City of Bloomington Sustainability Action Plan
Local Food and Agriculture Working Group
Meeting #4
Agenda

6:00 pm – 6:10 pm: Review of Sustainability Definition and Vision Statement
6:10 pm – 6:25 pm: Review of Meeting 2 and 3 Recommendations
6:25 pm – 6:45 pm: Presentation on Food Utility and Stability
6:45 pm – 7:10 pm: Root Challenges of Food Utility and Stability
7:10 pm – 7:55 pm: Breakout Discussions
7:55 pm – 8:10 pm: Sharing of Breakout Results
8:10 pm – 8:25 pm: Voting
8:25 pm – 8:30 pm: Wrap-up and Next Steps
City of Bloomington Sustainability Action Plan
Agreements to Foster Civil Discourse*

*Information provided by Lisa Marie-Napoli of Indiana University’s Political and Civic Engagement (PACE) Program and based on work by Martin Carcasson of the Kettering Foundation

• Be honest and respectful
• Be careful not to make assumptions
• Listen to understand
• It’s okay to disagree, but do so with curiosity, not hostility
• Be brief and concise so everyone can participate
• Refrain from interrupting
Definition of Sustainable Community (Version 2.0)
A sustainable community works together to manage its environmental, social, and economic resources to ensure a healthy and just society for existing and future generations everywhere.
Vision Statement for Sustainability Action Plan (Version 2.0)

The City of Bloomington, Indiana will be recognized as a sustainability leader by working collaboratively with the community to preserve our natural resources, build a diverse and growing economy, and ensure a healthy and equitable standard of living while inspiring other cities and towns to do the same.
Four Pillars of Food Security and Sustainability

- **Food Availability.** The term food availability is used to describe a situation when all members of the community have sufficient quantities of nutritious food consistently available to them as a result of adequate food production and trade. *Sample subtopics:* Community gardening, Urban agriculture, and Support for Local Farming

- **Food Accessibility.** The term food accessibility is used to assess whether individuals have access to appropriately nutritious food at an affordable price and convenient travel distance. *Sample subtopics:* Accessibility of Fresh Foods, Mobile Food Pantries, Use of SNAP at Farmers Market, Produce Prescriptions

- **Food Utility.** The term food utility refers to developing a mindset towards food that views it as fuel for the body, consumed solely for its nutritional benefits. *Sample subtopics:* Education on Food Nutrition, Quality of School Lunches

- **Food Stability.** The term food stability refers to resilience in food supply when faced with potential disruptions, such as drought, shipping disruptions, economic recession, political instability, and climate change. *Sample subtopics:* Next Generation of Farmers, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

**Sources:** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and U.S. Department of Agriculture
Comprehensive Plan Goals Related to Food Availability

- **Goal 3.8:** Promote and protect local food culture and Bloomington’s food system
  - **Policy 3.8.1:** Work to provide residents with access to safe, nutritious, and affordable food, including through a sustainable, resilient local food sector
  - **Policy 3.8.2:** Support diverse, native-plant conservation and restoration efforts, to foster the plant pollinating network of animals, which greatly influences crop production
- **Outcomes:** A local food culture has been promoted and protected.
- **Indicators:** Number of restaurants and businesses serving and/or producing local food products, Number of home gardens and community gardens, Economic value of local food economy, Local regulator framework facilitates local food production and distribution, Food desert inventory
Comprehensive Plan Goals Related to Food Availability

- Goal 3.8: Promote and protect local food culture and Bloomington’s food system
  - Programs:
    - Encourage community gardens throughout the City.
    - Modify regulations for protective fence heights surrounding in dealing with white-tailed deer and other nuisance animals.
    - Assess the creation of an agricultural zoning district and/or permitted urban agriculture uses within other existing zoning districts.
    - Increase the use of native pollinator-attracting plants through the UDO.
    - Enhance education about pollinators as a necessity for growing food, and encourage the use of pollinator-attracting native plants on private property.
    - Encourage neighborhood associations and home owners associations to be more tolerant of vegetative alternatives practices.
Recommendations for Food Availability from Meetings 2-3

