



# LOCAL FOOD ACTION PLAN

## CITY OF COLUMBUS & FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

### *Working Committee 4 Table Discussion Summary*

- **General Comments:**
  - Include talking points in the plan about how to discuss the plan (to better share information about the plan).
  - Also include the frequency of messaging. How often will results, findings, and decisions be disseminated back to the community?
  - Include economic feasibility details and feasibility statements for these objectives
    - Financial determinants/monetizing the plan (Return on Investment)



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### Goal 1 (Action A-1)

Add	Revise
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coordinate assessments for each of the four goals and create a process for reporting or communicating the progress to stakeholders</li> <li>- Need a Measure to correspond to Objective #6 (cultural competency assessment and training); cannot be just a standalone statement</li> <li>- Convene partners for implementation and drive the plan forward; broad thinking conveners not focused on individual interests               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Neutral convener for sustainability, neutral advocate, unbiased; keep the broad vision</li> <li>- Celebrate One example: coordinator convenes and facilitates discussion of several groups</li> </ul> </li> <li>- It is essential to prioritize community members and give them leadership positions in this team. How will this be done?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Where is the representation of individual neighborhoods involved?</li> <li>- Establish accessible spaces for meeting spaces that promote inclusivity (variety of times and places)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Objective # 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearly define the team and steering committee, generally be more explicit about defining things that can be defined, including who new team hires will be           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Better definition of roles of the county and city in the Local Food Team. Do they make up the team or are they responsible for outreach and building the team?</li> <li>- City and county will be hiring individual(s) so Objective #1 should reference this               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seems like there are fewer teeth since the local food “office” was reworded to local food “team”. This effort may be too much heavy lifting for the team, so we need to think more about authority and accountability.                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Currently, Cheryl from Columbus Public Health was hired to both develop <i>and</i> implement, but Franklin County is also intent to hire an individual for the implementation effort.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>- All table members stressed necessity of funding staff positions and that staff having direct connection to authority (dual reporting to city &amp; county)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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- Table members sought clarity regarding who is on “food team” vs. “steering committee”

### Objective #2:

- Expand “city/county agencies” to include farming communities, rural communities, or state organizations
- Consider language that emphasizes staff with comprehensive knowledge of city/county departments and public efforts
- Define who the stakeholders are - Stakeholders: Cbus 2020 & Partnership; Institutions (i.e. Columbus foundation, educational, universities)

### Objective #3:

- Ensure communication is *two-way* between stakeholders and food team
- Clarification of “regular intervals”
  - what is a regular interval?
  - specify date for “regular intervals”

### Objective #5:

- Include “created and coordinated” in addition to supporting community wide food initiatives
- Where are the objectives? What are the efforts? Faith based? Teachers?

### Objective #6:

- Include more opportunities for cultural competency trainings at more regular intervals
- reduce specificity and reword, objective should be cultural competency in the context of CPH, Franklin County & Local Matters

**General Feedback of Goal 1, Action A1:** a)Strong support for Measure 2; b)Objectives do a great job of reflecting previous discussions.



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### Goal 2 Dot Results

#	Action	<i>Low-hanging fruit</i>	<i>High-impact action</i>
<b>B-1</b>	Prioritize access to healthy, affordable food sources in transit system infrastructure and planning efforts	5	0
<b>B-2</b>	Expand the availability of technical assistance to help small food retail locations become reliable places for healthy, affordable local food	1	2
<b>B-3</b>	Establish a formal farmers market management collaborative serving the City of Columbus and Franklin County	9	0
<b>B-4</b>	Expand consumer access to federal, state and local healthy food purchasing incentives	2	3
<b>B-5</b>	Grow capacity and enhance sustainability of civic agriculture to allow more residents to grow food for themselves and their neighbors	4	2
<b>B-6</b>	Support grocery store and healthy food retail location and expansion in neighborhoods with low access	3	4
<b>B-7</b>	Identify and implement mobile retail strategies that bring healthy, affordable local food to residents	1	0
<b>B-8</b>	Public and institutional buyers adopt and implement food purchasing policies to support increased purchases of healthy, local food	4	0



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<b>B-9</b>	Support the development of a comprehensive network of educational resources and infrastructure that connect residents with healthy, affordable local food	4	1
<b>B-10</b>	Engage immigrant, New American, and other underrepresented communities in developing and implementing culturally appropriate food assistance, education, nutrition, gardening, and cooking programs	2	0
<b>B-11</b>	Incorporate onsite nutrition education and counseling, shopping strategies, and healthy food purchasing incentives at food retail	3	0
<b>B-12</b>	Integrate nutrition and food system education into Pre-K-12 curricula	6	1

