. (2013). *Separate Tables: Segregation, Gentrification, and the Commons in Birmingham, Alabama's Alternative Food and Agriculture Movement* [Doctoral dissertation, University of California Berkeley]. <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3wb9q33z>

This dissertation investigates how Birmingham, Alabama's long history of racial conflict and segregation has shaped space in the region and the consequences of that spatial production on the current alternative food and agriculture movement. The author finds that there are two institutional structures that come from and animate spaces in Birmingham, one Black and one white, and because the organizations creating a food policy council come almost exclusively from white space, the process for creating the council is almost wholly white.

D: Kessler, M. E. (2019). *Achieving Equity (with)in Food Policy Councils: Confronting Structural Racism and Centering Community* [Master thesis, Norwegian University of Life Sciences]. <https://nmbu.brage.unit.no/nmbu-xmlui/handle/11250/2623772>

This thesis examines how FPCs in Oakland, California and Baltimore, Maryland are committing to equity both in their own council and the surrounding food environment. Although both FPCs confronted institutional barriers in their respective equity work, each had adopted innovative ways to confront structural racism and center underserved communities and communities of color in their organizational structure, council representation, and policy advocacy.

A: López Cifuentes, M., Raj, G., Sonnino, R., & Edwards, F. (2026). Enacting Justice in Food Systems Transitions: A Critical Lens on Governance, Power and Participation. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 59, 101087. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2025.101087>

This paper introduces the concept of “just sustainability transitions” to integrate distributive, recognitive and procedural dimensions of justice within a dynamic, process-oriented approach to food governance by focusing on Food Policy Networks, including FPCs in the US, Europe, South America, and Australia.

A: Mui, Y., Khojasteh, M., Judelsohn, A., Sirwatka, A., Kelly, S., Gooch, P., & Raja, S. (2021). Planning for Regional Food Equity. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 87(3), 354–369. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01944363.2020.1845781>

This comparative evaluation of 47 US regional food plans uses 130 indicators to assess key dimensions of food equity. The analysis found that many plans lack attention to healthy food affordability and structural barriers to food access. Opportunities to improve regional plans include supporting healthy food affordability, incorporating food equity language into the plan design, and leveraging different plans to advance food equity.

A: Parisi, A., Zoll, F., & Darkhani, F. (2026). Whose Alternative? Challenges and Potential for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in German Alternative Food Networks. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 43(1), 23. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-025-10808-y>

Through literature, interviews, and one stakeholder workshop, this paper explores aspects of diversity, equity, and inclusion in German alternative food networks including FPCs, community-supported agriculture projects, and consumer cooperatives.

A: Purifoy, D. M. (2014). Food Policy Councils: Integrating Food Justice and Environmental Justice. *Duke Environmental Law & Policy Forum*, 24(2), 375–398. <https://scholarship.law.duke.edu/delpf/vol24/iss2/3>

This paper argues that in order to accomplish goals of ecological sustainability, food sustainability, and community food access, FPCs should adopt the principles of the environmental justice and food justice movements.

B: Sbicca, J. (2017). Resetting the “Good Food” Table: Labor and Food Justice Alliances in Los Angeles. In A. Alkon & J. Guthman (Eds.), *New Food Activism* (pp. 107–132). University of California Press. <https://doi.org/10.1525/california/9780520292130.003.0005>

This chapter explores how labor advocates and unions in Los Angeles, California recognize the need to collaborate with the food movement, including the Los Angeles Food Policy Council. Because of these alliances, the Los Angeles food movement has become noteworthy among United States cities for its racially diverse leadership, its commitment to economic justice, and its more politically oppositional tactics.

A: Thompson, D., Johnson, K. R., Cistrunk, K. M., Vancil-Leap, A., Nyatta, T., Hossfeld, L., Rico Méndez, G., & Jones, C. (2020). Assemblage, Food Justice, and Intersectionality in Rural Mississippi: The Oktibbeha Food Policy Council. *Sociological Spectrum*, 40(6), 381–399. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02732173.2020.1801541>

This paper documents the formation of the Oktibbeha Food Policy Council (Mississippi) in a historically marginalized rural community in the Southern United States. The study shows how food justice and the intersection of race and socioeconomic status influenced the work of the FPC for low-income families and limited-resource Black farmers.

A: Wilson, A., & Levkoe, C. Z. (2022). Introspecting Food Movements in Canada: Unpacking Tensions Towards Justice and Sustainability. *Canadian Food Studies / La Revue Canadienne Des Études Sur l'alimentation*, 9(2), Article 2. <https://doi.org/10.15353/cfs-rcea.v9i2.524>

This paper explores challenges within Canadian food movements, emphasizing the need for systemic change. Interviews with food movement leaders reveal past achievements, internal tensions, and possible future directions. The authors suggest that food system movements align short-term gains with long-term goals for more profound social and environmental justice.

Evaluation

A: Calancie, L. (2017). Food Policy Council Self-Assessment Tool: Development, Testing, and Results. *Preventing Chronic Disease*, 14. <https://doi.org/10.5888/pcd14.160281>

This study describes the development, testing, and findings from the Food Policy Council Self-Assessment Tool. FPCs and those who work with them can use the assessment tool to determine strengths and areas for improvement related to FPCs' internal function. Additionally, the assessment tool could also be used to measure change in internal council function before and after a capacity-building or technical assistance intervention.

A: Calancie, L., Allen, N. E., Ng, S. W., Weiner, B. J., Ward, D. S., Ware, W. B., & Ammerman, A. S. (2018). Evaluating Food Policy Councils Using Structural Equation Modeling. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 61(1–2), 251–264. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajcp.12207>

This study used structural equation modeling to test whether the Food Policy Council Framework, established by Allen et al. in 2012, fits to the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future food policy council census data and thus could explain how FPCs function to influence their food system. Results indicate that the FPC Framework can be used to explain FPC function and guide FPCs as they work towards specific food system goals.

A: Calancie, L., Cooksey-Stowers, K., Palmer, A., Frost, N., Calhoun, H., Piner, A., & Webb, K. (2018). Toward a Community Impact Assessment for Food Policy Councils: Identifying Potential Impact Domains. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 8(3), Article 3. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2018.083.001>

This article is based on a content analysis of a survey conducted with 66 FPCs from across North America to better understand the impacts FPCs have on their communities. Six broad domains of impacts emerged: increasing access to healthy foods, increasing knowledge of or demand for healthy foods, promoting equity in the food system, supporting economic development, promoting environmental sustainability, and supporting a resilient food system.

P: Clancy, K. (1988). *Eight Elements Critical to the Success of Food System Councils*. Cornell Nutrition Update.

This resource is an excerpt from a speech titled “Local Food Councils: A New Tool for Community Health.” It lists key elements that contribute to the success of food system councils: official sanction, staff, funding, external legitimacy, knowledge base, power-sharing, vision, and leadership.

A: Clark, J. K. (2018). From Civic Group to Advocacy Coalition: Using a Food Policy Audit as a Tool for Change. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 8(1), Article 1. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2018.081.004>

This paper uses the case of the Franklin County Food Policy Council (Ohio) to illustrate how a coalition increased local governance capacity via translating their commonly held beliefs into a concrete policy agenda while building their coalition. A policy audit was used as a tool to develop technical knowledge and skills to increase policy readiness.

B: Clark, J. K., Marquis, C., & Raja, S. (2017). The Local Food Policy Audit: Spanning the Civic-Political Agrifood Divide. In I. Knezevic, A. Blay-Palmer, C. Z. Levkoe, P. Mount, & E. Nelson (Eds.), *Nourishing Communities: From Fractured Food Systems to Transformative Pathways* (pp. 131–146). Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-57000-6_8

Using the case of the Franklin County Food Policy Council (Ohio), this chapter presents the local food policy audit as a coalition-building process to be used by food policy councils that can take a civically-oriented group and transition them and their collaborators to an advocacy coalition. The audit, as a technical document, provides the basis of strategy development for policy change and is the “glue” that holds coalition efforts together.

A: Draper, C., Herrnstadt, Z., & Page Bookhart, A. (2025). Readiness, Outcomes, and Capacity for Future Sustainability of Food Policy Councils Created through SNAP-Ed: A Case Study. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2025.143.011>

The study assesses the capacity of seven groups, funded by SNAP-Ed, to expand or start an FPC, change priority population engagement, and impact policy, system, and environment aspects of the food system. The study methods included semi-structured interviews and tracking forms completed by the seven groups.

A: Freudenberg, N., Willingham, C., & Cohen, N. (2018). The Role of Metrics in Food Policy: Lessons from a Decade of Experience in New York City. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 8(B), Article B. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2018.08B.009>

This paper analyzes New York City’s annual Food Metrics Reports, which track the progress of implementing municipal food policies. The authors identify limitations with the existing metrics and highlight ways to improve policy monitoring by adding new indicators, utilizing more data sources, and engaging broader constituencies.

R: Goodman, T. (2025). *A Rapid Evidence Assessment on the Social and Political Impacts of Food Partnerships in the UK*. University of London. <https://doi.org/10.25383/CITY.28742975>

This report examines the extent to which food partnerships, including FPCs, in the United Kingdom are effective democratic spaces for food policy governance.

A: Hawe, P., & Stickney, E. K. (1997). Developing the Effectiveness of an Intersectoral Food Policy Coalition through Formative Evaluation. *Health Education Research*, 12(2), 213–225. <https://doi.org/10.1093/her/12.2.213>

This paper presents a case study of an intersectoral food policy committee, part of a three-tiered coalition nested within local municipal government in Sydney, Australia, that sought to promote good nutrition in a rapidly growing metropolitan region by tackling food supply issues.

D: Kornacki, S. (2020). *Measuring Impact While in Motion: An Evaluation Strategy to Communicate the Story of the Montgomery County Food Council's Efforts to Build a Robust, Sustainable, Equitable Local Food System in Montgomery County, Maryland* [Master's thesis, Johns Hopkins University].

This paper contextualizes the work of the Montgomery County Food Council (Maryland) in a rapidly shifting public health landscape; highlights the ways in which the organization is adapting to the new circumstances created by COVID-19; and proposes methods the organization can utilize to leverage existing evaluation efforts to better tell the story of organizational impact. Finally, this capstone also proposes evaluation frameworks for consideration.

B: Marquis, C., & Clark, J. K. (2015). Turning Deficit into Democracy: The Value of Food Policy Audits in Assessing and Transforming Local Food Systems. In S. Morath (Ed.), *From Farm to Fork: Perspectives on Growing Sustainable Food Systems in the Twenty-First*. The University of Akron Press. <https://muse.jhu.edu/book/48220>

This chapter uses a conceptual frame to outline the role of assessments in evaluating local and regional food systems, specifically focusing on the Food Policy Audit as a citizen-oriented assessment tool. The chapter uses two case studies to detail the value and practical application of the audit tool and discusses limitations and opportunities for improving the use of the Food Policy Audit tool.

B: Moragues-Faus, A. (2019). Action Research as a Tool to Measure Progress in Sustainable Food Cities: Enacting Reflexive Governance Principles to Develop Indicators. In A. Blay-Palmer, D. Conare, K. Meter, A. Di Battista, & C. Johnston (Eds.), *Sustainable Food System Assessment*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429439896>

This chapter explores the potential role of action research—and particularly co-productive and reflective practices—in developing food system assessments. It analyzes the process conducted by Cardiff University and the Sustainable Food Cities network to develop a place-based indicators toolbox to measure progress and inspire action among 55 FPCs across the United Kingdom.

A: Moragues-Faus, A., & Marceau, A. (2019). Measuring Progress in Sustainable Food Cities: An Indicators Toolbox for Action. *Sustainability*, 11(1), Article 1. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su11010045>

In this article, the authors describe a sustainability assessment framework to evaluate food systems performance in United Kingdom cities, developed from a collaborative process with practitioners. The authors then apply the framework to the city of Cardiff, Wales. Results show the need to embed critical perspectives in sustainable food assessments and to develop inclusive, participatory, place-based and whole-systems approaches.

