



NCFC Policy Committee: 2015 Prioritization

Jan 23rd, 2015 | City of Fort Collins, 215 North Mason Conference Room 1A

- 1. Land: Access & Preservation | 5 | 2015-2030 | * Transfer to Natural Resources Committee?**
 This theme has continued to emerge as a high community priority. (1) Urban Ag Enterprise Zones, or creating zones eligible for State financial incentives, would require a pilot proposal by the fall of 2015, as would any (2) Incentive Zone legislation, which would re-asses residentially zoned land being used for Ag purposes. (3) Using Public Land for Ag production (Boulder County Model) requires a conversation between NCFC, Larimer County, the City of Fort Collins, and additional stakeholders. An initial meeting to discuss all three initiatives took place in November of 2014, with a larger stakeholder conversation scheduled for March of 2015.
- 2. SNAP: Doubling Food Stamps & Banked CSA Shares | 4 | 2015-2016**
 This project requires finding organizations (government, private, or non-profit foundations) that are willing to double the amount of SNAP benefits for eligible residents, as well as potentially propose a USDA pilot to use banked SNAP benefits for CSA membership.
- 3. Regional Farmers Market Strategy | 4 | 2015 – 2017 | *Transfer to Farmers Market Task Force?**
 Local Producers have expressed an interest in NCFC engaging Regional Farmers Market Managers about developing a more strategic approach to regional markets.
- 4. Incorporating Local Food into Municipal Strategic Documents | 3 | 2015-2016**
 This initiative would analyze current Strategic Documents, and encourage Municipal Governments to include stronger connections to local food systems.
- 5. Municipal Sales Tax Exemption/Refund for Local Producers | 3 | 2015**
 This proposal would provide a municipal sales tax exemption or refund by working with City Finance Departments. An early conversation with City of FC took place in the summer of 2014.
- 6. Farm to Institution | 3 | 2015-2020 | *Transfer to Farm to Institution Committee?**
 The importance of connecting producers and large institutions is critically important in opening new market opportunities, and ensuring the consumption of healthy local food.
- 7. State & Federal Advocacy | 2 | Ongoing**
 A connection to our elected officials and policy makers is key as NCFC pursues high impact regional projects, funding, and innovative policies and projects with large scale impact.
- 8. Farm Incubator | 2 | 2015-2020 | *Transfer to Farm Incubator Project?**
 NCFC, the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas, and CSU are interested in partnering on a Farm Incubator, to provide a home for the 'Beginning Farmers Program'. Conversations have been taking place for 4+ years, but recent momentum has resulted in a series of meetings & conversations with potential for movement in summer of 2015.