## Goal 2 - Group Discussion

#	Action	Meeting Notes
<b>B-1</b>	Prioritize access to healthy, affordable food sources in transit system infrastructure and planning efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Transit planning efforts aren't quick, but can be integrated into current and future planning efforts</li> <li>● This is viewed as essential and also something that is currently in progress. Should focus on supporting and capitalizing on current efforts to prioritize access.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Educating residents about the existing ways to access food using the transit system (LH)</li> <li>○ Supplement existing transit options to help increase food access (Uber SNAPS)</li> <li>○ Can build off SmartCity; COTA seems to already be working in this direction</li> <li>○ Involving the Smart City team and COTA (HI)</li> <li>○ Use Smart City grant to focus on food accessibility</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Adding healthy food locations to COTA resource maps (LH)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adding healthy food locations to bus stop en route "announcements" (LH)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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<p><b>B-2</b></p>	<p>Expand the availability of technical assistance to help small food retail locations become reliable places for healthy, affordable local food</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use of technology to preserve foods without preservatives and other chemicals to support long term viability of organic, fresh produce. For example, fresh pressed juices have shelf lives extended from 5 days to six months</li> <li>● Use Fresh Foods Here model; technical support is crucial</li> <li>● Using corner stores that already exist seems more feasible than getting a grocery store to enter a neighborhood</li> <li>● Need to make sure that we're investing in corner stores that reinvest in the community and are good community stewards (i.e. not all corner stores are created equal) - use as a catalyst to promote greater positive community involvement of corner store owners</li> </ul>
<p><b>B-3</b></p>	<p>Establish a formal farmers market management collaborative serving the City of Columbus and Franklin County</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Franklinton Gardens farm stand is small and doesn't know how to grow larger; they have focused on home delivery</li> <li>● Helping build critical mass for smaller markets, build marketing efforts</li> <li>● Increase access for neighborhood farmers to nearby farmers markets</li> <li>● Focus on education opportunities for small business, cooking, nutrition, and other skills through farmers markets. This is an opportunity for markets to reach out to community members as well</li> <li>● Farmers Markets are already filling a niche successfully, but efforts could be expanded to other parts of the city to be more inclusive. Consider things like easier parking and it opening sites in communities with food needs</li> <li>● We have a strong system of vendors and people who will benefit. Need to be careful not to dilute the number of producers. Need an objective to increase the number of producers to serve direct market to consumers (specific to serving farmers markets).</li> <li>● Need some type of statement to increase production, recognize the need for capacity building</li> <li>● Bring everyone together, since people know who the players are</li> <li>● Plan could be used very effectively outside of central ohio in surrounding counties and even further who want to engage in alternative enterprises. Consider how people outside of Franklin County alone can be involved with this plan</li> <li>● Connections to B4 and B7</li> </ul>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Starting steps are currently soft, is this robust enough to bring to a funder to provide justification for technical assistance?</li> <li>Identify purpose of technical assistance</li> <li>For objective #1, add “and farmers served” following per 100,000 residents (MB)</li> <li>A comprehensive network is already being but together (LH)</li> </ul>
<b>B-4</b>	Expand consumer access to federal, state and local healthy food purchasing incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ties into the grocery store expansion because people need the resources to purchase items at a grocery store</li> <li>Some coordination between agencies should be considered</li> <li>Add “awareness of”</li> <li>Along with B12 and B11, pairing these gives access to the foods that the community is learning about (HI)</li> <li>Incentives, i.e. Produce Rx and VeggieSNAPs, should be included in retail locations, not just farmers markets and local food stands (LH)</li> </ul>
<b>B-5</b>	Grow capacity and enhance sustainability of civic agriculture to allow more residents to grow food for themselves and their neighbors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a long term project, but would be the biggest step towards food sovereignty</li> <li>Concentrate these efforts on a community level(e.g. develop civic agriculture and farmers markets in tandem)</li> <li>Can build off trend towards urban ag</li> <li>High impact for community gardeners (back to model of “victory gardens”)</li> <li>The city is already working on this process, as well as a plan for urban agriculture and business. Already many well established gardens around the city with limited resources, adding those resources could increase capacity, jobs and food access. (LH)</li> </ul>
<b>B-6</b>	Support grocery store and healthy food retail location and expansion in neighborhoods with low access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Almost every community wants a full service grocery store</li> <li>While it’s a process, each open store has an immediate impact</li> <li>Incentivize the purchase of local produce from full size grocery stores and include access programs like veggie snaps for purchase of those local goods within the store</li> <li>This is bringing food to people</li> <li>Communities already starting independent efforts to bring in healthy retail (LH)</li> <li>Creative ways to bring healthy food into low access communities are already being</li> </ul>



