



Homegrown Minneapolis

ANNUAL REPORT

Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council

Year 2015

**Health, Environment and Community
Engagement (HECE) Committee**

April 4, 2016



Homegrown Minneapolis



- Homegrown Minneapolis is a citywide initiative expanding our community's ability to grow, process, distribute, eat and compost more healthy, sustainable, locally grown foods.
- Homegrown Minneapolis brings together key partners from local government, area businesses, community organizations, non-profits, and residents to build a healthy, local food system.



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Background

- The Homegrown Minneapolis (HGM) initiative has unfolded into three distinct phases:

Phase I: (Nov. 2008-June 2009)

Launch of HGM and development of recommendations for ways the City can support and advance the local food system.

Phase II: (July 2009 – Dec. 2011)

Implementation of recommendation.

Phase III: (Jan. 2012 – present)

Passage of Urban Ag Text Amendments and formation of the Food Council.

- The HGM Food Council was established in January 2012 by 2011R-445 as a permanent body for the City of Minneapolis to serve as a nexus of citywide food related efforts
- In February 2015, the Food Council was expanded to 25 members by Resolution 2015R-092 to include 4 new members: a staff and community representative from Minneapolis Public Schools and a staff and community representative from Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.



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Food Council Statement of Vision

The Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council envisions a vibrant local food system that enhances the health of all residents, protects the earth, increases economic vitality, expands social connectedness, and improves food security.



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Food Council Statement of Mission





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The 2016-2017 Food Council 25 members: Co-ownership

17 Community Representatives

- Cooperatives: Allison Meyer
- Chefs & Restaurants: Saba Andualem, Beth Dooley, Ruhel Islam
- Growers & Composters: Russ Henry (Co-Chair), Martin Brown, Caroline Devany, Pakou Hang
- Educators & Non-Profits: LaCora Bradford Kesti, Zoe Hollomon, Magdalena Kaluza, Briana MacPhee (MPS Rep), LaTasha Powell
- Farmers Markets: DeVon Nolen (Co-Chair), Miguel Goebel (MPRB Rep)
- Incubator Kitchens: Journey Gosselin
- Funders: Jillia Pessenda



