



PITTSBURGH
FOOD POLICY COUNCIL



Peace and Friendship Farm
Photographer: Kent Bey

2022-2023

IMPACT REPORT

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LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

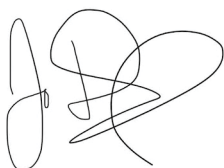
I want to express my gratitude for the support from our members and everyone who has collaborated with us over the past two years to advance our mission of creating a more equitable and just food system! I feel fortunate to have joined the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council (PFPC) in January 2023, especially when significant initiatives were in motion—the Greater Pittsburgh Food Action Plan was completed, and the USDA Regional Food System Partnership grant was secured. These achievements are monumental in propelling our efforts to transform the food system in Greater Pittsburgh.

Meeting many of you in person and on Zoom this past year has been a joy. I am thankful for the opportunities to visit various spaces where you prepare meals, serve the community, cultivate food, and educate young people and future policymakers.

Over the last year, I have gained valuable insights into food justice, food access, and the overall food system while recognizing its connections to other pressing issues, such as affordable housing, workforce development, and education. Increased spending on housing and unstable living conditions directly contribute to food insecurity. We understand that poverty is the root cause of food insecurity, and systemic solutions must address this. As we strive to enhance food access in communities facing food apartheid, we must strategically protect farms and combat racism, housing injustices, and structural violence that displace Black, Brown, Indigenous, and immigrant communities. In our pursuit of food justice and addressing racism within the food system, it is essential to listen to and be guided by those most affected—residents who are Black, Brown, Indigenous, immigrants, and others.

Please explore the achievements of the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council and its members over the past two years. As you read this report, I hope you see your contributions—how you engaged, participated, and made a difference. I also hope you will commit to showing up and engaging in new ways in the years ahead.

Sincerely,



Jo Deming
Executive Director



LETTER FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS CO-CHAIRS

We are thankful for the opportunity to serve as Co-Chairs of the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council [PFPC] during a moment of transformation in the life of this organization. The backbone of this organization are our staff without whom this region could not maintain its momentum towards a just, equitable and sustainable food system.

Further, we acknowledge the organization's reliance on its Board of Directors for their guidance in the formulation of our organizational strategic plan: in particular we owe words of thanks to our dedicated strategic plan steering committee members Adia Effiong, Cynthia Caul, and Ebony Lunsford Evans, along with Teaira Collins and Ruth Bender for their attentive service as Board Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

As a matter of course, we applaud the volunteers, organizations, and their staff comprising our membership without whom PFPC would not have any of our successes that are highlighted in this report.

Food policy work is often an uphill struggle. Ongoing community health challenges and geopolitical upheaval make it no simpler. However, by seizing every opportunity to continue doing this work with a caring staff, board and volunteers we maintain focus and strive toward a singular result: a just food system for all.

In solidarity,

Masoud Sayles
PFPC Board Co-chairs (2023-24)

Nick Goodfellow
PFPC Board Co-chairs (2023-24)



SECTION 1

WHO WE ARE



MISSION

PFPC mobilizes people through listening, educating, and advocating for policies and programs that shift power, expand access to resources, and strengthen the Greater Pittsburgh Food System.

VISION

A just food system for all people in Greater Pittsburgh.



THE PITTSBURGH FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

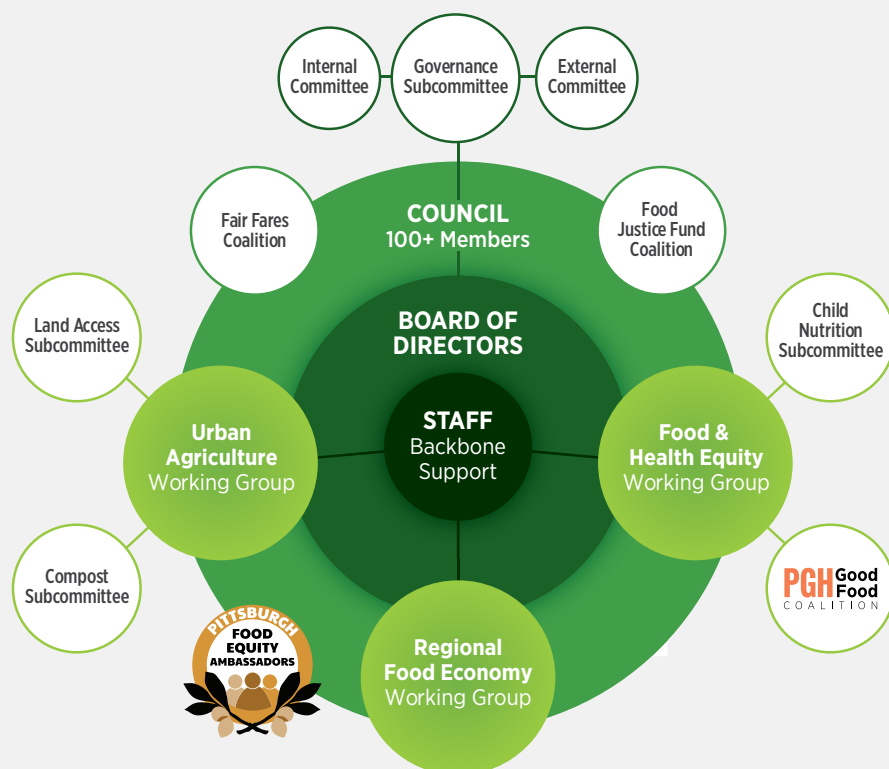
WE ARE A COLLECTIVE

Our mission is to build a food system that benefits our communities, economy and environment in ways that are just, equitable and sustainable. Driven by our membership—community partners from different neighborhoods, municipalities, government agencies, nonprofits, academic institutions, restaurants, farms and more—we reimagine our region’s food system and seek policies that promote a local and resilient food system, sustainable agriculture, equitable development, and access to nourishing food. We convene over 100 organizations and Greater Pittsburgh residents. As a collective we coordinate across food system sectors leading policy and program changes that benefit the Greater Pittsburgh region, and amplifying a strong, coordinated voice.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Pittsburgh Food Policy Council is made up of our members. We host bi-monthly member meetings to connect and learn with groups of advocates, entrepreneurs, community members, and policymakers to advance the implementation of over 150 strategies and nine priority strategies identified in the Greater Pittsburgh Food Action Plan. We partner with our membership through our various working groups and subcommittees to coordinate programs, activities, events, and policy initiatives.

