

BLOOMINGTON FOOD POLICY COUNCIL FOOD CHARTER

The communities of Bloomington and Monroe County, Indiana, recognize that:

- Food security is a basic human right which contributes directly to the health and well-being of residents;
- Assuring food security for all residents requires holistic thinking about the food system and the enactment of policies that reflect a systems approach to the problem;
- Creating a well-functioning food system requires the active collaboration of local government with residents, community organizations, businesses, schools, and state and federal government agencies;
- Sustainable methods of production, processing, distribution, consumption, and waste recovery in the food system contribute to the health of the environment.
- The sustainable production, abundance, and ready availability of local food will tend to increase food security while decreasing negative impacts on the environment;
- Food literacy for all residents is a prerequisite for an effective, just, and sustainable food system;
- Food is an important part of the local economy

Therefore, to promote food security, the communities of Bloomington and Monroe County, Indiana, will:

- Partner with the Bloomington Food Policy Council, other community organizations, residents, businesses, schools, and government agencies to achieve these goals:
- Champion the right of all residents to adequate amounts of safe, nutritious, accessible, and affordable food without the need to resort to emergency food providers;
- Regard sustainability as essential to all aspects of food security planning;
- Protect local agricultural land, particularly in periurban areas, and support both rural and urban agriculture, including animal husbandry;
- Help make farming a viable vocational option by honoring farmers, providing opportunities for agricultural education, and removing barriers to land acquisition by new farmers.
- Assure access to local seeds, transplants, and nursery stock free of genetic modification by encouraging the development of seedbanks, greenhouses, and plant nurseries.
- Encourage community gardens, home gardens, rooftop gardens, orchards, and edible landscaping to increase food self-reliance and enhance the development of community;
- Promote farmers' markets, farm stands, and the utilization of local and regional foods by groceries, restaurants, and institutions;

- Consider food as an essential component of the planning process when determining land-use and transportation policies in order to assure adequate access to healthful food and to increase neighborhood access points for local food;
- Facilitate improvement of the agricultural food economy by encouraging the development of local food processing and distribution facilities;
- Support home composting while planning for large-scale food waste recovery and the recycling of organic materials through community-wide composting to increase soil fertility and reduce negative impacts on the environment;
- Advocate for the access of all students in grades K-12 to education about the food system;
- Foster a cultural environment that empowers residents to become food literate through participation in educational programs about growing and preparing food, nutrition, food safety, food economy, and the operation of the food system;
- Welcome the interest and participation of all residents in creating a vibrant and effective food democracy that makes everyone a stakeholder in assuring food security for all.