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2016-2017

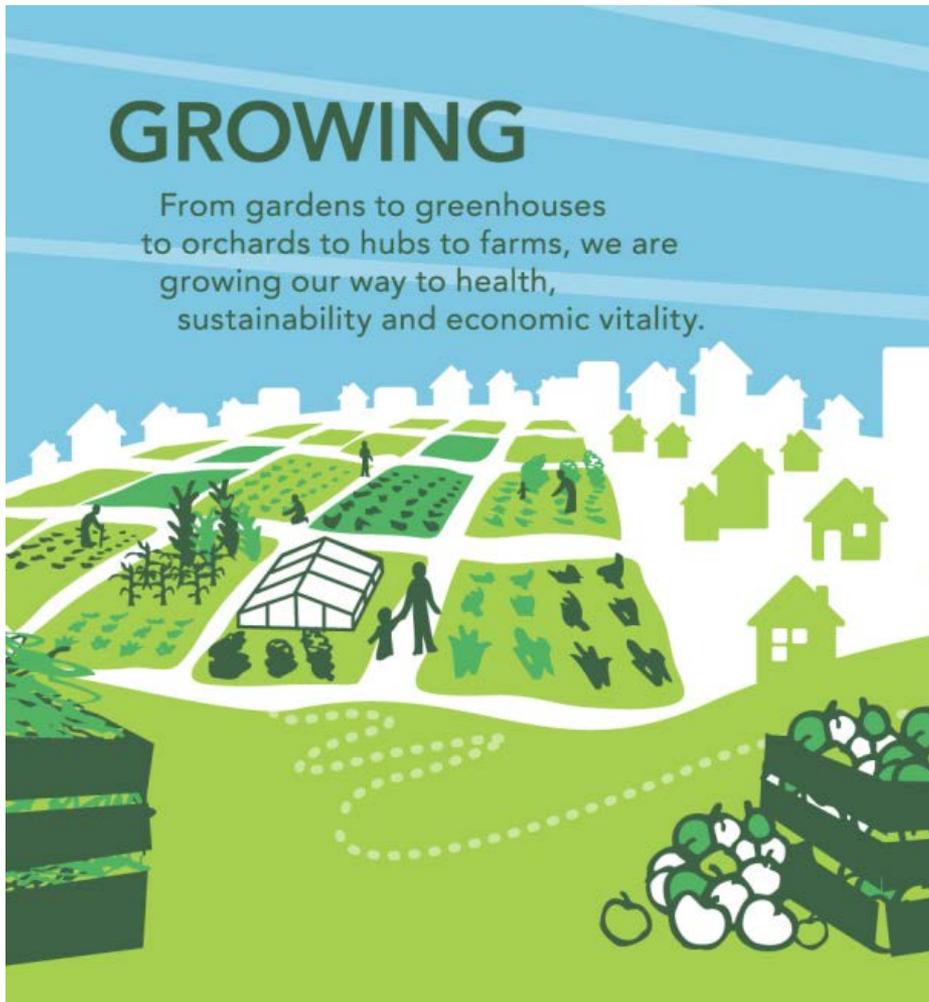
**Food Council:
City Representatives**

- City Council: Cam Gordon
- Mayor's Office: Erick Garcia Luna
- Health Department: Patty Bowler
- Community Planning & Economic Development: Andrew Dahl
- Environmental Services: Roe Reinberg
- City Coordinator's Office/Sustainability: Gayle Prest
- MPRB Staff Representative: Ginger Cannon
- MPS Staff Representative: Andrea Northup
- Staffed by: Tamara Downs Schwei (City Coordinator's Office/Sustainability.)





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- **Urban Farms and Market Gardens**
 - Nearly 20 urban farms and market gardens
- **Community Gardens**
 - More than 275 community gardens; 50 on City-owned lots
- **Animals**
 - 265 chicken permits
 - More than 80 permitted beehives
 - Multiple aquaponics projects
- **Local Food Resource Hubs**



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PROCESSING

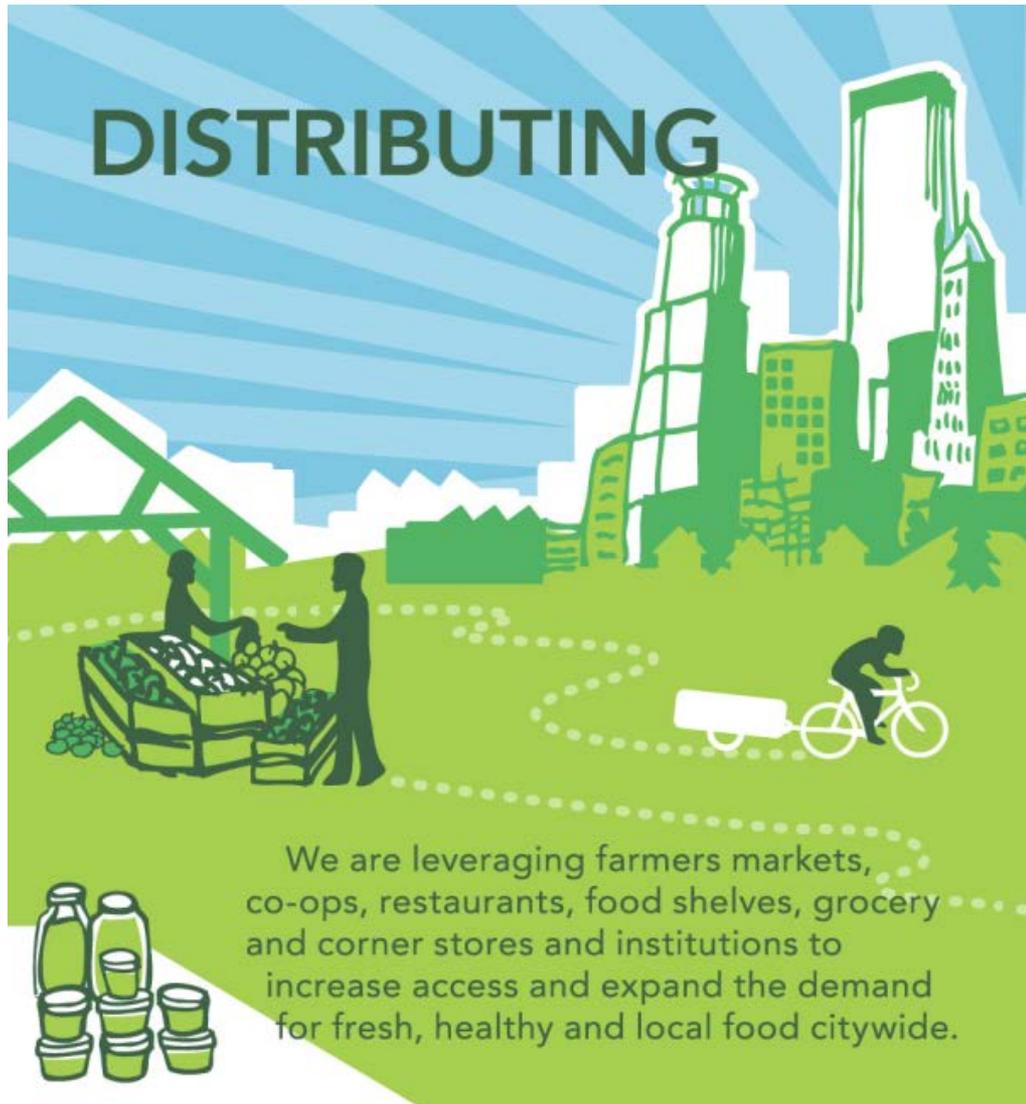
We are cooking, canning, freezing, packaging, juicing, milling and baking to assure healthy, sustainable local food year-round.



