



Homegrown Minneapolis

ANNUAL REPORT

Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council

Year 2014

**Health, Environment and Community
Engagement (HECE) Committee**

February 23, 2015



Homegrown Minneapolis



- Homegrown Minneapolis is a citywide initiative expanding our community's ability to grow, process, distribute, eat and compost more healthy, sustainable, locally grown foods.
- Homegrown Minneapolis brings together key partners from local government, area businesses, community organizations, non-profits, and residents to build a healthy, local food system.



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Background

- The Homegrown Minneapolis (HGM) initiative has unfolded into three distinct phases:

Phase I: (Nov. 2008-June 2009)

Launch of HGM and development of recommendations for ways the City can support and advance the local food system.

Phase II: (July 2009 – Dec. 2011)

Implementation of recommendation.

Phase III: (Jan. 2012 – present)

Passage of Urban Ag Text Amendments and formation of a Food Council.

- The HGM Food Council was established in January 2012 by 2011R-445 as a permanent body for the City of Minneapolis to serve as a nexus of citywide food related efforts



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Food Council Statement of Vision

The Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council envisions a vibrant local food system that enhances the health of all residents, protects the earth, increases economic vitality, expands social connectedness, and improves food security.



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Food Council Statement of Mission





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The 2014-2015 Food Council

~ 21 members: Co-ownership ~

15 Community Representatives

- Cooperatives: Rhys Williams, Aaron Reser
- Chef: Beth Dooley
- Health Care: Alison Babb
- Educators: Kris Igo
- Farmers: Sammie Ardito Rivera, Hashep Seka, Omari Chatman, Russ Henry, Jillia Pessenda-Bovino, Pakou Hang
- Composters: Russ Henry
- Non-profit and Government: Andrew Dahl, Zoe Hollomon, DeVon Nolen, Jesus Perez



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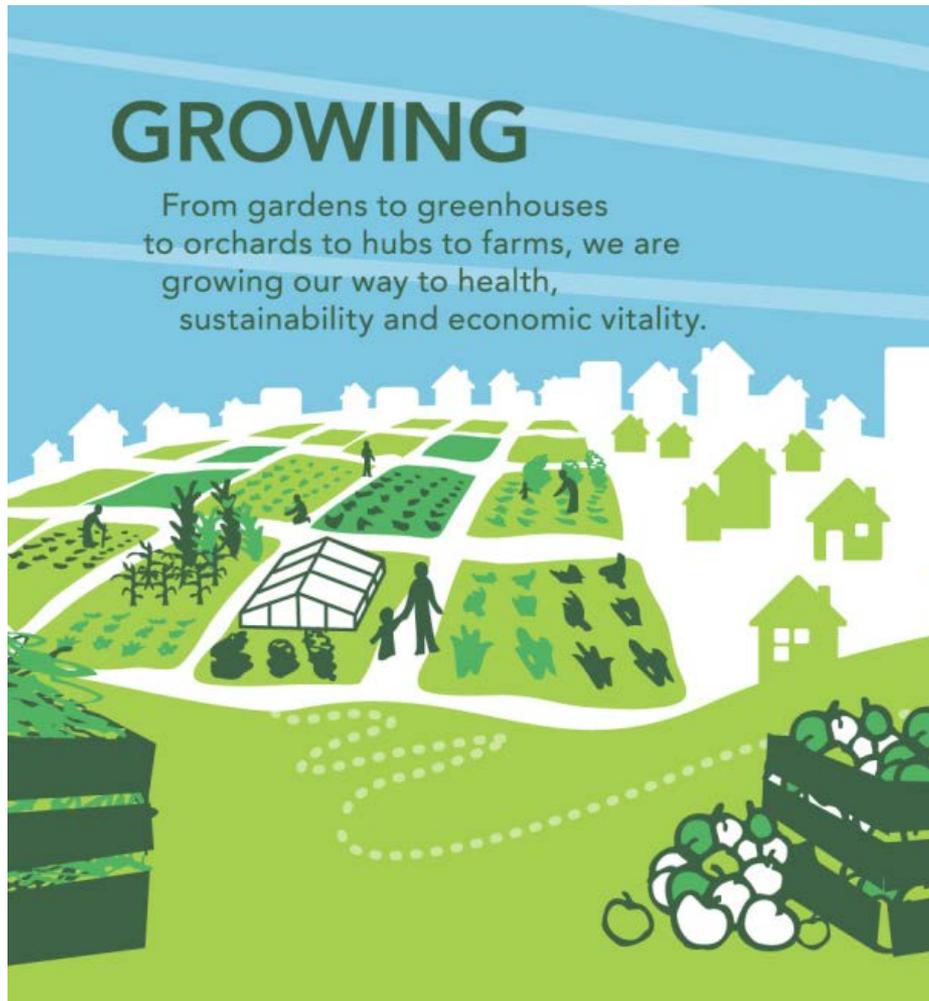
2014-2015 Food Council: Six City Representatives

