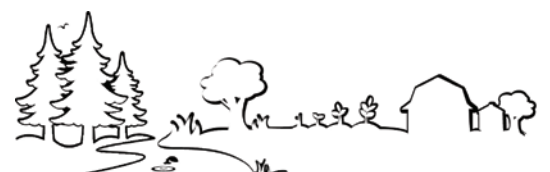


Working with Local Government on Food Policy

A toolkit for civil society



18 June 2018



BC Food Systems Network

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“The purposes of a municipality include

- a. providing for good government of its community,
- b. providing for services, laws and other matters for community benefit,
- c. providing for stewardship of the public assets of its community, and
- d. fostering the economic, social and environmental well-being of its community.”¹

“Civil society’s proximity to the issues (schools, communities, farmers and so on) grants them particular access to knowledge that can be useful to policy makers. They can often identify policy voids more quickly, and propose tangible strategies to fill them.”² (pp274-275)

Together, civil society and local government can have a powerful influence over food systems.

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(Where no source is identified, the figure was created by the author.)

About This Toolkit

This toolkit is a guide for those who wish to work with local government on food policy. It describes how to navigate the complexities of food policy and local government, focusing on how best to do this work - exploring what to do rather than why. The intent is to enhance the effectiveness of civil society engaged in food systems change.

Food policy is embedded at all levels of government and is as complex as the food system. The scope of food policy within the authority of local government is narrower than that of the provincial or federal government. Nevertheless, local government frequently offers greater opportunities for citizens to be engaged, build relationships and influence policy. And it is in communities where the possibilities for good public policy and the repercussions of poor public policy are most tangible.

The link between food systems and the health of an individual and of communities is more and more widely recognized. Non-government organizations and individuals - civil society - across BC are engaged in efforts to ensure access to healthier food for all, to improve the options, conditions and livelihoods of those who produce food and to ensure that the quality of the air, water and soil is supported through the production of good food. In all these areas, policy has an important role.

By fostering an understanding of the aspects of food policy that fall within the purview of local government, as well as the fixed legal and budgetary scope of municipalities and regional districts, civil society can enhance their effectiveness in engaging in food systems change. The toolkit seeks to explain with whom and when to connect, what information is necessary to support advocacy and how to engage likely and unlikely allies.

When civil society creates and maintains an effective, collaborative and constructive relationship with local government, local government better understands the skills, creativity and tenacity that are characteristic of community-based organizations working on food systems.³

How might this resource be used?

Each section of the toolkit contains information and suggested actions which can be read and used on its own or as part of the whole toolkit.

The information can be read and used by an individual or can be a resource for training others in civil society (community groups, formal organizations devoted to anti-poverty, immigrant services, etc.). It can also be shared with those within local government to help them understand where food intersects with their mandate.

A list of additional reading is included at the end of each section. These lists are annotated with additional key resources in Appendix A.

“Food is a determinant of health and the food that is available to people will determine their nutritional choices. This simple statement, in fact, is related to a complex food system that includes production, processing, distribution, availability, affordability, and consumption of food. All of these interrelated components can work to either support or interfere with available and affordable healthy food choices at the community level. Any barrier, break, or weakness along the food system can undermine the ability of a population to access safe, nutritious food, which can then undermine the health and wellness of the population.”⁴

Glossary

bylaw

A bylaw is a regulation adopted by city council or regional district board. Through bylaws, local government regulates land use, business licensing, signage, parks and water, among other activities of local government.

civil society

Civil society is generally understood to encompass non-state (non-governmental) actors, organizations and individuals. In the context of food systems, civil society “describes the mix of community-based and environmental groups, farming [and fishing] organizations, and commodity trade associations that might constitute a policy network.”⁵ (p4)

Community Charter

The *Community Charter* is an Act of the Government of British Columbia that provides municipalities with a legal framework for their powers, duties and functions, the authority and discretion to address current and future community needs and flexibility to address the needs in their communities.⁶

food system

A food system is “an integrated view of the production, processing, distribution, consumption and waste management of food.”⁷

household food insecurity

Household food insecurity is “the inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints.”⁸

jurisdiction

The extent (geographical) and scope of authority of an order of government.

Local Government Act

The *Local Government Act* of the Province of British Columbia fulfills a similar purpose as the *Community Charter* but applies to all local government in the province, namely municipalities and regional districts.

municipality

Municipality refers to an incorporated area and its residents. Under the *Community Charter*, the purposes of a municipality include providing for services, laws and other matters for community benefit, stewardship of the public assets and fostering the economic, social and environmental well-being of the community.⁹

official community plan

An official community plan sets “principles and policies that guide growth across an entire municipality or district”¹⁰ (p57), specifically related to planning and land use management. An official community plan is adopted as a bylaw by local government.

regional district

Regional districts are unique to British Columbia, dating back to the 1960s. They “have three basic roles. First, regional districts provide regional governance and services for the region as a whole... Second, regional districts provide a political and administrative framework for inter-municipal or sub-regional service partnerships...Third, regional districts are, in the absence of municipalities, the ‘local’ government for rural areas.”¹¹ (p5)

regional growth strategy

A regional growth strategy is created to “promote human settlement that is socially, economically and environmentally healthy and that makes efficient use of public facilities and services, land and other resources.”¹² (c 1, Part 13, Division 2, Section 428, subsection 1)

I. Introduction

Food systems are complex, with each household and community sourcing their food from multiple sources and supply chains, ranging from from backyards, forests or waterways, to corner stores, chain grocers and multi-national distributors. Likewise, the oversight of food systems by government agencies is equally complex and interconnected.

Despite the weight and scope of policy at federal and provincial levels that dominate the policy landscape, local government is implicated in food systems. However, how and why food intersects with local government can be as opaque to those within government as it is to civil society. This toolkit can help to identify areas where food systems might fit withing local governments. For example, local government can influence access to healthy food through zoning by-laws and transportation policy; it can support local agriculture through space for farmers markets and by-laws that protect agricultural land; and it can implement actions to support community-based food programming.

Local government has a responsibility to foster “the current and future economic, social and environmental well-being of its community.”¹³ (c 1, Part 5, Section 185) This is where the opportunity to identify shared concerns and goals arises for civil society. Civil society brings a whole of community - and of food systems - perspective to the work. By attending to the many aspects of food systems, be it access or vibrant, local food economies, civil society helps local governments to meet their responsibilities to support the well-being of their citizens.

Policy is...

a statement by an authoritative body of an intent to act in order to maintain or alter a condition in society.¹⁴ For local governments, these statements are found in official community plans, in zoning bylaws and the other planning and strategy documents that captures their intent.

Policy is not...

an end in itself, but a means to an end. Implementation is the next step.

2. Policy Landscape – The Role of Government in Food Policy

Food policy can fall within federal, provincial, regional and/or municipal governments, and as a result, there is often jurisdictional overlap. When it comes to food policy, jurisdictional overlaps between the different levels of government are further complicated by the fact that the associated policy covers realms as diverse as access, diet and health, land and fisheries management, economic development and public health to name just a few aspects of food systems. As such, “food policy” itself is a misnomer - there is very little policy that is explicitly “food”, per se.

Jurisdictional Labyrinths

The Canadian Constitution explicitly states that agriculture is a responsibility shared by both the federal and provincial governments. This is manifested in policy and program frameworks, jointly developed between federal and provincial governments.

Food safety is also a shared responsibility. “At least two, and sometimes three, orders of government are involved in the enforcement of food safety standards, recommendations and guidelines...The government of Canada is responsible for enforcing these safety standards with regard to domestic products sold inter-provincially and internationally, as well as for imported foods...Together with municipal governments, provincial and territorial governments regulate the activities of food processing, food service, and food retail industries that operate within their borders. Provinces and/or municipalities decide whether and how to inspect local processing and retail operations, including restaurants and grocery stores, to ensure that they are in conformity with food safety measures.”

—*Rules, Rules, Rules, Rules: Multilevel Regulatory Governance*
Edited by G Bruce Doern and Robert Johnson¹⁵ (pp160-161)

Within all levels of government (federal, provincial/territorial and local), knowledge of food systems will vary among both civil servants and elected officials, with some individuals very informed and some new to the concept. Civil society has a key role to play as a leader and knowledge translator in this complex realm. Diagram A below captures a sampling of the range of legislation and policy that governs food systems at all three levels of government in Canada. Any one food enterprise, whether it's fishing, farming or food processing, is commonly subject to the acts and regulations of several layers of government, multiple ministries or departments and additional policy.

