

*2nd edition*

STATE OF THE RESEARCH:

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

Introduction

As food policy groups (FPGs)—such as food (policy) councils, food partnerships, coalitions, committees, boards, and other similar groups—become increasingly popular mechanisms to reform the food system, there has been growing interest among students, academics, and journalists to document and study their efforts. Food policy groups (FPGs) are groups that assemble stakeholders from across the food system to reform food policies and programs to be healthy, equitable, and sustainable. The Food Policy Networks (FPN) project recognizes the opportunity to advance the field through raised awareness, evaluation, and learning from others. This current report—an updated version of the first annotated bibliography released in 2017—aims to highlight the existing and emerging research on FPGs. This second addition contains over 50 new citations.

The annotated bibliography includes non-peer-reviewed reports, unpublished doc-

toral dissertations and master's theses, and additional research projects that are (to our knowledge) underway on FPGs. While peer-reviewed literature represents the gold standard of academic research, FPGs are still being interviewed and surveyed for such research. We believe it is worth identifying what work has already been or is currently being done to avoid duplicative requests of groups. Given the rise of FPGs globally, we include research of FPGs and similar efforts from industrialized countries besides the U.S. and Canada to provide additional insights. We also recognize the inaccessibility of many of these publications to those without institutional connections, and hence highlight open-access research whenever available.

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 rsanto1@jhu.edu.

Suggested citation: Santo, R., Bassarab, K., Kessler, M., and Palmer, A. (2020). *State of the research: An annotated bibliography on existing, emerging, and needed research on food policy groups (2nd edition)*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future.

Contents

Research on individual FPGs	4
North America	4
Europe	10
Other and/or multiple continents	11
Research on evaluating the impacts of individual FPGs	13
Evaluation tools for FPGs	15
Research comparing multiple FPGs.....	17
North America	17
Europe	20
Research on FPG movement and/or how FPGs connect with one another	22
State or regional level.....	22
National level.....	23
Multiple countries	26
Research on activities/outcomes of work by FPGs	28
Food policy changes	28
Equity and FPGs.....	31
Food systems planning.....	35
Economic development	37
FPG engagement at the federal level	37
Funding FPGs	37
Relationships with other institutions (e.g. cooperative extension, universities)	38
Research gaps	39

Annotated bibliography of research on FPGs

Key

A: Academic article

D: Doctoral dissertation or Master's thesis (unpublished)

B: Book or book chapter

R: Report

P: Conference presentation

M: Magazine article or piece of journalism

**research in progress/underway

Open access: no subscription required/available online for free.

Research on individual FPGs

The following case studies have documented the creation, structure, actions, and evolution of individual FPGs. Case studies focusing on one specific policy initiative or activity of an individual FPG are listed under the "Research on activities/outcomes of work by FPGs" on page 28.

North America

A: Becky, M.A., Hanson, L.L., and 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. [Open access](#).

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

A: Blay-Palmer, A. (2009). The Canadian pioneer: The genesis of urban food policy in Toronto. *International Planning Studies*, 14(4), 401-416. [Abstract](#).

Details the foundational history and present dynamics of Toronto Food Policy Council 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.

D: Burak, G. (2012). *Analysis of a Regional Food Initiative: A Case Study of the Greater Kansas City Food Policy Coalition* (Doctoral dissertation, Humboldt State University). [Open access](#).

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

A: Calancie, L., Stritzinger, N., Konich, J., Horton, C., Allen, N., Weiner, B.J., Ng, S.W., and Ammerman, I.A. (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. Johns Hopkins University Press. [Abstract](#).

Explores how an FPC in a rural community facilitates collaboration across sectors, what activities that members do to further their council's mission, and what impacts such councils could have on their community's food system and health.

A:** Cooksey-Stowers, K., Calancie, L., Mancini, S., Palmer, A., Corbie-Smith, G. (in progress). Tackling food Swamps through legislation: A case study of the food equity council in Prince George's County, Maryland.

This qualitative study investigates the process involved with establishing a Food Equity Council and for passing legislation focused on counteracting food swamps. These policies included reporting requirements for accepting SNAP benefits at farmers markets, an urban agriculture property tax credit, and nutrition standards for products sold in vending machines on county property. This case study advances our understanding of how a focus on equity guides an FPC's work.

A: Coplen, A.K. and Cuneo, M. (2015). Dissolved: Lessons learned from the Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 15, 91-107. [Open access](#).

Explores the dissolution of the Portland Multnomah Food Policy Council. 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. and Liutkus, K.A. (2016). Perspectives on the development of a local food system: The case of Dayton, Ohio. *Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems*, 41, 186-203. [Abstract](#).

Explores the current state of development in Dayton's local food system, including the floundering of the Montgomery County Food Policy Coalition. Discusses some of the struggles faced—including administrative and political barriers, lack of funding, unequal education about the benefits of healthy foods, and varying consumer preferences—in affecting positive change in the area's food system.

D: Dean, J.C. (2012). *The Iowa Food Policy Council: A case study* (Master's thesis, Iowa State University, Paper 12827). [Open access](#).

Examines the challenges and opportunities experienced by the Iowa Food Policy Council from its beginning to its collapse. Demonstrates the significance of establishing a legacy of convening that may continue without a formal structure. Also explores why stakeholders become involved and, just as importantly, why they stay involved.

D: Fiser, D. (2006). *Democratic Food: Food Policy Councils and the Rebuilding of Local Agriculture*. (Master's thesis, University of Chicago Environmental Studies Program). [Open access](#).

Looks at food policy councils and their potential to provide an accessible forum for the creation of food policy on local scales by soliciting input from stakeholders all across the food system, and to foster a sense of “food democracy.” Empirical evidence concentrates on Chicago Food Policy Advisory Council.

A: Gold, A., and Harden, N. (2018). Navigating borders: The evolution of the Cass Clay Food Partners. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 8 (Suppl. 2), 29-38. [Open access](#).

This article outlines the evolution of the multi-state food policy council, action network and steering committee from project-based work to policy development to a partnership that integrates both programs and policy for greater impact. The article highlights how this network has addressed challenges from working across borders, as well as philosophical divisions between stakeholders and decision-makers.

A: Hammelman, C., Levkoe, C. Z., Agyeman, J., Kharod, S., Moragues Faus, A., 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*, [Open access](#).

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.

R: Hodgson, K. and Raja, S. (Eds.)(2015). *Exploring Stories of Innovation Series. Growing Food Connections Project*. [Open access](#).

A series of briefs that discuss innovative food systems planning and policy work from urban and rural communities across the U.S., including the [City of Lawrence and Douglas County, KA](#); [Baltimore City, MD](#); [Marquette County, MI](#); [Minneapolis, MN](#); [Region 5, Minnesota](#); [Cabarrus County, NC](#); [Cleveland, OH](#); [Lancaster County, PA](#); [Philadelphia, PA](#); [Seattle, WA](#); [City of Burlington and Chittenden County, VT](#). The work of food policy councils is included in some of the briefs but is not the central foci.