- City Council: Cam Gordon
- Mayor's Office: Erick Garcia Luna
- Health Department: Patty Bowler
- Community Planning & Economic Development: Bob Lind
- Environmental Services: Katie Lampi
- City Coordinator's Office/Sustainability: Gayle Prest
- Staffed by: Tamara Downs Schwei (City Coordinator's Office/Sustainability.) Jane Shey and Vish Vasani previously provided staffing support and have since transitioned to new roles.





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- **Urban Farms and Market Gardens**
 - More than 20 urban farms
- **Community Gardens**
 - More than 243, more than 30 on City-owned lots
- **Animals**
 - >265 chicken permits,
 - > 50 permitted beehives,
 - ~ Six aquaponics projects
- **Local Food Resource Hubs**
 - More than 700 members received seeds and plants
- **Fruit trees**
 - 500 fruit trees distributed in 2014 through City Trees



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PROCESSING

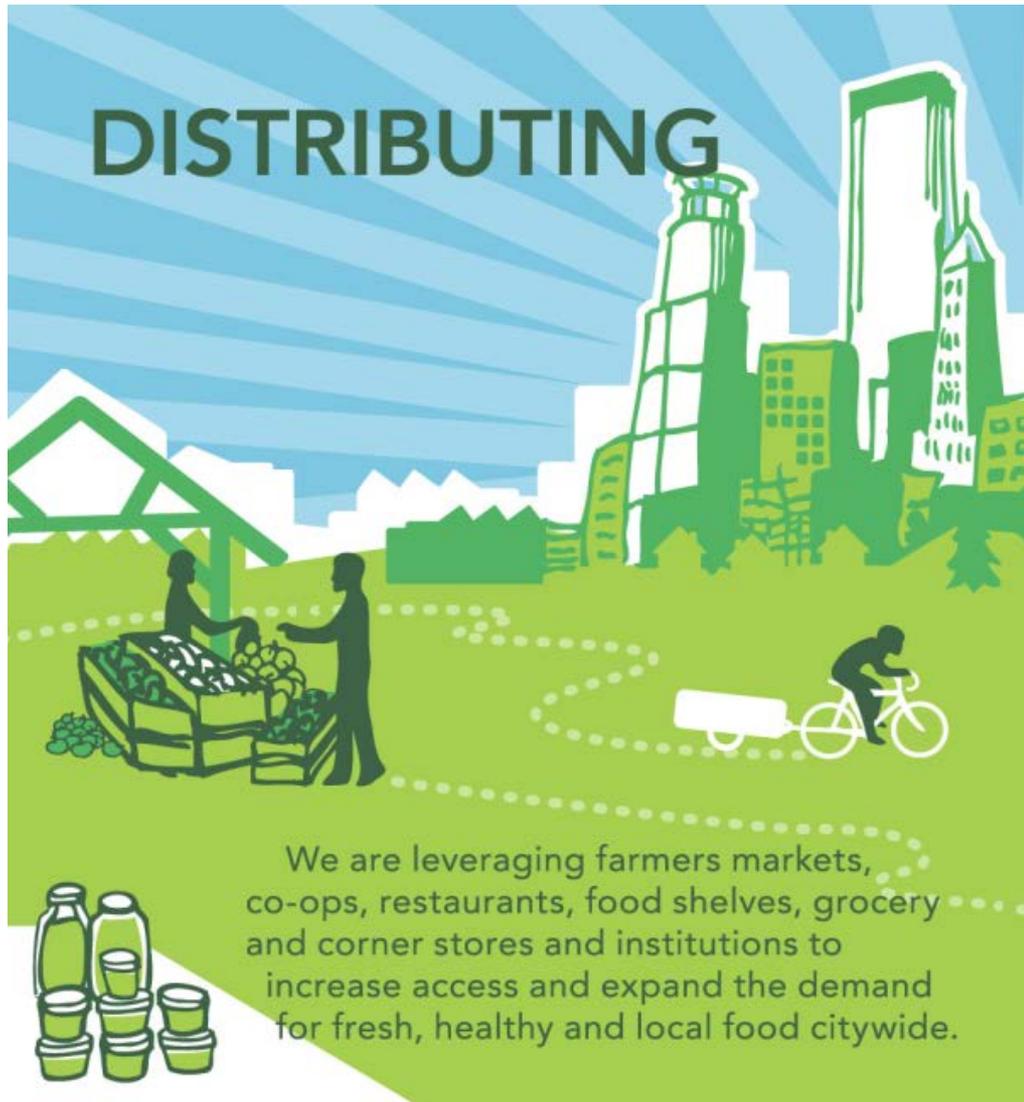
We are cooking, canning, freezing, packaging, juicing, milling and baking to assure healthy, sustainable local food year-round.