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		discovered. (LH)
<b>B-7</b>	Identify and implement mobile retail strategies that bring healthy, affordable local food to residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile retailers may present opportunities for filling gaps between farmers' market services and full service grocery stores.</li> </ul>
<b>B-8</b>	Public and institutional buyers adopt and implement food purchasing policies to support increased purchases of healthy, local food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To get local food infrastructure going, local growers need to be scaled up to survive (use a local institution to support local growers to increase production) esp. In economically disadvantaged areas</li> </ul>
<b>B-9</b>	Support the development of a comprehensive network of educational resources and infrastructure that connect residents with healthy, affordable local food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do existing resources and curriculums come together? (LH)</li> </ul>
<b>B-10</b>	Engage immigrant, New American, and other underrepresented communities in developing and implementing culturally appropriate food assistance, education, nutrition, gardening, and cooking programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food culture is a strong community identifier and can help build multiculturalism</li> <li>• Advocate for multicultural education through the education system</li> </ul>
<b>B-11</b>	Incorporate onsite nutrition education and counseling, shopping strategies, and healthy food purchasing incentives at food retail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It's already happening, so expansion is easier than starting something fresh</li> </ul>
<b>B-12</b>	Integrate nutrition and food system education into Pre-K-12 curricula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Looking at expansion, rather than starting something new</li> <li>• Charter schools are interested in this curriculum</li> </ul>





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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Broaden and emphasize existing efforts</li><li>● school has to want to implement since it is expensive</li><li>● Affects the entire spectrum, children share the information they learn with parents and impact planning and habits of parents. (HI)</li><li>● Interacting food system and ecosystem education (HI)</li><li>● Teaching children about cooking and gardening (HI)</li><li>● Involving and educating teachers and educators without spreading them too thin (LH)</li></ul>
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## General Feedback

- Engage Rev. Alex-Eric Abrokwa-Clotey from INPREM Holistic Community Resource Center
- Being transparent about economic impact and increase for farmers, as well as the support for people suffering food insecurity. Work to target both groups in different ways.
- Challenge food appearance standards and myths, “ugly fruit” campaign



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### Goal 3 Dot Results

#	Action	<i>Low-hanging fruit</i>	<i>High-impact action</i>
<b>C-1</b>	Create a food processing and distribution collaborative	1	6
<b>C-2</b>	Establish a “local food supply connector” position	7	3
<b>C-3</b>	Create a consumer-producer-buyer verification process to support increased and authenticated healthy local food purchasing	3	1
<b>C-4</b>	Advocate for food system workers in local and regional workforce development efforts	2	1
<b>C-5</b>	Study and describe the impact of wages and policies on food system workers and the affordability of food	3	0
<b>C-6</b>	Revise zoning codes, related permit requirements, and land use plans to support and encourage agricultural and food system uses as a viable option for community revitalization	7	2
<b>C-7</b>	Repurpose vacant commercial, industrial and residential sites for local food system uses	4	0
<b>C-8</b>	Develop central food marketplaces that reflect the culture and diversity of neighborhoods	5	0
<b>C-9</b>	Connect new or growing small-scale neighborhood food businesses to flexible financial and technical assistance options	8	1



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### Goal 3 - Group Discussion

#	Action	Meeting Notes
C-1	Create a food processing and distribution collaborative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Even with better transit, there needs to be a concrete plan for improved distribution</li> <li>● What would this processing and distribution center actually do? Local distributors aren't interested in purchasing local food at a price good for farmers</li> <li>● Is this an incubator kitchen or a processing center like Acenet? Can we clarify this before moving into the distribution piece?</li> <li>● Farmers want processing to happen on the farm or in a nearby rural location, then transported to an urban market</li> <li>● Need to incentivize changing from cash crops to crops that benefit local food system. This might be done by connecting farmers to processors.</li> <li>● Facilitates the implementation of following actions (HI)</li> <li>● Can allow localized interests to be involved and concerted (HI)</li> <li>● Could have the greatest economic impact because it brings growers together and assists with distribution (LH)</li> <li>● Food aggregation and Food Hubs as a means to support communities (LH)</li> <li>● Helps to take the first step in a big process, turn plans into "bite-sized" objectives (HI)</li> <li>● Emphasize the local component</li> </ul>
C-2	Establish a "local food supply connector" position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Change the name to "value chain coordinator"</li> <li>● Need to incentivize changing from cash crops to crops that benefit local food system. This might be done by connecting farmers to processors.</li> <li>● Must think of the producer's perspective. Where non-cash crops can be produced and who will take on the producer jobs (farmers are aging). Connect farmers to food hub for local processing to assist with physical demands of processing particular crops</li> <li>● Can be difficult to find local producers, so relationship building with producers and</li> </ul>



