2012 Food Policy and Program Survey for Local Governments

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and Michigan State University (MSU)'s Center for Regional Food Systems conducted this survey to collect data on what local governments are doing in relation to food system development. The following definition of food systems was provided: **Food systems include all of the stakeholders, processes, and linkages involved in taking food from farm to plate.**

1. Please identify whether your local government has policies, ordinances, or other regulations related to the issues identified below.

Food Access and Production Policies and Regulations	Yes % reporting	No % reporting
a. Ordinances governing grocery stores, ensuring siting in under-served areas (n=1,917)	5%	95%
b. Ordinances governing where mobile food vendors can operate (e.g. food trucks) (n=1,916)	45%	55%
c. Policies or ordinances permitting farmers' markets (n=1,919)	59%	41%
d. Requirements for healthy/fresh food at corner stores (n=1,920)	4%	96%
e. Requirement that farmers' markets accept electronic food assistance benefits (n=,1914)	3%	97%
f. Requirements to "buy local" for local government food purchases (n=1,917)	4%	96%
g. Taxes on junk food, restrictions on fast food locations, or other initiatives that regulate unhealthy food (n=1,921)	2%	98%
h. Local government provides land access for community gardens (n=1,912)	34%	67%
i. Local government provides water access for community gardens (n=1,910)	29%	71%
j. Green roofs or edible landscaping is permitted in residential and/or commercial areas (n=1,873)	40%	60%
k. Sale of produce from community/residential gardens or farm stands (not farmers' markets) is permitted (n=1,894)	51%	49%
l. Policies/ordinances allowing chickens, goats, bees, etc., to be kept in non-traditional (e.g. residential) zones (n=1,915)	38%	62%
m. Ordinances/policies allowing municipal composting of food and other organic waste (n=,1907)	23%	77%
n. Ordinances/policies allowing backyard composting of food and residential waste (n=1,893)	33%	67%

2. **If your local government has other policies or regulations related to food access and production, please describe them in the space below.**
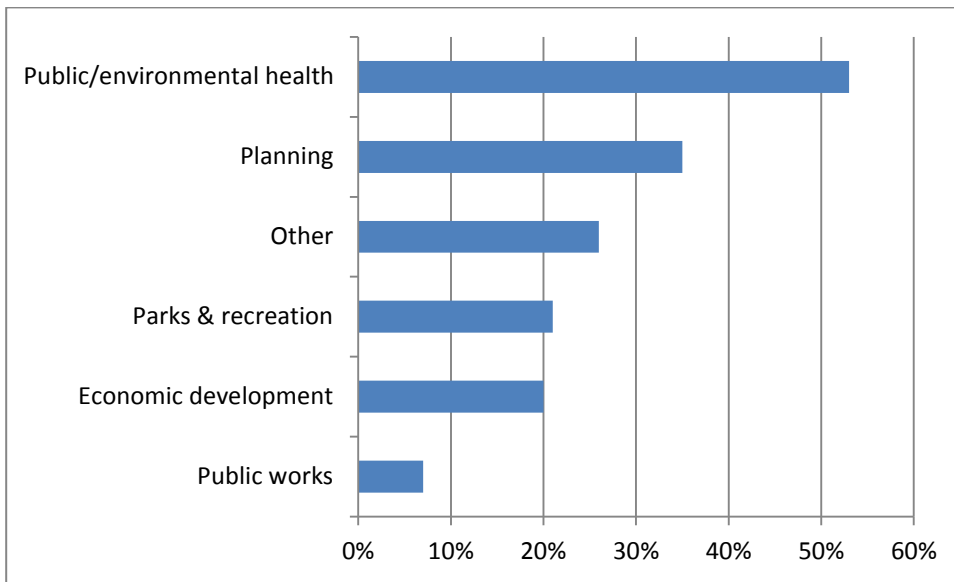
Programs/Projects
For the following sections, place a check in the box(es) to identify whether any of these food-related projects or programs are available in your community and, if so, how they are provided. *(Check all applicable.)*

3. Land Use and Planning			Entity that provides the program		
	Program is <u>not</u> available	Program is available	Local government alone	Local government in partnership with another entity	No local government involvement
a. Incentives for green roofs (n=1,573)	95%	6%	2%	1%	1%
b. Incentives for edible landscaping (n=1,543)	98%	2%	1%	1%	0%
c. Reuse of vacant lots/buildings for community gardens or food processing (n=1,573)	83%	17%	6%	7%	2%
d. Land transfer incentives or programs to preserve farmland	79%	21%	4%	10%	3%
e. Food assessment and/or mapping (e.g., have you mapped where grocery stores are located to identify need?) (n=1,551)	91%	9%	4%	3%	1%