- Provide space/opportunity within city to vend (e.g. Fresh Stops in Louisville)
- Foster networking/collaboration opportunities for gardeners/farmers
- Influence institutional purchasing policies to favor local purchase
- Research appropriate legislation to promote farming (e.g. allow local farmers to collect food scraps)
- Encourage churches and other places citizens frequent to have community gardens or greenhouses
- Encourage schools to have their own gardens and involve children to create connection with food
- Adapt zoning to allow for sale of produce from urban farms
- Tours of urban agriculture initiatives
- Encourage and educate people on container gardening to get them started
- Adopt composting program to minimize food waste and improve soil
- Identify resources and land available that can be repurposed for growing
- Foster new farming through immigration
- Remove zoning and licensing barriers to farming
- Organize to apply for grants and publicly funded programs
- Create incentives for urban and periurban farming
Additional Ideas from Brainstorming from Meeting 2

• Ensure Public Housing provides garden space for low-income residents
• Provide economic incentives to encourage entrepreneurs to engage in urban farming (e.g. train cars into gardens)
• Develop a city farm
• Training for residents by Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard
• Map locations of gardens to obtain accurate count
• Encourage volunteers to help with education and garden tours to inspire gardeners
• Encourage food education in schools
• Provide opportunities for farm to school
• Research how HOAs would change covenants to facilitate urban agriculture
• Encourage apartment gardens
Additional Ideas from Brainstorming from Meeting 2

- Encourage food repurposing and rescue
- Encourage composting
- Collaborate with Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District to educate individuals regarding soil health
- Identify or encourage development of distribution center (e.g. mini food hub)
- Recruitment, training and support for new farmers
- Pair up people with space for gardening with those who want to garden (e.g. partnership between businesses and residents)
- Increase food testing to identify best practices through partnership with IU/Purdue and offer Website to share results
Recommendations for Food Availability from Meetings 2-3

**Potential Metrics**

- Number of children involved in school garden activities
- Number of garden plots in the community gardens
- SNAP spending on fresh food at farmers markets and grocery stores
- Acres of farmland
- Number of farmers adopting best management practices
- Sales of local food to institutions
- New farmer program/network established
- Number of full-time and part-time farmers
- % food grown and consumed by self locally
- Money spent on local vs outside food
Recommendations for Food Availability from Meetings 2-3

Potential Partners
- Churches
- University Farm
- Neighborhood associations
- Schools
- Collaborative Regional Alliance Farmer Training (CRAFT)
- Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Purdue University
Recommendations for Food Accessibility from Meeting 3

- Create more vending options to address food deserts through changes to zoning (Food Wagon)
- Encourage utilization of SNAP for fresh food
- Create farm market on Wednesday mornings at Monroe County United Ministries to sell half-price food from Tuesday farmers market
- Expand outreach regarding SNAP Double Bucks
- Ensure living wage for all City employees
- Explore partnerships with FoodBank Gleaning Program to clean up farm land already harvested
- Introduce sustainability metrics to Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding criteria
- Educate community on current situation in Bloomington to identify appropriate changes
- Research on food storage vehicles, hubs, and logistics
- Provide free bike share for low income families
- Improve public transportation to decrease food deserts
- Promote businesses that provide living wage
- Provide farmers market shoppers for people with limited mobility
- Provide refrigeration at community gardens
Recommendations for Food Accessibility from Meeting 3

Potential Metrics
• Number of SNAP Dollars doubled at Farmers Market
• Public transportation routes improved in Food Deserts
• Number of Bikeshare bikes checked out from Food Deserts
• % Workforce paid a living wage
Recommendations for Food Accessibility from Meeting 3

Potential Partners
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission
- Planning Department
- Economic and Sustainable Development Department
- Community Bicycle Project
- Parks and Recreation Department