The Board of Directors represents diverse and experienced food system changemakers who guide decisions regarding policy initiatives and actions, provide strategic direction, and help to govern the Council.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2023

Leadership Team

Board Co-Chairs | Nick Goodfellow & Masoud Sayles

Board Secretary | Teaira Collins

Board Treasurer | Ruth Bender



Ann Sanders

Just Harvest



Bobbi Linskens

Organizer



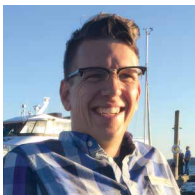
Brandi Allen

Brandi's Care with Love LLC/
We Cook We Eat LLC



Cynthia Caul

Allegheny County Resident



Dan Dalton

Pasa Sustainable Agriculture



Ebony Lunsford Evans

1 Sound Farm/Out of the End



Francis Carter

East End Food Co-Op



Jen England

412 Food Rescue



Khadiza Massey

Grounded Strategies



Board Co-Chair

Masoud Sayles

Grounded Pittsburgh



Board Co-Chair

Nick Goodfellow

University of Pittsburgh



Board Treasurer

Ruth Bender

Adagio Health



Stephen O'Brien

Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank



Board Secretary

Teaira Collins

Lion of Judah Enterprizes



Zinna Scott

Operation Better Block

EMERITUS MEMBERS



Heather Manzo

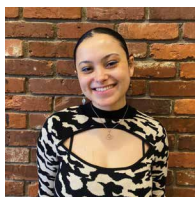
Executive Director
Allegheny County
Conservation District



Ken Regal

Executive Director
Just Harvest

INTERNS



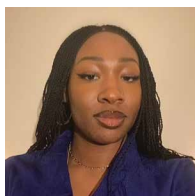
Gia Gibson

Chatham University
Communications



Jodi McLaughlin

Tulane University
Food Justice Fund,
Pittsburgh Urban Farm Tour



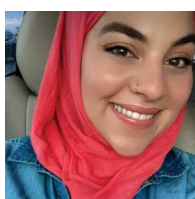
Munachiso Nwachukwu

Pennsylvania State University
Good Food Purchasing Policy -
Youth Engagement Research



Erin Spangler,

Temple University
Implementation of the Food Policy
Council Self-Assessment Tool
(see FPC-SAT [results](#) and [summary](#))



Raneem Karboji

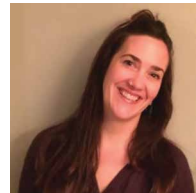
Fellow, Bill Emerson National
Hunger Fellowship
Evaluated Equity Ambassador Program

STAFF



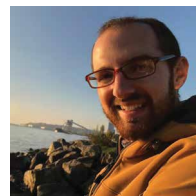
Dawn Plummer

Executive Director
(2013 - Sep. 2022)



Karlin Lamberto

Associate Director /
Interim Executive Director
(2016 - present)



Sam Applefield

Project Manager
(2018 - 2023)



Sarah Buranskas

Project Manager
(2016 - present)



Qiyam Ansari,

Communications Manager
(2019 - 2022)



Joanna "Jo" Deming

Executive Director
(Jan 2023 - present)



Alyson McAtee

Coalition Organizer
(December 2023 - present)