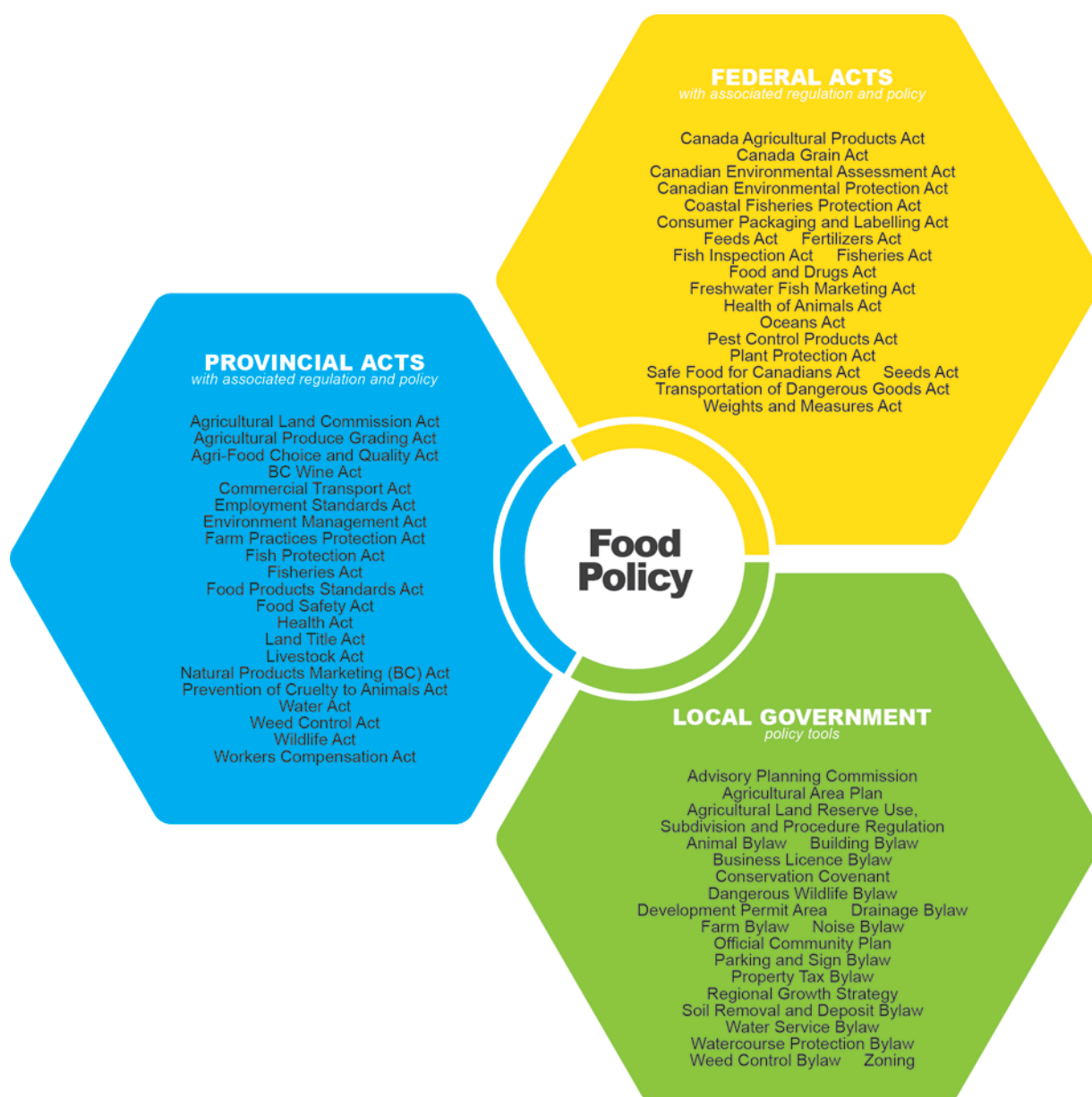


Figure 1: Multi-level regulatory governance of food. Source: A Brynne, 2017.

“Food policy development is a complex issue for policy makers, because:

- it is about the intersections between a number of policy systems that are historically divided intellectually, constitutionally, and departmentally;
- governments have no obvious institutional place from which to work, and the instruments of multi-departmental policy making are in their infancy; there is no department of food;
- supporting new approaches means extensively confronting many existing and entrenched policy frameworks and traditions;
- it means having to address the externalized costs of conventional food, health, economic and social systems, and these externalized costs are only partially understood and quantified;
- it means understanding food as more than a marketable commodity, which creates problems for certain departments;
- it challenges many of the central tenets of current agricultural and economic development and a health care system that concentrates on cures rather than prevention.

Consequently, there are numerous obstacles to be overcome to change food policy.”¹⁶

Key points

- Local government advocates at the provincial level directly and also collectively through the Union of BC Municipalities. “A local government can include statements in an OCP [official community plan] on matters over which it does not have jurisdiction. Such statements are referred to as ‘advocacy policies’. Advocacy policies may only state the local government’s broad objective for areas within provincial jurisdiction.”¹⁷
- At the federal level, local government advocates through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Within the jurisdiction of local government are many areas that impact food systems. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ Your Guide to Municipal Institutions in Canada, conveys the sectoral responsibilities of municipal governments in British Columbia. Some areas are solely the responsibility of local government while others are shared with other levels of government (see figure 2).

- The Local Government Responsibilities diagram below demonstrates where local government responsibilities intersect with food systems. For the purposes of this table, food systems as a concept has been broken down into three broad categories of activities: access, literacy and economies. Some sectoral responsibilities can impact one, two or all three.

Food Access: matters relating to individual and community access to food in the immediate and long term.

Food Economies: the activities that enable the growing, fishing, raising, exchange (monetarily or otherwise) and consumption of food.

Food Literacy: promotion of a deeper understanding of food quality, provenance, uses and role in promoting health of the individual, environment and community.

Where Food Systems and Local Government Coalesce

Sectoral Responsibilities of Municipal Government in British Columbia

			Responsibility	Access	Economics	Literacy
Social Development	Health	Hospital / Health Care	PT			
		Hospital Capital	PM			
		Public Health	PM			
	Social Services	Social Assistance	PT			
		Social Housing Assistance	PM			
		Immigrant Settlement	PT			
	Housing	Regulations	M			
		Public Consultation & Equity	PM			
		Managing Local Elections	M			
	Public Safety	Police	PM			
		Fire Protection	M			
		Ambulance Services	PT			
		Emergency Response	PM			
Environmental Sustainability	Transportation	Highways, Primary Road Systems	PT			
		Urban Streets	M			
		Rural Roads	PT			
		Public Transit	PM			
		Road Lighting Systems	PM			
		Airports	FM			
		Harbours	FM			
	Environment	Air Quality	PT			
		Drinking Water Quality Standards	PT			
		Water Supplies	M			
		Sewers & Storm Drains	M			
		Wastewater Treatment	M			
		Garbage Removal & Disposal	M			
	Land Use Planning & Development	Planning & Zoning By-laws	M			
		Preservation of Agricultural Land	PT			
Economic Well-being	Finances & Taxation	Property Assessment	PT			
		Preparation, Approval & Auditing of Budgets	M			
		Borrowing Approval	PM			
	Local Economic Development	Economic Development	All			
		Community Income Generation	NA			
		Poverty Reduction Programs	FP			

M Municipal
 PM Provincial/Municipal
 FM Federal/Municipal
 FP Federal/Provincial
 PT Provincial/Territorial
 All All Jurisdictions
 NA Not Applicable or Available

Figure 2: Local government and food systems. Adapted from the *Guide to Municipal Institutions in Canada*, FCM.¹⁸

Getting involved

- Understand the locus and levels of decision making to make sure you are engaging the right level of government in order to effectively influence matters under their control.
- Local governments can't do it all: know what is reasonable to expect of them and then help them where they do have power and influence.
- Be solutions-focused and innovative by understanding and promoting the steps along the transition to the policy changes you seek, rather than only pointing out the problems with the current regimes.
- Participate in events organized by local government where the public is welcome or encouraged. This includes attending council (municipalities) or board (regional districts) meetings as an observer, attending open houses and submitting comments when they are solicited from the public.
- Be familiar with local government tools that are most relevant to food systems work such as official community plans, regional growth strategies, parks or recreation plans, transportation plans, waste management plans, watershed management plans and annual budget reviews. Read them, understand them, know where food can be inserted and participate when the plans are being created or revised.

More Information:

Health and Sustainability in the Canadian Food System: Advocacy and Opportunity for Civil Society. Rod MacRae & Elisabeth Abergel, Eds. University of BC Press, 2012.

Your Guide to Municipal Institutions in Canada. Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 2006.

Internationalization and Canadian Agriculture: Policy and Governing Paradigms. Grace Skogstad, University of Toronto Press, 2008.

3. Advocacy 101

Effective advocacy is the result of having a clear message and a solid case backed with evidence. It is important to know who (i.e. an individual and/or department) has a mandate that aligns with your goals and will be motivated to collaborate.