4. Community and Economic Development and Public Health			Entity that provides the program		
	Program is <u>not</u> available	Program is available	Local government alone	Local government in partnership with another entity	No local government involvement
a. Farmers market (n=1,649)	25%	75%	11%	30%	23%
b. Healthy eating/obesity prevention initiatives (n=1,569)	55%	45%	4%	24%	17%
c. Donations of surplus food (from grocery stores, restaurants, etc.) to food banks/shelters, etc. (n=1,515)	41%	59%	1%	14%	35%
d. Emergency food provisions for needy individuals (n=1,858)	39%	61%	3%	19%	30%
e. Business retention or expansion efforts to develop food business incubators, e.g. in kitchens, on farms, etc. (n=1,552)	84%	16%	2%	8%	3%
f. Provision of incentives to improve healthy food access via traditional grocery stores, corner stores, etc. (1,537)	92%	8%	1%	2%	3%
g. Economic development efforts to encourage agricultural tourism, e.g., vineyard or food trail maps (1,594)	68%	32%	3%	18%	6%

5. What departments have food programs or policies within their scope of responsibility? *(Check all applicable.)*

6. Does your government staff participate in any local or regional Food Policy Council, food action committee, or a similar group? Yes = 16%   No = 84%
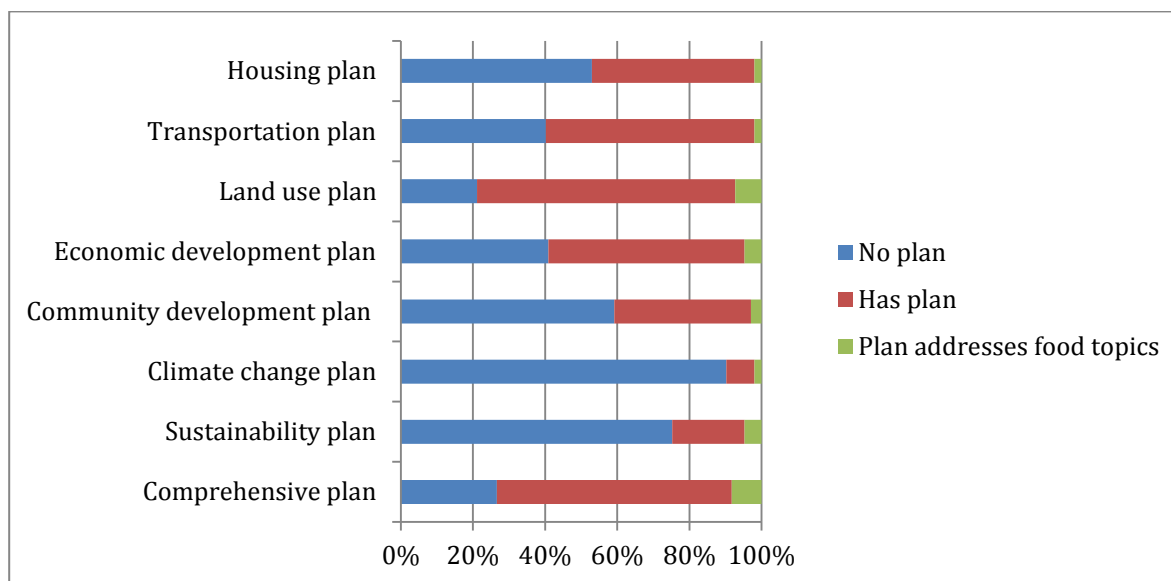
7. If "yes," which best describes the group?

a. It is an official government body	18%
b. It is an ad hoc committee	45%
c. Other	36%

8. Does your community collaborate or coordinate on any food-related projects or programs with surrounding communities/regions? Yes = 22%   No = 78%

9. If "yes," please describe. *(Responses are available with data set.)*

10. **Please indicate which of the following plans your community has in place, and note whether any address topics related to food production, processing, distribution, access or disposal:**

11. **If your local government addresses food in a different type of plan than those listed above or in a standalone plan, please briefly describe it in the space below.** *(Responses are available with data set.)*

12. **Please indicate your awareness of and/or utilization of the following federal program examples for local governments to fund food system development. *(Check all applicable.)*** *Note: Because respondents could answer "we are not using the program but are interested, and not check the awareness questions, some responses do not add up to 100% in the first two columns.*

Program	We are not aware of the program	We are aware of the program	We are using the program	We are not using the program but are interested
a. Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food (USDA) (n=1,796)	77%	18%	2%	8%
1. Marketing assistance, e.g., Farmers Market Promotion Program (n=1,750)	67%	23%	6%	12%
2. Rural Business Enterprise or Opportunity Grants (n=1,755)	59%	33%	5%	10%
3. Community Facilities Grants (n=1,735)	51%	42%	8%	12%
4. Urban and community forestry programs (n=1,746)	44%	46%	15%	9%
5. Conservation and working land programs (n=1,731)	57%	39%	8%	8%
6. Hunger and nutrition programs (n=1,725)	56%	40%	10%	7%
b. Community Development Block Grants (HUD) (n=1,822)	14%	84%	42%	5%
c. Sustainable Communities Grants (HUD/DOT/EPA) (n=1,788)	35%	59%	14%	13%
d. Brownfields Grants (EPA) (n=1,808)	24%	73%	16%	10%
e. Communities Putting Prevention to Work or Community Transformation Grants (CDC) (n=1,781)	73%	20%	4%	10%