R: Moragues-Faus, A., Marceau, A., & Andrews, T. (2016). *Making the Case and Measuring Progress: Towards a Systems Approach to Healthy and Sustainable Food* (Enhancing the Impact of Sustainable Urban Food Strategies). Cardiff University. https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/Portals/4/Documents/Measuring%20progress%20towards%20sustainable%20food%20cities_final%20report%20w%20appendixes.pdf

This toolbox for action aims to 1) provide local authorities and policymakers with a clear, robust and comprehensive collation of relevant evidence and indicators of success of a place-based approach to food; and 2) help both existing and interested ‘practitioners’ to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate the impact of local cross-sector food partnerships.

A: O’Brien, J., & Cobb, T. D. (2012). The Food Policy Audit: A New Tool for Community Food System Planning. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 2(3), Article 3. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2012.023.002>

This research discusses the design and testing of a new food policy audit tool aimed to build upon the assets of community food assessments and guide users through the complicated process of uncovering local, regional and federal policies relevant to a local food system.

R: Palmer, A., & Calancie, L. (2017). *Get it Toolgether: Assessing Your Food Council’s Ability to Do Policy*. Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future.

This toolkit helps FPCs evaluate their current performance and learn more about the process of working on food policy using a stakeholder model. It also provides recommendations for resources that can support progress in a particular area.

B: Palmer, A., & Santo, R. (2019). Building the Foundation to Grow Food Policy: The Development of a Toolkit to Measure Advocacy Capacity. In A. Blay-Palmer, D. Conare, K. Meter, A. Di Battista, & C. Johnston (Eds.), *Sustainable Food System Assessment*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429439896>

This chapter explores the goals, development, and content of the Get It Toolgether toolkit, which aims to build the capacity of stakeholder groups like food policy councils to influence local and state level food policy. It includes equity and systems thinking metrics. The chapter also includes a reflection on how the toolkit has been used in practice.

D: Pitstick, E. (2023). *Serving SOFSA: Supporting and Evaluating a Local Food Policy Council* [Master’s capstone practicum, Syracuse University].

This practicum portfolio presents a program evaluation plan for the Syracuse-Onondaga Food Systems Alliance (New York) that would highlight the Alliance’s achievements and pinpoint areas for improvement, which could be used to inform the Alliance’s membership and potential funders. The portfolio includes an evaluation plan and results from the implementation of the evaluation.

R: Prosperi, P., Moragues-Faus, A., Sonnino, R., & Devereux, C. (2015). *Measuring Progress Towards Sustainable Food Cities: Sustainability and Food Security Indicators* (Enhancing the Impact of Sustainable Urban Food Strategies). Cardiff University. https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/Portals/4/Documents/Measuring%20progress%20towards%20sustainable%20food%20cities_final%20report%20w%20appendixes.pdf

This review of both academic and grey literature identifies the approaches currently used to assess sustainable food systems and urban spaces, as well as the range of indicators used to measure the environmental, social and economic sustainability of urban food strategies.

A: Range, C., O'Hara, S., Jeffery, T., & Toussaint, E. C. (2023). Measuring the Effectiveness of Food Policy Councils in Major Cities in the United States. *Foods*, 12(9), Article 9. <https://doi.org/10.3390/foods12091854>

This paper provides a framework for FPCs in large urban areas to assess the visibility and effectiveness of their diversity and inclusion initiatives related to leadership and governance, stakeholder engagement, and food justice. The study included a content analysis of publicly available data from websites for 19 FPCs in the United States and a subsequent cluster analysis resulting in the identification of four categories of FPCs based on their scores across the three domains listed above.

A: Webb, K. L., Pelletier, D., Maretzki, A. N., & Wilkins, J. (1998). Local Food Policy Coalitions: Evaluation Issues as Seen by Academics, Project Organizers, and Funders. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 15(1), 65–75. <https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1007408901642>

Although a number of coalitions have been formed in North America, Europe, and Australia with the goal of improving community food security and promoting sustainable local food systems, there has been little systematic evaluation of these models. This qualitative study was conducted to identify factors that may hinder evaluation efforts.

Evolution

A: Ambrose, G., Siddiki, S., & Brady, U. (2022). Collaborative Governance Design in Local Food Systems in the United States. *Policy Design and Practice*, 5(3), 362–383. <https://doi.org/10.1080/25741292.2022.2109253>

This resource provides a closer look at the 15 FPCs in the Food Policy Networks project online database, as of 2020, that were created via public mandate at the municipal level. The authors use qualitative data analysis to describe the membership, topics of focus, and policy mandates across these 15 FPCs.

A: Balázs, B. (2012). Local Food System Development in Hungary. *International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food*, 19(3), 403–421. <https://doi.org/10.48416/ij saf.v19i3.212>

This research documents the founding of Gödöllő Local Food Council (Hungary), discussing various specificities and challenges of emerging urban civic food networks.

R: Bassarab, K., Santo, R., & Palmer, A. (2019). *2018 Food Policy Council Report*. Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future.

This report summarizes the results of the 2018 Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future food policy council census data, conducted since 2013 on trends among FPCs across the United States and Canada.

A: Birnbaum, A., & Lütke, P. (2023). Food and Governmentality in the Green City: The Case of German Food Policy Councils. *Urban Planning*, 8(1), 388–398. <https://doi.org/10.17645/up.v8i1.6038>

This article presents an analysis of how FPCs in Germany address urban greening through Foucault's governmentality approach. The authors conduct a qualitative analysis of FPCs' organizational structure, political agendas, consideration of sustainability, and food consumption using data from semi-structured interviews with leaders of a representative selection of FPCs in Germany.

A: Blay-Palmer, A. (2009). The Canadian Pioneer: The Genesis of Urban Food Policy in Toronto. *International Planning Studies*, 14(4), 401–416. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13563471003642837>

This article details the foundational history and dynamics of the Toronto Food Policy Council (Ontario, Canada), as an example of successful food planning and policy in motion. Notable contributions include: seminal food policy reports and processes; the celebration of local food communities and their champions; the on-going integration of rural and urban issues; shifting the discussion from food security to food sovereignty; and the launch of the Toronto Food Strategy.

R: Borron, S. (2003). *Food Policy Councils: Practice and Possibility*. Congressional Hunger Center.

This report details food policy council basics, profiles some early food policy councils, and considers the development of a new food policy council in Lane County, Oregon.

B: Bottiglieri, M., Pettenati, G., & Toldo, A. (2016). *Toward the Turin Food Policy: Good Practices and Vision*. FrancoAngeli Series – Open Access. <https://series.francoangeli.it/index.php/oa/catalog/book/156>

This book discusses the actors and processes involved in the development of an integrated food governance system in Turin, Italy.

D: Burak, G. (2012). *Analysis of a Regional Food Initiative: A Case Study of the Greater Kansas City Food Policy Coalition* [Master's thesis, California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt]. <https://scholarworks.calstate.edu/concern/theses/tq57nt531>

This case study details the journey and evolution of the Greater Kansas City Food Policy Coalition in Kansas and Missouri, with particular attention paid to participants' motivations for involvement and the process required to form the council.

R: Burgan, M., Bassarab, K., Palmer, A., Santo, R., & Winne, M. (2022). *From Partnerships to Policy: Promising Practices for New Food Policy Councils*. Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future.

This guide offers practical tools to create and sustain effective food policy councils. It includes numerous examples of specific food policy and programmatic achievements by FPCs in the United States

R: Burgan, M., & Winne, M. (2012). *Doing Food Policy Councils Right: A Guide to Development and Action*. Mark Winne Associates. <https://www.markwinne.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/FPC-manual.pdf>

This guide offers practical tools to create and sustain effective food policy councils. It includes numerous examples of specific food policy and programmatic achievements by FPCs in the United States

P: Castro, R., Turner, A., Kreissler, P., Johnson, S., & Shore, K. (2025, April 10). The equitable development of a Food Policy Council in Chatham County. *Georgia Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Conference*. Public Health Reimagined. <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/gapha-conference/2025/2025/85>

This presentation summarizes the community processes, challenges, and governance decisions that came up during the re-establishment of the Savannah-Chatham Food Policy Council (Georgia).

B: Clancy, K., Hammer, J., & Lippoldt, D. (2009). Food Policy Councils: Past, Present and Future. In C. C. Hinrichs & T. A. Lyson (Eds.), *Remaking the North American Food System* (pp. 121–143). University of Nebraska Press. <https://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/nebraska-paperback/9780803227903/remaking-the-north-american-food-system/>

This book reviews the history and performance of government-sanctioned FPCs with a minimum three-year history of operation in North America. Cases examined include a range of FPCs—enduring, foundering and failed. Lessons around what has worked and what has not, as well as unintended outcomes, are explored.

A: Coplen, A. K., & Cuneo, M. (2015). Dissolved: Lessons Learned from the Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 5(2), 91–107. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2015.052.002>

This article explores the dissolution of the Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council (Oregon). It offers insight into how particular obstacles might have been avoided or overcome, along with recommendations for citizens and government agencies hoping to foster productive public engagement and to advance local food systems policy.

A: Cuy Castellanos, D., Jones, J. C., Christaldi, J., & Liutkus, K. A. (2017). Perspectives on the Development of a Local Food System: The Case of Dayton, Ohio. *Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems*, 41(2), 186–203. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21683565.2016.1263893>

This case study documents the state of development in Dayton’s local food system focusing on the floundering of the Montgomery County Food Policy Coalition (Ohio). The authors discuss some of the struggles that the coalition faced—administrative and political barriers, lack of funding, unequal education about the benefits of healthy foods, and varying consumer preferences—in their efforts to impact the food system.

P: Dahlberg, K. A. (1994, June 11). *Food Policy Councils: The Experience of Five Cities and One County*. Joint Meeting of the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society and the Society for the Study of Food and Society, Tucson, AZ. https://assets.jhsph.edu/clf/mod_clfResource/doc/FOOD%20POLICY%20COUNCILS%20%20THE%20EXPERIENCE%20OF%20FIVE%20CITIES%20AND%20ONE%20COUNTY.pdf

This paper analyzes the various factors that have influenced the successes or failures of food policy councils in five cities and one county and provides a brief overall comparison of their effectiveness.

D: Dean, J. (2012). *The Iowa Food Policy Council: A Case Study* [Doctoral dissertation, Iowa State University]. <https://iowa7-test.atmire.com/entities/publication/7ad4eed1-0731-4041-bae1-d9bd58ed73e6>

This dissertation examines the challenges and opportunities experienced by the Iowa Food Policy Council from its beginning to its collapse. The paper demonstrates the significance of establishing a legacy of convening that may continue without a formal structure.

A: Duba, A. (2025). Groundwork for Change: Dr. Christine Porter’s Role in Building the Wyoming Food Coalition. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 15(1), 23–25. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2025.151.026>

This commentary describes the history and structure of the Wyoming Food Coalition (WFC) with a particular focus on Dr. Christine Porter’s contributions. Christine played a pivotal role in WFC’s inception and development, and from 2020 to 2022, she acted as WFC’s Fairness & Justice working group chair.

A: Feenstra, G., Gupta, C., Campbell, D., Sowerwine, J., & Munden-Dixon, K. (2021). Understanding Food Policy Councils: Lessons for Extension Partners. *The Journal of Extension*, 59(3). <https://doi.org/10.34068/joe.59.03.09>

This paper analyzes results from a survey of 34 FPCs in California to characterize similarities and differences among FPCs in the state. The authors find that Extension professionals are uniquely positioned to support the work of FPCs through training, networking, subject-matter expertise, and resource sharing.

A: Fitzgerald, N., & Morgan, K. (2014). A Food Policy Council Guide for Extension Professionals. *The Journal of Extension*, 52(2). <https://doi.org/10.34068/joe.52.02.23>

Extension professionals can serve as “change agents,” bring a wealth of experience and knowledge, form cross-sectoral collaborations, take leadership roles, and build community capacity through food policy councils. Based on expert interviews and experiences in establishing a council, the authors present practice recommendations to serve as a concise how-to guide for Extension professionals.