Many civil society organizations working on food understand and function within the complexities of food systems. However, it is often necessary to break down broader food systems goals so that they match the frequently narrower mandates or interests of the individual or department within local government that you are working with.

Key points

- Civil societies working on food systems are motivated by a genuine interest in the public's health and well-being. This is a strength and sets food systems organizations apart from many other groups that interact with government.
- Many municipal governments do not see food (which they commonly understand to be commercial agriculture) as their jurisdiction.
- “Food systems” are poorly understood and so must be clearly conveyed, including what they are, how they function and where local government has a role. Accurate and clear information that is effectively and regularly communicated is key.
- Civil society can be an important partner in helping local government achieve their goals.
- Policy change can take a long time, and the implementation and impact of those policy changes can take even longer.
- Policy change is only the first step for change. If there is no champion within local government to see it implemented, civil society may need to monitor and advocate for implementation.

Getting involved

- Understand the mandate and power of the individual or department you are meeting with and be sure that it is the correct level of government for the policy ask - in this context, local government. Otherwise, the risk is high that your local government will have no ability to actually address your request.
- Establish and maintain credibility as a policy actor and partner in order to have influence.
- Understand when to work with civil servants and when to work with elected officials (politicians): work with whomever is interested and available. Understand that civil servants tend to outlast elected officials but it is the elected officials that determine work priorities and scope. Build relationships with and support champions amongst both civil servants and elected officials.
- Know with whom you are meeting and why. Don't waste their time or yours.
- Do your homework! Attend committee and/or council meetings as an observer and review meeting minutes (available online) in order to become familiar with local issues (current, recent and historic).
- Be opportunistic and strategic. Use one or more of the many avenues to food system policy that works (this year, this time). Areas of concern that intersect with food systems policy and that are of interest to local government include: seniors, the environment, water, waste, economic development, public spaces/parks/landscaping, land use/planning, institutional procurement, culture and the arts.

More Information:

Civil society roles in transition: towards sustainable food. Rachael Durrant, Uniservity of Sussex, 2014.

Pathways for Change: 10 Theories to Inform Advocacy and Policy Change efforts. Sarah Stachowiak, Center for Evaluation Innovation, 2013.

Healthy Built Environment Linkages: A Toolkit for Design, Planning, Health. Erik Lees et al., Provincial Health Services Authority, 2014.

4. Accessing and Using Local Data and Evidence

Local government is accountable to and responsible for the well-being of their citizens and communities as a whole. Local statistics and stories that justify policy proposals will help convince local governments that, by passing and implementing the proposed policy, they are meeting their obligations to the public.

Local data and evidence is available from various sources but depending on location the data may be specific to the community in question or may be for a larger region. Health authorities, provincial government and the federal government all collect and monitor population and community data.

Data may be publicly available at the municipal or regional level but not the sub-community or neighbourhood level. A fee may be required to be able to drill down the data to the geographic level of most interest to you. Partnerships with academic institutions or others who regularly work with such data can help with accessing and analyzing the raw data.

Key points

- Understanding data and/or accessing and using reliable information can be challenging. Collaborating with planning or health professionals and partnering with local colleges or universities can help to overcome barriers and provide some learning opportunities.
- Strong and relevant evidence will strengthen your work and policy asks. For example, stating a charitable food program or community garden will improve household food insecurity is inaccurate. Research shows that improving income is the way to address household food insecurity.¹⁹
- Confidentiality issues can affect access to the data. If the data cannot be shared in its raw form, the government agency may be able to provide some highlights or analyses. They may be able to serve an intermediary role between you and the group you are wishing to connect with, or they may be able to provide access to the data after you have signed an agreement for a specific use.

Useful local data and evidence to consider

- Population and/or demographics
- Household income
- Level of food insecurity
- Employment
- Health status
- Homelessness, hunger and/or poverty
- Number and type of farms, fisheries

Sample data sources

- Statistics Canada (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/start>)
- Census Program of Statistics Canada (<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/index-eng.cfm>)
- Population Data BC (<https://www.popdata.bc.ca/>)
- Provincial Health Services Authority's Community Health Data (<http://www.phsa.ca/our-services/programs-services/population-public-health/community-health-data>)
- Canadian Community Health Survey (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/food-nutrition/food-nutrition-surveillance/health-nutrition-surveys/canadian-community-health-survey-cchs.html>)
- Local government (they will have data on their population, business licenses etc)
- Canadian Agricultural census (<https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/ca2016>)
- Canadian fisheries statistics (<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/stats/stats-eng.htm>)

More Information:

Model Core Program Paper: Food Security. Population and Public Health, Ministry of Health, 2014.

Agriculture's Connection to Health: A summary of the evidence relevant to British Columbia. Lisa J Powell et al, Provincial Health Services Authority, 2016.

Food Costing in BC 2015. Melanie Kurrein et al, Provincial Health Services Authority, 2016.

Priority Health Equity Indicators for BC: Household Food Insecurity Report. Na Li et al, Provincial Health Services Authority, 2016.

5. Understanding Local Government and Planning Processes

An important first step in working with local governments is understanding the tools and levers, powers and functions of local government and then seeking to insert food security analysis and food systems thinking into them.

The *Local Government Act* delegates responsibilities from the province to local government including: land use planning, zoning and control of development. The tools available to local government to fulfill these responsibilities are regional growth strategies, official community plans, zoning bylaws, development permits and temporary use permits.²⁰

Land use planning and oversight is a significant power and duty of local government. “The traditional purpose of land use planning is to ensure orderly development, including the separation of incompatible land uses. In BC, local governments use regional growth strategies (RGSs) and official community plans (OCPs) to guide decisions about planning and land development.”²¹ (p18)

Local government can be either:

- municipal: governed by the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter* or;

- regional district: governed by the *Local Government Act*

see: www.bclaws.ca

“Cities don’t have the full toolkit to remake an entire food system. They need partnerships with residents, neighbours, businesses and other orders of government to make this new vision a reality. However, cities have more influence over how food systems work than many suppose, and could have even more influence if they started to identify, name and intentionally leverage what they can do in support of a healthy, sustainable food system.”²² (p16)

Key points

- The powers and functions of local government are elaborated in the *Local Government Act* (regional districts and municipalities) and the *Community Charter* (municipalities). They include contract powers; service powers; regulatory powers; business regulation and licensing; building regulations; zoning; development and growth management; and taxation and fees.
- Local government regularly creates or updates various plans and processes which are normally the result of public consultation.
- Among the community plans and strategies commonly undertaken by local government are annual budget development, official community plans, agriculture, sustainability, health, economic development, transportation and waste management plans and food strategies.
- Many cities, towns, districts and villages in BC have completed official community plans. These are often aligned with a broader regional growth strategy, led by a regional district and developed in collaboration with the municipalities within their boundaries.
- An official community plan is a statement of objectives and policies to guide decisions on planning and land use management within the area covered by the plan. The official community plan adheres to the purposes of local government as outlined in the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter*.
- Official community plans are guidance documents and are not legally enforceable. They are generally updated every 5 - 10 years.
- The high level statements in official community plans are given nuance and detail for how to achieve them at the level of the zoning bylaw which are legally enforceable. For example, if an official community plan references a maximum size for a farmhouse on agricultural land but there is no corresponding language in a zoning bylaw, the local government is not obligated to enforce the size constraint.
- The urban food production model language below demonstrates the high level statements found in an official community plan and the enforceable implementation elaborated in the zoning bylaw.

Model Language, City of Victoria

Official Community Plan²³

Food Production on Private Land

17.10 Support food production on private land where it is safe, suitable and compatible with the Urban Place Guidelines in this plan...

17.13 Support the keeping of small livestock in the city by:

- 17.13.1 Maintaining regulatory support for the keeping of poultry and honeybees; and,
- 17.13.2 Reviewing regulations to consider the keeping of other small livestock for food production, appropriate to an urban environment, in collaboration with senior levels of government and the health authority.

These high level statements in the official community plan are then implemented in the zoning bylaw, where the specifics of how, when, where and scale are detailed:

Zoning Regulation Bylaw²⁴

Schedule L - Small Scale Commercial Urban Food Production

1. Products

- a. Subject to subsection (b), only the following items may be cultivated, harvested, kept, sorted, cleaned and packaged as part of small-scale commercial urban food production: i. fruits ii. vegetables iii. flowers...

2. Sale on Lot

Sale of products of small-scale commercial urban food production is permitted on a lot on which small-scale commercial urban food production occurs, regardless of whether retail use is permitted, provided it occurs:

- a. within a foodstand located in the front yard; or
- b. as a component of the following uses, where permitted:
 - i. retail ii. restaurant iii. free standing food sales outlet...