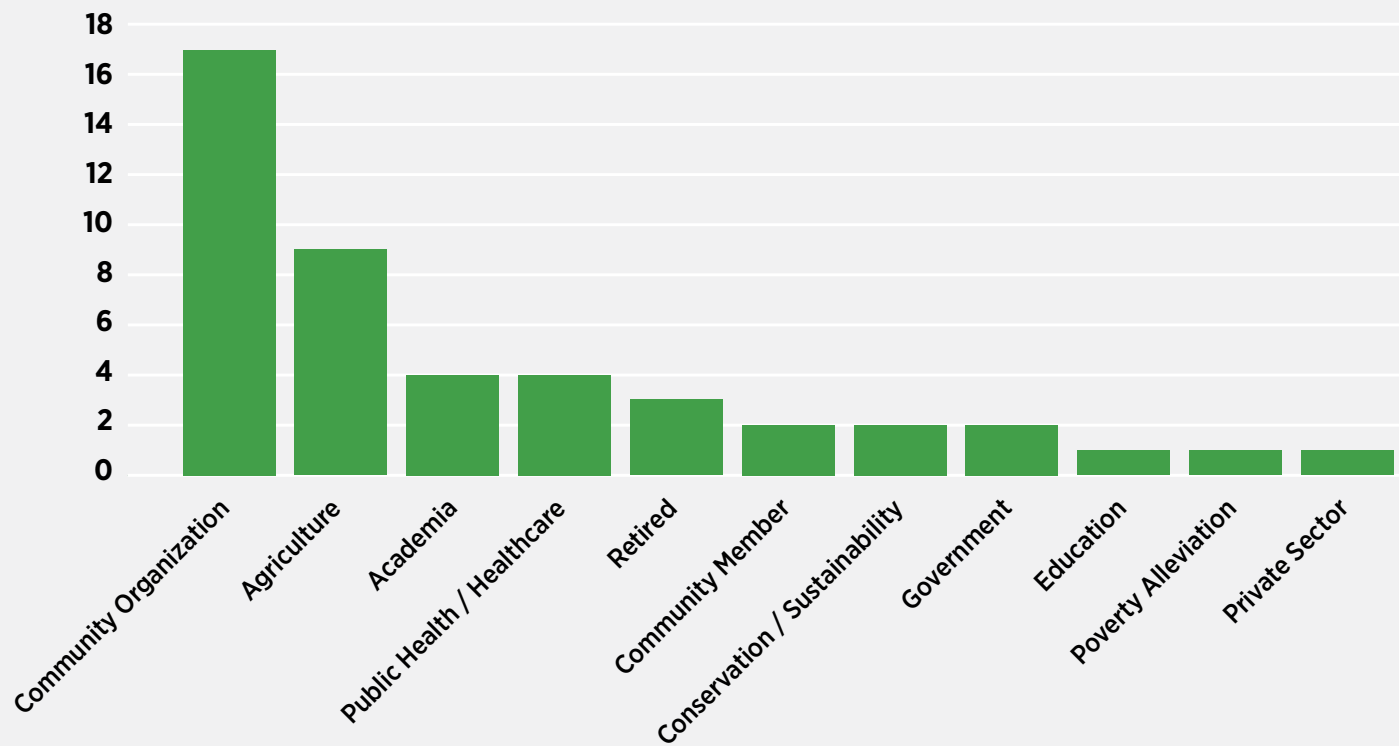
MEMBERSHIP

PFPC is a diverse network representing our regional food system, including producers, processors, distributors, consumers, waste resource managers and recoverers, and everyone in between. Our 1,380 supporting members recognize the impact of collective action through information and resource sharing. The 50+ collaborating members directly contribute via Working Groups or Functional Committees. Anyone who wants to advocate for a just, equitable, and sustainable food system is welcome to participate!



SECTORS REPRESENTED IN PFPC MEMBERSHIP

Number of respondents = 46



**OUR 1,380 SUPPORTING
MEMBERS RECOGNIZE
THE IMPACT OF
COLLECTIVE ACTION
THROUGH INFORMATION
AND RESOURCE SHARING.**

SECTION 2

WHAT WE DID

OUR ENGINE OF IMPACT

From Food & Health Equity to Urban Agriculture and the Regional Food Economy, PFPC's engine of impact is our working groups and subcommittee meetings.

These public spaces (virtual or in-person) invite PFPC members to bring policy priorities, issues, updates, events, and discussions. Working groups cover overarching topics. Subcommittees within the working groups focus on a specific area of work and are attended by members that can actively dedicate time to a project, campaign, or policy.



FOOD & HEALTH EQUITY WORKING GROUP

The Food & Health Equity Working Group (FHE) focuses on programs, policies, and initiatives related to hunger, food insecurity, inequitable access to food, individual ability to purchase food, nutrition education, school food, and federal benefits like SNAP, among others. The working group met quarterly in 2022 and 2023, serving as an open space for organizational and individual updates.

SPOTLIGHT

Food Justice Fund Outreach

The Food Justice Fund (FJF) Committee is a volunteer-led group of approximately 60 individuals and organizations combating food apartheid and pursuing food equity in Pittsburgh. The FJF's accomplishments in outreach and communication include:

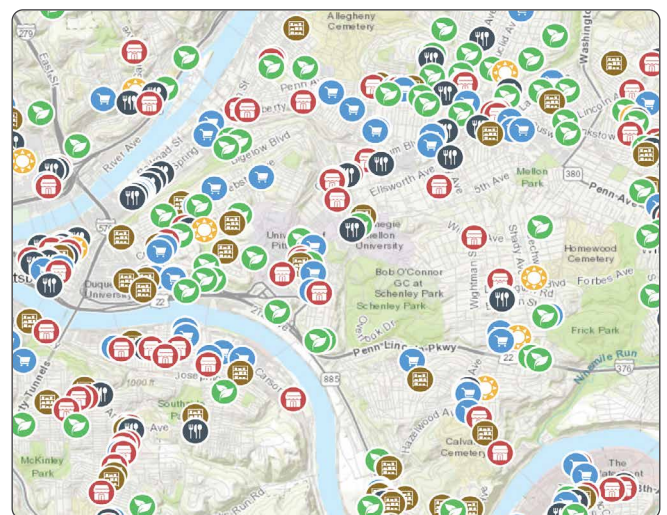
- Collected more than 100 signatures from local food systems and community leaders to petition the creation of the FJF
- Presented to WPA Food Funders Group
- Presented to 4 neighborhood organizations covering 15 neighborhoods
- Presented to Food Studies program at CCAC
- Surveyed residents at all City of Pittsburgh 2023 preliminary (May 2023) and proposed (Oct. 2023) budget community sessions
- Weekly and additional distribution of FJF survey flier & onsite survey collection
- Regular attendance of, and collaboration with, Allentown Food Access Community Group

FOOD ACCESS MAP

The FHE working group completed a food access map, in partnership with Code for Pittsburgh. The map features publicly-available national-level data alongside organizational, local-level data to show 1.) where nutritious food is available in Allegheny County, and 2.) to highlight where food access programming is implemented.



[View the map at arcgis.com](https://arcgis.com)



URBAN AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP

The Urban Agriculture Working Group (UAWG) brings together growers in the Southwest Pennsylvania region with experience in, or interest in, urban food production.

Tri-Party Agreement

PFPC members proudly testified with PCRG, Pittsburgh United, and others in support of the Tri-party Agreement between the URA, City, and Pittsburgh Land Bank. The Tri-Party agreement provides an expedited and clear process for the Land Bank to request property from the City. The Tri-Party Agreement was approved on August 1, 2023 with several amendments. One of the amendments ensures that as farms/gardens are advanced through the Land Bank, the Land Bank will be required to sell the farm/gardens to the existing steward/leaseholder.



[Learn more about the Tri-Party Agreement](#)

SPOTLIGHT

6th and 7th Pittsburgh Urban Farm Tour at a glance

2022

84 participants
11 sites
\$4,873 raised

2023

218 participants
15 sites
\$8,056 raised

PITTSBURGH URBAN FARM TOUR

Housed within the Urban Ag working group, planning members from Grow Pittsburgh, Pasa, City of Pittsburgh, East End Food Co-op, Chatham, Allegheny County Conservation District, and urban farmers collaborated to bring the 2022 and 2023 urban farm tours to life. All funds raised go directly to the Urban Grower's Scholarship Fund. In 2023, PFPC staff and members of the Urban Farm Tour planning committee organized volunteer days at three of the featured farms (Garfield Farm, Gardens of Millvale, and Peace and Friendship Farm). Several groups from Chatham University and Repair the World participated in these events.