- Food manufacturers
- Restaurants
- Food trucks
 - More than 95 food trucks
- Food Processing & Preservation Facilities
 - Three commercially licensed incubator kitchens
 - More than 40 “community kitchens”



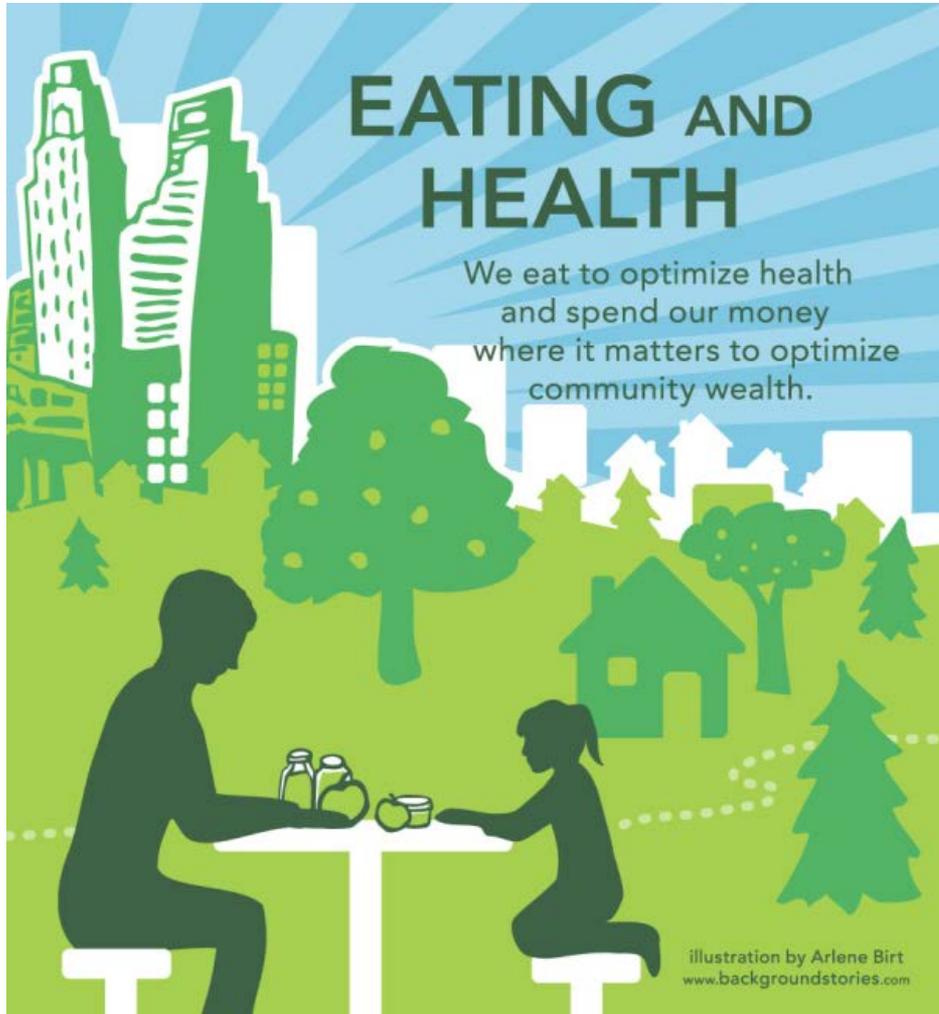
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- **Farmers Markets**
 - 38 farmers markets and mini-markets
 - Nearly all markets accepted food support (SNAP/EBT)
- **Farmstands**
- **Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)**
 - Hosted CSA for City employees, 3 local farms
- **Grocery Stores**
 - Healthy Corner Stores
 - Expanding food co-op stores
- **Mobile Groceries**