B: Johnston, C. and Andrée, P. (2019). Pathways to co-governance?: The role of NGOs in food governance in the Northwest Territories, Canada. Andrée, P., J.K. Clark, C.Z. Levkoe, and K. Lowitt (Eds.), *Civil Society and Social Movements in Food System Governance* (pp. 164-182). London: Routledge. [Open access](#).

This chapter examines the emerging role of two NGOs in food governance processes in Canada's Northwest Territories, one of which is the Yellowknife Food Charter Coalition, which works on food security issues within the city of Yellowknife. The analysis shows that these NGOs are effective at combining new frames, coalition-building, and working synergistically on policy and community initiatives.

A: Koski, C., Siddiki, S., Sadiq, A.A., and Carboni, J. (2016). Representation in collaborative governance: A case study of a food policy council. *American Review of Public Administration*, 48(4), 359-373. [Open access](#).

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.

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. [Abstract \(in english\)](#) (full article in French: "De l'urgence sociale à l'utopie sanitaire." *Actes de la Recherche en Sciences Sociales*, 3(208), 40-61).

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

B: Levkoe, C. and Wilson, A. (2019). "Policy engagement as prefiguration: Experiments in food policy governance through the national food policy dialogue in Canada." In Andrée, P., J.K. Clark, C.Z. Levkoe, and K. Lowitt (Eds.), *Civil Society and Social Movements in Food System Governance* (pp. 164-182). London: Routledge. [Open access](#).

This chapter explores the intersections between food systems governance and social movement mobilization, examining the role of policy-making process and the efforts of non-profit 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.

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. [Open access](#).

Chronicles the development, initiatives, and challenges of the Toronto FPC.

A: Mah, C.L. and Thang, H. (2013). Cultivating food connections: The Toronto Food Strategy and municipal deliberation on food. *International Planning Studies*, 18, 96-110. [Abstract](#).

This paper shares an exploratory case study of the development of the Toronto Food Strategy 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 how they cultivate deliberative spaces to catalyze policy change.

D: Martorell, H. (2017). *The Evolution of City-Region Food Governance in Montreal: Food Politics, Policy and Planning Under Quebec's Neoliberal Turn* (Masters thesis, Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada). [Open access](#).

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 in Montreal and outlines the transition from action plan to partnerships to food policy council.

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. [Abstract](#).

Analyzes specific case of food policy implementation by a municipal government, while also advancing research on how similar cross-cutting social and environmental issues are implemented by local governments elsewhere.

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: article 6). [Open access](#).

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.

D: Phillippi, T.M. (2010). *The Toronto Youth Food Policy Council: A case study on the evolving implementation of an effective youth voice in food policy development* (Master's thesis, York University). [Open access](#).

A Master's thesis describing the history and structure of the Toronto Youth Food Policy Council.

R: Raja, S. (Ed.)(2016). Exploring Stories of Opportunity Series. Growing Food Connections Project. [Open access](#).

A series of case studies exploring 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. Written briefs are completed for [Chautauqua County, NY](#), [Doña Ana County, NM](#), [Dougherty County, GA](#), [Douglas County, NE](#), [Luna County, NM](#), [Wyandotte County, KS](#), [Polk County, NC](#), and [Cumberland County, ME](#).

A: Raja, S., Picard, D., Baek, S., and Delgado, C. (2014). Rustbelt radicalism: A decade of food systems planning in Buffalo, New York. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 4(4), 173-189. [Open access](#).

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.

A: Santo, R., Yong, R. and Palmer, A. (2014). Collaboration meets opportunity: The Baltimore Food Policy Initiative. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 4, 193-208. [Open access](#). [Open access research brief](#).

Highlights how one midsized city successfully developed a collaborative infrastructure to understand and address inequity in healthy food access. Traces the genesis and evolution of Baltimore’s Food Policy Task Force; the hiring of a food policy director; and the establishment of Baltimore Food Policy Initiative, an intergovernmental partnership to increase access to healthy, affordable foods in urban food deserts.

D: Smith, K.C. (2008). *The Lane County Food Policy Council and Re-framing Food Security* (Doctoral dissertation, University of Oregon). [Open access](#).

Investigates the political, cultural and historical contexts of Lane County, Oregon’s food system and assesses how food security is re-framed at the local level as community food security.

A: Walsh, C. C., Taggart, M., Freedman, D. A., Trapl, E. S., and Borawski, E. A. (2015). The Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Food Policy Coalition: “We have evolved.” *Preventing Chronic Disease*, 12. [Open access](#).

This article examines the policy development process and investigates the role of the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Food Policy Coalition in developing and implementing 4 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 policy makers; social connections and individual champions were needed; and concerns over food access and health influenced policy decisions.

A: Welsh, J. and MacRae, R. (1998) Food citizenship and community food security: Lessons from Toronto, Canada. *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, 19(4), 237-255. [Abstract](#).

Working from a vision of food security based on both social justice and environmental sustainability, the TFPC was designed to be multi-sectoral and cross-jurisdictional, and to support project innovation and policy advocacy. This paper develops the concept of “food citizenship,” emphasizing the need to move beyond food as a commodity and people as consumers. Critiques of corporate control and a 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.

Europe

A: Balázs, B. (2012). Local food system development in Hungary. *International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food*, 19(3), 403-421. [Open access](#).

Documents the founding of Gödöllő Local Food Council in Hungary, discussing various specificities and challenges of new types of emerging urban civic food networks. Personal communication with author indicated that this council has since become inactive.

B: Bottiglieri, M., Pettenati, G., and Toldo, A. (Eds.) (2016). *Toward the Turin Food Policy: Good practices and visions*. Food Smart Cities for Development. Milan, Italy: FrancoAngeli. [Open access](#).

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

A: Moragues-Faus, A., and Morgan, K. (2015). Reframing the foodscape: The emergent world of urban food policy. *Environment and Planning A*, 47(7), 1558-1573. [Abstract](#).

Draws on urban political ecology scholarship as a critical lens to analyze governance-beyond-the-state processes and associated post-political configurations. Documents the founding and evolution of the Bristol Food Policy Council in England as one of its case studies.

M: Reed, M., and Keech, D. (2015). 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. [Open access](#).

Highlights two case studies of innovative and multifunctional initiatives in Bristol, England, analyzing how grass-roots networks have attempted to influence food policy in the city.

A: Sieveking, A. (2019). Food policy councils as loci for practicing food democracy? Insights from the case of Oldenburg, Germany. *Politics and Governance*, 7(4), 48-58. [Open access](#).

This study assesses the ways in which FPCs might represent loci for practising 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. Data analysis reveals examples of, as well as challenges related to, all five dimensions of food democracy.

B: Stierand, P. (2012). Food policy councils: Recovering the local level in food policy. In A. Viljoen and J.S. Wiskerke (Eds.), *Sustainable Food Planning: Evolving Theory and Practice* (pp.67-78). Wageningen Academic Pub. [Abstract](#).

Provides a case study of the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership in England, offering it as an example of how food policy councils offer a viable possibility to recover the local level in food policy.

****D:** Walthall, B. (In progress). Revealing civic actions in urban food governance: The case of Berlin. [summary](#).

Develops a conceptual framework for assessing the role and contribution of civil society actors in shaping more sustainable urban food systems. Theorizes the emergence of a food council (Ernährungsrat) in Berlin.

