



# LOCAL FOOD ACTION PLAN

## CITY OF COLUMBUS & FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

### Current Conditions and Vision Report Summary of Public Comment

The DRAFT Current Conditions and Vision Report and the DRAFT Current Conditions and Vision Summary documents were made available for public comment on the City of Columbus – Franklin County Local Food Action Plan website. An email notification was sent to all individuals who signed up for updates on the project website. The public comment period was also promoted at Franklin County Local Food Council meetings and events, the October Columbus Board of Health meeting and through print and electronic media sources including This Week News.

#### Quantitative Feedback

The following table is a summary of the feedback obtained through the public comment survey process. Of the thirty-three individuals who responded to the online survey, 30 identified themselves as consumers (91%) and 3 (9%) identified themselves as producers.

The Current Conditions Report is an accurate description of the general state of the ....	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	No Experience in this sector
Local Food System	0	3	7	14	1	1
Consumer Sector	0	1	5	18	1	1
Producer Sector	1	2	3	11	10	10
Processor/Distributor Sector	0	2	4	10	14	14
Commercial Buyer Sector	0	0	5	11	14	14
Food Waste	0	1	5	14	5	7

## **Vision Statement Feedback**

DRAFT 1:

“The Columbus-Franklin County Local Food Action Plan envisions a food system that benefits our community, our economy and our environment in ways that are equitable and sustainable.”

Working Committee feedback related to the vision statement centered around concerns that the term “community” may not adequately capture the importance of the “people” and their varying roles and experiences in the local food system. Additional conversations suggested that the term “fair” was preferable to “equitable.”

## **Revised Vision Statement DRAFT:**

“The Columbus-Franklin County Local Food Action Plan envisions a fair and sustainable food system that benefits our economy, our environment and all people.”

## **Qualitative Feedback**

The following is a summary of the comments captured through telephone and in-person interviews as well as online surveys. Public comments and Working Committee follow-up calls identified 5 main themes for further evaluation in the DRAFT Current Condition and Vision Report. The project team will take these issues under consideration as the Food Action Plan progresses

- 1) Both working committee and public comments reflect a desire to see a stronger emphasis on the emergency feeding system and other resources intended to help those living in marginal, low and very low food security. Feedback specifically called for emphasizing the varied ways in which people access food (e.g. charitable foods, community gardens, farmer’s markets, co-ops, neighborhood based retail, full-service grocery stores).
- 2) The Local Food Action Plan must address inequities in the food system and their effect on marginalized groups, including racial and ethnic minorities, in our community across the entire food system, from how food is grown, produced, processed, packaged, distributed, prepared and becomes food waste.
- 3) Providing access to affordable food while paying a living wage for food system workers can be problematic and serve as a significant challenge to achieving a fair and just food system.
- 4) The plan must specifically address the needs of specialty crop producers and small scale commercial buyers. Data comprehensively describing current conditions and potential for growth in urban agricultural food production in Columbus and Franklin County must be provided. Identifying barriers to growth and focusing on local and state laws and regulations is needed. Establishing definitions for terms such as “local” and “producer” may be required to more effectively address business plans and models for scaling up local production.

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- 5) The Working Committee follow-up calls, and to a lesser extent public comments, indicated a need to more fully explore and describe the urban-rural connection between the City of Columbus/Franklin County and the surrounding counties. Land costs and availability may limit the financial viability of large scale food production in the urban core as compared to the rural areas surrounding the City. Conversely, areas within the City may be more supportive of food processing and distribution infrastructure. The Local Food Action Plan will need to consider the strengths and opportunities that partnerships with surrounding counties may afford.

The full text of the DRAFT Current Conditions and Vision Report public comment surveys and results as well as notes from Working Committee Follow-up Interviews is available upon request. Please contact Cheryl Graffagnino at Columbus Public Health, 614-645-8523 or [clgraffagnino@columbus.gov](mailto:clgraffagnino@columbus.gov) for these materials.