A: Freedman, D. A., & Bess, K. D. (2011). Food Systems Change and the Environment: Local and Global Connections. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 47(3–4), 397–409. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10464-010-9392-z>

This case study homes in on the “forming stage” of a locally-based coalition, Food Security Partners of Middle Tennessee, which promotes both food system change and social justice. The authors use Social Network Analysis to explore changes in the relational structure through the first years of its existence.

A: Gold, A., & Harden, N. (2018). Navigating Borders: The Evolution of the Cass Clay Food Partners. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 8(B), 29–38. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2018.08B.010>

This article outlines the evolution of Cass Clay Food Partners (North Dakota & Minnesota)—a multi-state food policy council, action network, and steering committee—from project-based work to policy development to a partnership that integrates programs and policy. The article highlights how this network has addressed challenges from working across borders, as well as philosophical divisions between stakeholders and decision-makers.

R: Gupta, C., Van Soelen Kim, J., Sowerwine, J., Feenstra, G., Campbell, D., Capps, S., & Munden-Dixon, K. (2018). *UC Cooperative Extension Study of California Food Policy Councils* (p. 54). University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources. https://sarep.ucdavis.edu/sites/g/files/dgvnsk5751/files/inline-files/CA_FPC_Final_Report.pdf

This report summarizes findings from a study of California food policy councils conducted by a team of University of California (UC) Cooperative Extension researchers from 2016-2018. A particular focus of the research was examining the nature of relationships between FPCs and university researchers, including UC Cooperative Extension.

R: Harper, A., Shattuck, A., Holt-Gimenez, E., Alkon, A., & Lambrick, F. (2009). *Food Policy Councils: Lessons Learned*. Food First. <https://archive.foodfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/DR21-Food-Policy-Councils-Lessons-Learned-.pdf>

This report details the basic background on FPCs, their functions, potential for success and challenges. It includes examples of organizational structure models, notable successes, and common challenges from several FPCs throughout the United States.

A: Lang, T., Rayner, G., Rayner, M., Barling, D., & Millstone, E. (2005). Policy Councils on Food, Nutrition and Physical Activity: The UK as a Case Study. *Public Health Nutrition*, 8(1), 11–19. <https://doi.org/10.1079/phn2005654>

This discussion paper reviews the case for creating a food policy council in the United Kingdom, including possible organizational options, functions and remit.

B: MacKay, P., & Connelly, S. (2019). Searching for fit?: Institution building and local action for food system change in Dunedin, New Zealand. In P. Andrée, J. K. Clark, C. Z. Levkoe, & K. Lowitt (Eds.), *Civil Society and Social Movements in Food System Governance* (pp. 63–80). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429503597>

This chapter explores the relationships, politics, and cultures of two co-evolving food system networks in Dunedin, New Zealand: Our Food Network Dunedin, a self-described grassroots organization dedicated to stimulating the production, distribution, and consumption of local food; and Good Food Dunedin, a council-led food initiative that brings together stakeholders who share a vision of transforming Dunedin into a thriving and sustainable food city.

A: MacRae, R. (1994). So Why Is the City of Toronto Concerned About Food and Agriculture Policy? A Short History of the Toronto Food Policy Council. *Culture & Agriculture*, 15(50), 15–18. <https://doi.org/10.1525/cuag.1994.15.50.15>

This paper chronicles the development, initiatives, and challenges of the Toronto Food Policy Council in Ontario, Canada.

R: MacRae, R., & Donahue, K. (2013). *Municipal Food Policy Entrepreneurs: A Preliminary Analysis of How Canadian Cities and Regional Districts Are Involved in Food System Change*. Toronto Food Policy Council. <https://ccednet-rcdec.ca/resource/municipal-food-policy-entrepreneurs/>

This report analyzes the results of a cross-Canada survey that found 64 local and regional municipalities working to improve the food system through a mix of municipal policies, programs, and civil-society interventions. The authors describe six forms of food policy group organization and include brief highlights from food policy groups in Central Okanagan, Edmonton, Hamilton, Kaslo, Ottawa, Toronto, and Vancouver.

A: Marco, M. D., Chapman, L., McGee, C., Calancie, L., Burnham, L., & Ammerman, A. (2017). Merging Opposing Viewpoints: Analysis of the Development of a Statewide Sustainable Local Food Advisory Council in a Traditional Agricultural State. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 7(3), 197–210. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2017.073.018>

The authors explore the process of forming a statewide food policy council in North Carolina from 2007 to 2009. The factors that led to its formation were identified as: 1) stakeholder involvement, 2) diverse partnerships, 3) willingness to compromise, and 4) a conducive political setting.

D: Martorell, H. (2017). *The Evolution of City-Region Food Governance in Montreal Food Politics, Policy and Planning Under Quebec's Neoliberal Turn* [Master's thesis, Concordia University]. https://spectrum.library.concordia.ca/id/eprint/983094/1/Martorell_Thesis_Final.pdf

This thesis assesses Montreal Food Systems Action Plan negotiations towards the formation of a municipally mandated regional food policy council. Using actor network theory, this case study offers an analysis of the historical context of territorial food governance Montreal, Quebec (Canada) and outlines the transition from action plan to partnerships to food policy council.

R: Moragues-Faus, A. (2016). Els Consells Alimentaris: Una Eina Municipalista per a la Transformació del Sistema Alimentari (“Food Councils: A Municipal Tool for the Transformation of the Food System”). *Revista Soberanía Alimentaria, Biodiversidad y Culturas*. <https://ddd.uab.cat/record/177377>

Guide to food policy councils in Spanish.

A: Moragues-Faus, A., & Morgan, K. (2015). Reframing the Foodscape: The Emergent World of Urban Food Policy. *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*, 47(7), 1558–1573. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0308518X15595754>

This paper documents the founding and evolution of the Bristol Food Policy Council in the UK. The authors draw on urban political ecology scholarship as a critical lens to analyze governance-beyond-the-state processes and associated post-political configurations.

A: Nunes, K., & Lamine, C. (2025). The Blooming of Local Food Councils Across Europe and the Americas: Insights on an Emerging Literature and Its Divides. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 114, 103488. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2024.103488>

This paper assesses the current state of knowledge on FPCs and the differences between FPCs in North America, Europe, and Brazil based on a literature review. The authors created a new typology to categorize FPCs based on their origins, degrees of institutionalization, and sets of functions.

A: Palmer, A., Atoloye, A., Bassarab, K., Calancie, L., Santo, R., & Stowers, K. C. (2020). COVID-19 responses: Food Policy Councils are “Stepping In, Stepping Up, and Stepping Back”. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 10(1), 223–226. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2020.101.013>

Using the responses from the 2020 Center for a Livable Future food policy council census, this paper provides examples of FPCs’ responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in the US, spanning several aspects of the food system from emergency food assistance to food resiliency.

R: Pax, A. C., & Reckinger, R. (2022). *Exploring Priorities of a Food Policy Council for Luxembourg: Empirical Results of Two Surveys Conducted with Citizens and Food System Professionals*. University of Luxembourg. <https://orbilu.uni.lu/handle/10993/50552>

This report presents findings from two surveys of the Luxembourgish population on the establishment of a food policy council in Luxembourg.

D: Phillippi, T. M. (2010). *The Toronto Youth Food Policy Council: The evolving implementation of a resilient and effective Youth voice within the Canadian Agricultural and Food Policy framework* [Master’s thesis, York University]. https://assets.jhsph.edu/clf/mod_clfResource/doc/TYFPC_small.pdf

This master’s thesis describes the history and structure of the Toronto Youth Food Policy Council in Ontario, Canada.

A: Porter, C. A., & Ashcraft, C. M. (2020). New England Food Policy Councils: An Assessment of Organizational Structure, Policy Priorities and Public Participation. *Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene*, 8, 39. <https://doi.org/10.1525/elementa.436>

This article presents results from a 2017 survey of 12 FPCs in New England, which asked about policy priorities and initiatives, and public participation, especially those of under-represented groups. The authors find that most New England councils have completed plans or assessments, half work on policy, and there is a desire for more racially diverse membership.

M: Reed, M., & Keech, D. (2015, May 1). Building a Bristol Food City Region from the Grass Roots up: Food strategies, action plans and food policy councils. *Urban Agriculture Magazine*, 29, 26–29.

This article highlights two case studies of innovative and multifunctional initiatives in Bristol, England, analyzing how grassroots networks have attempted to influence food policy in the city.

R: Santo, R., Misiaszek, C., Bassarab, K., Harris, D., & Palmer, A. (2021). *Pivoting Policy, Programs, and Partnerships: Food Policy Councils' Responses to the Crises of 2020*. Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future.

This report summarizes the results of the 2020 Center for a Livable Future food policy council census administered to food policy councils from June to September 2020. The report focuses on how FPCs responded to emerging food systems challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A: Santo, R., Yong, R., & Palmer, A. (2014). Collaboration Meets Opportunity: The Baltimore Food Policy Initiative. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 4(3), Article 3. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2014.043.012>

This case study highlights how one midsized city successfully developed a collaborative infrastructure to understand and address inequity in healthy food access. The paper traces the genesis and evolution of Baltimore's Food Policy Task Force (Maryland); the hiring of a food policy director; and the establishment of the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative, an intergovernmental partnership to increase access to healthy, affordable foods in urban food deserts.

A: Schiff, R. (2008). The Role of Food Policy Councils in Developing Sustainable Food Systems. *Journal of Hunger & Environmental Nutrition*, 3(2–3), 206–228. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19320240802244017>

This article analyzes the role of 13 food policy councils in the United States and Canada in relation to government, policy change, facilitation, networking, and education. It also explores the tension between policy and programmatic work.

A: Schiff, R., Levkoe, C. Z., & Wilkinson, A. (2022). Food Policy Councils: A 20-Year Scoping Review (1999–2019). *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*, 6. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fsufs.2022.868995>

This article provides an overview of research on US FPCs from 1999-2019 and identifies main themes and gaps in the literature. The authors find that case studies are the most common research method in the literature. They also summarize how the literature assesses FPC policy activities and discuss the relationships between organizational structure, impact, and policy focus among FPCs.

A: Sieveking, A. (2019). Food Policy Councils as Loci for Practising Food Democracy? Insights from the Case of Oldenburg, Germany. *Politics and Governance*, 7(4), 48–58. <https://doi.org/10.17645/pag.v7i4.2081>

This study assesses the ways in which FPCs might represent loci for practicing food democracy through a case study of one of the first FPCs in Germany. During a two-year study period (2016–2018), the emergence of the FPC Oldenburg was studied through participant observations, semi-structured interviews, and document analysis.

R: Snippe, B. (2025). *Advice Report Food Council Groningen*. Interreg North Sea. <https://www.interregnorthsea.eu/sites/default/files/2025-06/Food%20Councils%20Municipality%20of%20Groningen%20-%20Report%20by%20Berber%20Snippe.pdf>

From the Speak Up project and the Groningen municipal food policy, this research focuses on setting up a Food Council in the province of Groningen (Netherlands).

A: Stahlbrand, L., & Roberts, W. (2022). Food Policy Councils and the Food–City Nexus: The History of the Toronto Food Policy Council. *Canadian Food Studies / La Revue Canadienne Des Études Sur l'alimentation*, 9(1). <https://doi.org/10.15353/cfs-rcea.v9i1.505>

This field report chronicles the history of the Toronto Food Policy Council (Ontario, Canada), the first FPC in a major city, as an example of critical food guidance in action.

M: Urban Agriculture Magazine no. 36 – Food Policy Councils. (2019, October). *RUAF*, 36. <https://ruaf.org/document/urban-agriculture-magazine-no-36-food-policy-councils/>

In this issue of the RUAF Urban Agriculture Magazine, several authors explore the experiences of FPCs and similar entities, focusing on their approach to inclusiveness, documented impacts, and challenges faced. Food policy councils and similar groups are featured from North America, Europe, Africa, and South America.

