

Food & Agriculture Policy Council Basics

Core Aspects:

- Inclusive — involvement of diverse interest sectors in addition to agric. (see below)
 - Functions — learn, educate, synthesize, advise
 - Outcomes — assessments, greater awareness, new policies, unexpected partnerships
 - Current popularity — increased interest in hunger and nutrition & local food systems
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Sectors to Involve:

- Agriculture — production and marketing
 - Environment — land, water, air, energy, biodiversity, etc.
 - Economic Development — rural and community
 - Food/Nutrition/Hunger — access for all to safe, nutritious, culturally appropriate foods
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Models: (see www.statefoodpolicy.org for details on many councils)

- Iowa — very close to governors office
 - New Mexico — highly refined governance, works closely with legislature
 - Utah — began in Department of Ag's "Buy Utah" program
 - Arizona — Srn group arose from hunger & farmers market groups; Nrn: water issues
 - Colorado — starting with broad-based regional groups
 - Oklahoma — starting with "Farm-to-School" survey and report
 - Portland-Multnomah — example of a city/county-scale policy council
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Key Questions:

- Relationship to government — officially sanctioned or independent, sources of funding
 - Initial focus — hard issues first or non-controversial, win-win issues to establish trust
 - Geographic representation — how to involve all regions of the state
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Potential Issues:

- State and local policies affecting direct marketing & local buying
 - Institutional food purchasing policies, including farm-to-school programs
 - Food access and nutrition policies
 - Policies that affect farm and ranch preservation
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Resources:

- **Policy Council Clearinghouse: Drake Univ.:** www.statefoodpolicy.org
- **Colorado Working Group:** www.oakhavenpc.org/FoodAgPolicy
- Food Routes (local food promotional tools): www.foodroutes.org
- Community Food Security Coalition (food access, nutrition): www.foodsecurity.org
- National Farm to School Program: www.farmtoschool.org
- Center for Rural Affairs (social, community, econ. development issues): cfra.org
- Wild Farm Alliance (environ. restoration, biodiversity): www.wildfarmalliance.org

- SWMN — Southwest Marketing Network: www.swmarketing.ncat.org
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