Other and/or multiple continents

B: Deakin, M., Diamantini, D., and Borrelli, N. (Eds.) (2016). *The Governance of City Food Systems: Case Studies from Around the World*. Milan: Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli. [Open access](#).

Provides eight case studies on the governance of city food systems in Milan, Belo Horizonte, Vancouver, Edinburgh, Bristol, Bangkok, Jakarta and Singapore. A number of these cities employ stakeholder coalition/council models in their food governance schemes.

R: Forster, T., Egal, F., Henk Renting, H., Dubbeling, M., and Escudero, A.G. (Eds.) (2015). *Milan Urban Food Policy Pact: Selected Good Practices from Cities*. Milan: Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli. [Open access](#).

Collects a number of 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 a careful management of resources in order to avoid food waste. 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: Hawe, P. and Stickney, E.K. (1997). Developing the effectiveness of an intersectoral food policy coalition through formative evaluation. *Health Education Research*, 12(2), 213-25. [Abstract](#).

Case study of an intersectoral food policy committee, part of a three-tiered coalition nested within local municipal government in Sydney, Australia, which sought to promote good nutrition in a rapidly growing metropolitan region by tackling food supply issues in the first instance.

B: MacKay, P. and Connelly, S. (2019). "Searching for fit? Institution building and local action for food system change in Dunedin, New Zealand." In Andrée, P., J.K. Clark, C.Z. Levkoe, and K. Lowitt (Eds.), *Civil Society and Social Movements in Food System Governance* (pp. 164-182). London: Routledge. [Open access](#).

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: Webb, K., Hawe, P., Noort, M. (2001). Collaborative intersectoral approaches to nutrition in a community on the urban fringe. *Health Education and Behavior*, 28, 306-319. [Abstract](#).

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.

M: UA Magazine no. 36 - Food Policy Councils. [Open access](#).

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

Research on evaluating the impacts of individual FPGs

A: Calancie, L., Allen, N., Ammerman, A., Ward, D., Ng, S.W., Weiner, B.J. and Ware, W. (2018). Evaluating food policy councils using structural equation modeling. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 61(1-2), 251-264. [Open access](#).

This study tested a mechanism—the Food Policy Council (FPC) Framework—to explain how councils function to influence their food system. Using data collected from the Food Policy Council Self-Assessment Tool, the FPC Framework was tested using structural equation modeling. Results indicate that the FPC Framework can be used to explain FPC function and guide FPCs as they work toward their communities’ specific food system goals.

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), 21-38. [Open access](#).

Uses the case of a local food policy council to illustrate how a coalition increased local governance capacity via translating their commonly held beliefs into a concrete policy agenda while building their coalition along the way. A policy audit was used as a tool to develop technical knowledge (and skills) to increase policy readiness.

B: Clark, J.K., Marquis, C. and Raja, S. (2017). “The local food policy audit: Spanning the civic-political agrifood divide.” In I. Knezevic et al. (Eds.), *Nourishing Communities: From Fractured Food Systems to Transformative Pathways* (pp. 131-146). University of Toronto Press. [Abstract](#).

Using the case of the Franklin County Food Policy Council in 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.

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 capstone, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health). [Open access](#).

This paper contextualizes the work of the MCFC in the current, rapidly shifting public health landscape of the DMV region; 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 and current collection of qualitative and quantitative program data to better tell the story of organizational impact. Finally, this capstone also proposes evaluation frameworks for consideration.

B: Marquis, C., and Clark, J. (2016). “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: Growing Sustainable Food Systems for the 21st Century* (pp.189-204). Akron, OH: University of Akron. [Excerpt](#).

Uses a conceptual frame to outline the role of local 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 Blay-Palmer A, Conaré D, Meter K, Di Battista A, Johnston C (Eds.), *Sustainable Food System Assessment: Lessons from Global Practice*. London: Routledge. [Open access](#).

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 urban food partnerships across the UK.

A: O’Brien, J. and Denckla Cobb, T. The food policy audit: A new tool for community food system planning. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 2(3), 177-191. [Open access](#).

Discusses the design and testing of a new Food Policy Audit tool aimed to build upon the strengths of community food assessments and guide users through the complicated process of uncovering local, regional and federal policies relevant to a local food system.

B: Palmer, A. and Santo, R. (2019). “Building the foundation to grow food policy: The development of a toolkit to measure advocacy capacity.” In A. Blay-Palmer, D. Conaré, K. Meter, A. Di Battista, C. Johnston (Eds.), *Sustainable Food System Assessment: Lessons from Global Practice*. London: Routledge. [Open access](#).

This chapter explores the goals, development, and content of the *Get It Together* toolkit, which aims to build the capacity of stakeholder groups like FPCs to influence local and state level food policy. It pays specific attention to equity and systems thinking metrics included in the toolkit. The chapter also includes a reflection on how the toolkit has been used in practice by one FPC.

D: Peterson, C., & Skolits, G. (in progress). Evaluation capacity: Survey of food policy councils' knowledge, attitudes, and skills to engage in evaluation.

Evaluation capacity refers to the intentional processes that create and sustain individual and organizational motivation, knowledge, and skills to engage in evaluation. This study uses a survey to explore the following research questions: (1) what is the capacity of FPCs to conduct evaluation? and (2) how do food policy councils use evaluation? Results from this study can inform evaluation capacity building and materials that support FPCs in evaluating their impact on the public good.

R: Prosperi, P., Moragues-Faus, A., Sonnino, R., and Devereux, C. (2015). *Measuring progress towards sustainable food cities: Sustainability and food security indicators*. Report of the ESRC financed Project “Enhancing the Impact of Sustainable Urban Food Strategies.” [Open access](#).

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: Webb, K., Pelletier, D., Maretzki, A., Wilkins, J. (1998). Local food policy coalitions: Evaluation issues as seen by academics, project organizers, and funders. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 15, 65-75. [Open access](#).

Although a number of pioneer 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.

Evaluation tools for FPGs

A: Calancie, L., Allen, N.E., Weiner, B.J., Ng, S.W., Ward, D.S., and Ammerman, A. (2017). Food policy council self-assessment tool: Development, testing, and results. *Preventing Chronic Disease*, 14(E), 160-281. [Open access](#).

This study describes the development, testing, and findings from the Food Policy Council Self-Assessment Tool (FPC-SAT). 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: Freedman, Darcy A., and Bess, K.D. (2011) “Food systems change and the environment: Local and global connections.” *American Journal of Community Psychology* 47(3-4), 397-409. [Open access.](#)

Examines a case study of the “forming stage” of a locally-based coalition which promotes both food systems change and social justice. Social Network Analysis (SNA) is employed to explore changes in the relational structure through the first years of its existence.

A: Moragues-Faus, A., and Marceau, A. (2019). Measuring progress in sustainable food cities: An indicators toolbox for action. *Sustainability*, 11(1), 45. [Open access.](#)

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

R: Moragues-Faus, A., Marceau, A., and Andrews, T. (2016). *Making the case and measuring progress: towards a systems approach to healthy and sustainable food*. Report of the ESRC financed Project “Enhancing the Impact of Sustainable Urban Food Strategies.” [Open access.](#)

This toolbox for action aims to 1) provide local authorities and policy makers 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.