R: Wainer, A., Bassarab, K., & Palmer, A. (2024). *Food Policy Councils 2021 Census*. Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future. <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/sites/default/files/2024-11/food-policy-councils-2021-census.pdf>

This report summarizes the results of the 2021 Center for a Livable Future food policy council census, a follow-up to the 2020 food policy council census, which was administered to capture FPCs' continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

D: Walker, A. E. (2019). *An Exploration of the Structure, Issue Framing and Priorities of Virginia's Food Policy Groups to Collaborate on a Healthy, Resilient and Sustainable Food System* [Master's thesis, Virginia Tech]. <http://hdl.handle.net/10919/90285>

This master's thesis describes a mixed-methods study that investigated the structure, issue framing, activities, and priorities of food policy groups in Virginia to develop a healthy, resilient and sustainable food system.

A: Zepeda, R., & Virchez, J. (2025). *Sustainable Transformative Economy in the Subnational Context: The Case of Sudbury, Ontario, Canada* (SSRN Scholarly Paper No. 6160426). Social Science Research Network. <https://papers.ssrn.com/abstract=6160426>

This article examines the city of Sudbury, Ontario, as a case study of a sustainable transformative economy in a subnational context of Canada and includes a substantive discussion of the Greater Sudbury Food Policy Council.

Food Access

R: Biehler, D., Fisher, A., Siedenburg, K., Winne, M., & Zachary, J. (1999). *Getting Food on the Table: An Action Guide to Local Food Policy*. Community Food Security Coalition & California Sustainable Agriculture Working Group. https://foodsecurity.org/GettingFoodOnTheTable_pdf.pdf

This guidebook is designed to support local efforts to promote community food security by helping others to understand the breadth of policies affecting local food systems, evaluate policy barriers and opportunities, develop innovative solutions, and identify useful resources.

A: Broad Leib, E. (2013). All (Food) Politics is Local: Increasing Food Access through Local Government Action. *Harvard Law and Policy Review*, 7, 321–341.

This article aims to encourage localities in the United States not yet active in food policy to join the field. The discussion focuses on methods of fostering access to healthy foods and why local governments are particularly well suited to improve food access.

A: Dailey, A., Davidson, K., Gaskin, K., Cooper, L., Schell, B., Gagliardi, Y., & Glahn, K. (2022). Responding to Food Insecurity and Community Crises through Food Policy Council Partnerships in a Rural Setting. *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action*, 16(2S), 39–44. <https://doi.org/10.1353/cpr.2022.0037>

This case study documents the progress of the Adams County Food Policy Council (Pennsylvania) in facilitating policy change and programs that helped this rural community respond to a variety of healthy food access challenges. The authors describe key elements that contributed to sustaining the collective work of the council, including: a common agenda; independent but aligned goals of member organizations; valuing those most impacted; and continuous communication.

A: Gajewski, A., Imbruce, V., Brenton, B., & Adams, M. (2025). The Vital Role of University-Community Organization Partnerships to Address Food Security. *Practicing Anthropology*, 47(4), 286–293. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08884552.2025.2560009>

Binghamton University faculty, staff, and students worked with the Broome County Food Council (BCFC, New York) to better understand how this FPC, and others working in areas with a similar socioeconomic profile, have addressed food insecurity. This paper summarizes the method that the authors devised to identify and communicate recommendations to BCFC leadership based on their community-based research.

R: Haynes-Maslow, L., Perry Stillerman, K., & Yates, J. (2016). *Fixing Food: Fresh Solutions from Five U.S. Cities*. Union of Concerned Scientists. <https://www.ucs.org/sites/default/files/attach/2016/01/ucs-fixing-food-report-jan-2016.pdf>

This report looks at how local governments and community groups in Baltimore, Maryland; Louisville, Kentucky; Memphis, Tennessee; Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Oakland, California are working to make affordable, healthy food available to more people and empower them to build better food systems.

R: Hodgson, K. (2012). *Planning for Food Access and Community-Based Food Systems*. American Planning Association. <https://www.planning.org/publications/publicationdocument/9148238/>

This report presents the results of a multiphase research study to identify and evaluate the development, adoption and implementation of food-related goals and policies of local comprehensive plans, including sustainability plans, across the US. Furthermore, it assesses their impact on local policies, regulations, and standards for the purpose of reducing food access disparities and improving community-based food systems.

A: Lange, S. J., Calancie, L., Onufrak, S. J., Reddy, K. T., Palmer, A., & Lowry Warnock, A. (2021). Associations Between Food Policy Councils and Policies That Support Healthy Food Access: A National Survey of Community Policy Supports. *Nutrients*, 13(2), Article 2. <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu13020683>

The authors analyze data from the 2014 National Survey of Community-Based Policy and Environmental Supports for Healthy Eating and Active Living and find that US municipalities with FPCs are more likely to have four types of healthy food access support.

A: Larchet, N. (2015). From Social Emergency to Health Utopia: The Social Construction of Obesity and the Concealment of Hunger in American Cities, Knoxville, 1981-1985. *Actes de la recherche en sciences sociales*, 208(3), 40–61. <https://doi.org/10.3917/arss.208.0040>

Based upon the archives of Knoxville Food Policy Council (Tennessee), this article focuses on the conditions that fostered the emergence of an official epidemiology framing obesity as a question of access to “healthy products.”

A: Liang, C.-L. K., & Brown, A. (2019). Local Food Policy Councils: Adopting Social Network Theories to Support Food Systems Mini Review. *Agricultural Research & Technology*, 22(3). <https://doi.org/10.19080/ARTOAJ.2019.22.556199>

This article applies Social Network Analysis to the movement of FPCs in the United States, to understand the rise of FPCs as an attempt to address rising food insecurity in the US.

D: McKellar Raymer, J. (2025). The Possibilities of Food Justice within a Neoliberal Food System [Master's thesis, Grand Valley State University]. <https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/gradprojects/553>

This master's thesis explores food justice initiatives taking place in Grand Rapids, Michigan through a case study of five food access organizations: the Kent County Food Policy Council, Access of West Michigan, Community Food Club, Kids' Food Basket, and Feeding America West Michigan.

B: Moragues-Faus, A. (2017). Addressing Food Security Vulnerabilities Through Urban Food Policy Alliances: The Case of the Sustainable Food Cities Network in the UK. In D. Barling (Ed.), *Advances in Food Security and Sustainability* (Vol. 2, pp. 87–113). Elsevier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/bs.af2s.2017.09.004>

This chapter documents the emergence and development of the Sustainable Food Cities Network, an initiative connecting 47 urban food strategies, including FPCs, in the UK. It includes an analysis of the UK food system's vulnerabilities and ways in which the network aims to achieve food security outcomes.

R: Moragues-Faus, A., Adlerova, B., & Hausmanova, T. (2016). 'Local' Level Analysis of FNS Pathways in the UK. Cardiff University. <https://www.fao.org/family-farming/detail/en/c/1058193/>

This report provides insights into local transition pathways in the European food and nutrition security landscape. It includes a case study of the Sustainable Food Cities Network, which connects FPCs, and similar groups, throughout the United Kingdom with the goal of scaling urban food strategies in a national context.

A: Oza-Frank, R. (2025). Food Policy Councils and Healthy Food Access Policies: A 2021 National Survey of Community Policy Supports. *Preventing Chronic Disease*, 22. <https://doi.org/10.5888/pcd22.240335>

This study analyzes the prevalence of food policy councils and similar coalitions among United States municipalities and their associations with healthy food access policies. The authors find that municipalities with FPCs have a higher prevalence of several types of food access policies.

A: Poole, M. K., Mundorf, A. R., Englar, N. K., & Rose, D. (2015). From Nutrition to Public Policy: Improving Healthy Food Access by Enhancing Farm-to-Table Legislation in Louisiana. *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*, 115(6), 871–875. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jand.2014.12.012>

This article traces the food policy efforts of an interdisciplinary group of nutrition and dietetics practitioners and public health professionals affiliated with Tulane University who formed a local Nutrition Policy Team with the overall goal of improving health outcomes in Louisiana.

D: Smith, K. C. (2008). *The Lane County Food Policy Council and Re-framing Food Security* [Master's thesis, University of Oregon]. <https://hdl.handle.net/1794/7889>

This dissertation investigates the political, cultural and historical contexts of the Lane County Food Policy Council (Oregon) and assesses how food security is re-framed at the local level as community food security.

A: Webb, K., Have, P., & Noort, M. (2001). Collaborative Intersectoral Approaches to Nutrition in a Community on the Urban Fringe. *Health Education & Behavior*, 28(3), 306–319. <https://doi.org/10.1177/109019810102800305>

This case study describes the 10-year evolution of a local intersectoral project, Penrith Food Project in Australia, aimed at improving components of a community's food system as an approach to improving nutrition. Aspects of innovation and good contemporary practice in collaborating for health promotion are illustrated.

A: Welsh, J., & MacRae, R. (1998). Food Citizenship and Community Food Security: Lessons from Toronto, Canada. *Canadian Journal of Development Studies / Revue Canadienne d'études Du Développement*, 19(4), 237–255. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02255189.1998.9669786>

This paper develops the concept of “food citizenship,” emphasizing the need to move beyond food as a commodity and people as consumers via the Toronto Food Policy Council (Canada). Critiques of corporate control and loss of food skills, or “de-skilling,” within the public, and the limits of anti-hunger advocacy, or charity for achieving food security are offered.

Funding

R: Santo, R., & Horrigan, L. (2019). *Changing the Food System Takes More than Change: Stories of Funding Food Policy Councils*. Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future. https://assets.jhsph.edu/clf/mod_clfResource/doc/Funding_guide_formatted_2019_07-24.pdf

This report provides an overview of how FPCs are funded and offers several case studies about funding from FPCs in the US.

Governance

A: Andreola, M., Forno, F., & Giovannini, M. (2025). Tracing Democratic Innovations: A Longitudinal Perspective on a Food Policy Council. *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*, 23996544251369249. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23996544251369249>

This article, centered on a case study of Nutrire Trento (“Feeding Trento”)—an FPC initiative in Trento, Italy—explores how democratic innovations emerge and respond to the complexities of modern food systems through collaborative governance and sustainable practices.

A: Baldy, J., & Kruse, S. (2019). Food Democracy from the Top Down? State-Driven Participation Processes for Local Food System Transformations towards Sustainability. *Politics and Governance*, 7(4), 68–80. <https://doi.org/10.17645/pag.v7i4.2089>

This paper explores top-down processes used by local actors working on food systems transformation in two cities in southern Germany. The authors base their analysis on the four key dimensions of food democracy—knowledge, sharing ideas, efficacy and orientation towards community good.

A: Bassarab, K., Clark, J. K., Santo, R., & Palmer, A. (2019). Finding Our Way to Food Democracy: Lessons from US Food Policy Council Governance. *Politics and Governance*, 7(4), 32–47. <https://doi.org/10.17645/pag.v7i4.2092>

This article examines the relationship between an FPC’s organizational structure, relationship to government, and membership and its policy priorities. Using data from the 2018 Center for a Livable Future food policy council census, paired with illustrative cases, the authors find that an FPC’s relationship to government and membership has more bearing on its policy priorities than its organizational structure.

A: Behringer, J. (2025). Understanding Food Democracy Through Practitioner Viewpoints: A Q-Method Study of Local US Food Policy Councils. *Agriculture and Human Values*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-025-10768-3>

This article discusses how food policy council practitioners resonate with ideas of food democracy based on a survey taken by 16 FPC representatives in the US.

A: Candel, J. J. L. (2022). Power to the People? Food Democracy Initiatives’ Contributions to Democratic Goods. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 39(4), 1477–1489. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-022-10322-5>

This systematic literature review examines the existing scholarship on food democracy to assess democratic innovations, such as FPCs, for their contributions to four democratic goods: inclusiveness, popular control, considered judgment and transparency.

