

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-009

Adopting the Multnomah Food Action Plan

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. The purpose of the Multnomah Food Action Plan is to create a healthy, equitable and prosperous local food system; and is a 15-year roadmap that sets forth a community vision, 16 goals, 65 collaborative community actions, 40 individual actions for creating local action on health, equity, environment and jobs in our food system.
- b. The Multnomah Food Action Plan is a community action plan because there is a role for every organization and every person to transform our food system. Collectively, we can accomplish more together than we ever could alone.
- c. The Multnomah Food Action Plan was developed with significant community input and builds upon the existing work of the community by providing a strategic action plan with a shared community vision and shared goals. This Plan is also a call to action and identifies key collaborative actions for our community that are critical for achieving our goals.
 1. On September 10, 2009, the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners accepted the recommendations of the Portland/Multnomah County Food Policy Council (FPC) (Resolution 09-110) to initiate the Multnomah Food Initiative for the purpose of hosting a Multnomah Food Summit and engage the community around the development of a food action plan.
 2. In October 2009, Multnomah County convened the Multnomah Food Initiative Steering Committee comprised of thirty-two key stakeholder organizations (local governments, businesses, non-profit organizations, universities and schools, health organizations, and the faith community) in our community to provide input and direction for the initiative.
 3. On May 1, 2010, the Multnomah Food Summit invited over 200 organizations and community members to network and provide feedback on the draft policy framework for the action plan. On that same day, the Multnomah Food Report was released which collected and synthesized 11 reports, assessments, and recommendations for our regional food system over the past dozen years.
 4. In October-November 2010, four public workshops across the county were convened to develop a community vision for our food system and to identify actions critical to achieving shared goals. In November 2010, the Plan was released for public comment and received overwhelming support.
- d. It has become evident that the hidden costs of our broken food system are soaring. Oregon is ranked third in hunger by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and an estimated 36,000 people in Multnomah County require emergency food boxes every month. And in Multnomah County, as throughout the nation, obesity rates have reached troubling proportions; over half of adults in Multnomah County are overweight or obese and at increased risk for a variety of chronic health conditions, including type 2 diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and stroke. It is estimated that only a small portion of the food we consume is grown regionally and the industrial food model has undermined local food system jobs and community resiliency.
- e. Multnomah County recognizes that as part of its health and sustainability mission it has a critical role in ensuring that the regional food system is robust and equitable; and this resolution is consistent with Multnomah County's efforts to develop a strong set of programs, policies, and community partnerships around healthy eating, food access, urban agriculture, and regional economic development.
- f. Multnomah County recognizes the outstanding past and current efforts in our community to develop a healthy, equitable, and prosperous local food system and supports opportunities for our community to collaborate, plan, and invest wisely to achieve our shared vision and goals for our food system.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

1. To adopt the Multnomah Food Action Plan and direct county departments and offices to use this Plan as guidance in policy and program development, and planning efforts that can improve our local food system, and in doing so, advance the county's interrelated goals of a healthy, equitable, environmentally responsible, and prosperous community.
2. To develop strong partnerships at the government, business, academic, and community level to leverage efforts that will result in local action on health, equity, environment, and jobs in our regional food system.
3. To request that the Office of Sustainability work with our partners to develop innovative policies and programs that advance the goals of this Plan, beginning with the following:
 - a. A second annual Multnomah Food Summit
 - b. An economic opportunities analysis for the local food system
 - c. Training for new small, urban farmers selling to regional markets
 - d. A network of resources to incubate new and transitioning farmers
 - e. An audit of county regulatory barriers
 - f. An information clearinghouse website to network food system stakeholders
 - g. An alliance of institutional purchasers in the Metro region
 - h. Enhanced food production on property tax-foreclosed and unused county land
4. To support the continued development and implementation of operational policies at Multnomah County that encourage healthy and local food purchasing, decrease food and food packaging in our waste stream, and decrease climate impacts associated with our food system.
5. To direct its federal lobbyists to take an active role in advocacy for a Farm Bill that reflects and supports the goals expressed in this resolution.

ADOPTED this 27th day of January, 2011.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



Jeff Cogen, Chair

REVIEWED:
HENRY H. LAZENBY, JR., COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 

Bernadette D. Nunley, Assistant County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Kat West, Director, Office of Sustainability.