- While official community plans and zoning bylaws restrict what can be undertaken on a property, they also provide protection against objectionable activities. The purpose of zoning bylaws is to promote compatible land uses in neighbourhoods.
- Public planning consultations are sanctioned events where feedback is sought and integrated into the process that creates the final document. Citizen turnout at public planning consultations is notoriously low.
- Public consultations are important opportunities to build relationships with local government and to provide feedback on how the plans can better advance positive public policy related to food systems.

Getting involved

- Engage with, and support staff from different departments as well as elected officials. Effective food systems solutions most likely include multiple departments. The planning department may be the most obvious place to start but don't stop there.
- Help create the conditions for joint problem solving and success - this can be as simple as hosting a meeting that includes staff from multiple departments and any interested and supportive elected officials. Departments in local government often work in silos that may rarely connect.
- Always seek to strengthen relationships while doing the work to achieve a certain goal - the process of getting there may be as important as the end goal.
- Know how to create materials and use the necessary language in order to move a policy solution forward. Sometimes barriers are simply a matter of semantics and can be removed by changing the language while not losing the intent.
- Build a schedule of upcoming plan or strategy developments and updates and prepare to fully participate in the consultation opportunities.
- Host public events to solicit community input into plans to better serve food systems. Official community plans, zoning bylaws, agriculture plans, regional growth strategies and other planning initiatives provide ample opportunity to demonstrate the connection between community life and food systems.

- Research proven models of other jurisdictions and adapt language to be ready to demonstrate how to integrate food systems into planning documents. It is difficult to create language and policy when there is no local precedent.

More Information:

Introduction to Land-Use Planning for Health Professionals. Erik Lees et al, Provincial Health Services Authority, 2008.

A Seat at the Table: Resource guide for local governments to promote food secure communities. Jan Ens et al, Provincial Health Services Authority, 2008.

Your Guide to Municipal Institution. Louise Quesnel and Sébastien Hamel, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 2007.

Local Government Fact Sheets: A Reference Guide to Local Government Planning and Operations. Union of BC Municipalities, 2015.

6. Policy Examples

Local government is the least resourced but can be the most accessible level of government. Despite the limited resources and the fact that most formal policy related to food systems resides at higher levels of government, there is much that can be done by and with local government. The diagram at the end of this section contains some examples of policy and programs that local government can undertake to positively influence food systems.

Key points

- Kaslo, Kamloops, Vancouver and Williams Lake, among others, have pioneered why and how to integrate food systems work into their policy and programs. They have a wealth of time-tested working models that demonstrate the intersection of local government and food systems.
- Municipal governments set the mil rates that determine taxation of different classes of property and activities. They can set rates that privilege food security, fisheries and agriculture activities.
- The high cost of local food, seasonal availability, quantity and quality are commonly identified as barriers to local procurement commitments by local government and other public institutions. The cost differential diminishes and can disappear when the associated benefits and public values are factored in. The United Kingdom's 2012 Social Values Act and subsequent report demonstrates how local governments can embed social values into their procurement.²⁵
- Land-based products dominate food systems work; however, fish/shellfish are also an important part of the food system. Zoning bylaws in coastal communities can enhance or hinder the local fishing industry and economy.
- National and international trade agreements can adversely impact policy that supports domestic food systems. Civil society may be able to help navigate this challenge by looking at precedence at the provincial level and in other municipalities and ensuring current and accurate information is used when developing supportive strategies.

Kwantlen Polytechnic University's BC Food System Policy Database was launched in 2017 and contains a wealth of searchable policies, official community plans and zoning bylaws from communities across BC. Snoop through it to find inspiration and language that can be adapted and applied in your own community.

- Kaslo adopted a food charter in 2008.
- Kamloops is home to one of Canada's oldest Food Policy Councils that also operates as a charity.
- Vancouver established its Food Policy Council as a civic agency of the municipal government in 2004.
- Williams Lake struck a Food Policy Council in 2006 as a subcommittee of the Social Planning Council.

Getting involved

- Offer suggested language, working models and peers with relevant experience. Local government may have limited ability to research and implement pro-active policies related to food even when there is the political will.
- Link policy and program changes to, for example, indicators related to income levels, green space use, or economic activity to provide an evidence base to justify your proposal.

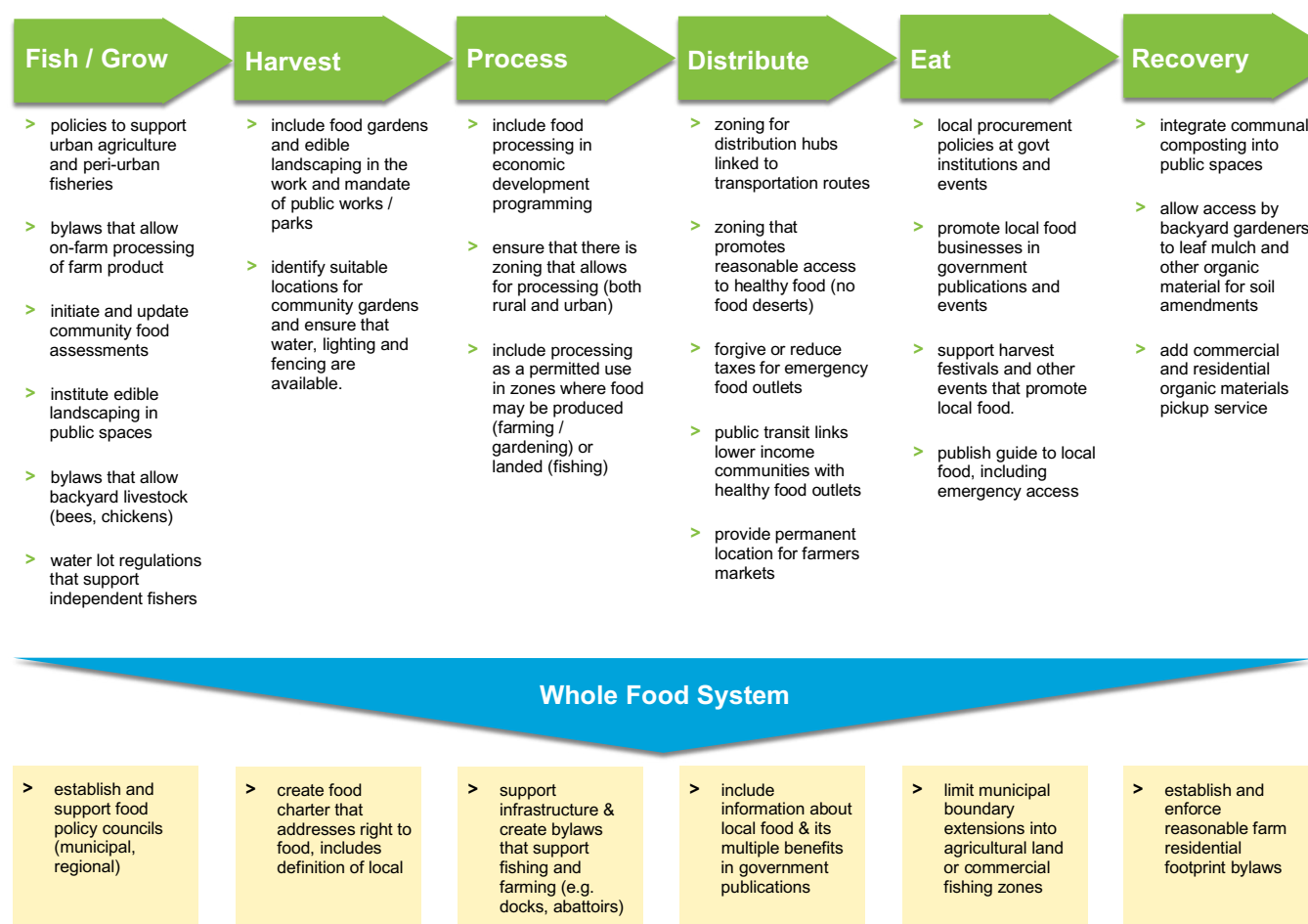


Figure 3: Examples of local government roles. Source: A Brynne, 2017.

More Information:

Official Community Plans and Zoning Bylaws of local governments in BC (coastal communities include fisheries related bylaws). They are found on the respective local government website.

Local Food Policy Audit Template. University of Wisconsin, 2015.

Procuring for Good: How the Social Value Act is being used by local authorities, Social Enterprise UK, 2013.

BC Food System Policy Database. Kwantlen Polytechnic University, 2017.

7. Collaborating with Local Government

Relationships and knowledge are foundational for advancing food systems policy with local government. Requests of local government have a greater chance of succeeding when they are based on existing relationships and a solid understanding of the issues. In small communities, a lot can be accomplished through informal collaborations that draw on what are often long-standing relationships.

Local governments in both small and large communities use a range of committees, commissions and other advisory bodies, each guided by a terms of reference or other scoping and procedural document. These provide an opportunity to bring a food systems lens to the work of the group and to contribute to other community initiatives.