A: Cho, B., Noh, I. H., Roggio, A. M., & Luna-Reyes, L. F. (2025). Exploring the Impact of Collaboration Processes on Policy Networks Success: A Case Study of Food Policy Councils. *Public Management Review*, 27(1), 241–272. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14719037.2023.2241047>

This paper assesses the impact of several network governance characteristics—network density, diversity, inclusion, and actors’ participation in collaborative arrangements—on the ability of food policy councils to successfully collaborate.

B: Clark, J. K. (2019). Collaborative Governance: The Case of Local Food Action Planning. In *Civil Society and Social Movements in Food System Governance*. Routledge.

This chapter traces and analyzes the development and implementation of a local food action plan within a unique governance structure in Columbus, Ohio. The governance structure, which included a city health department, a county economic development and planning department and a local food movement civil society organization, was embedded in the Franklin County Local Food Council.

D: DiGiulio, L. (2017). *Food Policy Councils: Does Organization Type Matter* [Master’s thesis, The Ohio State University]. https://etd.ohiolink.edu/acprod/odb_etd/etd/r/1501/10?clear=10&p10_accession_num=osu1492620713327182

This master’s thesis explores the significance of how different organizational types (e.g., grassroots, nonprofit, embedded in government) were associated with different food policy council outcomes, discourse, and strategies. More similarities than differences were found across organizational type, suggesting local influences and available resources may have a greater influence on food policy councils than organizational type.

D: Epp, A., & Petersson, E. (2025). *Social-Ecological Resilience of Local Food Supply Chains Collaborative Governance and the Potential Role of Food Policy Councils* [Master’s thesis, University of Gavle]. <https://www.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A1980554&dswid=8245>

This thesis investigates how collaborative governance can support the social-ecological resilience of local food supply chains, focusing on the potential role of FPCs in Södertälje, Sweden and Karlsruhe, Germany.

R: Fink Shapiro, L., Hoey, L., Colasanti, K., & Ann Savas, S. (2015). *You Can’t Rush the Process: Collective Impact Models of Food Systems Change*. Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems. https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/collective_impact_models_of_food_systems_change

This report researches a sample of US-based, networked food system initiatives using a collective impact model to better understand what leads to collective success and glean lessons learned to bolster continual efforts towards food systems change.

D: Halliday, J. J. (2015). *A New Institutional Analysis of Local Level Food Policy in England Between 2012 and 2014* [Doctoral dissertation, City University London]. <https://openaccess.city.ac.uk/id/eprint/13768/>

This dissertation assesses how institutional norms, values, and practices affect the capacity of FPCs in England to pursue their aims. Case studies explored in depth include the London Food Programme, the Islington Food Strategy, the Bristol Food Policy Council, Manchester Food Futures, and the County Durham Sustainable Local Food Strategy.

A: Hammelman, C., Levkoe, C., Agyeman, J., Kharod, S., Faus, A. M., Munoz, E., Oliva, J., & Wilson, A. (2020). Integrated Food Systems Governance: Scaling Equitable and Transformative Food Initiatives through Scholar-Activist Engagement. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 9(2), Article 2. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2020.092.003>

This collective essay describes integrated food governance processes currently underway—particularly those engaging anchoring institutions from civil society, government, and academia—to demonstrate both the promise and the challenges of networked governance efforts in pursuing more equitable food systems. It includes a discussion of the New Orleans Food Policy Advisory Council (Louisiana).

R: Irish, A., Clark, J. K., Bassarab, K., & Harris, D. (2024). *Characteristics of Regional Food Policy Councils in the United States*. Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future. <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/sites/default/files/2024-10/characteristics-of-regional-fpc-in-the-us.pdf>

This report draws on a community of practice with 11 regional food policy councils in the US and summarizes the approaches of regional FPCs to inform future practice and policy. Three case studies provide illustrative examples of regional food policy councils with different geographic locations, motivations, and governing structures.

B: Johnston, C., & Andrée, P. (2019). Pathways to Co-Governance?: The Role of NGOs in Food Governance in the Northwest Territories, Canada. In *Civil Society and Social Movements in Food System Governance*. Routledge.

This chapter examines the emerging role of two non-governmental organizations in food governance processes in Canada's Northwest Territories, one of which is the Yellowknife Food Charter Coalition, an FPC. The analysis shows that these non-governmental organizations are effective at combining new frameworks, coalition-building, and working synergistically on policy and community initiatives.

B: Levkoe, C. Z., & Wilson, A. (2019). Policy Engagement as Prefiguration: Experiments in Food Policy Governance Through the National Food Policy Dialogue in Canada. In *Civil Society and Social Movements in Food System Governance*. Routledge. <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/oa-edit/10.4324/9780429503597-6/policy-engagement-prefiguration-charles-levkoe-amanda-wilson>

This chapter explores the intersections between food systems governance and social movement mobilization, examining the role of the policymaking process and the efforts of nonprofit organizations and grassroots coalitions to promote empowerment, community development, and broader food systems transformation. It includes discussions about the proposed creation of a National Food Policy Council for Canada.

R: Lipstreu, A., Baskes, A., Wapner, A., & Clark, J. (2017). *Mapping the Vision for the Future of Ohio's Food System*. Ohio Food Policy Network. <https://ohiofpn.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/OFPN-Oct-Report-FINAL.pdf>

This report presents the results of a multi-stakeholder project to create a shared agenda for Ohio's food system and establish a resilient statewide food systems network.

D: Lösel, L. (2025). *Advancing Urban Food System Change in Munich – from Grassroots Initiatives to Regime Resistance?* [Master thesis, Radboud University]. <https://theses.ubn.ru.nl/items/4c12f186-4338-4030-8de7-454979704b24>

This thesis examines the dynamics between civil society and municipal governance in advancing urban food system transformation, using Munich's Food Policy Council (Münchner Ernährungsrat, MER) in Germany as a case study.

B: Mendes, W., & Sonnino, R. (2018). Urban Food Governance in the Global North. In T. Marsden (Ed.), *The SAGE Handbook of Nature: Three Volume Set* (pp. 543–560). SAGE Publications Ltd. <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781473983007.n29>

This chapter analyzes urban food strategy narratives in the US, UK, and Canada, considering what these narratives tell us about the potential of sustainable food systems, the social movements that propel them, and the “deliberative spaces” (e.g., food policy councils) they create, to offer a powerful new pathway to urban sustainability.

A: Michel, S., Wiek, A., Bloemertz, L., Bornemann, B., Granchamp, L., Villet, C., Gascón, L., Sipple, D., Blanke, N., Lindenmeier, J., & Gay-Para, M. (2022). Opportunities and challenges of food policy councils in pursuit of food system sustainability and food democracy—a comparative case study from the Upper-Rhine region. *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*, 6. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fsufs.2022.916178>

This research evaluates the impact of four food policy councils in Germany on food system sustainability and democratic governance. The paper highlights the differences in governance systems of the four food policy councils, concluding that participatory systems in and of themselves are worthwhile to achieve democratic outcomes.

R: Moragues-Faus, A. (2019). *Re-scaling urban food governance: Global and national city food networks*. Sustainable Places Institute, Cardiff University,. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/16JVoJ5V3bBUeXdsgGFRY0ZXqsyY2F3Hq/view>

This report explores the similarities and differences between an ever-growing number of national, regional and international food networks seeking to facilitate exchanges across cities.

A: Moragues-Faus, A. (2020). Towards a critical governance framework: Unveiling the political and justice dimensions of urban food partnerships. *The Geographical Journal*, 186(1), 73–86. <https://doi.org/10.1111/geoj.12325>

This paper explores how eight different FPCs in the United Kingdom mobilize notions of equality, participation, and inclusion; co-produce knowledge, values, and reflexivity within governance spaces; and create different forms of connectivity and autonomy to develop more inclusive, equitable, and emancipatory urban foodscapes.

B: Rocha, C., Keech, D., Diamantini, D., Wittman, H., Paget, M., Deakin, M., Reed, M., Borrelli, N., Valley, W., Boossabong, P., & Padawangi, R. (2016). *The Governance of City Food Systems: Case Studies from Around the World*. Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli. https://fondazionefeltrinelli.it/app/uploads/2020/05/The-Governance-of-City-Food-Systems_The-Cases-Study-from-Around-The-World.pdf

This book provides eight case studies on the governance of city food systems in Milan, Italy; Belo Horizonte, Brazil; Vancouver, Canada; Edinburgh, Scotland; Bristol, England; Bangkok, Thailand; Jakarta, Indonesia; and Singapore. Several of these cities employ stakeholder coalition models in their food governance schemes.

D: Schiff, R. (2007). *Food policy councils: An examination of organisational structure, process, and contribution to alternative food movements* [Doctoral dissertation, Murdoch University]. <https://researchportal.murdoch.edu.au/esploro/outputs/doctoral/Food-policy-councils-an-examination-of/991005542483907891>

Utilizing organizational theory and literature dealing on evaluating collaborative, interagency organizations, this dissertation studies the organizational role of food policy councils and proposes methods for effective structure and operation.

A: Siddiki, S. N., Carboni, J. L., Koski, C., & Sadiq, A.-A. (2015). How Policy Rules Shape the Structure and Performance of Collaborative Governance Arrangements. *Public Administration Review*, 75(4), 536–547. <https://doi.org/10.1111/puar.12352>

The authors explore how policies inform the stakeholder composition and goals of government-embedded food policy councils and how food policy council stakeholder composition facilitates and/or impedes their performance.

A: Wilkes, J., Levkoe, C. Z., Andrée, P., & Clark, J. K. (2025a). Strengthening Democratic Governance in Times of Crisis: Lessons from the Canadian Food Policy Advisory Council. *Canadian Food Studies / La Revue Canadienne Des Études Sur l'alimentation*, 12(1), 140–144. <https://doi.org/10.15353/cfs-rcea.v12i1.738>

This commentary discusses the establishment and activities of the Canadian Food Policy Advisory Council, with a focus on the way they use participatory governance.

r: Wilkes, J., Levkoe, C. Z., Andrée, P., & Clark, J. K. (2025b). *Understanding Food Systems Governance in a Changing World The Canadian Food Policy Advisory Council*. Participatory Food Systems Governance Project. <https://foodsystems.lakeheadu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/CFPAC-Final-Report.pdf>

This report details the innovative participatory governance approach used by the Canadian Food Policy Advisory Council.

A: Zentgraf, L. L. (2025). How Democratic Is Just Enough? Critical Reflections on the Transformative Potential of the Berlin Food Policy Council. *Urban Planning*, 10(0). <https://doi.org/10.17645/up.9538>

This paper, based on a three-year case study of the Berlin Food Policy Council (Germany), evaluates whether FPCs can serve as venues for democratic participation, critical whiteness, and just food politics.

Government

A: Banterle, A., & Zeneli, F. (2025). Building Sustainable Urban Futures: The Crucial Role of Urban Food Policy. *EuroChoices*, 24(1), 66–71. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1746-692X.12463>

This paper summarizes the main types of urban food policies in Europe and the US, which cities use to address the multidimensional challenges of food security, food safety and sustainability in urban contexts.

B: Bassarab, K., Santo, R., & Palmer, A. (2022). Relationships between Food Policy Councils and Government in the United States. In *Routledge Handbook of Urban Food Governance*. Routledge. <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781003055907-16/relationships-food-policy-councils-government-united-states-karen-bassarab-raychel-santo-anne-palmer>

This textbook chapter explores the varied relationships between FPCs and municipal governments in urban areas, highlighting how FPCs collaborate with multi-sector stakeholders to address complex food system challenges. Using Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future food policy council census data and case studies, the authors examine co-governance models, focusing on how formal ties with government influence community engagement, policy, and advocacy efforts.