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		<p>connecting them with distributors will be a primary function (more of a facilitator than a middleman)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● #3 will defining this area as central Ohio and contiguous counties become a limitation?</li> <li>● Consider how the position is funded/addressed so that person's position does not result in hands being tied.</li> <li>● Can be more than just "contiguous counties", open this up to Ohio; "central Ohio and beyond"</li> </ul>
<b>C-3</b>	Create a consumer-producer-buyer verification process to support increased and authenticated healthy local food purchasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There needs to be accountability for restaurants and institutions that make claims about having locally sourced food</li> <li>● To make this more impactful, organize consumers around purchasing. Growers are aligning with market demands, but the institutions are not obligated to align with those market demands. Market demands are consumer, not institution driven</li> <li>● Ohio Proud is mostly processed items</li> <li>● Include starting step around consumer education: Now that you know about local food, here is what you can do.</li> <li>● Need to distinguish between what is considered healthy, local, and/or both? The way it is now, there is room for misinformation about what is actually considered a healthful food to eat. Local products are healthy for the economy but are not always healthy for individual diets.</li> <li>● Need a more complex authentication processes.</li> <li>● Increase consumer knowledge and retailer integrity (LH)</li> </ul>
<b>C-4</b>	Advocate for food system workers in local and regional workforce development efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Getting people into entry level jobs and moving them into mid level jobs to increase incomes</li> </ul>
<b>C-5</b>	Study and describe the impact of wages and policies on food system workers and the affordability of food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Very important but sensitive, depends on the capacity of individual retailers (HI)</li> <li>● May be easy to do the research and have the information to support implementation (LH)</li> <li>● Could provide a platform for advocating change (HI)</li> </ul>



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<p><b>C-6</b></p>	<p>Revise zoning codes, related permit requirements, and land use plans to support and encourage agricultural and food system uses as a viable option for community revitalization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There is already an urban ag rezoning process</li> <li>● Technical assistance could be a brochure, flowcharts</li> <li>● Tool to help achieve C7</li> <li>● Decisions that require creative thinking and revisions by the city, open to reading provisions with a permissive lens (LH)</li> <li>● Education and advocacy to neighborhood stakeholders on behalf of neighborhood agriculture, consider as equitable and sustainable part of communities. Elevate the use of land as urban agriculture to the level of other things, i.e. housing</li> </ul>
<p><b>C-7</b></p>	<p>Repurpose vacant commercial, industrial and residential sites for local food system uses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Industrial sites aren't a good place for growing, but they are a good site for marketplaces and distribution.</li> <li>● This should be more of a city based initiative</li> <li>● Residential sites for growing, industrial sites for distribution/marketplaces... there should not be a blanket statement</li> <li>● Low-hanging because we have so many vacant spaces; already something there so why not reuse it.</li> </ul>
<p><b>C-8</b></p>	<p>Develop central food marketplaces that reflect the culture and diversity of neighborhoods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Creating healthy foods that reflect Columbus' multiculturalism will help people from many backgrounds get on board with the plan.</li> <li>● Helps to get funding and anchor neighborhood identity.</li> <li>● Could represent communal effort.</li> <li>● Matching demand of the neighborhood with what is available at the store to increase sales.</li> <li>● Needs more education around this topic.</li> <li>● Meeting diversity needs in terms of food supply (e.g. mangos or avocados grown in Columbus) is not always possible. Therefore, what do we mean in terms of diversity and how do we make communities feel like they are being represented in their food retailers?</li> </ul>
<p><b>C-9</b></p>	<p>Connect new or growing small-scale neighborhood food businesses to flexible financial and technical assistance options</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There needs to be a stronger tie to the food businesses that are being created on the supply side</li> <li>● There is city small business support that is not being offered to farmers.</li> <li>● #3 small scale food businesses understanding and using the funding available to them</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Add “farm and food businesses” to the objectives</li><li>● Small-scale growers do not get the funding they need to become medium or large-scale growers; very difficult to go for/qualify for federal grants as a small-scale grower but if something were available at a local level....</li><li>● You spend a lot of your own personal money with local gardening</li><li>● Need to connect small-scale food businesses with better financing opportunities</li><li>● Technical assistance that is uniquely focused on small, mom &amp; pop, entrepreneurial businesses is crucial not only to support them during start-up, but also maintaining compliance, furthering growth (e.g. communicating code changes etc.)</li><li>● Strengthening small businesses stabilizes neighborhoods, provides local jobs</li><li>● There are already existing programs that are ready to connect (LH)</li></ul>
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### General Feedback