Key points

- Depending on the nature of the relationship with local government, shared initiatives can fall along a spectrum of formality and integration between the civil society group and local government.
- Civil servants and elected officials can be formally appointed by their Council (municipality) or Board (Regional District) to participate on committees or initiatives led by civil society, often upon request accompanied by a solid rationale from the group in question. A champion within local government can also bring forward a proposal to have someone from local government be appointed.
- Civil servants and elected officials can also choose to participate without formal Council or Board appointment if they feel that it aligns well with their own areas of responsibility or concern. A civil servant may need to secure permission from a supervisor.
- Over-extended civil servants and elected officials may find being a “liaison” to a civil society group or initiative less daunting than being a full member. A liaison implies and ideally entails reciprocal communications but fewer responsibilities.
- Elected officials are frequently and publicly criticized for their decisions. They are under a constant microscope, particularly during the twelve to eighteen months prior to an election campaign and on matters related to funding and grants.

- When seeking a formal connection with local government, be mindful of the election cycle as a pending election may result in a hesitancy to engage in any initiatives that could be perceived to be controversial. Conversely, election time could be the ideal opportunity to raise the public profile of your cause and organization.
- BC registered societies are understood to be furthering the public interest. When an elected official is appointed by local government to sit on a society board, the *Conflict of Interest Exceptions Regulation* applies, allowing them to make financial decisions related to that society.
- Elected officials (politicians) determine the scope and direction of work undertaken by civil servants, but it is frequently the civil servants who determine how it will be implemented in community.

Getting involved

- Learn about your council (municipal) or board (regional district) and make yourself known to elected officials. Prepare prior to meetings so that you can demonstrate where their particular interests or expertise ties into food systems.
- Make the investment (time and resources) for shared initiatives as low as possible, at least until they are proven and have momentum and broad support. Both elected officials and civil servants are often very busy and so may be leery of taking on additional commitments.
- Make sure to acknowledge, ideally publicly, when local government gets it right. Highlight good policy that is supportive of food systems and make sure that those who are directly affected by that policy are aware of it.
- Consider undertaking a food assessment or creating a food charter - these can be good first steps in collaborating on food systems with both the public and local government. Each of these offers an opportunity to deepen understanding of food systems while neither obligates government to act and are therefore a lower risk for them to support or endorse. However, when they are the outcome of - ideally broad - public engagement, they can be useful levers and reference materials to advance food systems work with local government.
- When collaborating with local government on community consultations, choose sections of, for instance, an official community plan rather than the entire document so that it is not overwhelming.

- Seek to engage community groups or audiences that have the potential to be most impacted by that particular section or issue. Public plans can be approached from a particular issue or need, such as the preservation of farmland or support for local fishers.
- Commissions, councils or committees are established by local government to address specific needs in the community. Research what bodies exist within your local government and get involved on those that are relevant to food systems. They can provide important information, establish useful relationships, and help you to become known by local government, both civil servants and elected officials.

More Information:

Introduction to Land Use Planning for Health Professionals. Erik Lees et al, Provincial Health Services Authority, 2008.

Backgrounder on the origin and intent of the Conflict of Interest Regulation, Government of British Columbia, 2016.

Municipal Revenue Sources Review. Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, 2012.

8. Broadening the Community of Allies

Food offers unlimited opportunities for bridging divides and demonstrating connections between people, needs and issues. Establishing allies and finding common cause is a powerful way to approach and influence government. Consider working collaboratively with both likely and unlikely allies (e.g. food industry). Unlikely allies can be very useful both for understanding different perspectives and also in assuring local government that there is unity on the issue before them. To help convince government it's important, demonstrate that the issue is widely supported in the community (of voters). Many needs and issues converge on food so it can be easy to find collaborators.

Key points

- Align your work strategically, based on current events, issues and influential individuals and groups.
- Remember that those involved in local government likely do not enjoy controversy. Look for ways to enable them to support your work that will not result in a loss of social and political capital with their constituents, neighbours and community.
- Seniors, the environment, waste management (a big concern for local governments), planning, economic development, youth and infrastructure are all implicated in food systems and have allies within and external to government.
- Learn from successful coalition-led campaigns and policy work in other sectors such as, the environment, water, climate change and forestry.
- Sometimes the most effective way of advancing your cause may be by bringing it to another network or organization to lead.
- The private sector (i.e. food businesses) can be critical allies in advancing food policy work, since they are the ones who are literally invested in the food system and are impacted every day by the policy regimes within which they must operate. They frequently have the most at risk when it comes to policy changes and the potential impact on how they run their businesses.

- Public health dietitians have long been important allies in this work, bringing professional credibility and providing access to evidence and resources (e.g. meeting rooms, teleconference lines, funding). They also provide continuity when so many civil society organizations see a high turnover of staff based on the stop and start reality of project-based funding that most contend with.
- Effective coalitions are based on mapping out and understanding the relationships, networks, reach and political influence of each player or group so as to best leverage them and not waste precious resources and social or political capital.
- Values underpin the work of most community-based organizations. The food system diagram below adapted from “bicycle gear model” from the University of Wisconsin-Extension’s Community Food Systems Toolkit shows how different values drive interventions at various stages of the food supply chain. The diagram also conveys possible values upon which collaborations with other groups can be built.

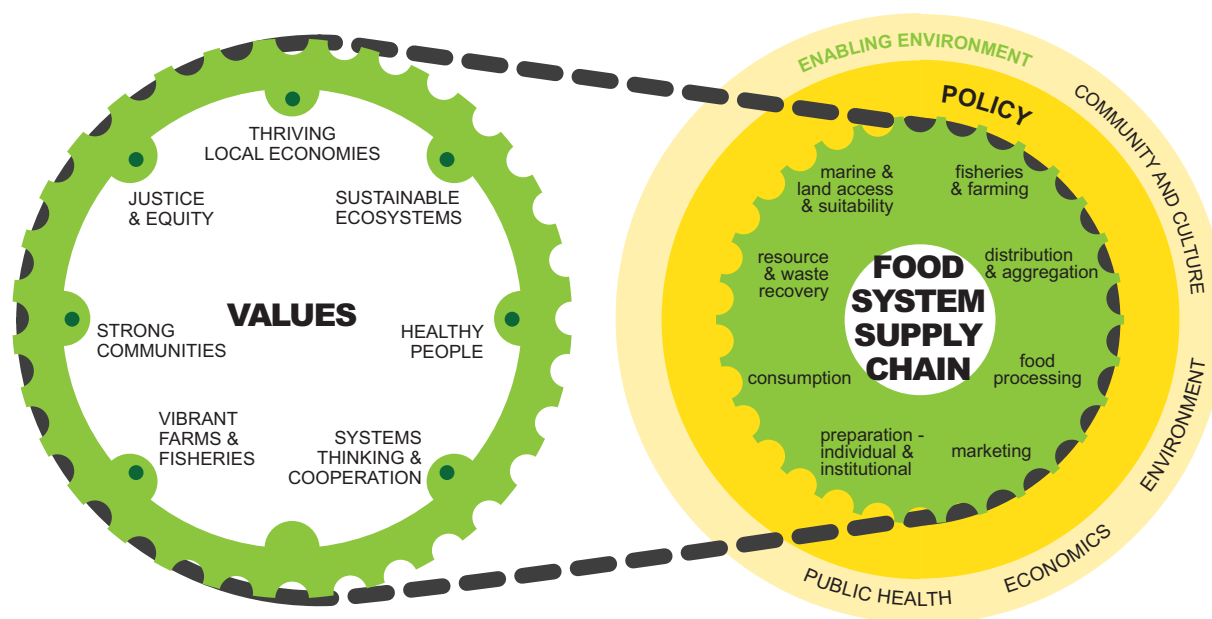


Figure 4: Bicycle gear food systems model.²⁶ (Figure 3)

Getting involved

- Engage the private sector/food businesses to help to bring credibility to the policy asks. They can also contribute stories of lived experience with the impacts of good and bad policy to better illustrate why and what needs to be changed.
- Give voice and power to those who are most negatively impacted by society and food systems to better ensure that their needs are understood and addressed as best as possible.
- Build common cause, shared goals and joint agendas with likely and unlikely allies, as well as with local government, founded on strong relationships of mutual respect and understanding.

More Information:

Community Toolbox's Guide to Coalition Building

Organizing Stakeholders, Building Movement, Setting the Agenda,
by Xavier de Souza Briggs

Dismantling Racism in the Food System, by Breeze Harper & Eric
Holt-Giménez

9. Civil Society Roles and Actions

There are many ways to engage with local governments from participating in consultations to meeting with staff or elected officials to starting a food policy council. Civil society, being connected to a wide variety of food systems stakeholders, is well-positioned to bring together a range of perspectives and expertise to local government.