A: Berglund, E., Hassanein, N., Lachapelle, P., & Stephens, C. (2021). Advancing Food Democracy: The Potential and Limits of Food Policy Positions in Local Government. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2021.111.002>

This paper investigates the emerging role of dedicated food policy staff within local governments to support food systems planning in the United States. Based on interviews with 11 municipal and county food policy professionals, the authors conclude that these roles help coordinate food programs and promote community engagement in food system reform.

A: Berti, G., & Rossi, A. (2024). Democratic Food Governance Capacity at the Local Level: The Cases of Livorno and Pisa. *Territory, Politics, Governance*, 12(7), 1028–1047. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21622671.2022.2093265>

This paper explores how local governments can use democratic food governance to address food system challenges. Case studies in Livorno and Pisa, Italy, demonstrate how structural, procedural, and cultural factors influence the creation and success of local food policies.

A: Goddeeris, L. (2016). Food for Thought: How and Why Local Governments Support Local Food Systems. *Local Government Review*, 27–36. <https://icma.org/documents/lgr-local-government-review-december-2016>

This article summarizes the results of a comprehensive national study in the US conducted in 2015 on local governments' food-related activities. The paper affirms that local food systems provide fertile ground for local government innovation, regardless of community size, geography, or other community characteristics. Local government support for food systems can catalyze and complement the actions of community partners.

R: Goddeeris, L. (2013). *Local Government Support for Food System Development: An Initial Scan of the Landscape*. Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems. <https://www.canr.msu.edu/foodsystems/uploads/files/local-govt-survey-brief.pdf>

This chapter summarizes the results of a comprehensive study conducted of local governments' food-related activities in the United States. Findings suggest that local governments are using a diverse range of federal programs to fund food system development, although usage varies among agencies and programs.

A: Gupta, C., Campbell, D., Munden-Dixon, K., Sowerwine, J., Capps, S., Feenstra, G., & Van Soelen Kim, J. (2018). Food Policy Councils and Local Governments: Creating Effective Collaboration for Food Systems Change. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 11–28. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2018.08b.006>

Ten FPCs in California are compared to understand the nature of the relationships between local governments and FPCs, and how these relationships support policy-related activities and food systems change. With a focus on distinct organizational structures, resource flows, and policy activities, this research finds that a combination of structural autonomy and strong collaborations with the government helps promote more inclusive policymaking processes, which link community members to government.

M: Moragues-Faus, A. (2015). Cambiar La Política Alimentaria Empezando Desde Abajo. *Soberanía Alimentaria, Biodiversidad y Culturas*. <https://www.soberaniaalimentaria.info/publicados/numero-19/166-cambiar-la-politica-alimentaria-empezando-desde-abajo>

This article reflects on how municipalities can support food systems change and food sovereignty through the creation of new spaces for deliberation and participation. It includes specific examples of the Bristol Food Policy Council and Brighton & Hove Food Partnership in England.

R: Neuner, K., Kelly, S., & Raja, S. (2011). *Planning to Eat? Innovative Local Government Plans and Policies to Build Healthy Food Systems in the United States*. University at Buffalo. <https://ubwp.buffalo.edu/foodlab/wp-content/uploads/sites/68/2017/06/planningtoeat5.pdf>

This report synthesizes best practices of local government policy and planning in the US designed to strengthen community food systems.

A: Pothukuchi, K., & Kaufman, J. L. (1999). Placing the Food System on the Urban Agenda: The Role of Municipal Institutions in Food Systems Planning. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 16(2), 213–224. <https://doi.org/10.1023/a:1007558805953>

This paper examines existing or potential city institutions that could offer a more comprehensive look at the urban food system, including city departments of food, food policy councils, and city-planning departments.

D: van den Oever, S. (2025). *Where is the ‘Policy’ in Dutch Food Policy Councils? How Dutch FPCs shape local food policy* [Master’s thesis, Wageningen University]. <https://edepot.wur.nl/687823>

This thesis examines how and to what extent food policy councils in the Netherlands influence local food policy by focusing on two FPCs—one in Amsterdam and the other in Ede.

Movement Building

A: Clark, J. K., Lowitt, K., Levkoe, C. Z., & Andrée, P. (2021). The Power to Convene: Making Sense of the Power of Food Movement Organizations in Governance Processes in the Global North. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 38(1), 175–191. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-020-10146-1>

This article studies nine FPCs in the context of global movements to transition towards a just and equitable food system. The authors use a “process-oriented” approach to argue that food policy councils contribute to these global movements through their governance structures and capacity to mobilize members, which is valuable regardless of specific policy outcomes.

A: Fiore, F., Feola, G., & Piló, F. (2025). Grassroots Initiatives as Political Actors: Scaling, Capture and Constituency in Food Policy Councils. *Environmental Policy and Governance*, 35(3), 559–579. <https://doi.org/10.1002/eet.2156>

Analyzing the history of FPCs in Amsterdam, the Netherlands and Lucca, Italy, the paper develops and applies a conceptual framework that highlights the political agency and power of grassroots initiatives in sustainability transitions leading to both sociotechnical and sociopolitical change.

R: Harden, N., Bain, J., & Heim, S. (2015). *Cultivating Collective Action: The Ecology of a Statewide Food Network*. University of Minnesota Extension. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_OunZrradC3M-ZFLENxdCLB0gEeKnbs7/view

This report summarizes opportunities and challenges faced by 13 statewide and two multi-state food networks in order to foster and grow the emerging statewide network of local food networks/councils in Minnesota.

R: Harden, N., Bain, J., & Heim, S. (2017). *Convening of Food Network Leaders Evaluation*. University of Minnesota Extension.

This report highlights feedback from a convention aimed to support, connect, and build capacity of food networks to contribute to the implementation of the Minnesota Food Charter. It is an example of how different scales of FPCs are interacting with each other in one state.

A: Hoey, L., & Sponseller, A. (2018). “It’s Hard to Be Strategic When Your Hair Is on Fire”: Alternative Food Movement Leaders’ Motivation and Capacity to Act. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 35(3), 595–609. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-018-9850-z>

This study discusses the factors that limit the potential impact of strategies used by social movements, like alternative food movements, to affect change. It is based on semi-structured interviews with 27 food movement leaders in Michigan about their motivation to act and capacity to scale their impact.

A: Mooney, P. H. (2022). Local governance of a field in transition: The food policy council movement. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 89, 98–109. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2021.11.013>

This article examines the role of FPCs as social movements to reconstruct food systems. The article analyzes the resource mobilization and internal organizational governance of food policy councils in relationship to their transformative capacity and place-based collective action.

A: Mooney, P. H., Tanaka, K., & Ciciurkaite, G. (2014). Food Policy Council Movement in North America: A Convergence of Alternative Local Agrifood Interests? In *Alternative Agrifood Movements: Patterns of Convergence and Divergence* (Vol. 21). Emerald Group Publishing Limited. <https://doi.org/10.1108/S1057-192220140000021023>

This chapter explores the diffusion of the food policy council movement in North America, considers its variable linkages between state and civil society, and examines the substantive practices and framings in which the movement has been engaged.

A: Moragues-Faus, A., & Sonnino, R. (2025). Re-Assembling Sustainable Food Cities: An Exploration of Translocal Governance and Its Multiple Agencies. *Urban Studies*, 56(4), 778–794. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098018763038>

This analysis focuses on the activities and tools used by the Sustainable Food Cities Network in the United Kingdom to assemble local experiences, create common imaginaries, and perform collective action. Through these processes, the authors argue that the network creates cross-scalar, collective and distributive agencies that are modifying incumbent governance dynamics.

B: Morgan, K., & Santo, R. (2018). The Rise of Municipal Food Movements. In *Localizing Global Food* (1st ed.). Routledge. <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9780429449284-3/rise-municipal-food-movements-kevin-morgan-raychel-santo>

This chapter explores the rise of the municipal food movement as one of the fastest growing social movements in the Global North. The authors argue that the movement's multi-scalar and multi-functional perspective helps prevent it from becoming inadvertent agents of green parochialism by highlighting the need to be globally engaged as well as locally embedded.

A: Santo, R., & Moragues-Faus, A. (2019). Towards a Trans-Local Food Governance: Exploring the Transformative Capacity of Food Policy Assemblages in the US and UK. *Geoforum*, 98, 75–87. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2018.10.002>

This article examines the trans-local dimension of food policy councils—and its potential to facilitate transformative food system reform—through analyzing the Sustainable Food Cities Network in the United Kingdom and the Food Policy Networks project in the United States. Little research has explored how local FPCs are (horizontally) connecting to each other to share knowledge, practices, and resources, nor how they are interacting (vertically) with other scales of food governance.

A: Schanbacher, W., Bohn, J., & Hall, E. (2025). Crafting a Grassroots Introduction to Food Policy Course. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 14(2), 449–460. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2025.142.016>

This reflective essay provides insights from a pilot, public-facing virtual course, Introduction to Food Policy, that was developed and delivered in Summer 2022 by the Florida Food Policy Council and the University of South Florida Food Sovereignty Initiative.

Planning

A: Clark, J. K., Freedgood, J., Irish, A., Hodgson, K., & Raja, S. (2017). Fail to Include, Plan to Exclude: Reflections on Local Governments' Readiness for Building Equitable Community Food Systems. *Built Environment*, 43(3), 315–327. <https://doi.org/10.2148/benv.43.3.315>

Through a critical examination of the Growing Food Connections project—a partnership with eight county governments across the United States to increase local capacity to create, implement, and sustain food system policies and plans—the authors propose a theoretical framework where policy readiness includes the development of inclusive planning processes.

A: Feenstra, G. W. (1997). Local Food Systems and Sustainable Communities. *American Journal of Alternative Agriculture*, 12(1), 28–36. <https://doi.org/10.1017/s0889189300007165>

This piece reviews the existing literature on local food systems, examining a variety of strategies and initiatives, including early food policy councils in the United States.

A: Harrington, J. (2023). The City of Cork Food Policy Council – Inter-Agency Collaboration Towards a Fairer, Healthier, More Secure and Sustainable Local Food System. *European Journal of Public Health*, 33 (Supplement_2). <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckad160.284>

This article features the work of the Cork Food Policy Council (Ireland) to develop an urban food strategy. The paper highlights how the interagency nature of the FPC led to greater understanding and collaboration, laying the groundwork for co-creating a food strategy.

A: Horst, M. (2017). Food Justice and Municipal Government in the USA. *Planning Theory & Practice*, 18(1), 51–70. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14649357.2016.1270351>

This research explores the potential and limits of municipal food systems planning in advancing food justice by examining two municipal food systems planning organizations in Washington: the Puget Sound Regional Food Policy Council and the City of Seattle. In each case, an assessment of the municipality’s role is given in both constraining and supporting five major aspects of food justice: trauma/inequity, land, labor, exchange, and democratic process.

A: Mah, C. L., & Thang, H. (2013). Cultivating Food Connections: The Toronto Food Strategy and Municipal Deliberation on Food. *International Planning Studies*, 18(1), 96–110. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13563475.2013.750941>

This paper shares an exploratory case study of the development of the Toronto Food Strategy (Canada) as an urban food strategy through the lens of public health. It also distinguishes the work of the Food Strategy from the role of food policy councils in cultivating deliberative spaces to catalyze policy change.

R: Moragues-Faus, A., Morgan, K., Moschitz, H., Neimane, I., Nilsson, H., Pinto, M., Rohrer, H., Ruiz, R., Thuswald, M., Tisenkopfs, T., & Halliday, J. (2013). *Urban Food Strategies: The Rough Guide to Sustainable Food Systems* (GA No. 265287). FOODLINKS. https://orgprints.org/id/eprint/28860/1/foodlinks-Urban_food_strategies.pdf

This report collects visions and goals from urban food strategies across Europe and shows how they are translated into practices, instruments and actions. The authors compile, measure, and highlight good practices from cities that are already implementing urban food strategies to inspire other cities.