[Learn more about the Urban Farm Tour](#)



PITTSBURGH URBAN FARM TOUR

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023
10AM - 3PM



1 Sound Farm

URBAN AG WEEK

Each year, the PFPC launches Urban Ag Week in Pennsylvania with various special events that unite the extensive network of Pittsburgh Food Policy Council members, urban agriculture leaders, local and state officials, community partners, and conservation representatives. Together, we celebrate the progress our region has achieved in urban agriculture. We will honor the farms and gardens that have benefitted from infrastructure enhancements funded partly by the Pennsylvania Farm Bill Urban Agriculture Infrastructure grant while recognizing the unwavering commitment of community leaders, organizations, and supporters.

SPOTLIGHT

Urban Ag Week at a glance

2022

Churchview Farm

a small sustainable family farmette in the South Hills

1 Sound Urban Farm

a nonprofit and teaching site in the west end

Tree Pittsburgh

an environmental nonprofit working to enhance the City's vitality

Lunch

Speakers: Jen Saffron, Tacumba Turner, Megan Palomo, Mayor Gainey and Russell Redding

Peace and Friendship Farm

a veteran-operated farm in the Hill District

2023

Farm Tour

Secretary Redding, along with other politicians, funders, and organizational partners toured three sites

Luncheon

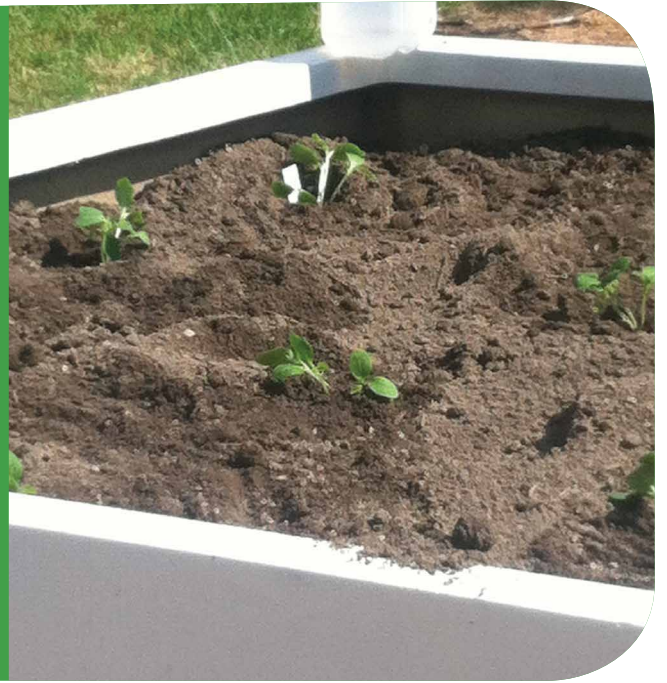
State Rep. Emily Kinkead and Secretary of the Dept. of Agriculture Russell Redding welcomed industry stakeholders to Pittsburgh.

Happy Hour

In celebration of the start of Urban Ag Week AND the introduction of the Food Justice Fund plan to Council with a Happy Hour at Lounge 7101 in Homewood.

LAND ACCESS SUBCOMMITTEE

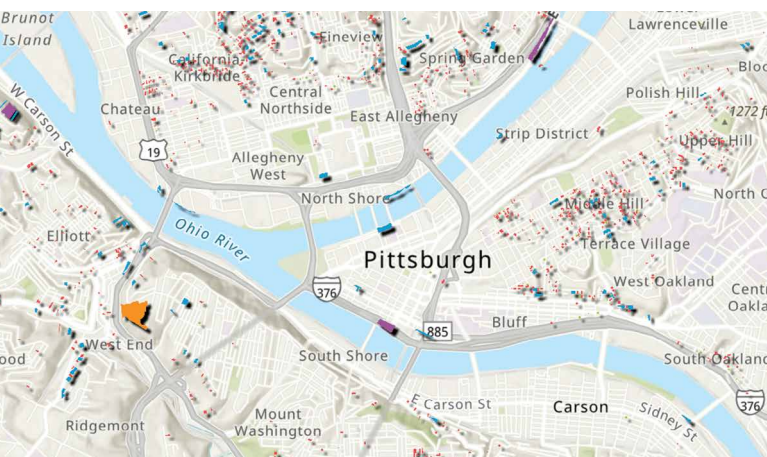
This subcommittee addresses both access to land for urban agriculture practitioners and land preservation practices through agriculture.



THE URBAN FARMLAND ASSESSMENT MAP

In 2021, Land Access Subcommittee collaborated with the City of Pittsburgh to develop the Urban Farmland Assessment Map inspired by City Council resolution 2020-0281. This mapping tool incorporates various factors, including flood and landslide risk, soil quality, square footage, water sources, existing infrastructure, and environmental justice areas. These elements are represented as GIS (Geographic Information System) 'layers' that can be applied to land parcels throughout Pittsburgh, helping to identify those most suitable for urban agriculture and food production.

In 2022, the partnership produced a final version of a Urban Farmland Assessment Map that allows anyone to apply specific GIS layers to vacant lots in order to identify those that are ideal for urban agriculture. The subcommittee hosted discussions on Adopt-a-Lot, Three Rivers Agricultural Land Initiative (TRALI), the Farmers Land Trust, and provided feedback during the build-out of the Farm-a-Lot program, building off of the short, medium and long-term goals that were pulled out of the Greater Pittsburgh Food Action Plan.



[Learn more
about TRALI](#)



[Learn more about the
Farmers Land Trust](#)



[Learn about the
GPFAP goals](#)

COMMUNITY COMPOST SUBCOMMITTEE

The PFPC Community Compost Subcommittee connects compost enthusiasts and works to promote policies for easier and more widespread community composting.

CITY COMPOSTING

Throughout 2022, the City Compost subcommittee explored permitting options for compost, exchanged resources, discussed long-term objectives, and prepared a proposal for City funding.

