

Sustainable Food Planning Conference

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Changes in the Attitude of Planners Towards Food System Planning in the U.S.

- **Off the table (2000/03)**
- **Early stirrings(2004/06)**
- **A major breakthrough (2007)**
- **Increasing legitimation (2008/09)**
- **What's ahead – the next decade**

Off the table—2000/03

- **The planning discipline claims to be the most comprehensive discipline**
- **Of basic necessities of life—air, water, food, and shelter—only food is left out. Why?**
 - **It's driven primarily by the private market**
 - **If it isn't broken, why bother fixing it?**
 - **It's not our turf**
 - **Food grows in rural areas not in cities**
 - **No money for planners to do food planning**

Early stirrings—2004/05

- **Two special issues of planning journals on food issues**
- **American Planning Association national conference special tracks on food planning**
- **A few food planning courses offered in graduate planning programs**

A major breakthrough--2007

The APA Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning

Two overarching goals for planners:

- (1) support food systems that help build more self-reliant and sustainable *community and regional food systems*
- (2) suggest ways the *industrial food system* can help communities enhance economic vitality, public health, ecological sustainability, social equity, and cultural diversity

Six general policies in support of food systems that:

- Strengthen the local economy
- Improve the health of the region's citizens
- Are ecologically sustainable
- Are socially equitable and just
- Sustain traditional food cultures of Native American and ethnic groups
- Promote comprehensive food planning at the community and regional levels

(<http://www.planning.org/policyguides/food.htm>)

A few examples of food planning roles from the APA Policy Guide

- **Strengthen local economy:** help small farmers survive by providing well-serviced sites for farmers markets, small scale processing facilities and distribution centers for food produced in the region, and year-round public markets
- **Improve the health of the region's citizens:** explore the feasibility of zoning changes to limit the development of fast food outlets within a specified radius of schools and other youth-centered facilities
- **Support an ecologically sustainable food system:** minimize fossil fuel energy use and food waste; encourage use of renewable energy resources in food sector; integrate locally supported agriculture into new areas of residential development
- **Foster a socially equitable and just food system:** increase spatial access to programs and facilities that help reduce hunger and food insecurity for residents in impoverished urban and rural communities

Increasing legitimation of food system planning—2008/09

- American Planning Association activities
- Canadian Institute of Planners activities
- More supportive community food system policies in local comprehensive plans
- More recognition of the food system in community sustainability plans
- More supportive community food system provisions in zoning ordinances

Outside drivers contributing to rising interest in food system planning

- The local and regional food system movement
- The sustainability movement
- The health reform movement
- The global warming movement
- Food safety concerns

What's ahead for the 2010 decade

- **More food planning councils**
- **City departments of food**
- **Edible parks and lawns**
- **Community-based food centers –the Growing Power model**
- **Increased food planning activity in the planning academy—students, classes, research**