

# North Carolina's Network of Food Councils

Working to build a thriving, sustainable community-based food system across all counties in North Carolina

## What is a Local Food Council?

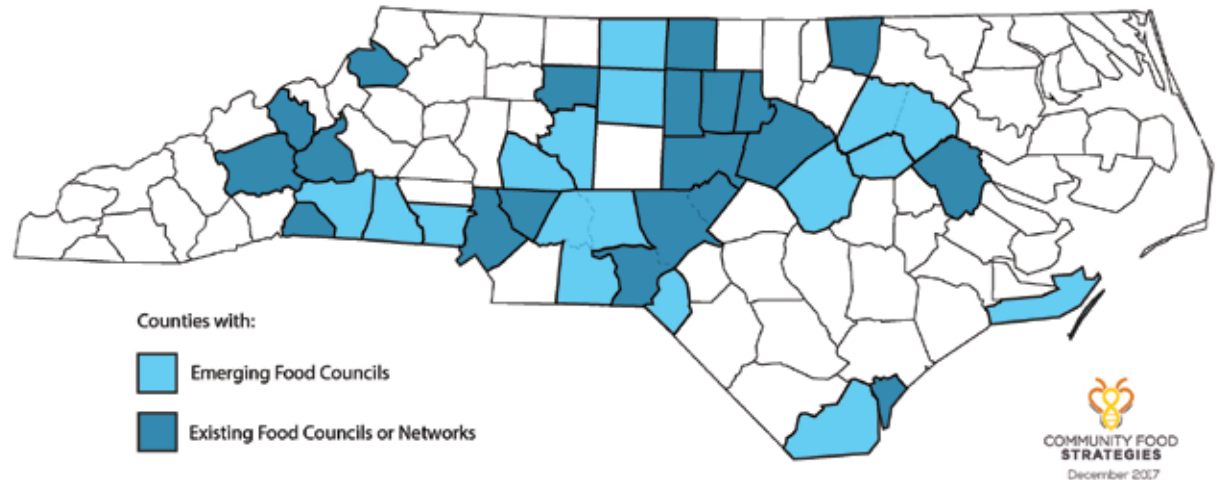
Local food councils are community-based coalitions, often organized by county, that work to build more resilient food systems through research, education, and collaboration.

Food councils build connections across stakeholders and facilitate collaboration to improve health, food access, and the local food economy for all its community's citizens.

## Who is involved?

Food councils are intentionally cross-sector. They often include representation with the following groups:

- Public health professionals
- Local government officials
- Farmers and/or agricultural organizations
- Restaurants and local businesses
- Cooperative Extension staff
- Soil and Water Conservation District staff
- Faith communities
- Public schools
- Interested parents and consumers
- Food pantry and food security advocates
- Community colleges or universities



A growing network of more than 30 food councils exists across North Carolina. Councils are looking for collaborative partnerships and support to make greater impact in their communities.

## What do councils do?

The work of food councils looks different in every community. In general food councils:

- Engage experts to better understand the existing food conditions
- Connect decision makers and stakeholders to align programs and initiatives
- Educate leaders and the community
- Recommend program and policy change to affect the local food system

## Support for Local Food Councils

Community Food Strategies and the North Carolina Local Food Council help build the capacity of local food councils with food system expertise, organizational development, trainings, resources, and networking opportunities.

## Stay connected

- Statewide listserv
- Regional and statewide convenings
- [facebook.com/communityfoodstrategies](https://www.facebook.com/communityfoodstrategies)

[www.communityfoodstrategies.org](http://www.communityfoodstrategies.org)

# 2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF NC FOOD COUNCILS

communityfoodstrategies.org



## PROMOTING FARMERS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Davidson County Local Food Network funded a farmers market awareness campaign, including billboards, stickers, and farm-to-plate dinner marketing.

Capital Area Food Network developed a strategic plan for their Farm Advocacy Circle.

McDowell Local Food Advisory Council received grant funding to create a feasibility study and project development for a Community Food and Health Hub.

Forsyth Community Food Consortium hosted monthly Local Food Meet-ups to increase awareness of local food initiatives and encourage collaboration.

Greater High Point Food Alliance hosted a Food Security Summit and a Youth Food Summit.

Gaston Co. Food Policy Council hosted National Farmers Market Week events at all three county farmers markets, and hosted four community education events.

Toe River Food Security Network hosted listening sessions with pre-school teachers about gardens, and with faith-based food pantry staff and county government.

Orange County Food Council hosted two forums, welcomed four new council members, and started Food Access & Local Food Economy work groups.

## INCREASING AWARENESS

Asheville-Buncombe FPC hosted a 2017 Candidates Forum, highlighting the Food Policy Action Plan they developed, which was passed by the City of Asheville.

Charlotte-Mecklenberg Food Policy Council hosted a food advocacy training for 50+ community members and leaders.

## ADVOCATING POLICY & PROGRAM CHANGE

Greater High Point Food Alliance worked with High Point City Council to fund a Community Garden Coordinator through the Guilford Co. Extension Office.

Durham Farm & Food Network hosted a public engagement event to announce their newly created 4-part Policy Platform and encourage new participation.

Durham Farm & Food Network received funding for facilitation to support the development of a sugary beverage advocacy campaign rooted in racial equity.

Orange Council Food Council funded several members to attend racial equity trainings.

## ADDRESSING EQUITY

North Carolina Local Food Council expanded their membership with diverse voices representative of their work.

## INCREASING FOOD ACCESS

## EXPANDING THE NETWORK

Alamance Food Collaborative partnered with Elon University classes on student projects that propelled their council's top priorities.

Warren County Local Foods Promotion Council completed a farmer survey and online map to create a Local Food Guide.

Capital Area Food Network assisted with the completion of the Wake County Comprehensive Food Security Plan, and held multiple community forums for input.

Cape Fear Food Council formalized their council structure and committees, which are meeting monthly, and filled all council and four committee chair positions.

Just Foods Collaborative recruited an Advisory Board, formalized its structure, and drafted a plan of work.

Durham Farm and Food Network provided mini-grants to food pantries to improve services offered to clients.

Cabarrus County Farm & Food Council engaged in a food access study with UNC-Charlotte partners.

Asheville-Buncombe Food Policy Council launched a Double Up Food Bucks project for greater access to healthy foods.

Caswell Local Foods Council hosted a free soup lunch every 2nd Wednesday of the month in 2017, attracting 50-100 attendees each month.

Pitt County Farm and Food Council became a county sanctioned council, held three community forums, and started work with three action circles.