- Food manufacturers
- Restaurants
- Food trucks
 - More than 70, including 10 who have opened “brick and mortar” restaurants
- Food Processing & Preservation Facilities
 - Three commercially licensed incubator kitchens
 - More than 40 “community kitchens”



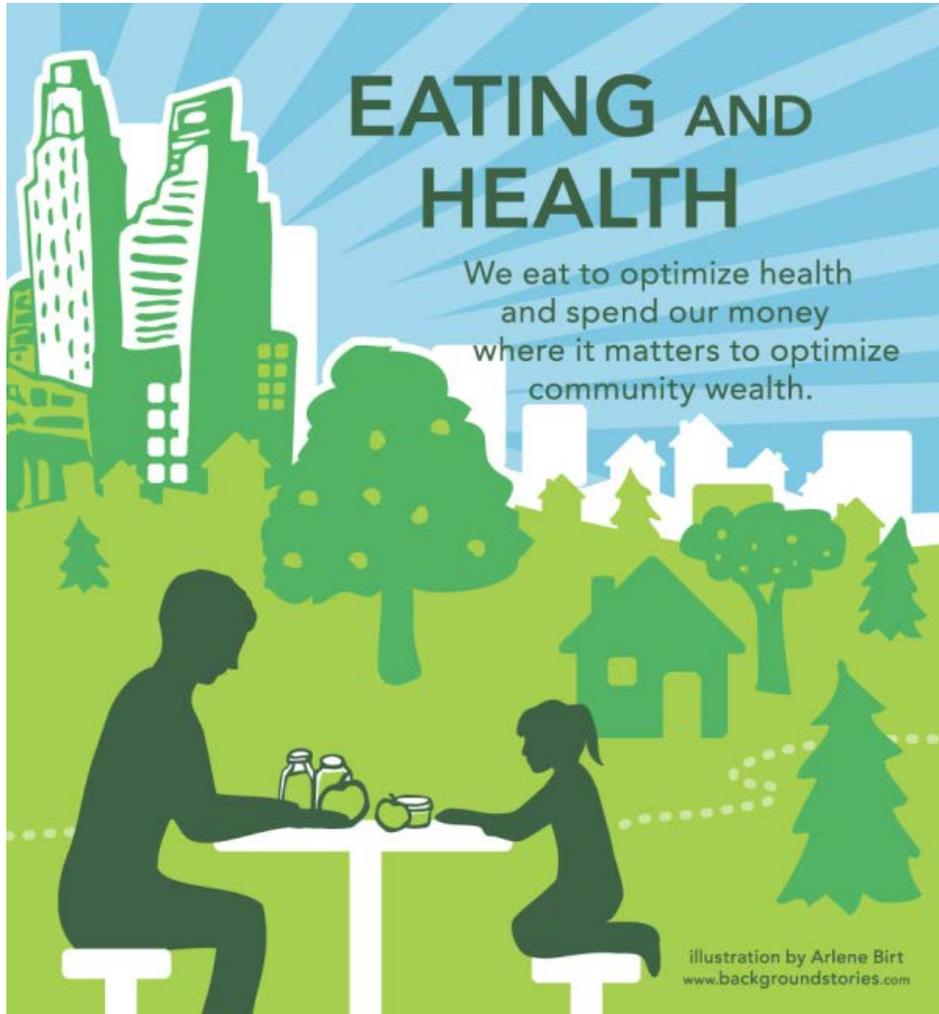
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- **Farmers Markets**
 - 15 farmers markets, 14 mini-markets
 - Nearly all markets accepted food support (SNAP/EBT) in 2014
 - Total SNAP sales for markets participating in Market Bucks in 2014 was \$155,710.
- **Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)**
- **Farmstands**
- **Grocery Stores**
 - Healthy Corner Stores
 - Four growing food co-op retail stores
- **Mobile Groceries**



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- Healthy Food Access
- Healthy choices
- EBT at Farmers Markets
- Farm to School (MPS partnership)
- Healthy food policies in City buildings and parks
- Healthy Corner Store program



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- Backyard
- Curbside
- Commercial
- Community gardens
 - 71 community gardens incorporated more than 600 cubic yards of compost into their gardens through the City's free/reduced price compost program



