

Attachment #1 - - The Plan Bitterroot Valley Food System – CFP 2010

Developed by the CFP Coalition, on April 23, 2009. Action items listed in order of priorities.

STRATEGIES for building a local food system in the Bitterroot valley.

Initiate a Food Policy Council - which will implement the Projects below and;

Work toward a **Carbon Neutral, Local Food Shed** - this concept will be in the Mission statement of the Food Policy Council with action items to be worked on as follows:

- Promote energy efficient and economical farming and distribution systems
- Consider composting of household organic wastes – a project
- Investigate alternative energy applications, i.e. biodiesel, solar, wind, hydrogen
- Coordinate with other food activism groups in the region
- Understand ag land mitigation tools - - i.e. Community land trust
- Work toward local control of food and ag. regulations
- Integrate organizations serving seniors/low income individuals
- Protect resources: ag land, water ecosystems, farmers/ranchers
- Combine food, fiber, fuel production in coordinated approach

Facilitate increased food production:

- Create seed bank
- Establish community gardens in every community with composting
- Increase access to ag. land for farmers (land-link)
- Create efficient, economical, year-round greenhouses
- Facilitate year-round production using high tunnels, etc.
- Provide technical support for farmers/ conversion to diverse cropping systems
- Work toward establishing a farmer incubation project with equipment co-op

Create more markets for producers and value-added producers:

- Promote Farmers' markets and roadside stands
- Launch Food Co-op Center with Online marketing (Oklahoma Food Co-op Model)
- Encourage labeling of origin of foods in retail outlets
- Expand our notion of local to Western Montana to increase economic viability

Create a food distribution system for both local food and value-added production:

- Follow Oklahoma centralized online ordering model (also listed above)
- Consider two distribution centers, north and south
- Consider both individual and institutional needs.
- Keep in mind needs of low income individuals and families, price and delivery
- Initiate gleaning/food sharing project to benefit low-income people
- Plan for community storage facilities freezer, cooler, dry storage
- Use low energy delivery means, i.e. motorized bikes within communities
- Initiate barter system/ barter fairs
- Recruit volunteers from low income groups & individuals/job service (for gleaning, gardening, processing)

Create a comprehensive education program about our local food system:

for Community/consumers

for Schools

for Producers/processors

about composting, cooking with fresh ingredients, preservation, storage

about farmer incubation project with equipment co-op

Increase local processing and storage capacity and options for year round markets:

Explore technology

Study feasibility of locations

Study regulations

Consider need for dehydration and chicken processing facilities

Consider composting of offal to facilitate more meat processing



Projects proposed in the CFP Grant Proposal of 2010

1. Food Policy Council activated and working toward a Carbon Neutral Food Shed, guiding progress on the following projects
2. Distribution Center/Co-op based on Oklahoma Food Co-op Model with warehouse facility, online ordering, delivery truck in 2nd year.
3. Community Gardens Project - for every community in the valley, used by schools as "edible schoolyard", worked during summer, w/ cooking and preservation workshops
4. Food Sharing Project - networking and gleaning, donating to food banks, etc.
5. Farmer Support Project - farmers mentoring new and/or converting farmers
6. Farmland Preservation Project - consulting and educating re/ innovative models
7. Community Education Project - media development, workshops, presentations.