R: Palmer, A., and Calancie, L. (2017). *Get it Tooltogether: Assessing Your Food Council’s Ability to Do Policy*. Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future, Bloomberg School of Public Health. [Open access.](#)

This toolkit helps food councils to 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 hasten progress in a particular area.

Research comparing multiple FPGs

The following articles compare the structures, issues, and activities of multiple FPGs.

North America

R: Biehler, D., Fisher, A., Siedenburg, K., Winne, M., and Zachary, I. (1999). *Getting Food on the Table: An Action Guide to Local Food Policy*. Community Food Security Coalition & California Sustainable Agriculture Working Group. [Open access](#).

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: Blackmar, J. M. (2014). Deliberative democracy, civic engagement and food policy councils. *Rivista di Studi Sulla Sostenibilita*, 2, 43-57. [Abstract](#).

Explores five county/city food policy councils (FPCs) in the U.S. through the lens of deliberative democracy. In particular, it examines the questions of representation, inclusivity, and diversity of FPCs.

D: Boden, S., and Hoover, B. M. (2018). Food policy councils in the mid-Atlantic: Working toward justice. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 8(1), 39-52. [Open access](#).

This study uses a mixed-methods approach, including participant interviews and website analysis to look at three food policy councils (FPCs) in the Mid-Atlantic region and understand the relationship between the structure of the FPCs (informal, citizen-led coalition; open networking and policy advising group; city advisory council led by appointed members) and their emphasis on food justice. The article concludes with recommendations on how FPCs can more effectively address food justice in their work.

R: Borron, S. (2003). *Food policy councils: Practice and possibility*. Congressional Hunger Center. [Open access](#).

Details food policy council basics and profiles some early food policy councils.

B: Clancy, K., Hammer, J., and Lippoldt, D. (2007). Food policy councils: Past, present and future. In C. C. Hinrichs and T. A. Lyson (Eds.), *Remaking the North American Food System: Strategies for Sustainability* (pp.121-143). Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press.

Reviews the history and performance of government-sanctioned food policy councils (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 to unintended and unintended outcomes are explored.

P: Clancy, K. (1988). Eight elements critical to the success of food system councils. Presented at Cornell Nutrition Update. [Open access](#).

Part of a speech titled “Local Food Councils: A New Tool for Community Health.” Compiles 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: Clayton, M.L., Frattaroli, S., Palmer, A. and Pollack, K.M. (2015). The role of partnerships in US food policy council policy activities. *PLoS one*, 10(4), p.e0122870. [Open access](#).

Investigates the role of partnerships in food systems policy change through interviews with 12 purposefully selected food policy councils in the U.S. and 6 additional food policy experts.

P: Dahlberg, K. (1994, June). Food policy councils: The experience of five cities and one county. In *Joint Meeting of the Agriculture Food and Human Values Society and the Association for the Study of Food and Society, Tucson, AZ*. [Open access](#).

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: Di Giulio, L. (2017). *Food Policy Councils: Does Organizational Type Matter?* (Master’s thesis, Ohio State University Environment and Natural Resources). [Open access](#). [Blog](#).

This master’s thesis explored the significance of how different organizational types (e.g., grassroots, non-profit, embedded in government) were associated with different FPC 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 FPCs than type.

A: Gupta, C., Campbell, D., Munden-Dixon, K., Sowerwine, J., Capps, S., Feenstra, G., and 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*, 8 (Suppl. 2), 11-28. [Open access](#).

10 California FPCs 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 a combination of structural autonomy and strong collaborations with the government helps promote more inclusive policy making processes, which link community members to government.

R: Hatfield, M.M. (2012). *City food policy and programs: Lessons harvested from an emerging field*. City of Portland, Oregon Bureau of Planning and Sustainability. [Open access](#).

Few resources are available to local governments interested in developing a food policy program: best practices for organizing, funding, and supporting food systems work have been neither established nor publicized. Drawing on interviews with municipal food policy professionals, this report identifies common challenges for municipal food programs as well as avenues for addressing them.

A: Scherb, A., Palmer, A., Frattaroli, S. and 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*, 2(4), 3-14. [Open access](#).

Analyzes survey responses of 56 food policy council (FPC) leaders to learn how FPCs engage in policy processes, the scope of their activities, and the impacts of their work.

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. [Open access](#).

Analyzes the role of 13 food policy councils in the U.S. and Canada in relation to government, policy change, facilitation, networking, and education. It also explores the tension between policy and programmatic work.

D: Schiff, R. (2007). *Food Policy Councils: An examination of organisational structure, process, and contribution to alternative food movements* (Doctoral dissertation, Murdoch University). [Open access](#).

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

R: Shapiro, L., Hoey, L., Colasanti, K., and Savas., S.A. (2015). *You can't rush the process: Collective impact models of food systems change*. East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems. [Open access](#).

Highlights a range of state and multi-state food system initiatives across the country and explores six cross-cutting themes. Key strategies, indicators and lessons learned are shared for each initiative.

A: Siddiki, S.N., Carboni, J.L., Koski, C., and Sadiq, A. (2015). How policy rules shape the structure and performance of collaborative governance arrangements. *Public Administration Review*, 75(4), 536-547. [Abstract](#).

Explores how policies structure the stakeholder composition and goals of food policy councils (FPCs) and how FPCs' stakeholder composition facilitates and/or impedes their performance.

R: Union of Concerned Scientists (2016). *Fixing food: Fresh solutions from five U.S. cities*. Washington, DC: UCS. [Open access](#).

Looks at how local governments and community groups in Baltimore, Louisville, Memphis, Minneapolis and Oakland are working to make affordable, healthy food available to more people and empower them to build better food systems.

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). [Open access](#).

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

Europe

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). [Open access](#).

Assesses how institutional norms, values and practices affect the capacity of food policy groups 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: Lang, T., Rayner, G., Rayner, M., Barling, D., and Millstone, E. (2004). Discussion paper: Policy councils on food, nutrition and physical activity: the UK as a case study. *Public Health Nutrition*, 8(1), 11-19. [Open access](#).

The case for creating a food policy council in the UK is reviewed, as are possible organizational options, functions and remit.

B: Moragues-Faus, A. (2017). “Urban food policy alliances as paths to food sovereignty? Insights from sustainable food cities in the UK.” In A.A. Desmarais, P. Claeys, and A. Trauger (Eds.), *Public Policies for Food Sovereignty: Social Movements and the State*. 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.

R: Moragues-Faus, A. (2016). Los Consejos Alimentarios: Una herramienta municipalista para la transformación del sistema alimentario (“Food Councils: A municipal tool for the transformation of the food system”). *Soberanía Alimentaria, Biodiversidad y Culturas*. [Open access](#).

Guide to food policy councils in Spanish.