R: Raja, S. (2016). Communities of Opportunity. *Growing Food Connections*. <https://growingfoodconnections.org/publications/briefs/exploring-stories-of-opportunity/>

This series of case studies explores how communities of opportunity—places with significant potential to strengthen ties between small and medium-sized farms and residents with limited food access—are overcoming barriers to strengthen their food systems through planning, policy, and partnerships. Briefs are completed for Chautauqua County, New York; Doña Ana County, New Mexico; Dougherty County, Georgia; Douglas County, Nebraska; Luna County, New Mexico; Wyandotte County, Kansas; Polk County, North Carolina; and Cumberland County, Maine.

R: Raja, S., & Hodgson, K. (2015). Communities of Innovation. *Growing Food Connections*. <https://growingfoodconnections.org/research/communities-of-innovation/>

This series of briefs discusses innovative food systems planning and policy work from urban and rural communities across the United States, including the City of Lawrence and Douglas County, Kansas; Baltimore City, Maryland; Marquette County, Michigan; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Region 5, Minnesota; Cabarrus County, North Carolina; Cleveland, Ohio; Lancaster County, Pennsylvania; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Seattle, Washington; City of Burlington and Chittenden County, Vermont. The work of food policy councils is included in some of the briefs, but is not the central focus.

A: Raja, S., Raj, S., & Roberts, B. (2017). The US Experience in Planning for Community Food Systems: An Era of Advocacy, Awareness, and (Some) Learning. In I. Knezevic, A. Blay-Palmer, P. Mount, & E. Nelson (Eds.), *Nourishing Communities* (pp. 59–74). Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-57000-6_4

This chapter describes the extent to which local, regional, and metropolitan governments in the US are planning for stronger community food systems. It also highlights the trajectory of a planning process in the Buffalo Niagara metropolitan region of New York that is beginning to address food systems through local government planning and policy, including through the establishment of the Buffalo-Erie Food Policy Council.

A: Sonnino, R. (2016). The New Geography of Food Security: Exploring the Potential of Urban Food Strategies. *The Geographical Journal*, 182(2), 190–200. <https://doi.org/10.1111/geoj.12129>

This documentary analysis of 15 urban food strategies from Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom explores the motivations behind cities' perceived need to rescale food governance; the key concepts and ideas deployed to construct the underlying narrative of the strategies; and the role attributed to re-localization in relation to food security and sustainability concerns.

A: Weissman, E., & Potteiger, M. (2020). Collaboration and Diverse Stakeholder Participation in Food System Planning: A Case Study from Central New York. *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems*, 35(2), 115–119. <https://doi.org/10.1017/s1742170518000431>

This paper reports preliminary findings from an initial effort to engage participatory food system planning in Central New York. The findings range from identifying specific food system assets and opportunities to strengthen economic prospects, public health outcomes, and environmental sustainability.

Policy Process

A: Andrée, P., Ballamingie, P., & Coulas, M. (2021). Integrative Governance for Ecological Public Health: An Analysis of ‘Food Policy for Canada’ (2015-2019). *Canadian Food Studies / La Revue Canadienne Des Études Sur l’alimentation*, 8(2). <https://doi.org/10.15353/cfs-rcea.v8i2.450>

This article examines the role of public policy in addressing food and nutrition-related health challenges by analyzing Canada’s 2019 Food Policy. The authors use qualitative methods to assess how well the Policy meets its goals of integrating health, environmental concerns, food security, and equity. The authors conclude that while the policy has made progress, it falls short of a fully integrative, systems-based approach.

A: Andrée, P., Coulas, M., & Ballamingie, P. (2018). Governance Recommendations from Forty Years of National Food Strategy Development in Canada and Beyond. *Canadian Food Studies / La Revue Canadienne Des Études Sur l’alimentation*, 5(3), 6–27. <https://doi.org/10.15353/cfs-rcea.v5i3.283>

This paper reviews Canada’s national food policy by drawing on lessons from past Canadian efforts and national policies from seven other countries. The authors identify strengths and weaknesses of previous policies and suggest creating a National Food Policy Council to unify national strategy and enhance cross-sector collaboration.

A: Beckie, M. A., Hanson, L., & Schrader, D. (2013). Farms or Freeways? Citizen Engagement and Municipal Governance in Edmonton’s Food and Agriculture Strategy Development. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 4(1), 15–31. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2013.041.004>

This exploratory case study examines factors shaping Edmonton’s food policy development and implementation, and their impact on prime farmland in the city’s outer limits. It includes a discussion of the impetus and formation of a food council in Edmonton, Alberta (Canada).

R: Broad Leib, E. (2012). *Good Laws, Good Food: Putting State Food Policy to Work for Our Communities*. Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic. <https://chlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/FINAL-full-state-toolkit.pdf>

This guide provides a starting place for food policy councils in the US to understand basic legal concepts of state food systems, develop knowledge of key policy areas, and explore innovations from other regions to support healthy, sustainable, and equitable food systems.

R: Broad Leib, E., Clippinger, E., Balkus, O., Rice, C., & Nielsen, A. (2017). *Good Laws, Good Food: Putting Local Food Policy to Work for Our Communities, 2nd Edition*. Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic. https://chlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/good-food-good-laws_toolkit-10.23.2017.pdf

This guide provides a starting place for food policy councils in the US to understand basic legal concepts of local food systems, develop knowledge of key policy areas, and explore innovations from other regions to support healthy, sustainable, and equitable food systems.

A: Clark, J. K., & Inwood, S. M. (2016). Scaling-up Regional Fruit and Vegetable Distribution: Potential for Adaptive Change in the Food System. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 33(3), 503–519. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-015-9618-7>

There have been calls to ‘scale-up’ local food production to regionally distribute food and to sell into more mainstream grocery and retail venues. Building from a case study of the Ohio Food Policy Advisory Council, this research highlights the role a statewide food policy council can have in facilitating market development and their unique position to provide public sector and institutional support to facilitate meaningful connections in the food system.

A: Clark, J. K., Sharp, J. S., & Dugan, K. L. (2015). The Agrifood System Policy Agenda and Research Domain. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 42, 112–122. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2015.10.004>

This article traces the emergence of the agrifood system policy agenda in the US. It includes a brief overview of governance innovations at the local and state level driven by FPCs, networks, and coalitions.

A: Clayton, M. L., Frattaroli, S., Palmer, A., & Pollack, K. M. (2015). The Role of Partnerships in U.S. Food Policy Council Policy Activities. *PLOS ONE*, 10(4), e0122870. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0122870>

This research investigates the role of partnerships in food systems policy change through interviews with 12 purposefully selected food policy councils in the United States and six additional food policy experts.

A: Elsner, F., Herzig, C., & Strassner, C. (2025). Policy intermediation for agri-food system transition: Food policy groups from middle Europe, Australia and United States. *Environmental Science & Policy*, 173, 104227. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2025.104227>

Through the prism of transition intermediary research, this article investigates the functions, policy priorities, organizational forms and relationships to government that constitute the policy intermediation of FPCs across three geographical contexts—the United States, middle Europe (mainly Germany) and Australia.

R: Essex, A., Shinkle, D., & Bridges, M. (2015). *Harvesting Healthier Options: State Legislative Trends in Local Foods 2012-2014*. National Conference of State Legislatures. <https://nesawg.org/sites/default/files/harvesting-healthier-options.pdf>

This report describes state legislation in all 50 United States enacted between 2012 and 2014 that aimed to strengthen various components of local food systems. It focuses on six policy areas with the most state legislative action: local food system approaches; farm to school; farmers’ markets; community gardens and urban agriculture; healthy grocery retail; and food policy councils.

R: Forster, T., Egal, F., Getz Escudero, A., Dubbeling, M., & Renting, H. (2015). *Milan Urban Food Policy Pact: Selected Good Practices from Cities*. Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli. <https://ruaf.org/document/milan-urban-food-policy-pact-selected-good-practices-from-cities/>

This report collects best practices from signatory cities of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact that have been successfully working on strategic goals, such as healthy nutrition for all and food waste. It includes case studies of food policy councils in Ghent, Belgium and Toronto, Canada as well as food policy committees and similar groups in other countries.

A: Godrich, S. L., Doe, J., Goodwin, S., Stoneham, M., & Devine, A. (2026). The Proposed Impact and Anticipated Barriers of Establishing Food Action Groups in Rural, Regional, and Remote Western Australia. *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jneb.2025.11.016>

This paper identifies activities that positively impact local food systems, and anticipated barriers to establishing FPCs in rural, regional, and remote Western Australia.

A: Hamilton, N. D. (2002). Putting a Face on Our Food: How State and Local Food Policies Can Promote the New Agriculture. *Drake Journal of Agricultural Law*, 407–443.

This article details the potential for state and local policies to advance progressive agricultural food system reform.

A: Hege, A., Cooper, M., Soltany, K. A., Beth, D., Perez, M. R., Ammerman, A., & Cruz, A. (2025). Promoting Health Through Transdisciplinary Local Food System Partnerships: Insights from the North Carolina Local Food Council. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 14(3), 415–431. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2025.143.018>

This reflective essay describes the North Carolina Local Food Council’s approach to identifying statewide priorities to support local and regional food systems while emphasizing community health and well-being, and shares insights, strategies, and lessons learned from the Community Health Working Group, focusing on a case study from the NC Medicaid 1115 Waiver Healthy Opportunities Pilots.

R: Hoey, L., Fink Shapiro, L., & Gensler, L. (2019). *Are Michigan’s Food Councils Changing Policy or Prepared to Do So?* Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems. <http://foodsystems.msu.edu/resources/are-michigans-food-councils-changing-policy>

This report presents the results of a survey of local food councils in Michigan to learn more about how these councils are working on – or aspiring to work on – institutional or government food policy change. Furthermore, the report gauges councils’ policy advocacy efforts and impacts in communities across the state, and provides information on Michigan Local Food Council Network member councils’ interests and training needs.

B: Hunt, A. R. (2015). *Civic Engagement in Food System Governance* (1 ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315713434>

This book compares the national food movements of the United States and the United Kingdom and the policy frameworks they have advanced in relation to local, sustainable food from 1976 (US) or 1991 (UK) to 2013. It provides context on the evolution of federal food and farm policies, programs, and advocacy priorities—including key funding sources for FPCs in both countries—but does not specifically describe FPCs.

B: Irish, A., Clark, J., Hodgson, K., & Raja, S. (2024). The Relational Infrastructure of Food System Policy Development. In S. Raja, M. Caton Campbell, A. Judelsohn, B. Born, & A. Morales (Eds.), *Planning for Equitable Urban Agriculture in the United States* (pp. 351–377). Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-32076-7_19

Drawing on qualitative analysis of 26 semi-structured interviews, this resource explores how interpersonal relationships shape food policy processes in the US. The authors note that, while equity did not appear as an explicit motivation for developing interpersonal relationships, practices of humble listening by policy practitioners foster inclusive engagement as a basis for equitable collaboration.

A: Mendes, W. (2008). Implementing Social and Environmental Policies in Cities: The Case of Food Policy in Vancouver, Canada. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 32(4), 942–967. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2427.2008.00814.x>

This paper analyzes the specific case of food policy implementation by the municipal government in Vancouver, British Columbia (Canada), while also advancing research on how similar cross-cutting social and environmental issues are implemented by local governments elsewhere.

A: Moragues-Faus, A., & Carroll, B. (2018). Reshaping Urban Political Ecologies: An Analysis of Policy Trajectories to Deliver Food Security. *Food Security*, 10(6), 1337–1351. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12571-018-0855-7>

This article explores the processes and outcomes of urban food policies resulting from two European FPCs: Food Cardiff (Wales) and the Cork Food Policy Council (Ireland). The analysis shows how opportunities for policy success are shaped by existing sociocultural dynamics (e.g., social asymmetry, level of engagement from civil society, pre-existing policy environment, and degree of state involvement), as well as ecological factors (i.e., availability and access to spaces for growing, share of green spaces, local climate, etc.).

R: Morrill, V., Santo, R., & Bassarab, K. (2018). *Shining a Light on Labor: How Food Policy Councils Can Support Food Chain Workers*. Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future.