In 2023, the City of Pittsburgh initiated a citywide compost pilot program, with the subcommittee providing a platform for sharing and disseminating information. Collaborating with subcommittee organizations such as Pasa Sustainable Agriculture, the Pennsylvania Resources Council, and City Council District 7, the PFPC organized a 'Compost Gathering + Feedback Session' for the pilot. This event featured facilitated discussions and a survey. The insights gathered from the discussions and the attendee survey revealed a strong desire for curbside composting and enthusiastic support for increased City investment in resources and locations.

ADVOCACY WIN!

\$100k for Compost

Thanks to these partnerships and open community discussions, the subcommittee was prepared for the 2024 City of Pittsburgh budget hearings, mobilizing over 10 speakers, and securing \$100,000 for compost planning and implementation from the City ARPA budget.



[Learn more about \\$100k for compost](#)



[Check out the sign-on letter to City Council members](#)



Emily Wiggins of Manchester's Food for the Soul Community Farm advocates for better coordination to protect City growing spaces

SECTION 3

BACKBONE SUPPORT

SUPPORTING COLLECTIVE IMPACT

The PFPC brings people together to solve problems and advance solutions. The PFPC does this by providing opportunities for networking, learning, and collaboration. The PFPC supports committee/working groups—ensuring shared goals are identified and achieved.



HOSTED 11 BI-MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

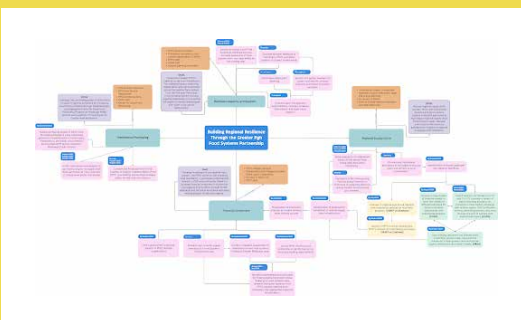
Full member meetings are a space for those new and old to PFPC work to learn, connect and collaborate. We held 11 full member meetings, with an average of 40 attendees. We hosted over 15 guest speakers.

The Pittsburgh Food Policy Council is made up of our members. We host bi-monthly member meetings to connect and learn with groups of advocates, entrepreneurs, community members, and policymakers to advance the implementation of over 150 strategies and nine priority strategies identified in the Greater Pittsburgh Food Action Plan.

SPOTLIGHT

USDA Regional Food System Partnership Grant

After a lengthy and competitive process, Pittsburgh Food Policy Council secured the only Regional Food System Partnership Grant in Pennsylvania in 2022. The activities in this grant build off of previous work that came out of working groups as well as the Greater Pittsburgh Food Action Plan.



[View the chart at full-size](#)

2022



Member Meeting
February
[Agenda](#)



Member Meeting
April
[Agenda](#)



Member Meeting
June
[Agenda](#)



Member Meeting
October
[Agenda](#)



Year in Review
December
[Presentation](#)

2023



Member Meeting
March
[Agenda](#)



Member Meeting
April
[Agenda](#)



Member Meeting
June
[Agenda](#)



Member Meeting
August
[Agenda](#)



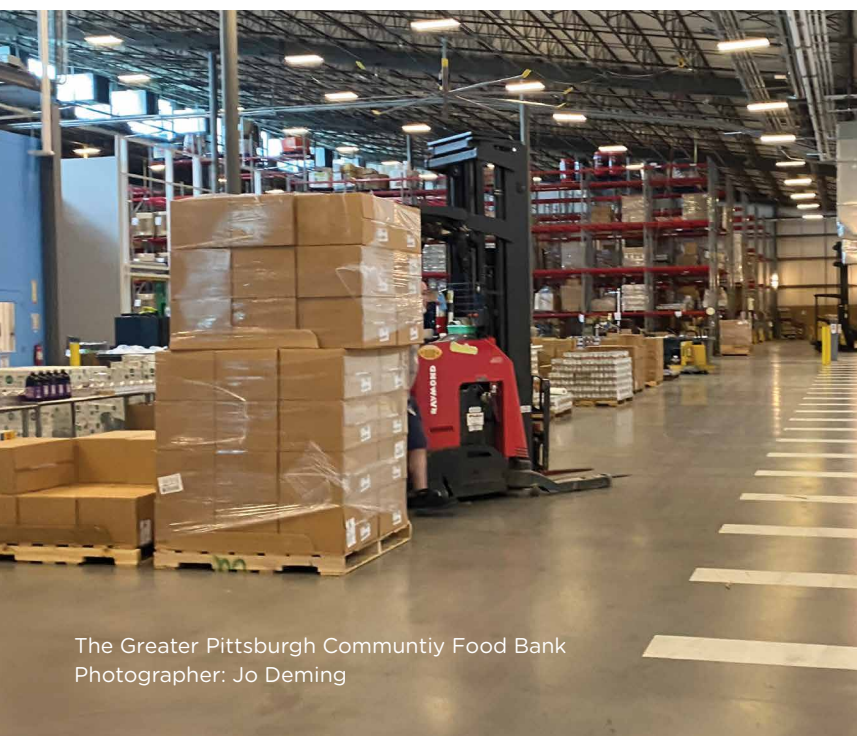
Community and Composter Session
October
[Feedback](#)

Year-End Celebration
December



REGIONAL DISCUSSION AROUND REGIONAL FOOD BUSINESS CENTERS

Throughout the fall of 2022, PFPC staff attended calls hosted by the USDA, Wallace Center and the Johns Hopkins University Center for a Livable Future regarding the development of USDA Regional Food Business Centers across the country. The PFPC learned from, and coordinated with, more than 25 interested organizations from Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and West Virginia. The PFPC contributed support and partnership letters for two regional applicants. Ultimately, the Pittsburgh region was assigned to the Appalachia Regional Food Business Center, housed within Rural Action, Inc in southern Ohio and CRAFT at Chatham University is a primary partner.



The Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
Photographer: Jo Deming

Farm to School

Farm to School (F2S) helps students establish a lifelong positive relationship with food while supporting a more just food system by connecting hands-on learning, food purchasing, and school gardens. PFPC staff have been seated on the Pennsylvania Farm to School Network Leadership team since 2017, and most active in the policy working group.