A: Moragues-Faus, A. (2015). Cambiar la política alimentaria empezando desde abajo (“Changing food policy from the bottom up”). *Soberanía Alimentaria, Biodiversidad y Culturas*, 19. [Open access](#) (full article in Spanish).

Reflects on how municipalities can support food systems change and food sovereignty through the creation of new spaces for deliberation and participation. Includes specific examples of the Bristol Food Policy Council and Brighton & Hove Food Partnership.

R: Moragues-Faus, A., Morgan, K., Moschitz, H., Neimane, I., Nilsson, H., Pinto, M., Rohrer, H., Ruiz, R., Thuswald, M., Tisenkopfs, T., and Halliday, J. (2013). *Urban food strategies: The rough guide to sustainable food systems*. Document developed in the framework of the FP7 project FOODLINKS (GA No. 265287). [Open access](#).

Collects visions and goals from urban food strategies (UFS) across Europe, and shows how they are translated into practices, instruments and actions. Compiles measures and highlights some good practices from cities that are already implementing their UFS in order to inspire other cities.

Research on FPG movement and/or how FPGs connect with one another

State or regional level

R: Clark, J. et al. (2017). Ohio Food Policy Network: Mapping the vision for the future of Ohio's food system. [Open access](#).

A broad project aimed to create a shared agenda for Ohio's food system while establishing a resilient network. Seeks to 1) evaluate existing network relationships via a network analysis; 2) identify and map shared areas of research and practice illustrating linkages; 3) facilitate a robust dialogue around the shared values to reinforce linkages; and 4) provide a platform for collective action and roadmap to identify opportunities to leverage additional resources.

A: De Marco, M., Chapman, L., McGee, C., Calancie, L., Burnham, L., and 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. [Open access](#).

Explores 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.

R: Harden, N., Bain, J., and Heim, S. (2017). Convening of food network leaders evaluation. St. Paul, MN: University of Minnesota Extension. [Summary](#). [Unedited survey results](#).

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. An example of how different scales of food policy groups are interacting with each other in one state.

R: Harden, N., Heim, S., and Bain, J. (2015). *Cultivating Collective Action: The Ecology of a Statewide Food Network*. St. Paul, MN: Health and Nutrition, University of Minnesota Extension. [Open access](#).

Explores 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.

A: Hoey, L. and 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, 595–609. [Abstract](#).

This study discusses the factors that limit the potential impact of strategies used by social movements, like alternative food movements, to affect change. It was based on semi-structured interviews with 27 food movement leaders in Michigan about their motivation to act and capacity to scale their impact. The study concludes with the recommendation of a two-fold approach that challenges the state of present politics while also growing the capacity of autonomous grassroots initiatives.

R: Rehmann, M. and Colasanti, K. (2014). *Advancing a Local Food Council Network in Michigan*. Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems. [Open access](#).

Examines the potential for developing a statewide network of local food policy councils and similar groups in Michigan. Also 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.

D: Schroeder, A. (2017). *A Qualitative Analysis of Opportunities for Partnerships Among Key Informants in Wisconsin’s Food System* (Master’s capstone, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health). [Open access](#).

Master’s capstone 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. Potential strategies to create partnerships and increase collaboration were identified by informants.

National level

A: Bassarab, K., Clark, J.K., Santo, R., and Palmer, A. (2019). Finding our way to food democracy: Lessons from US food policy council governance. *Politics and Governance*, 7(4), 32-47. [Open access](#).

This article examines the relationship between an FPC’s organizational structure, relationship to government, and membership and its policy priorities. Using data from a 2018 survey of FPCs in the United States by the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future paired with illustrative cases, the authors find that an FPC’s relationship to government and membership have more bearing on its policy priorities than its organizational structure. Further, the cases illustrate how membership is determined and deliberation occurs, highlighting the difficulty of including underrepresented voices in the process.

R: Bassarab, K., Santo, R., and Palmer, A. (2019). *2018 Food Policy Council Report*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future. [Open access](#).

Summarizes the results of the 2018 Food Policy Council (FPC) survey, conducted since 2013 on trends among FPCs across the U.S. and Canada. Updates previous report: Sussman, L., and Bassarab, K. (2017). *2016 Food Policy Council Report*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future. [Open access](#).

A: Calancie, L., Cooksey-Stowers, K., Palmer, A., Calhoun, H., Frost, N., Piner, A., and 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), 123-136. [Open access](#).

The variety of topics that FPCs address makes it challenging to describe the impacts FPCs have on their communities. This article is based on content analysis of a survey conducted with 66 FPCs from across North America. 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.

A: Feenstra, G.W. (1997). Local food systems and sustainable communities. *American Journal of Alternative Agriculture*, 12, 28-36. [Abstract](#).

Reviews the existing literature on local food systems, examining a variety of strategies and initiatives including early food policy councils.

R: MacRae, R. and Donahue, K. (2013). *Municipal Food Policy Entrepreneurs: A Preliminary Analysis of How Canadian Cities and Regional Districts are Involved in Food System Change*. Toronto, CA: Toronto Food Policy Council, Vancouver Food Policy Council, CAPI. [Open access](#).

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. Describes six forms of food policy group organization, and includes brief highlights from food policy groups in Central Okanagan, Edmonton, Hamilton, Kaslo, Ottawa, Toronto, and Vancouver.

B: Mooney, P.H., Tanaka, K., and Ciciurkaite, G. (2014). “Food policy council movement in North America: A convergence of alternative local agrifood interests?” In D.H. Constance, M. Renard, M.G. Rivera-Ferre (Eds.), *Alternative Agrifood Movements: Patterns of Convergence and Divergence (Research in Rural Sociology and Development, Volume 21)*(pp.229-255). Emerald Group Publishing Limited, 229-255. [Abstract](#).

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. (2017). Addressing Food Security Vulnerabilities Through Urban Food Policy Alliances: The Case of the Sustainable Food Cities Network in the UK. In *Advances in Food Security and Sustainability (Vol. 2, 87-113)*. Elsevier. [Abstract](#).

Outlines the emergence and development of the Sustainable Food Cities Network, an initiative connecting 47 urban food strategies in the UK. Analyzes UK food system’s vulnerabilities and ways in which the network aims to achieve food security outcomes.

A: Moragues-Faus, A., and Sonnino, R. (2019). Re-assembling sustainable food cities: An exploration of translocal governance and its multiple agencies. *Urban Studies*, 56(4), 778-794. [Abstract](#).

This analysis focuses on the activities and tools used by the UK’s Sustainable Food Cities Network 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.

R: Moragues-Faus, A., Adlerova, B., and Hausmanova, T. (2016). “Local” Level Analysis of FNS Pathways in the UK. Exploring two case studies: Sustainable Food Cities Network and access to fruit and vegetables in the city. TRANSMANGO: EU KBBE.2013.2.5-01 Grant agreement no: 613532. [Open access](#).

Provides insights into local transition pathways in the European food and nutrition security (FNS) landscape by exploring practices that aim to build self-reliance and alleviate FNS vulnerabilities. Includes case study analysis of the Sustainable Food Cities Network, which connects food partnerships throughout the UK with the goal of scaling urban food strategies up and out in a national context.

