



Meet the Food Policy Council!



Formed in 2010 by Douglas County, the Food Policy Council (FPC) is a body of local residents appointed by the Douglas County and City of Lawrence Commissioners. It brings together different voices and perspectives, such as farmers, chefs, educators, advocates, and health professionals.

The FPC advises elected officials on food-related policy issues and provides a community forum for local food system development. All meetings are open to the public and community engagement is encouraged.

As an advisory body, the FPC serves as the principle implementation body for the Food System Plan, a strategic guiding document adopted in 2017 to guide community efforts and local government decisions.



What kinds of work does the FPC do?



Lead community discussions about local policy changes to expand urban agriculture practices allowed in Lawrence, and open Culinary Commons, the Douglas County Fairgrounds incubator kitchen, to area food entrepreneurs.



Conduct economic studies and host discussions about local food markets and investment to spur business growth and development and create awareness about community wealth creation opportunities.



Support the creation of Common Ground, our local community garden program that makes land owned by the City of Lawrence available to residents for healthy food production and to connect with neighbors.



Help launch an incentive program for shoppers using federal food assistance to buy local, healthy food at area farmers markets — now Double Up Food Bucks, a unified program in Kansas and Missouri.

Food Policy Council Working Group Highlight!

The Food Policy Council's working groups serve as the starting point for many of the council's priorities. Meetings are open to the public, but time and location can vary so reach out if you'd like to attend. The working groups are organized around the five goals of the Douglas County Food System Plan.

Aggies

This working group of the Food Policy Council supports the growth and development of the food system sectors within the regional economy. Our work focuses on identifying issues, researching and implementing solutions to barriers faced by food, farm, and agricultural businesses.

• Our Goal Areas:

- Thriving Regional Food Economy
- Conservation, Preservation, & Resilience



Health Equity

We believe health equity is possible and that all communities deserve food access, rooted in stewardship of health and sustainable actions. To accomplish our vision, we catalyze, convene, and connect people across Douglas County. We strive to celebrate and advocate for racial, heritage, and cultural diversity in our food system.

• Our Goal Areas:

- Healthy Food Access
- Equitable Food System



Forward

We are working to build relationships to advance action and communications regarding food waste reduction. We are working with local businesses and food service operations to conduct food waste audits, educate about the liability protections of the Good Samaritan Laws, and promote food recovery for donation to food pantries.

• Our Goal Area:

- Food Waste Reduction and Elimination



FPC working groups welcome membership from the general public. Reach out if you're interested in connecting and helping advance these policy efforts!

To learn more, contact:

dcfpc@douglascountyks.org or 785-832-5157

Follow progress at douglascountyks.org/fpc