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- Healthy Food Access
- EBT at Farmers Markets
- Farm to School (MPS partnership)
- Healthy food policies in City buildings and parks
- Staple Food Ordinance
- Rethink your Drink



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- Backyard
- Organics Recycling
- Commercial
- Community gardens
 - 68 community gardens incorporated more than 500 cubic yards of compost into their gardens through the City's free/reduced price compost program



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2015 Highlights: City level advocacy



- Adopted Pollinator Friendly City Resolution
 - Limiting pesticide usage on City property.
- Amended Community Garden Program
 - Allowing lease of City lots for market gardens and urban farms in addition to community gardens, 43 new vacant City parcels for garden lease, pollinator protection for City-leased lots and reduced fees.
- Expanded allowable compost areas
 - Including at community gardens, market gardens and urban farm lots.
- Amended Food Trucks Ordinance
 - Reducing fees and permits for food trucks at farmers markets. (Jan. 2016)
- Simplified chicken and other fowl permits
 - Removing barriers by eliminating neighbor signature requirement for 6 or less birds, reduced fees and more. (Feb. 2016)



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2015 Highlights: State level advocacy



- **Minnesota Seed Law**
 - Supported amendment allowing for operation of seed libraries and interpersonal seed exchange.
- **Minnesota's Cottage Food Law**
 - Supported revisions increasing the maximum sales amount for qualifying food products.
- **Urban Agriculture Report**
 - Helped gather input for MN Department of Agriculture report.



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2015 Highlights: Community Engagement

- Recruited new Food Council cohort, increasing diversity and scope of member representation.
- Facilitated conversations about healthy food access, land access, food business development and chicken policy and represented Homegrown Minneapolis at events.
- Distributed Homegrown Minneapolis monthly e-newsletter to more than **2,600** individuals.
- Shared information through Friends of Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Facebook page.





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2015 Food Council Annual Open House



Approximately 275 individuals attended the Homegrown Minneapolis Open House event on December 3, 2015 at the MPS Davis Center.



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2016-2017 Food Council

Potential Working Group Topics and Potential Task Forces

- Farmers Markets
- Healthy Food Access
- Land Access/Land Tenure
- Local Food Business Innovation
- Local Food Procurement
- Parks and Food
- Soil Health
- Youth/Food Education
- Community Outreach and Engagement
- Task Forces: Food Cart licensing, Food shelf zoning
- Additional working groups or task forces may be added during the year as issues/opportunities emerge.





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Recommendations for City Council Action

- The Food Council recommends the addition of a statement on the City's federal legislative agenda in support of GMO labeling and in opposition to federal pre-emption.



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Recommendations for City Council Action, Cont.

- The Food Council recommends amending the Community Garden Policy and Commercial Garden Policy to remove the phrase stating “at no cost to the City.”
 - This will enable the City to pay for soil tests for the vacant lots available for garden lease. (An initial group of lots was tested through a grant secured by Hennepin County, which did not cover all of the lots.)
 - The Community Garden Policy (*Resolution 2010R-119*) was adopted in April 2010 by City Council and amended by the CDRS Committee and City Council in November 2015. The Commercial Garden Policy (*Resolution 2015R-459*) was adopted in November 2015.
 - Thank you for your recent actions expanding the lots available in this program and providing access to urban farms and market gardens.



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**Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership.
Questions?**



For more information, visit

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/homegrown>