B: Raja, S., Raj, S., and Roberts, B. (2017). “The US experience in planning for community food systems: An era of advocacy, awareness, and (some) learning.” In A. Blay-Palmer, I. Knezevic, C. Levkoe, P. Mount and E. Nelson (Eds.), *Nourishing Communities: Sustainable food system transformation through theory, practice and policy* (pp. 59-74). Springer. [Abstract](#).

Describes the extent to which local, regional, and metropolitan (LRM) governments are planning for stronger community food systems. Although a growing number of LRM are engaged in food work, planning for food systems remains far from mainstream planning practice.

P: Sheingate, A. (2015). Institutional unraveling? The new politics of food in the United States. Paper prepared for the Annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, April 2.

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

Multiple countries

B: Hunt, A.R. (2015). *Civic Engagement in Food System Governance: A Comparative Perspective of American and British Local Food Movements*. Oxford: Routledge. [Book summary with chapter abstracts](#).

Compares the US and UK’s *national* food movements and the policy frameworks they have advanced in relation to local, sustainable food from 1976 (US) or 1991 (UK) to 2013. Provides context on evolution of federal food and farm policies, programs, and advocacy priorities—including key funding sources for FPGs in both countries—but does not specifically describe FPGs.

R: Moragues-Faus, A. (2019). *Re-scaling urban food governance: Global and national food networks*. Report funded by the Ser Cymru II fellowship. Cardiff, UK. [Open access](#).

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. Data on the functioning of city-networks, current strengths and challenges as well as an exploration of the relationship between networks themselves was collected through semi-structured interviews with network facilitators.

B: Morgan, K. and Santo, R., (2018). “The rise of municipal food movements.” In: Skordili, S. and S. Kalfagianna (Eds.), *Localizing Global Food: Short Food Supply Chains as Responses to Agri-Food System Challenges*. Routledge. [Summary](#).

Explores the rise of the municipal food movement as one of the fastest growing social movements in the Global North. Argues that their multi-scalar and multi-functional perspective helps prevent municipal food movements from becoming inadvertent agents of green parochialism by highlighting the need to be globally engaged as well as locally embedded.

A: Prové, C., de Krom, M.P.M.M., and Dessein, J. (2019). Politics of scale in urban agriculture governance: A transatlantic comparison of food policy councils. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 68, 171-181. [Abstract](#).

This article analyzes the localizing food systems at play, and specifically the development of urban agriculture, in the FPCs of Ghent (Belgium) and Philadelphia (Pennsylvania, USA). The article shows that attention for politics of scale in FPCs can help identify dynamics of socio-political inclusion and exclusion and power struggles in the governance of urban agriculture.

A: Santo, R. and Moragues-Faus, A. (2018). Towards a trans-local food governance: Exploring the transformative capacity of food policy assemblages in the US and UK. *Geoforum*, 98, 75-87. [Abstract](#). [Download summary](#).

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

Research on activities/outcomes of work by FPGs

This literature focuses on specific planning activities of, or policy outcomes achieved by, the work of FPGs (at least in part). While a much broader and expanding literature exists on the rise of local and regional food system planning and governance, the resources documented below were highlighted because they incorporate research on FPGs in some way.

Food policy changes

R: Broad Leib, E. (2012). *Good laws, good food: Putting state food policy to work for our communities*. Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic. [Open access](#).

R: Clippinger, E., Balkus, O., Rice, C., Nielsen, A., and Broad Leib, E. (2017). *Good laws, good food: Putting local food policy to work for our communities*. Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic and Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future. [Open access](#).

These guides provide a starting place for food policy councils to understand the basic legal concepts surrounding local and state food systems, develop a base of knowledge about the main policy areas, and discover examples and innovations from other cities and states.

R: Burgan, M. and Winne, M. (2012). *Doing Food Policy Councils Right: A Guide to Development and Action*. Mark Winne Associates. [Open access](#).

Offers practical tools to create and sustain effective food policy councils. Includes numerous examples of specific food policy and programmatic achievements by FPCs throughout the U.S.

A: Clark, J.K., Dugan, K. and Sharp, J. (2015). Agrifood system policy agenda and research domain. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 42, 112-122. [Abstract](#).

Describes and traces the emergence of the agrifood system policy agenda in the U.S. Includes a brief overview of governance innovations at the local and state level driven by food policy councils, networks and coalitions.

R: Cooksey-Stowers, K. and Mancini, S. (2020). Prince George's County Food Equity Council: Taking on food swamps through policy change. Healthy Food Policy Project. [Open access](#).

Since its launch in 2013, the Food Equity Council has pursued multiple policies to address inequities in the local food system associated with food swamps and lack of access to healthy food. This case study outlines how these policy change efforts address multiple dimensions of food access that advance equity in diet-related health outcomes.

R: Essex, A., Shinkle, D., and Bridges, M. (2015). *Harvesting Healthier Options: State Legislative Trends in Local Foods 2012-2014*. Denver: National Conference of State Legislatures. [Open access](#).

Describes state legislation in all 50 states enacted between 2012 and 2014 that aimed to strengthen various components of local food systems. 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.

M: Goddeeris, L. (2016). Food for thought: How and why local governments support local food systems. In *Local Government Review, Putting Research Into Practice*, Washington D.C.: International City/County Management Association. [Abstract](#).

Summarizes the results of a comprehensive national study conducted in 2015 of local governments' food-related activities. 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 actions of community partners.

B: Goddeeris, L. and Hamm, M. (2013). "Local government support for food system development: An initial scan of the landscape." In *The Municipal Year Book*, Washington D.C.: International City/County Management Association. [Open access](#).

Summarizes the results of the first comprehensive national study conducted of local governments' food-related activities. Demonstrates that local governments are using a diverse range of federal programs to fund food system development, although usage varies among agencies and programs.

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*, 7(2), 408-454. [Abstract](#).

Details the potential for state and local policies to advance progressive agricultural/food system reform.

R: Harper, A., Shattuck, A., Holt-Giménez, E., Alkon, A., and Lambrick, F. (2009). *Food Policy Councils: Lessons Learned*. Oakland, CA: Food First Institute for Food and Development Policy. [Open access](#).

Details basic background on FPCs, their functions, potential for success and challenges. Includes examples of organizational structure models, notable successes, and common challenges from a number of FPCs throughout the U.S.

R: Hoey, L., Fink Shapiro, L., Gensler, L., & Masson-Minock, M. (2017). *Are Michigan's Food Councils Changing Policy or Prepared to Do So?* Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems. [Open access](#).

Presents results of a survey of Michigan local food councils to learn more about how Michigan food councils are working on – or aspire to work on – institutional or government food policy change, gauge councils' policy advocacy efforts and impact in communities across Michigan, and provide information on Michigan Local Food Council Network (MLFCN) member councils' interests and training needs.

R: Kobayashi, M., Tyson, L., and Abi-Nader, J. (2010). *The Activities and Impacts of Community Food Projects*. USDA/NIFA. [Open access](#). See also Indicators of Success series (updated reports on Community Food Project impacts): [2011](#), [2014](#), [2015](#), [2017](#), [2018](#).