This report highlights examples of successes and challenges that food policy councils have experienced while engaging in labor policy.

A: Muller, M., Tagtow, A., Roberts, S. L., & MacDougall, E. (2009). Aligning Food Systems Policies to Advance Public Health. *Journal of Hunger & Environmental Nutrition*, 4(3–4), 225–240. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19320240903321193>

This paper encourages public health professionals to create unlikely alliances and get involved in policy development outside of their normal expertise, such as by joining or supporting the development of food policy councils.

A: Scherb, A., Palmer, A., Frattaroli, S., & Pollack, K. (2012). Exploring Food System Policy: A Survey of Food Policy Councils in the United States. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 3–14. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2012.024.007>

The authors analyze survey responses from 56 food policy council leaders in the United States to learn how food policy councils engage in policy processes, determine the scope of their activities, and evaluate the impact of their work.

A: Schiller-Merkens, S., & Machin, A. (2023). Knowing Food: Sustainability Politics, Food Policy Councils and the Co-Production of Knowledge. *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society*, 36(3), 311–328. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10767-023-09446-1>

This paper explores the potential role that FPCs can play in a sustainable transformation of the food system. The authors argue that FPCs have an important role in global, sustainable food system transformation, however this may be limited by challenges they face in policymaking and the political process more generally.

P: Sheingate, A. (2015). *Institutional Unraveling? The New Politics of Food in the United States*. Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association.

This paper explores how the unraveling of the federal food/agricultural policy regime in the United States, exemplified by the last Farm Bill debacle, has created space for local and regional alternative food governance innovations such as food policy councils.

A: Stein, B., Knapp, M., Muñoz, E., & Rose, D. (2025). The New Orleans Food System and COVID-19: A Case Study in Strengthening Food System Resiliency to Facilitate Healthy Eating. *Nutrients*, 17(23), 3689. <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu17233689>

This case study reports the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the New Orleans food system and the subsequent response from the community and local government to strengthen it through city and state policy changes, public–private collaborations, and grassroots citizens’ efforts.

B: Stierand, P. (2012). Food Policy Councils: Recovering the Local Level in Food Policy. In A. Viljoen & J. S. C. Wiskerke (Eds.), *Sustainable Food Planning: Evolving Theory and Practice* (pp. 67–78). Brill Wageningen Academic. https://doi.org/10.3920/978-90-8686-187-3_5

This case study of the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership looks at how food policy councils offer a viable possibility to recover the local level in food policy, which has been shrinking in the United Kingdom.

R: *Stories from the Field: The Role of Local and State Food Policy Councils in Federal Policy Making and Implementation.* (n.d.). Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future.

This report highlights the ways, using examples from throughout the US, in which local and state food policy councils can increase their understanding of the larger federal policy-making process, bring local issues to the attention of Congress and federal agencies, increase the flow of federal resources to local communities, and educate and mobilize local communities about how federal policies and regulations affect them.

R: Wainer, A., Bassarab, K., Fink, J., & Palmer, A. (2024). *Shaping Policy for a Shifting Climate.* Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future. <https://foodpolicynetworks.org/sites/default/files/2024-11/shaping-policy-for-a-shifting-climate.pdf>

This report provides a brief overview of the connection between the food system and the climate crisis and offers strategies for FPCs to integrate climate change into their work. It includes examples of how FPCs in the United States and similar groups have applied such strategies in their work, which are included for each strategy.

A: Walsh, C. C., Taggart, M., Freedman, D. A., Trapl, E. S., & Borawski, E. A. (2015). The Cleveland–Cuyahoga County Food Policy Coalition: “We Have Evolved.” *Preventing Chronic Disease, 12.* <https://doi.org/10.5888/pcd12.140538>

This article examines the policy development process and investigates the role of the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Food Policy Coalition (Ohio) in developing and implementing four pieces of legislation. Five key themes emerged: impetus for policy came from community needs; education and raising awareness helped mitigate barriers; a cultural shift took place among policymakers; social connections and individual champions were needed; and concerns over food access and health influenced policy decisions.

A: Whittaker, J. R., Clark, J. K., SanGiovanni, S., & Raja, S. (2017). Planning for Food Systems: Community-University Partnerships for Food-Systems Transformation. *Metropolitan Universities, 28*(1), 7–26. <https://doi.org/10.18060/21471>

This article draws on case studies in the US involving the ways in which community-university partnerships can be used to leverage policy change to support stronger food systems. It describes the importance of building lasting relationships for policy change, shoring up community capacity, understanding the benefits and burdens for universities and communities, and reimagining universities’ responsibilities to the region at large.

Urban Agriculture

D: Gazillo, C. (2017). *Addressing Racism in Urban Agriculture: The Case for an Urban Agriculture Land Trust in Bridgeport, Connecticut* [Master’s thesis, School for International Training]. <https://digitalcollections.sit.edu/capstones/3024>

This thesis explores how the Bridgeport Food Policy Council (Connecticut) can address issues of racial and class inequity in the design and implementation of a new zoning ordinance that will regulate and protect urban agriculture within the city.

B: Gosch, K., Sirwatka, A., & Cidlowski, L. (2024). Barriers in Community-Led Initiatives: A Case Study of Urban Agriculture Policy in Denver, Colorado. In S. Raja, M. Caton Campbell, A. Judelsohn, B. Born, & A. Morales (Eds.), *Planning for Equitable Urban Agriculture in the United States* (pp. 311–334). Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-32076-7_17

This case study documents the policy process and lessons learned by the Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council (Colorado) based on their experience with urban agriculture policy in Denver.

D: Hennessey, J. M. (2025). *Understanding Detroit’s Local Food and Urban Agricultural Policy Subsystem Using the Advocacy Coalition Framework* [Doctoral dissertation, Antioch University]. <https://www.proquest.com/docview/3198864572/abstract/2F44CB7960E04AEAPQ/1>

This explanatory qualitative case study applies the Advocacy Coalition Framework to study Detroit’s local food policy changes from 2000 to 2022. Using the framework, this paper explores local food policy change in the context of community resilience and system changes.

B: Hodgson, K. (2024). Integrating Equity as a Central Theme in Urban Agriculture: The Case of the City of Seattle, Washington. In S. Raja, M. Caton Campbell, A. Judelsohn, B. Born, & A. Morales (Eds.), *Planning for Equitable Urban Agriculture in the United States* (pp. 335–349). Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-32076-7_18

This chapter investigates how the city government in Seattle, Washington approaches urban agriculture, including the various geographic, social, agricultural, and governmental contexts at play. The chapter outlines the city government’s motivation for addressing urban agriculture through public policy and highlights the opportunities and challenges encountered in addressing broader societal issues like racial and social justice.

B: Lipman, M. F., & Caton Campbell, M. (2024). Codification and Inclusivity of Landmark Urban Agriculture Initiatives in Madison and Dane County, Wisconsin. In S. Raja, M. Caton Campbell, A. Judelsohn, B. Born, & A. Morales (Eds.), *Planning for Equitable Urban Agriculture in the United States: Future Directions for a New Ethic in City Building* (pp. 159–180). Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-32076-7_9

Despite a history of progressive policies, Madison and Dane County (Wisconsin) have been slow to address food injustices. This chapter examines the collaboration between local government and nonprofits, emphasizing codification and inclusivity, to advance urban agriculture during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A: McClintock, N., Wooten, H., & Brown, A. (2012). Toward a Food Policy “First Step” in Oakland, California: A Food Policy Council’s Efforts to Promote Urban Agriculture Zoning. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 15–42. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2012.024.009>

This research documents the efforts of the Oakland Food Policy Council (California) to develop recommendations for urban agriculture zoning as a means of fostering its expansion.

A: Prové, C., De Krom, M. P. M. M., & Dessenin, J. (2019). Politics of Scale in Urban Agriculture Governance: A Transatlantic Comparison of Food Policy Councils. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 68, 171–181. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2019.01.018>

This article analyzes the development of urban agriculture through FPCs in Ghent, Belgium and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The article shows that attention to politics of scale in FPCs can help identify dynamics of socio-political inclusion and exclusion and power struggles in the governance of urban agriculture.

M: Raja, S., & Chunyuan, D. (2016, September). Community-Led Urban Agriculture Policy Making: A View from the United States. *Urban Agriculture Magazine*, 31. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/315753794_Community-Led_Urban_Agriculture_Policy_Making_A_View_from_the_United_States

This article discusses how community-led interest in urban agriculture, driven in part by food policy council activism, laid the groundwork for city government policy reform in Buffalo, New York and Madison, Wisconsin.

B: Schiff, R., & Wilkinson, A. (2023). The Role of Food Policy Councils in Supporting Urban Agriculture. In P. Droege (Ed.), *Urban and Regional Agriculture* (pp. 41–54). Elsevier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/b978-0-12-820286-9.00012-1>

This resource provides a brief history and overview of how FPCs have influenced and transformed urban agriculture efforts in North America, Europe, and Australia. The authors conclude with practical recommendations for future actions and research areas of FPCs.

RESEARCH GAPS

CLF published the first State of the Research in 2017 that included 103 resources from 1988–2017. Of these, 19 resources were either in review or in progress with all but four having since been published. The field has grown and evolved significantly since then. This edition contains 217 resources with 104 new resources published since 2017 by scholars, students, and practitioners. Even with that growth, much about FPCs remains unknown and unaccounted for in peer-reviewed and gray literature.

Schiff, Levkoe, & Wilkinson (2022) provide a helpful summary of research needs based on a 20-year scoping review from 1999–2019. This section draws from the gaps and future research identified in their review and adds additional opportunities based on other articles included in the report.

Since most published research employs qualitative methodologies, more research about FPCs using quantitative and longitudinal methods is needed. These methods could help to reveal patterns across FPCs, the long-term effects of their work, or how FPC form and functions change during the maturation process.

In addition, more comparative studies are required to compare the experiences of multiple FPCs from different locations (i.e., regions, states, urban-rural areas, political contexts) and FPCs in different countries. The following is a list of themes and topics for consideration for future research on FPCs:

FPC Operations and Governance

- Circumstances and reasons for an FPC to dissolve or fail to form
- How FPCs engage with or address contentious or divisive issues, such as food chain labor rights or equitable pay, conventional or industrial agriculture, animal welfare, etc.
- How FPCs address contentious internal dynamics, such as divisive viewpoints, confrontational or combative members, disregard of organizational values, and other challenges
- Internal evaluation of FPC operations and comparative evaluations across FPCs
- How FPCs work across political boundaries and/or scales
- Influencing factors and processes for determining policy priorities
- How FPCs apply systems thinking to their work
- Funding sources and implications for the scope of FPC work
- How governance structures successfully support diverse membership or address systemic racism

Influence on Food Systems

- Development of common metrics for FPC structure and activities
- Impact of FPC activities on changing local, regional, state food systems
- Ability of FPCs to influence policy or the policymaking processes
- Relationship between FPCs and universities or colleges, and how FPCs utilize these available resources
- Comparison of the impact of FPC activities on indicators of health (e.g., accessibility of fresh produce), environmental (e.g., acres of farmland preserved), economic development (e.g., value-added sales), and/or social justice (e.g., paid sick leave for food chain workers)
- Influence of state or regional networks or the national movement of FPCs on local, state or national policy
- Employment of theories of change by FPCs

Democracy

- How FPCs utilize deliberative democratic processes
- How FPCs approach civic engagement and successful strategies for inclusive civic engagement
- Influence of FPCs on members' understanding of government and governance, and motivation to run for elected office
- Role of FPCs as a gateway to work in government, be appointed to a government position, or run for an elected office
- Relationship between FPCs and actions for democratic participation

Movement Building

- Connections between FPCs and international food systems initiatives (e.g., Milan Food Policy Pact, C40 Food Systems Network)
- Connections of FPCs with other social, economic or environmental justice movements
- Functioning of state and regional FPC networks and local FPC engagement
- Social network analysis of FPC membership and partnerships