ADVOCACY WIN!

Discounted fares pilot program

The Fair Fares Coalition, comprising transit riders, organizations, and elected officials, has advocated for a zero-fare program for low-income households in Allegheny County. In 2022, their efforts led to a pilot program evaluating discounted fares, enrolling 14,523 participants from November 2022 to February 2023. Participants were divided into three groups: one received unlimited free trips, another a 50% discount, and the last a ConnectCard with \$10 cash. The program has been extended, and a coalition is pushing for the zero-fare initiative to be permanent for all SNAP/EBT households, especially with new County leadership.



FARM TO SCHOOL

In 2022, PFPC partner Adagio Health was awarded a USDA Farm to School grant. PFPC's subaward provides funding to host student engagement at five PPS schools to understand their priorities for the Good Food Purchasing Policy values.



[Learn more about the Good Food Purchasing Policy](#)

ADVOCACY WIN!

March 2020

Covid-19 Pandemic begins

Summer 2020

Published Greater Pittsburgh Food Action Plan

March 2021

\$335 million allocated to City of Pittsburgh (ARPA)

July 2021

\$10 million FJF proposal

September 2021

City Council declined to include in the budget

December 2021

Councilwoman Deb Gross proposes \$1.8 million for FJF

\$3 Million for first ever Food Justice Fund!

The Food Justice Fund Committee, facilitated by PFPC staff, successfully advocated for Pittsburgh City Council to pass the 2023 City Budget with the inclusion of \$3 Million for the first ever Food Justice Fund! The funds will support grassroots efforts to advance food equity and sovereignty in our city, particularly in areas most impacted by food apartheid. Between January and June 2023, the Food Justice Fund Committee worked with City Parks Director Kathryn Vargas to develop a plan for administering the funds. On July 18th, this plan was approved by Pittsburgh City Council. We are grateful for City Council Members and the Mayor's Office for working with us and the Food Justice Fund Committee to craft this plan. We appreciate the leadership of Councilwoman Deborah Gross, Warwick, and Council President Theresa Kail Smith as well as City Parks Director Kathryn Vargas.

- GREATER - PITTSBURGH FOOD ACTION PLAN



GREATER PITTSBURGH FOOD ACTION PLAN

In September of 2020, a 23-member planning team completed the Greater Pittsburgh Food Action Plan. This was a deeply collaborative, multi-year effort that would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of so many Council members.

The graphic below demonstrates the progress that has been made on the priorities identified in the Food Action Plan three years out.

GPFAP PROGRESS REPORT

2020-2021 MILESTONES



Support community-led efforts to address food apartheid by building resilience, community leadership, and food sovereignty



Maximize the scope and impact of governmental anti-hunger programs



Leverage the purchasing power of large institutions to support regional producers, a valued workforce, and environmental stewardship



Advocate for living wages and for the human rights of food systems workers

2022-2023 MILESTONES



Advocate for more affordable public transportation



Secure financial support for regional and community food systems development

IN PROGRESS



Improve access to land, land ownership, land security, and capital for farmers, especially new and beginning farmers, farmers of color, and farmers of other marginalized communities



Support food entrepreneurship by addressing the barriers faced by women, immigrants, people of color, and other marginalized communities



Evaluate food access impact of decision making at public agencies across all levels of government

ADVOCACY WIN!

PA Hunger Action Coalition

The PFPC was a contributing member of the PA Hunger Action Coalition. Staff attended the PHAC biannual meeting to finalize the 2024 Hunger in PA Checklist, which included a request for Universal School Meals. This was presented to the Governor for priorities. In 2023, Free Breakfast was instituted statewide! We are still pushing for Universal School Meals (free breakfast and lunch for all students).



[Learn more about PA Hunger Action Coalition](#)



FOOD SYSTEM STRATEGIES

The Greater Pittsburgh Food Action Plan outlines 150 strategies for a more just, equitable and sustainable food system in Allegheny County. Also in 2020, PFPC staff, Steering Committee, and working group members identified nine strategies to prioritize in the short-term (shown on the chart on page 20).

In 2022-2023, the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council made progress in several areas contributing to our overall strategy as well as the nine identified short-term strategies. These wins include: advocating for public transit and securing financial support for regional and community food systems development. In-progress items include improving access to land, access to capital, supporting food entrepreneurs, and evaluating food access impact on decision-making at public agencies.



SNAP Incentives

We want PA to invest in SNAP match programs to expand their reach.

SNAP benefits average about \$2 per person per meal, and Food Bucks currently enable SNAP recipients to stretch those dollars when they purchase fruits and vegetables. More retailers want to participate, but financial constraints keep Food Bucks from scaling up.

With an investment by the Commonwealth, PA could also draw down additional federal dollars from GusNIP program—this would better meet the demand by PA families and boost revenue for many farmers and businesses.

SECTION 4

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

The information below provides a snapshot of our work from January 2022 to December 2023.



COMMUNICATIONS & WEB PRESENCE

1,732
SUBSCRIBERS

The Scoop is a bi-monthly newsletter that highlights PFPC staff and member initiatives, upcoming meetings and events, resources, regional jobs and opportunities to take action. We sent out 40 ‘Scoops’ from 2022 - 2023, and currently have 1,732 subscribers.

40 NEWSLETTERS SENT

2,356 FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

Reach 42.3K via Facebook, 4.7K via Instagram. Visits 2.8K Facebook, 1.6K Instagram. 2,357 Facebook, 742 Twitter, 1464 Instagram followers by the end of 2023

40K+

SOCIAL MEDIA REACH

44

PRESS ITEMS

44 Press items including 21 New articles, 21 blogs, and 2 press releases published by or mentioning PFPC.

21 NEW ARTICLES

13K UNIQUE VISITORS

17k website clicks between 2022-2023 (up 5%)— with 13k unique visitors and 33k pageviews (up 3%)

17K

WEBSITE CLICKS

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

The PFPC shares knowledge and expertise on committees and at speaking events, and continues to learn from peers both within and outside of membership. Below is a snapshot of the ways in which we have served as a resource and furthered our own learning.