Provides an overview of the activities and impacts of Community Food Projects which received funding from the Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program, including food policy councils and networks.

A: Leib, E. B. (2013) All (food) politics is local: Increasing food access through local government action. *Harvard Law & Policy Review*, 7(321). [Abstract](#).

This article aims to encourage those localities 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 increase food access. Local input is vital given food access is a cultural and community-based issue. The article identifies specific steps and tools and highlights policy responses across the country to engage municipalities in food politics.

A: McClintock, N.I., Wooten, H., Brown, A.E. (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*, 2(4), 15-42. [Open access](#).

Documents the efforts of the Oakland Food Policy Council to develop recommendations for urban agriculture (UA) zoning in Oakland, California, as a means of fostering UA's expansion.

A: Moragues-Faus, A., and Carroll, B. (2018). Reshaping urban political ecologies: An analysis of policy trajectories to deliver food security. *Food Security*, 10(6), 1337-1351. [Open access](#).

This article explores the process and outcomes of urban food policies resulting from two European food policy groups - Food Cardiff and the Cork Food Policy Council. The analysis shows how policy opportunities for 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 particular ecological basis (i.e., availability and access to spaces for growing, share of green spaces, local climate, etc.).

R: Morril, 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. Baltimore, MD. [Open access](#).

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

A: Muller, M., Tagtow, A., Roberts, S., MacDougall, E. (2009). Aligning food systems policies to advance public health. *Journal of Hunger and Environmental Nutrition*, 4(3-4), 225-240. [Open access](#).

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: Poole, M.K., Mundorf, A.R., Englar, N.K., and 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. [Abstract](#).

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 (NPT) with the overall goal of improving health outcomes in Louisiana. This article describes the NPT's work from research to legislative action on farm-to-table policies.

M: Raja, S., Diao, C., Whittaker, J., Campbell, M.C., and Bailkey, M. (2016). Community-led urban agriculture policy making: A view from the United States. *RUAF Urban Agriculture Magazine*, 31, 18-24. [Open access](#).

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, NY and Madison, WI.

Equity and FPGs

A: Clark, J. K. (2018). Designing public participation: Managing problem settings and social equity. *Public Administration Review*, 78(3), 362-374. [Abstract](#).

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. Recommendations are offered.

A: Farnsworth, L. D. (2017). "Beyond policy: Race, class, leadership, and agenda-setting on North American food policy councils. In *Food leadership: Leadership and adult learning for global food systems transformation* (pp.55-72). SensePublishers, Rotterdam. [Open access](#).

Explores how food policy councils (FPCs) have negotiated challenges when working to create diverse membership and 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.

D: Gazillo, C. (2017). *Addressing Racism in Urban Agriculture: The Case for an Urban Agriculture Land Trust in Bridgeport, Connecticut*. (Master's capstone). [Open access](#).

Explores how the Bridgeport Food Policy Council 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.

D: Henson, Z.F. (2013). *Separate tables: Segregation, gentrification, and the commons in Birmingham, Alabama's alternative food and agriculture movement* (PhD Dissertation, University of California Berkeley). [Open access](#).

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. (2019). *Achieving equity (with)in Food Policy Councils: Confronting structural racism and centering community* (Master's thesis, Norwegian University of Life Sciences). [Open access](#).

Examines how councils in Oakland and Baltimore are committing to equity both in their own council and the surrounding food environment. Although both FPCs confront institutional barriers in their respective equity work, each had adapted innovative ways to confront structural racism and centering underserved communities and communities of color in their organizational structure, council representation, and policy advocacy.

D: McCullagh, M. (2012). *Food policy for all: Inclusion of diverse community on food policy councils* (Master's thesis, Tufts University). [Abstract](#).

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 (FPC) 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. and Santo, R. (Eds.) (2014). *Food policy for all: Inclusion of diverse community on food policy councils*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future. [Open access](#).

Summary report of thesis by McCullagh (2012).

A: Moragues-Faus, A. (2019). Towards a critical governance framework: Unveiling the political and justice dimensions of urban food partnerships. *The Geographical Journal*. [Abstract](#).

This paper explores how eight different food partnerships in the UK 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. It highlights how urban and food governance studies would benefit from exploring new ways of effectively championing the knowledges, needs, and experiences of those still living “at the margins.”

R: Mutuma, B. (2014). *Detroit Food Policy Council: The Politics of Community Engagement: How to Involve Community in Needed Food Policy Reform*. Emerson Hunger Fellow, 2013-2014. [Open access](#).

Involving those most impacted by our broken food system in meaningful and educational dialogue is essential to creating a more fortified community. This report offers strategies to increase engagement with community members in food policy decisions.

D: Porter, C. (2018). *Food Democracy: Public Participation in New England Food Policy Councils* (Master’s thesis, University of New Hampshire). [Open access](#).

This research was comprised of a survey of 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 MA Food Systems Plan. The findings highlight important questions for FPCs to consider about representation and empowerment of underrepresented audiences in food policy efforts.

****A:** Porter, C. and Ashcraft, A. (in progress). New England food policy councils: An assessment of organizational structure, policy priorities and public participation.

This paper presents the results from a survey of all 29 FPCs and networks in New England to: (1) identify FPC policy priorities, (2) characterize FPCs engaged in policy initiatives based on attributes which, based on the literature, may impact effective public participation: geographic scale, organization type, capacity, and membership, and (3) analyze methods for engaging the public in FPC policy initiatives and populations and sectors engaged.

A: Purifoy, D.M. (2014). Food policy councils: Integrating food justice and environmental justice. *Duke Environmental Law & Policy Forum*, 24, 375-398. [Abstract](#).

Food policy councils (FPCs) that do not also make social justice central to their mission risk reproducing the same race and class inequalities in their advocacy and policy outcomes. 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.” In Alkon, A.H. & J. Guthman (Eds.). *The New Food Activism: Opposition, Cooperation, and Collective Action* (pp. 107-132). University of California Press. [Open access](#).

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

D: Thayer, R. (2017). *Resistance Sprouts: Policy Guidelines for Decolonizing Urban Foodscapes through Self Determination* (Capstone Seminar, University of San Francisco). [Full paper \(open access\)](#). [Condensed recommendations](#).

Local decision makers need to support marginalized communities into positions of decision-making as well as provide needed resources in order to promote economic equity. Although focusing on the Tenderloin neighborhood in San Francisco, the recommendations provided in this paper to secure the human right to food hold the opportunity to be scaled up to a national level. The paper incorporates a discussion of the San Francisco Food Security Task Force, of which the author is a member.

A: Weissman, E. and Potteiger, M. (2018). Collaboration and diverse stakeholder participation in food system planning: A case study from Central New York. *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems*, 1-5. [Abstract](#).

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

Food systems planning

B: Clark, J. (2019). “Collaborative governance: The case of local food action planning.” In André, P., J.K. Clark, C.Z. Levkoe, and K. Lowitt (Eds.), *Civil Society and Social Movements in Food System Governance* (pp. 164-182). London: Routledge. [Open access](#).

This chapter traces and analyzes the development and implementation of a local food action plan within a unique governance structure in Columbus, OH. 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.