“It is when you look at a food system at any scale - national, provincial, regional or local - that you see how the actors and related government departments and policies intersect and overlap. The connecting work has to be done from outside government.”^{27 (p2)}

“Innovative thinking related to food system change is unlikely to be demonstrated by the Canadian state and [...Civil society organizations] will have to push, prod, poke, and contribute in order to effect government action.”^{28 (p273)}

Different engagement strategies are appropriate at different times based on the level of community and political awareness and support. Sometimes the focus will be on one strategy while at other times, it will be necessary to focus on several strategies at the same time, targeting different audiences and outcomes that will advance your cause. For example, engaging policy makers has a higher degree of success if you have also brought along the general public through educational activities that result in internal and external champions.

The diagram below, adapted from Julia Coffman and Tanya Beer’s *The Advocacy Strategy Framework*, graphically conveys a host of strategies and where they land on a scale of impact and influence.

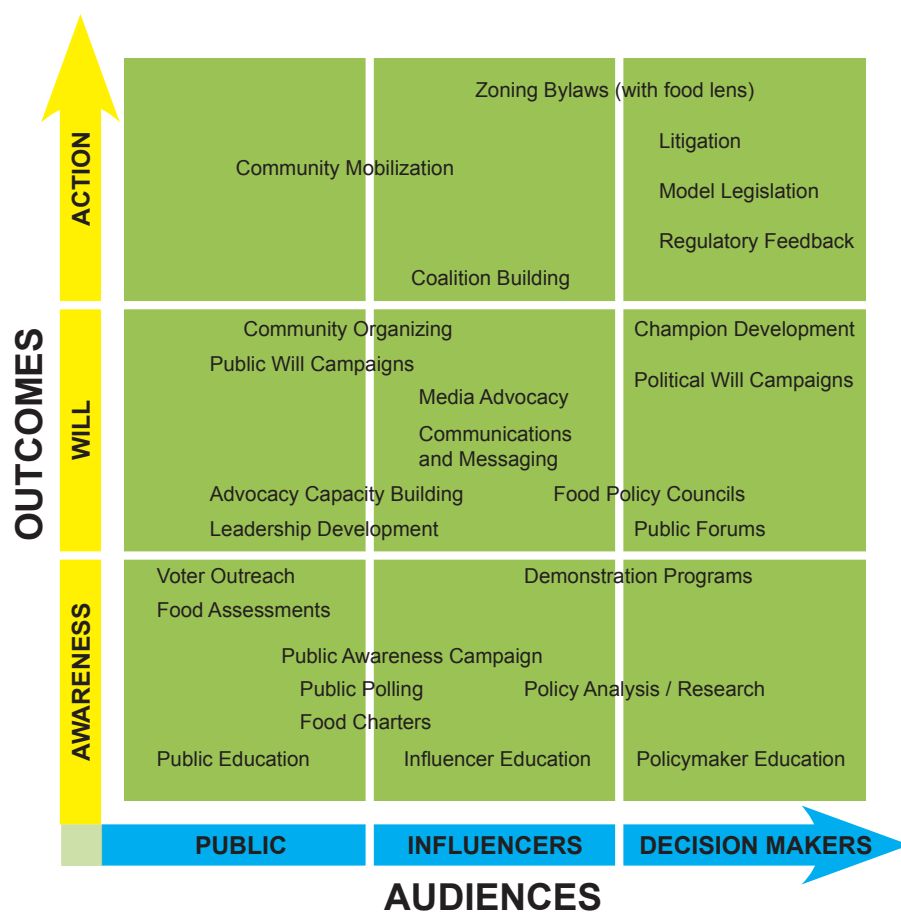


Figure 5: Visual framework of public policy strategies.^{29 (p2)}

Key points

- Government can and does take direction from the public, which includes food security organizations - as long as you can demonstrate that there is sufficient, and ideally widespread, support.
- Establishing documents (charters, food assessments), groups (food policy councils, working groups, task forces) and initiatives that have a formal link to local government helps to ensure that food remains on their policy and program agendas.

- Once a food charter is adopted or a food policy council is established by local government, it provides a platform to consistently place food issues on their agenda. Neither a food charter nor food policy council has the force of law, but where broad public participation can be demonstrated, coupled with champions within local government, they can be useful tools for advancing a range of food systems and community health agendas.
- Once established, food policy councils always have seats for members of society and normally have a formal or informal link with local government. No matter the model of council (see *Municipal Food Policy Entrepreneurs*), they provide an opportunity to bring the perspective and priorities of the community before the council.³⁰
- Formal appointment of local government staff and/or elected officials to a food related initiative or group can automate a feedback mechanism to and from local government.
- When appointments from local government do not occur, it can still be possible to have the consistent participation of elected officials or public servants if they are convinced that the work aligns with their mandates, interests and priorities.
- Local governments are constrained in their actions both by the law and by the tax base which funds their activities and services. If it can be demonstrated that a community-based food initiative can help local government to deliver their services, it may be possible to obtain funding under, for instance, a sustainability service.
- Civil society is often not well understood by government. This is exacerbated by the fact that many civil society organizations are poorly or sporadically resourced which means it can be challenging for them to establish and maintain relationships and to demonstrate expertise over the long term.
- Over time, community-based organizations can establish sufficient credibility that may make it possible for them to be regularly consulted on, for instance, land use applications or be invited to sit on relevant committees or commissions.

Getting involved

- Present your issue at a council or board meeting. Local governments generally have a process for receiving and approving delegation submissions which grants an individual or group the opportunity to present to the council (municipal) or board (regional district). The particular requirements of your local government can be found on their website or by communicating directly with their corporate services staff.
- Participate in public planning processes. Planning documents (official community plans, agriculture area plans), which are always subject to consultation and engagement, are generally reviewed every 5 - 10 years and benefit from greater involvement of the public.
- Host public events, such as food forums, which can help build understanding about and enthusiasm for food issues. These events can be important precursors to formalizing local government relationships and commitments to, for instance, a food charter or food policy council. They can help to convince the decision-makers that the public is interested and concerned.
- Be proactive and make your work relevant to local issues and seek media opportunities. When issues arise in the community or media related to, for instance, housing, water or climate change, find ways to integrate an existing food charter or the work of a food policy council or task force into the story.
- Demonstrate and draw on the diversity within your council or group when working with local government as this helps to allay concerns that if they adopt your approach they may be alienating a different group or community.

More Information:

Local Government in BC: A Community Effort. Union of BC Municipalities et al, 2012.

Groundswell: A Guide to Building Food Security in Rural Communities. Aimée Watson, North Community Lake Community Services Society, 2013.

Food Policy Councils: Lessons Learned. Alethea Harper et al, Food First, 2009.

Appendix A: Linked and Annotated Resources

Section 2: Policy Landscape – The Role of Government in Food Policy

Health and Sustainability in the Canadian Food System: Advocacy and Opportunity for Civil Society

Editors: Rod MacRae & Elisabeth Abergel

Date: 2012

Source: University of BC Press

This book is a must read for food policy practitioners in civil society. Drawing on the leading thinkers in the Canadian food movement as well as on examples from other sectors, MacRae and Abergel have created a book that provides essential lessons for the practice of policy work as well as insight into how civil society can more effectively help to create good public policy for food systems.

Your Guide to Municipal Institutions in Canada

Authors: Louise Quesnel and Sébastien Hamel

Date: 2007

Source: https://www.fcm.ca/Documents/tools/International/Your_Guide_to_Municipal_Institutions_in_Canada_EN.pdf

This short, accessible guide outlines the three orders of government in Canada and then explores the structures, taxation, elections and decision-making in municipalities. The guide also makes it clear that the scope and responsibilities of municipalities varies from province to province across the country.

Internationalization and Canadian Agriculture: Policy and Governing Paradigms

Author: Grace Skogstad

Date: 2008

Source: University of Toronto Press

This book is a comprehensive analysis of Canadian agriculture policy. Skogstad explores the origins and pressures on the state assistance paradigm that has underpinned Canadian agriculture policy since the founding of the nation. She then addresses the factors that have influenced its evolution over the past decades, particularly international trade agreements.

Section 3: Advocacy 101

Civil society roles in transition: towards sustainable food

Author: Rachael Durrant, Food Research Collaboration

Date: 2014

Source: <http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/55365/>

This thought provoking paper effectively outlines how civil society makes significant and innovative contributions towards sustainable food systems. It also makes the case that civil society is not well understood nor fully appreciated by local government and industry.

Pathways for Change: 10 Theories to Inform Advocacy and Policy Change efforts

Author: Sarah Stachowiak

Date: 2013

Source: <http://www.evaluationinnovation.org/sites/default/files/Pathways%20for%20Change.pdf>

This updated brief lays out 10 theories grounded in diverse disciplines and world views to help untangle beliefs and assumptions about how policy change happens in order to hone advocates practice.