Speaking events included: Bread for the World, 412 Food Rescue, PA Nutrition Educators Network (NEN), University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, Chatham University, Pasa Sustainable Agriculture Conference, Penn State University, and a Panel for United States Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack.

5 EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

PFPC staff serve on five external committees:

- Equitable & Just Greater Pittsburgh
- PA Farm to School Network Leadership Team
- Farm to Child Nutrition Summit Planning Committee
- PA Food Policy Council
- United Way Community Food Solutions Advisory Committee

PFPC staff attended one racial equity training in which some or all PFPC staff participated: FSNE 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge

1 RACIAL EQUITY TRAINING

4 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Four professional development opportunities attended for PFPC staff continuing education:

- Pasa Sustainable Agriculture Annual Conference
- National Food Policy Conference
- Vermont FEED Farm to School Institute Adaptation Program
- American Public Health Association
'Healthiest Cities and Counties Challenge'

PFPC LED MEETINGS

171

**MEETINGS
TO ADVANCE
FOOD JUSTICE**

In addition to the bi-monthly member meetings, the PFPC held additional 171 working group, subcommittee, and coalition meetings to advance food justice in our region.

19 WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

28 SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

124 COALITION MEETINGS

56

**LOCAL, REGIONAL &
NATIONAL MEETINGS**

PFPC staff joined 56 meetings with local, regional and national organizations and individuals to cultivate new and nurture existing connections.

50

**EXTERNALLY-
LED MEETINGS**

We engaged in over 50 externally-led meetings by partners in our region and beyond, including Allegheny County Health Department, The Food Trust, and more.

16

**MEETINGS WITH
ELECTED OFFICIALS**

16 total meetings with elected officials (4 in 2022 and 12 in 2023), to advocate and build support for a Pittsburgh Food Justice Fund, drivers licenses for all, and more.

26

**TOTAL
SIGN-ON LETTERS**

26 sign-on letters, 24 external supporting School Meals for All and proposed Farm Bill funding and two generated by PFPC for compost planning and zero fares.

56

**MEMBERS
SHARED**

PFPC mobilized 56 members to share comments at 7 public hearings.

2

**PRESS
CONFERENCES**

The first calling for a City Food Justice Fund. The second for Urban Ag Week.

**THE PFPC ADVANCED
RESEARCH AND STRATEGIC
DISCUSSIONS ABOUT HOW
THE PITTSBURGH FOOD POLICY
COUNCIL IS STRUCTURED
AND WORKS TO ACHIEVE ITS
GOALS—CENTERING JUSTICE,
EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND
INCLUSION (JEDI).**

MEMBER CELEBRATIONS

DAWN FAREWELL

The PFPC thanked Executive Director Dawn Plummer for her years of dedication to the organization, serving as the inaugural paid staff member and leading 9 years of growth, change and progress for the Pittsburgh regional food system.

KARLIN FAREWELL

The PFPC hosted a send-off for Karlin Lamberto, Associate Director and then Interim Executive Director of the organization. Prior to these roles, Karlin provided backbone support for the Urban Agriculture working group, built up the Pgh Urban Farm Tour, and forged connections with regional growers and decision makers via annual urban farm tours with the Secretary of Agriculture.

EQUITY AMBASSADOR CELEBRATION

PFPC staff, Board and members gathered to celebrate the second cohort of Pittsburgh Food Equity Ambassadors in August, 2022. Ambassadors received a certificate of completion and shared their experiences and next steps with attendees.



2023 END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

Staff, Board, members, friends and family gathered at Goodlander Cocktail Brewery to celebrate the end of a year of transitions - Executive Director, staff, virtual to in-person convenings—and progress—strategic planning, a Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion plan, Food Justice Fund and more.

FOOD JUSTICE FUND CELEBRATION

We joined together to celebrate the City's adoption of the Food Justice Fund plan as well as Urban Agriculture Week at Lounge 7101 in Homewood on July 10, 2022.

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

We shared food together and celebrated our collective accomplishments at Goodlander on December 12, 2023.



SECTION 5

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ACHIEVING OUR GOALS

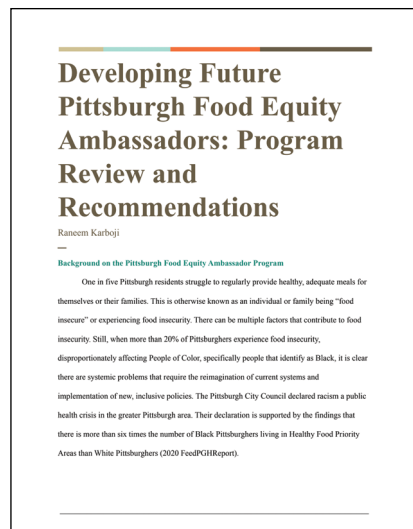
In order to improve the food system, the PFPC advanced research and strategic discussions about how the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council is structured and works to achieve its goals—centering Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI).



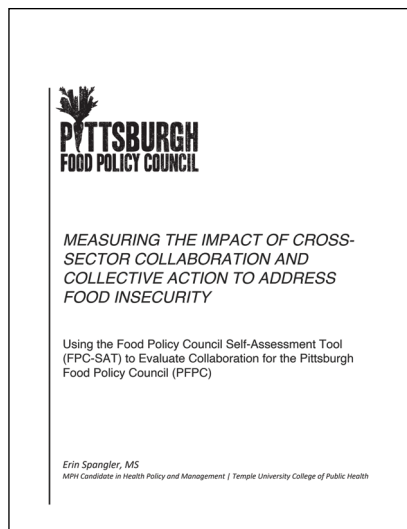
NEW INFORMATION AND REPORTS

In partnership with PFPC Board, member organizations and individuals, PFPC staff prepared the following reports detailing accomplishments and/or lessons learned from completed projects, or to better understand a gap in resources or a problem affecting our community.