- Some working committee members said these objectives were more challenging to assign “low-hanging fruit” or “high impact” labels. In general, the objectives seem more complex with less benefits. This may be due to individual perspective though. (Maybe consider ways of reframing these objectives to seem even more valuable to persons not familiar with how food systems contribute to economic impact)



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## Goal 4 Dot Results

#	Action	<i>Low-hanging fruit</i>	<i>High-impact action</i>
<b>D-1</b>	Expand food waste prevention education campaigns for consumers and food businesses	10	1
<b>D-2</b>	Leverage food waste reduction resources and strategies to increase the number of residents who access training, education, and equipment for effective backyard composting	7	2
<b>D-3</b>	Recommend changes to policies, zoning and health codes that support and encourage food waste recovery and diversion	5	2
<b>D-4</b>	Provide technical assistance and economic incentives for new and existing food businesses to develop, adopt and implement food waste prevention plans	8	3
<b>D-5</b>	Build support for alternative food waste disposal infrastructure among local leaders and large-scale food waste generators	7	5



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### Goal 4 - Group Discussion

#	Action	Meeting Notes
D-1	Expand food waste prevention education campaigns for consumers and food businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It's not lack of resources, it's a lack of awareness</li> <li>● Would be easy to integrate this into schools, farmers markets etc without significantly more resources</li> <li>● Expand education about waste reduction in schools</li> <li>● Program to help people purchase composting bins because open air composting may be limited. Maybe have a class you complete for discounts on bins</li> <li>● Can this incorporate food labeling (e.g. sell-by dates, types of waste products, etc.)?</li> <li>● Connect with D5, focus on producing less waste before we can figure out how to dispose of food waste. (HI)</li> <li>● Education on food waste impact and practices (HI)</li> <li>● Food waste education and practices in schools and other large institutions (HI)</li> </ul>
D-2	Leverage food waste reduction resources and strategies to increase the number of residents who access training, education, and equipment for effective backyard composting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Working off of existing programs</li> <li>● Use a top down approach to this. Start with the largest waste generators and prevent food waste from becoming an issue to begin with.</li> <li>● Education may also include meal planning as method for waste reduction at the individual level.</li> </ul>
D-3	Recommend changes to policies, zoning and health codes that support and encourage food waste recovery and diversion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Remove objective #3</li> <li>● Not aware of the donation avenues available</li> <li>● Until recently, ability did not exist to donate with protections available</li> <li>● Changing food donation standards for restaurants, caterers and other businesses (LH)</li> </ul>





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D-4	Provide technical assistance and economic incentives for new and existing food businesses to develop, adopt and implement food waste prevention plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Build awareness in businesses about how to divert compostables from the waste stream</li> <li>● Under starting step 2, remove “be”</li> <li>● include objective of food waste and diversion be included in the certification of being a local food business</li> <li>● Concern about rules/regulations impacting small businesses negatively</li> <li>● Kroger allows farmers to collect corn husks; Columbus Brewing Company allows farmers to recollect spent grain</li> </ul>
D-5	Build support for alternative food waste disposal infrastructure among local leaders and large-scale food waste generators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How much opportunity is there for recovered compostable waste to be repurposed or composted? Is there enough capacity to accept that waste? We need capacity built first</li> <li>● Seed money for experimentation. Check on the OU food waste program; do an audit on them. Check on the Mid Ohio Food Bank as a processing facility for excess perishable items</li> <li>● Must find a use for the product first; play into the economic incentives associated with this action</li> <li>● Start with those who are generating the most waste first and working down the ladder</li> <li>● Clarify “build support” &gt; sub “demand” for “support”</li> <li>● Using the industry professionals to move and process food waste (HI)</li> </ul>

### General Feedback

- How do you prevent waste and how do you recover food waste are two separate campaigns
- Message out about composting; there should be more low hanging fruit around this process
- Read the refeed.com document about waste reduction (Provide email to download the executive summary)
- Two types of wasted food - food waste that gets thrown away which could have been consumed, vs inevitable waste (such as the apple core) that can be diverted from going directly to the landfill
  - Businesses that exist which can turn that scrap into a product that can be sold
- A disincentive is something that makes doing what is desired more costly
- Apps available today where food can advertised to be picked up, or offering for pick up
- Green food packaging