A: Clark, J.K., Freedgood, J., Irish, A., Hodgson, K., and 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. [Open access](#).

Through a critical examination of the Growing Food Connections (GFC) project—a partnership with eight county governments across the U.S. 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. The authors find that addressing historic and cultural divides, racial disparities, and poverty is a necessary precursor to meeting needs of underserved farmers and community members.

R: Hodgson, K. (2012). *Planning for Food Access and Community-Based Food Systems: A National Scan and Evaluation of Local Comprehensive and Sustainability Plans*. American Planning Association. [Open access](#).

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 U.S. Assesses their impact on local policies, regulations, and standards for the purpose of reducing food access disparities and improving community-based food systems.

A: Horst, M. (2017). Food justice and municipal government in the USA. *Planning Theory & Practice*, 18(1), 51-70. [Abstract](#).

Explores the potential and limits of municipal food systems planning practice in advancing food justice through an examination of two municipal food systems planning organizations in western 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.

D: Horst, M. (2015). *Fostering Food Systems Transformation: An Examination of Planning in the Central Puget Sound Region* (Doctoral dissertation) [Open access](#).

This dissertation explores how planning addresses food systems issues and its relationship to food sovereignty. Through a thorough review of 58 comprehensive plans, observation of the Puget Sound Regional Food Policy Council and examination of the City of Seattle's planning efforts, this study found that planning is paying increasing attention to food systems but there is still a lack of attention to food sovereignty. To address this deficit, the thesis proposes that planners adopt a values-explicit approach to food systems change.

A: Mendes, W., and Sonnino, R. (2018). Urban food governance in the Global North. In *Handbook of Nature*. London: Sage. Ch. 28. [Abstract](#).

Analyzes British and North American urban food strategy narratives, 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 councils) they create, to offer a powerful new pathway to urban sustainability.

R: Neuner, K., Kelly, S., and Raja, S. (2011). *Planning to eat? Innovative local governments plans and policies to build healthy food systems in the United States*. Buffalo, New York: University at Buffalo, The State University of New York. [Open access](#).

Synthesizes recent best practices of local government policy and planning designed to strengthen community food systems.

A: Pothukuchi, K. and 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. [Open access](#).

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

A: Raja, S., Raj, S., and Roberts, B. (2017). The US experience in planning for community food systems: An era of advocacy, awareness, and (some) learning. *Nourishing Communities*, 59-74. [Open access](#).

This chapter describes the extent to which local, regional, and metropolitan governments in the United States are planning for stronger community food systems. It also highlights the trajectory of a planning process in the Buffalo Niagara metropolitan region 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. (2014). The new geography of food security: Exploring the potential of urban food strategies. *The Geographical Journal*. [Open access](#).

This documentary analysis of 15 urban food strategies from Canada, the USA and the UK 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-localisation in relation to food security and sustainability concerns.

Economic development

A: Clark, J.K. and 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. [Abstract](#).

There have been calls to 'scale-up' local food production to regionally distribute food and to sell into more mainstream grocery and retail venues. 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.

FPG engagement at the federal level

R: Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future (2015). *Stories from the field: The role of local and state food policy councils in federal policy making and implementation*. Baltimore, MD. [Open access](#).

Highlights the ways, using examples from throughout the U.S., 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.

Funding FPGs

R: Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future (2015). *Funding food policy councils: Stories from the field*. Baltimore, MD. [Open access](#). [Associated webinar](#).

Obtaining adequate and consistent funding remains a continuous challenge for food policy councils (FPCs). Since FPCs exist at a variety of jurisdictional levels, and with a variety of organizational structures and priorities, there is no single model for successfully funding an FPC. This report describes the stories of how six city, county, and state FPCs across the U.S. have funded their efforts over their years of existence.

R: Santo, R. and Horrigan, L. (2019). *Changing the food system takes more than change: Stories of Funding Food Policy Councils*. Johns Hopkins Center from the Future. Baltimore, MD. [Open access](#).

Most food policy councils (FPCs) in the United States operate on a shoestring, with 70 percent reporting an annual budget of less than \$10,000. This guide highlights how the St. Louis (MO) Food Policy Coalition, Maine Network of Community Food Councils, Greater Cincinnati (OH) Regional Food Policy Council, Montgomery County (MD) Food Council, New Orleans (LA) Food Policy Advisory Committee, Madison (WI) Food Policy Council, and Indy Food Council (IN) have sought funds to support their work. In addition to these success stories, the guide also highlights key issues and struggles that FPCs continually face due to changes in funder priorities or grant availability.

Relationships with other institutions (e.g. cooperative extension, universities)

A: Fitzgerald, N. and Morgan, K. (2014). A food policy council guide for Extension professionals. *Journal of Extension*, 12(2). [Open access](#).

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.

R: Gupta, C., Kim, J.V.S., Sowerwine, J., Feenstra, G., Campbell, D., Capps, S., Munden-Dixon, K. (2018). UC Cooperative Extension Study of California Food Policy Councils. University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources. [Open access](#).

This report summarizes findings from a study of California food policy councils conducted by a team of University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) 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.

A: Whittaker, J. R., Clark, J. K., San Giovanni, S., and Raja, S. (2017). Planning for food systems: Community-university partnerships for food-systems transformation. *Metropolitan Universities*, 28(1), 7-26. [Open access](#).

Draws on case studies involving the ways in which community-university partnerships can be used to leverage policy change to support stronger food systems. 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.

Research gaps

Research on individual FPGs

- More case studies of FPGs that have dissolved or failed to successfully organize around issues
- More in-depth investigations of contentious dynamics within groups (e.g. restaurants vs. labor unions, conventional vs. sustainable or small farmers, hunger alleviation vs. food access)
- Internal evaluations of FPG operations/projects
- Impact assessments of FPG activities on health, environmental, economic development, and/or social justice indicators
- Research on connections and/or comparative analyses with other social justice movements
- More research/guidance on how FPGs determine how to prioritize local vs. state vs. federal advocacy
- Research on how an FPG applies systems thinking to its work (e.g., employs knowledge of what's happening beyond local scale for its issues; incorporates systems tools into strategic and project planning as well as communications with politicians, media, and public)

Research comparing multiple FPGs

- Deeper analysis of funding sources and implications for the scope of work that FPGs pursue and the relative attention they devote to different issue areas
- Studies assessing how FPGs employ/embody theories of change
- Research on how FPGs are utilizing available educational resources (e.g., community colleges, universities, etc.)
- Comparative evaluations of internal FPG operations/projects
- Comparative impact assessments of FPG activities on health, environmental, economic development, and/or social justice indicators
- Comparative research on the how an FPG's origin of establishment (e.g., founded by civic initiative, local government, or research institute) or organizational structure influence its policy and programmatic priorities, content, impact, or transformative quality

Research on the FPG movement and/or how FPGs connect with one another

- More research on how state and regional networks of FPGs operate and how local groups engage with them
- Further investigation into how national movement of FPGs is (or could be) influencing national and international level policy
- Assessment of how FPGs interact with international initiatives (e.g. Milan Food Policy Pact, C40 Food Systems Network)