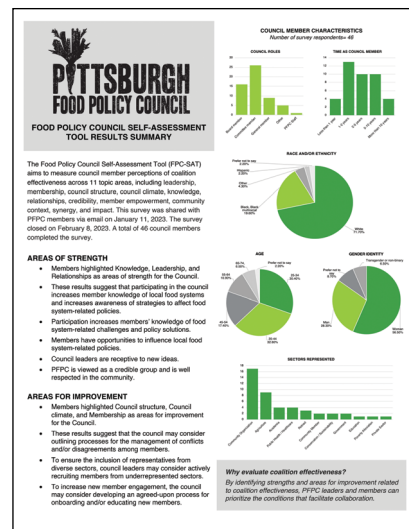
THE FOLLOWING ARE A FEW OF THE REPORTS PRODUCED DURING 2022 AND 2023:



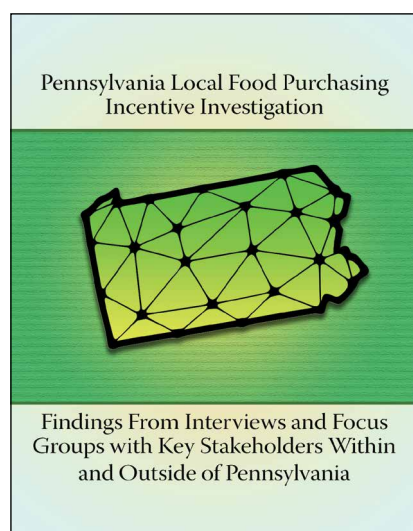
[Equity Ambassador Review](#)



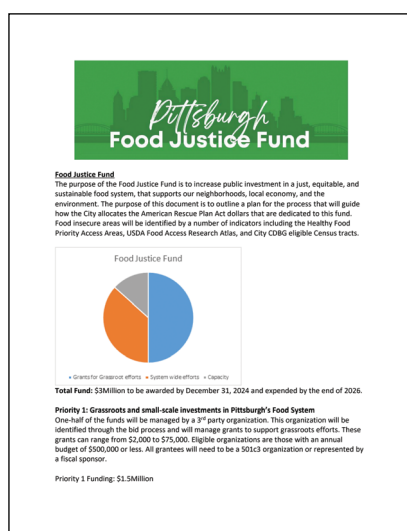
[Food Policy Council - Self-Assessment Tool Results](#)



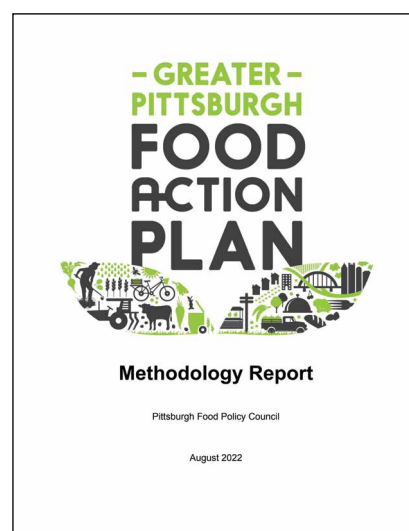
[Food Policy Council - Self-Assessment Tool Executive Summary](#)



[Contributions to a PA Department of Education Report on Local Food Purchasing Incentives](#)



[Food Justice Fund Plan](#)



[GPFAP Methodology document](#)

DRAFT JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION PLAN

Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion are high priorities for PFPC. Our staff and board have been having discussions about these issues in recent years. Over the past year, PFPC staff and Board have been working to incorporate this feedback into a Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Plan, including action steps for what needs to be done and by whom.

While this plan is in draft form and will change over time that hasn't stopped us from advancing and implementing pieces of the plan. Recent accomplishments include: updating job descriptions to prioritize those with lived experience, hiring HR Consultants to evaluate and coach PFPC Executive Director, and raising funds to implement Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Trainings in 2024.

[illegible]

[See the draft](#)



STRATEGIC PLANNING

Since March 2023, PFPC has been collaborating with its Board and members to create a Strategic Plan that builds upon the Greater Pittsburgh Food Action Plan, guiding PFPC for the next three years by shaping its mission, vision, goals, and objectives for both internal and external purposes. A Strategic Planning Steering Committee, comprised of Board and former Board Members, has been at the forefront of this initiative. PFPC engaged the national consulting team NVA, who conducted interviews with a select group of key stakeholders. In May, a Strategic Visioning Retreat was organized with staff, Board members, and other key partners. By June, we shared the draft mission and vision with our Members. In July, we parted ways with NVA to pursue local guidance. In October, we brought on Procopia, who collaborated with the Strategic Planning Steering Committee to formulate draft goals and objectives. We also worked with PFPC Internal Board Committees (Governance, Internal, and External) to draft action plans for each objective. This information will be presented to Members at our meeting on February 27, 2023 for their feedback.

The plan appears to be concentrating on the following goals:

- GOAL 1** **SOLIDIFY AND ADVANCE PFPC'S ROLE IN THE GREATER PITTSBURGH FOOD ACTION PLAN (GPFAP).**
- GOAL 2** **ADVANCE OPERATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS TO ACHIEVE INTERNAL EXCELLENCE.**
- GOAL 3** **DEEPEN AND CLARIFY NETWORK AND COALITION-BUILDING EFFORTS.**

CONCLUSION

LOOKING FORWARD

MORE TO COME

The PFPC is proud of everything it has achieved through its members' hard work, dedication, and passion in creating a fairer, more equitable, and sustainable food system. We appreciate the chance to collaborate with all of you and anticipate continuing our work together in the years ahead.



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THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

We want to extend a sincere thank you to our funders who have supported the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council in 2022-23.

Allegheny County
Conservation District

Chatham University

County of Allegheny

CVS PA
Distribution, Inc

Grow Pittsburgh

Opportunity Fund

Pasa Sustainable
Agriculture

Penn State University

Pennsylvania
Association
for Sustainable
Agriculture

Pennsylvania
Resources
Council, Inc.

The Heinz
Endowments

The Sampson
Foundation

Three Rivers
Community
Foundation

United States
Department
of Health and
Human Services

United States
Department
of Agriculture
(Regional Food
Systems Partnership
Grant - AMS)

United Way of
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