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2014 Highlights: Food System Research and Development

- Developed list of Twin Cities area food hubs
 - Food hubs defined as centrally located facility with business management structure facilitating aggregation, storage processing, distribution and/or marketing of locally/regionally produced food products.
 - Conducted interviews with 18 of 24 identified hubs/projects, including over 30 metrics on hubs operations
- Supported expansion of Karamu Garden in North Minneapolis





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2014 Highlights: City level advocacy



Supported passage of

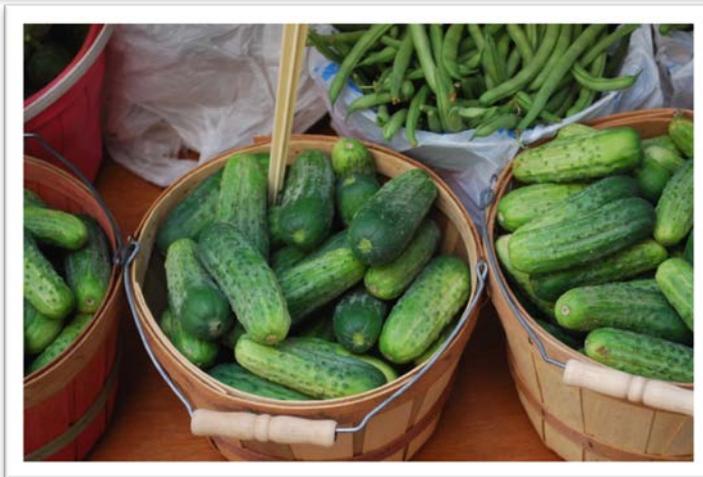
- Mobile Food Stores Ordinance
- Farmstand Ordinance Amendments
- Beekeeping Ordinance Amendments
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Urban Agriculture Activity Plan
- Staple Foods Ordinance Amendments



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2014 Highlights: State level advocacy

- Supported passage of
 - State legislation enabling farmers market vendors to more easily provide food samples
 - State legislation require accurate labeling of bee friendly plants and seeds; compensation to beekeepers who lose bees due to pesticide application
- Successfully advocated for changes to state compost facilities regulations





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2014 Highlights: Community Engagement

- Made presentations and tabled at more than 20 community events.
- Homegrown monthly e-newsletter reached > **1900** individuals; refreshed Homegrown website.
- Launched Friends of Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofhomegrownmplsfoodcouncil>





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2014 Food Council Annual Open House



Approximately **250** individuals attended the Homegrown Minneapolis Open House event on December 3, 2014 at the Cedars Hall.



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2015 Food Council Working Groups

- Hubs/aggregation
- Land Access
- Community Outreach and Engagement
- Animals
- Organics Recycling

- Additional working groups or task forces may be added during the year as issues/opportunities emerge.



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Examples of Possible 2015 Food Council Activities



Work with policy makers, staff and stakeholders to engage community and support movement of policy changes related to

- Urban farm/community garden scale compost permits
- Chicken/fowl permits and regulations
- Food processing regulations
- Equitable access to land for community gardens, market gardens and urban farms



Report results of food hub survey and foster connections between Twin Cities food hubs.



Continue to partner with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board on the Implementation of their Urban Agriculture Activity Plan.



Advocate for revisions to Minnesota Seed Law as implemented by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, to allow for operation of seed libraries and interpersonal seed sharing.



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Vacant Parcels Map

- Utilized Hennepin County data to show location and ownership information for vacant residentially zoned parcels in Minneapolis.
- Released January 2015; will be posted on Homegrown Minneapolis website February 2015.
- Food growers and entrepreneurs immediately began using.
- Updates to include zoning overlay coming soon.



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Recommendations for City Council Action

- 1) Support the Food Council's land access policy goals related to urban agriculture:
 - Extend the lease terms for City-owned parcels to greater than one year, with a preferred minimum of five years.
 - Allow commercial growers to lease or purchase City-owned parcels, with the understanding that community gardeners would have priority access.
 - Expand total number of City-owned lots available for urban agricultural lease or sale.



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Recommendations for City Council Action, Continued

- 2) Support policy change related to urban farm/community garden scale compost permits.
- 3) Support policy change related to chicken/fowl permits process
- 4) Support the addition of four new Food Council member positions:
 - Invite one staff from Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and one staff from Minneapolis Public Schools
 - Two community members- one each representing MPRB and MPS.
- 5) Support changes to MN Seed law to allow seed libraries and interpersonal seed sharing.



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Questions?



For more information, visit

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/homegrown>