towards a more sustainable Buffalo Niagara

Food Access and Justice Working Team

Brian Conley, Facilitator (UB Regional Institute)
Agenda

Welcomes, introductions and review

Working Team Housekeeping

Bringing goals to “final draft”

What might Buffalo Niagara look like in forty years?

Strategy development discussion

Next steps
we are creating a regional plan for sustainable development with a core regional strategy for our Food access...

- Centerpiece of Federal policy shift aimed at coordinated planning for how regions use Federal dollars
Buffalo Niagara has a long history in food production, processing and distribution, but our strength in these sectors has diminished.

Many lack awareness of the benefits of healthy and local food.

Residents’ access to healthy foods is often limited by a number of factors.

A comprehensive approach to food access has not been tackled by many governments in the region.
Working Team Process and Timeline

6 Meetings/4 Tasks

1 ESTABLISHING GOALS

2 FRAME STRATEGIES

3 IDENTIFY ACTIONS

4 CONSTRUCT INDICATORS

FALL 2013
Council and Community Congress Meetings

+2 Additional Meetings

REVIEW & REFINE

#oneregionfwd
Data Gaps to work on

Based on meeting #1 discussion, we are sharpening the storytelling by...

• Establishing our own definition of “healthy food”
• Looking at the *kind* of food people are eating
• Answering the question, “Does increasing healthy food access actually improve community health?”
• Locating undeveloped, unused prime farmland
• Mapping soil quality and contamination
• Locating where food dollars are being spent
• Articulating Buffalo Niagara’s legacy as a robust center for food processing and distribution through historical data
• Highlighting cultural issues related to land use, food and eating habits
Data Gaps to work on

Data analyses based on meeting #1 discussion...

• Incentivizing the conversion of marginal land to farming through policy
  • We are cataloging uncultivated farmable areas

• Supply and demand. Farmers can supply healthy food, but what is the local demand for these food options
  • We are calculating the “Self-reliance” in healthy food for Buffalo Niagara

• The financial cost of energy-dense food versus nutrient-dense food

• The profitability and affordability of healthy food versus that of other food options
Data Gaps to work on

*Case studies and best practices research based on meeting #1 discussion...*

- Integrating food systems education into the public education system
- Public policy (subsidies, incentives, etc...) to encourage the production of healthy food
- Policies that promote healthy food consumption
- Making food sexy - Advertising, Marketing, Promotion
- Model programs to promote healthy food access.
  - NYC Fresh program
  - Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion
- How to pursue what is best for local farmers and consumers with the barrier of global companies/corporations with lobbying power?
Food Access and Justice Mission Statement

To make nutritious, affordable, and culturally acceptable food accessible to all people in the region while making farming economically and environmentally viable and ensuring that people in the region are sovereign over their food system.
Distinguishing Goals, Strategies and Actions

Goal:
Support all forms and scales of urban agriculture and gardening.

Strategy:
Collaborate with farmers, institutions and other entities to secure supplies needed for growing in the urban landscape.

Action:
Establish a program with the Tool Library in order to provide gardening tools and other equipment to urban growers who lack resources.
Draft Goals: Food Access & Justice

**Protect** our current and potential **farmland** from “sprawl” and keep our farms farming.

**Adopt agricultural practices** that reduce the consumption of water, energy and chemical inputs in the growing process.

**Support** all forms and scales of **food production in urban areas**.

**Connect local farmers** to the full range of **local opportunities** to market and distribute their products.

**Strengthen** the economic vitality of **local food production** so that our farmers compete locally against national and international food producers.

**Strengthen** the economic viability of **local food processing** for local consumption and export.

**Promote careers** in food production, processing and distribution.

**Heighten public awareness** of local food production, processing and distribution.

**Create** a culture that values **healthy eating** and a strong **local food economy**.

**Enhance opportunity** for all individuals in all communities to obtain healthy foods.
One Region Forward challenges us to decide what kind of change we desire.

What will life in Buffalo Niagara look like in forty years?
Brainstorming strategies for action for long-term sustainability in Buffalo Niagara

What might our region look like in 2050 if our region’s population...

...continues to shrink

...sees moderate growth?

...grows significantly?
Brainstorming strategies for action for long-term sustainability in Buffalo Niagara

Under alternative futures, what might our region look like in 40 years depending on future development patterns?

What kind of food will people eat?

What will be the extent of agricultural land?

What types of urban agriculture will exist?

What types of food-related businesses will thrive?

How will food be distributed?

What types of food will we produce?
How should our region prepare, both today and in the future, to ensure the long-term sustainability of widespread, equitable access to healthy food?

A reminder on our distributed implementation model:

Local municipalities, county governments, state or regional agencies

Private sector actors or businesses (developers, business decision-makers)

Community Based Organizations, private citizens and farmers

Collaborative partnerships across these groups
Food Access and Justice Working Team

Get Started as a Working Team Member at www.oneregionforward.org

Recruit a Working Team Contributor

Provide Online Feedback on Our Regional Vision and Values
Help tell the story of how we’re defining sustainability in Buffalo Niagara
TeamWork Site: https://oneregionforward.teamworkpm.net
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Food Access and Justice Working Team

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us

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Thank you!