Healthy Built Environment Linkages: A Toolkit for Design, Planning, Health

Authors: Erik Lees, Heidi Redman and Lukas Holy

Date: 2014

Source: http://www.bccdc.ca/pop-public-health/Documents/linkagestoolkitrevisedoct16_2014_full.pdf

This Toolkit provides consistent evidence-based and expert-informed messages for use in communication about health and the built environment. The content is grouped by five physical features of the built environment. Intended as a resource to serve as a conversation starter between public health practitioners and decision-makers in municipal and regional governments. It includes a section on healthy food systems.

Section 4: Data and Evidence

Evidence Review: Food Security

Author: Population and Public Health, Ministry of Health

Date: 2013

Source: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/public-health/healthy-living-and-healthy-communities/food-security-evidence-review.pdf>

This document identifies and ranks the evidence of effective public health interventions related to the food security core program. It provides useful definitions, an overview of food security action in other jurisdictions as well as descriptions of actions that can be taken by local government to support food security.

Model Core Program Paper: Food Security

Author: Population and Public Health, BC Ministry of Health

Date: 2014

Source: http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/public-health/healthy-living-and-healthy-communities/food_security_model_core_program_paper.pdf

A review of evidence and best practice meant to be a guide to understanding the scientific and community-based research related to food security. This foundational document underpins the core public health program devoted to food security. The document also outlines the respective responsibilities of the Ministry of Health, the Provincial Health Services Authority, and the regional health authorities for the food security program.

Agriculture's Connection to Health: A summary of the evidence relevant to British Columbia

Authors: Lisa J Powell, Lenore Newman, Melanie Kurrein.

Date: 2016

Source: http://www.bccdc.ca/pop-public-health/Documents/AgConnectiontoHealth_FullReport_April2016.pdf

This document presents evidence on the associations between agriculture and health. Its stated goal is to assist health authorities in supporting local government in evidence-based planning and decision-making.

Food Costing in BC 2015

Author: Melanie Kurrein, Crystal Li, Drona Rasali.

Date: 2016

Source: <http://www.phsa.ca/population-public-health-site/Documents/2015%20Food%20Costing%20in%20BC%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

This report presents the 2015 data on the average monthly cost of a nutritionally adequate, balanced diet in BC, based on the National Nutritious Food Basket. The data is collected in each of the regional health authorities and gives a snapshot of food costs that can be used to inform population and public health planning. The report is published every two years.

Priority Health Equity Indicators for BC: Household Food Insecurity Report

Authors: Dr. Na Li, Naomi Dachner, Dr. Valerie Tarasuk

Date: 2016

Source: [http://www.bccdc.ca/pop-public-health/Documents/Household food insecurity in BC_full report.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/pop-public-health/Documents/Household%20food%20insecurity%20in%20BC_full%20report.pdf)

A collaboration between the Provincial Health Services Authority and PROOF Food Insecurity Policy Research (<http://proof.utoronto.ca/>), this report documents the prevalence of household food insecurity in BC across Health Service Delivery Areas in the years 2011-12. The project also produced info graphics of the levels of household food insecurity for each of the health authorities and the province as a whole.

Section 5: Local Government & Planning Processes

Introduction to Land-Use Planning for Health Professionals

Authors: Erik Lees, Denise Philippe, and Heide Redman

Date: 2008

Source: <http://www.bccdc.ca/pop-public-health/Documents/land-use-introduction.pdf>

An excellent and accessible workbook on land use planning and local government processes.

A Seat at the Table: Resource guide for local governments to promote food secure communities

Author: Jan Enns et al

Date: 2008

Source: <http://www.bccdc.ca/pop-public-health/Documents/aseatatthetablereourceguideforlocalgovernmentstop.pdf>

A guide for local government to aid them in promoting food security and supporting food systems in BC. It includes a sampling of innovative projects meant to inspire.

Your Guide to Municipal Institutions in Canada

Authors: Louise Quesnel and Sébastien Hamel

Date: 2007

Source: https://www.fcm.ca/Documents/tools/International/Your_Guide_to_Municipal_Institutions_in_Canada_EN.pdf

This short, accessible guide outlines the three orders of government in Canada and then explores the structures, taxation, elections and decision-making in municipalities. The guide also makes it clear that the scope and responsibilities of municipalities varies from province to province across the country.

Primer on Regional Districts in BC

Author: Ministry of Community Services

Date: 2006

Source: https://www.regionaldistrict.com/media/28095/Primer_on_Regional_Districts_in_BC.pdf

This short paper provides background on the development and purpose of regional districts in BC, which were formed in the 1960's.

Local Government Fact Sheets: A reference guide to local government planning and operations

Author: Union of BC Municipalities

Date: 2015

Source: http://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Services/Publications/UBCM_FactSheets_2015.pdf

This document compiles 29 separate fact sheets into a detailed guide to local government in an attempt to provide insight for those within local government. It will be equally useful for those in civil society.

Local Government in BC, Fourth Edition

Authors: Robert L. Bish and Eric G. Clemens

Date: 2008

Source: <http://www.ubcm.ca/assets/library/Publications/Local-Government-in-British-Columbia/LGBC-All.pdf>

Published by the Union of BC Municipalities, this is the bible of local government guides. It is comprehensive and detailed. Anyone who absorbs the information in this book is well prepared to enter local government.

BC Food System Policy Database

Author: Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Date: 2017

Source: <https://www.kpu.ca/isfs/foodpolicydatabase>

Launched in 2017, this database is a centralized resource for planners, policy makers, community advocates and local organizations. It is a source for policy precedents and will contribute to better understand how local government policy in BC is addressing food systems. The database can be searched by a number of characteristics and includes a guide on how to use it. A great resource for those seeking to identify and use precedents for shifting food policy.

Placing the food system on the urban agenda: The role of municipal institutions in food systems planning

Author: Kameshwari Pothukuchi and Jerome L. Kaufman

Date: 1999

Source: http://www.clas.wayne.edu/Multimedia/seedwayne/files/kami/1_5AHV.pdf

This seminal article on the role of cities in food systems helped to shift the thinking in the planning profession as well as in cities across North America. It is still relevant and a useful tool for helping to demonstrate the relevance of food systems to planning and programs in municipalities.

Protecting the Working Landscape of Agriculture: A Smart Growth Direction for Municipalities in British Columbia

Author: Deborah Curran

Date: 2005

Source: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2294669

This invaluable guide is dated but still contains accessible, essential guides to the tools available to local governments in BC to protect agricultural land. One of few resources on this topic that is tailored to British Columbia. The document includes specific examples of local government bylaws and policies that can be adapted or adopted for use locally.

Cultivating Food Connections: Toward a Healthy and Sustainable Food System for Toronto

Author: Toronto Public Health

Date: 2010

Source: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2010/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-30483.pdf>

This useful report captures both work underway and proposed next steps across seven priority areas. Lots to inspire, model language and programs. The diagram on page 2 alone inspires the imagination with |”25 Food Connections to the City of Toronto”.

North American Food Sector, Part 1: Program Scan & Literature Review

Author: Cynthia Pansing et al, Wallace Center at Winrock International

Date: 2013

Source: <http://ngfn.org/resources/ngfn-database/knowledge/Program%20Scan%20and%20Literature%20Review.pdf>

This report is the first of two from a USA-based collaborative project to develop a roadmap for cities to create innovative, resilient and productive local and regional food systems that deliver near-term benefits and sustainable value. The first report is a comprehensive literature review to survey the sustainable economic development potential of the food sector nationally, and to assemble a set of innovative case studies to complement the national scan. The report includes an extensive and linked bibliography.

Section 6: Policy Examples

BC Food System Policy Database

Author: Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Date: 2017

Source: <https://www.kpu.ca/isfs/foodpolicydatabase>

Launched in 2017, this database is a centralized resource for planners, policy makers, community advocates and local organizations. It is a source for policy precedents and will contribute to better understand how local government policy in BC is addressing food systems. The database can be searched by a number of characteristics and includes a guide on how to use it. A great resource for those seeking to identify and use precedents for shifting food policy.

Local Food Policy Audit Template

Author: University of Wisconsin

Date: 2015

Source: <https://fyi.uwex.edu/foodsystemstoolkit/food-policy-audit/>

This simple spreadsheet contains almost 150 questions to guide an audit of local food policy. It is divided into four broad categories: equitable food access; zoning and land use; economic development; and public health. Even if not used for an actual audit, the questions alone offer a wealth of ideas for positive policy in support of healthy food systems. One of a suite of tools developed by an American university with a long and distinguished track record in food systems work.

A Joined-up Food Policy for Canada

Author: Rod MacRae

Date: 2011

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/19320248.2011.627297>

Rod MacRae is one of Canada's leading food policy analysts. In this paper, he presents a set of principles, values and goals that would be consistent with a joined up national food policy, bridging the historical and administrative silos between government departments.

Procuring for Good: How the Social Value Act is being used by local authorities

Author: Social Enterprise UK.

Date: 2013

Source: <https://www.base-uk.org/sites/default/files/news/16-06/procuringforgood1.pdf>

This report assesses the implementation of an innovative Act enacted in the UK in 2013 that directed local government to include social values in their procurement and commissioning. The report assesses three years of government deliberations to assess how well social values are being embedded into the decision-making processes. A valuable model for umbrella legislation whose intent is to enhance broader public interests.

Municipal Food Policy Entrepreneurs: A preliminary analysis of how Canadian cities and regional districts are involved in food system change

Author: Rod MacRae & Kendal Donahue

Date: 2013

Source: http://capi-icpa.ca/pdfs/2013/Municipal_Food_Policy_Entrepreneurs_Final_Report.pdf

Key Canadian analysis of food systems work undertaken by local governments across the country that includes 6 categories of municipal food policy activities. The six categories are useful for helping communities better understand their practice and the advantages and challenges associated with the model that they have chosen. Required reading for anyone working with local government in Canada on food systems.

Best practices in local food: A guide for municipalities

Author: Deloitte LLP

Date: 2013

Source: <https://www.amo.on.ca/AMO-PDFs/Reports/2013/2013BestPracticesinLocalFoodAGuideforMunicipalities.aspx>

Report written by Deloitte for the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Ontario Municipal Knowledge Network to assist municipalities to better understand how to support the local food sector. Many of the Ontario-based best practices will be applicable in BC.

Food Innovation Districts: An Economic Gardening Tool

Author: Patty Cantrell et al

Date: 2012

Source: <http://foodsystems.msu.edu/uploads/files/fid-guide.pdf>

A guide to developing food business clusters with sections directed to four audiences: elected and civic leaders; local and regional planners; economic developers, and community champions - since each plays a role in recreating vibrant, place-based food systems. American but still useful for Canadian communities.

Food Access Policy and Planning Guide

Author: Eva Ringstrom & Branden Born

Date: 2011

Source: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/ddc/downloads/pdf/ActiveDesignWebinar/King%20County%20Food%20Access%20Guide.pdf>

Published by the Center for Livable Communities at the University of Washington, this guide can help communities with policy and systems change that set them on the pathway toward healthier food environments. It provides practical food access policy models that can be implemented at a municipal or regional level. Though it is an American document, there will be much of use and relevance to those who wish to focus on food access.

Residential Urban Chicken Keeping: An Examination of 25 Cities

Author: KT LaBadie

Date: 2008

Source: <http://iactivecd.com/btflchickens/ord-research.pdf>

One of the common initial food policy changes within municipalities is to allow backyard hens. This is not without controversy and challenge, particularly for smaller communities with a relatively large wildlife interface. This report examines the bylaws in 25 cities across Canada and the USA. A great resource for those wishing to understand the common issues, solutions and language attached to backyard hens.

North American Food Sector, Part 2: A Roadmap for City Food Sector Innovation and Investment

Author: Cynthia Pansing et al, Wallace Center at Winrock Intl

Date: 2013

Source: <http://ngfn.org/resources/ngfn-database/knowledge/Roadmap%20for%20City%20Food%20Sector%20Innovation%20and%20Investment.pdf>

The second of two reports, this report focuses on leverage points in the food system that are within the ability of cities to change. It is intended to be a guidance document to help cities focus and develop investment strategies to increase the number of new innovations and ventures in their local food systems and to better the odds of their survival and success. The building blocks of the Roadmap are the asset inventory, tools and strategies and indicators sections which are included in the document.

Section 7: Collaborating with Local Government

Introduction to Land-Use Planning for Health Professionals

Authors: Erik Lees, Denise Philippe and Heide Redman

Date: 2008

Source: <http://www.bccdc.ca/pop-public-health/Documents/land-use-introduction.pdf>

An excellent and accessible workbook on land use planning and local government processes.

Backgrounder on the origin and intent of the Conflict of Interest Regulation

Author: Government of BC

Date: 2016

Source: https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/Backgrounder_LocalGovernmentConflictOfInterestExceptionsRegulations_April2016.pdf

The regulation itself (http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/91_2016) is difficult to interpret for a lay person. This Backgrounder outlines the events that led to the creation of the Regulation and the circumstances it is meant to address for local elected officials appointed to BC registered societies.

Municipal Revenue Sources Review, Executive Summary

Author: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Date: 2012

Source: http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/library/revenue_source_review/Executive%20Summary.pdf

This report provides a snapshot of the funding sources available to municipal governments and the related sphere of activities. Is helpful for understanding how to frame food programs asks so they fit in the purview and funding streams of local government.

Direct Financial Contribution of Farming Areas to Local Governments in British Columbia

Author: Coast Region and Resource Management Branch, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Date: 2005

Source: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/agricultural-land-and-environment/strengthening-farming/860600-1_direct_financial_contributions.pdf

A Strengthening Farming report from a pilot project carried out in Pitt Meadows and Abbotsford, this report mirrors the findings in similar studies undertake in the USA, namely that farming taxes more than cover the cost of services to agricultural properties.

BC's Farming and Food Future: Local Government Toolkit for Sustainable Food Production

Author: Wanda Gorsuch

Date: 2009

Source: http://bcfsn.org/tlc_localgovttoolkit_final/

This document shares innovative and effective actions that are being taken in British Columbia, Canada, and elsewhere to promote sustainable local food production. It offers tools and advocacy ideas to help regional board members, area directors, municipal councillors, and local government staff and planners create a favourable environment for local and sustainable food production.

Section 8: Broadening the Community of Allies

Guide to Coalition Building

Author: Community Toolbox

Date: No date

Source: <http://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/assessment/promotion-strategies/start-a-coalition/main>

This practical guide provokes reflection on when a coalition should be joined or launched, and if launched, what it takes to keep it going for as long as it is useful.

Organizing Stakeholders, Building Movement, Setting the Agenda

Author: Xavier de Souza Briggs

Date: 2003

Source: The Art and Science of Community Problem-Solving Project at Harvard University
(racialequitytools.org/resourcefiles/briggs.pdf)

This 27 page article is intended to be a guide that does not advocate a particular approach to organizing. Rather, it intends to be a “primer on organizing for citizen activists but also planners and program managers, public and private funders, trainers and researchers” (page 4). It debunks myths around organizing and explains what organizing does, prompting the reader to review questions and aspects of your goals that can help bring clarity to what you are seeking to achieve and how to get there.

Dismantling Racism in the Food System

Author: Eric Holt-Gimenez and Breeze Harper

Date: 2016

Source: <http://foodfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/DR1Final.pdf>

The first in a series published by Food First, this Backgrounder seeks to “uncover the structural foundations of racism in the food system and highlight the ways people, communities, organizations and social movements are dismantling the attitudes, institutions and structures that hold racism in place. Food First is convinced that to end hunger and malnutrition we must end injustices in the food system. Dismantling the injustices of racism in the food system, in the food movement, in our organizations and among ourselves is fundamental to transforming the food system and our society.”

Section 9: Civil Society Roles & Actions

Local Government in BC: A Community Effort

Author: Union of BC Municipalities, Local Government Management Association of BC, Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development.

Date: 2012

Source: www.ubcm.ca/assets/Services/Documents/UBCM%20Local%20Gov%202012.pdf

This very accessible document is a great primer on local government in BC and how it is embedded in and accountable to its residents. The document also reviews the various ways in which the public can be involved.

Groundswell: A Guide to Building Food Security in Rural Communities

Author: Aimee Watson

Date: 2013

Source: <http://www.nklcss.org/documents/groundswell/grndswl.pdf>

This handbook is geared for rural and remote regions interested in creating a program to enable or increase food security in their communities. Its goal is to help guide those of you wishing to do this work, whether you are in local government, social services, the health sector, farming, or an eater with concerns about what is on grocery store shelves.

Food Policy Councils: Lessons Learned

Author: Alethea Harper et al

Date: 2009

Source: <https://foodfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/DR21-Food-Policy-Councils-Lessons-Learned-.pdf>

A publication of the American NGO, Food First, this findings in this report are based on an extensive literature review and testimony from 48 individual interviews with the people most involved in food policy councils. A very useful read for fledgling food policy councils and for those wishing to deepen their understanding of the range of factors that contribute to the efficacy of food policy councils across North America.

Do trade agreements substantially limit development of local / sustainable food systems in Canada?

Author: Rod MacRae

Date: 2014

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15353/cfs-rcea.v1i1.25>

Detailed review of trade agreements that determines that there are ways for local government to support local and sustainable food systems without triggering trade disputes. An important analysis to counter the “trade chill” on local food initiatives and policy.

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