We must use our prime soils, plentiful water, and farm-to-market road network to grow our food production capabilities into a complete local food economy.
WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Local food systems, which include farms, processing facilities, and markets, provide fresh, healthy food, as well as jobs, for East Tennesseans. Food produced in the region is often higher in nutrient value and can be less expensive than food shipped from other places. Local food can also help people living in the region’s “food deserts” (areas with no grocery stores) eat healthier.

GROWING AND PROCESSING 20 PERCENT OF KEY FOODS LOCALLY WOULD STIMULATE $500 MILLION IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, CREATE 5,000 NEW JOBS, AND GENERATE $5.8 MILLION IN LOCAL AND STATE TAX REVENUE.

WHAT’S AT STAKE?

A decline in farming in the region, along with more suburban development, has led to significant reduction in agricultural land and locally produced food. As transportation costs rise, food from outside the region is increasingly expensive. Growing and processing key foods locally would stimulate a sizeable economic impact, generate agricultural employment, and preserve the region’s cultural heritage.

PRESERVE SIGNIFICANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Protect prime agricultural lands for local food production.

F1 » PROTECT SIGNIFICANT AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION THROUGH CONSERVATION EASEMENTS AND OTHER VOLUNTARY RESTRICTIONS ON FUTURE LAND USE

WHO? Individuals • Families | TIMEFRAME Short

F2 » PROVIDE INCENTIVES THROUGH TAXING POLICIES TO ENCOURAGE THE PRESERVATION OF PRIME FARM LANDS

WHO? Local Government | TIMEFRAME Short

F3 » DEVELOP PROGRAMS TO PURCHASE OR TRANSFER DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS IN EXCHANGE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF SIGNIFICANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS

WHO? Local Government • Community Organizations | TIMEFRAME Medium

F4 » PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE LOCAL AGRICULTURE

WHO? Neighborhood & Community Organizations • Local Governments • Non-profits • Economic Development Agencies | TIMEFRAME Short

POTENTIAL PARTNERS Slow Food Tennessee Valley, Pick TN Products, Nourish Knoxville, Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy Council, Local Governments

F4.A » GET INVOLVED IN THE KNOXVILLE-KNOX COUNTY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

WHO? Individuals • Neighborhood and Community Organizations | TIMEFRAME Short

F4.B » TAKE PART IN LOCAL FOOD AWARENESS EFFORTS AND EVENTS

WHO? Individuals • Neighborhood and Community Organizations | TIMEFRAME Short | POTENTIAL PARTNERS Slow Food Tennessee Valley, Pick TN Products, Nourish Knoxville, Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy Council
**F4.C** » SUPPORT LOCAL EFFORTS TO INCREASE FOOD ACCESS FOR ALL

**WHO?** Individuals • Neighborhood and Community Organizations  |  **TIMEFRAME** Short |  **POTENTIAL PARTNERS** Slow Food Tennessee Valley, Pick TN Products, Nourish Knoxville, Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy Council, Hospitals, School Systems

**F5** » PRIORITIZE LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION

**WHO?** Local Government  |  **TIMEFRAME** Short

**F6** » CREATE LOCAL FOOD COUNCILS TO INTEGRATE FOOD POLICIES AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO PROMOTE HEALTH THROUGH A STRONG, EQUITABLE, LOCAL & REGIONAL SYSTEM BY ENGAGING LOCAL LEADERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

**WHO?** Local Government  |  **TIMEFRAME** Medium |  **POTENTIAL PARTNERS** Slow Food Tennessee Valley, Pick TN Products, Nourish Knoxville, Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy Council

**F7** » DEVELOP ZONING REGULATIONS THAT ALLOW THE CLUSTERING OF DEVELOPMENT IN EXCHANGE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF SIGNIFICANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS

**WHO?** Local Government  |  **TIMEFRAME** Medium

**F8** » ENCOURAGE STRONG TOWNS AND DYNAMIC NEW CENTERS OF ACTIVITY TO REDUCE PRESSURE ON GREENFIELD DEVELOPMENT

**TIMEFRAME** Short |  **POTENTIAL PARTNERS** Local Government, Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization, East TN Development District

**F9** » COORDINATE ACROSS JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES TO IDENTIFY, PRESERVE, MEASURE, AND MAINTAIN SIGNIFICANT AGRICULTURAL ASSETS

**TIMEFRAME** Medium |  **POTENTIAL PARTNERS** Local Government, Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization, East TN Development District

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**INCREASE DEMAND FOR LOCALLY GROWN FOOD**

Get commitment from large local food users such as schools, universities, and grocery stores to buy what is grown locally.

**F10** » MONITOR, REPORT AND PROMOTE THE BENEFITS OF A LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM

**WHO?** Community Organizations • Institutions • Local governments  |  **TIMEFRAME** Medium |  **POTENTIAL PARTNERS** Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Organization, Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization, TN Farmer’s Market Association, Pick TN Products, UT-Extension

**F11** » SUPPORT LOCAL RESTAURANTS THAT USE LOCAL FOODS, INCLUDING MOBILE FOOD VENDORS

**WHO?** Individuals • Families  |  **TIMEFRAME** Short

**F12** » SUPPORT LOCAL FARMERS AND FOOD PRODUCERS BY BUYING AND SELLING LOCAL PRODUCE AND MEATS

**WHO?** Individuals • Families  |  **TIMEFRAME** Short |  **POTENTIAL PARTNERS** University of TN, TN Farmer’s Market Association, Pick TN Products, UT-Extension, Culinary Arts Programs (University of TN, Walter State), Local Restaurants, Farm Bureau, TN Tourism, Local School Districts, SYSCO East TN, Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy Council
F12.A » SUPPORT BUSINESSES THAT DISTRIBUTE, PROCESS AND SELL LOCAL FOOD

**WHO?** Individuals • Families | **TIMEFRAME** Short

F12.B » JOIN A COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE (CSA) ORGANIZATION

**WHO?** Individuals • Families | **TIMEFRAME** Short

F12.C » SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD GROWERS BY DEMANDING IT FROM THEIR GROCERY STORES AND SUPPORTING LOCAL FARMERS MARKETS

**WHO?** Individuals • Families | **TIMEFRAME** Short

F12.D » USE THEIR BUYING POWER FOR LOCALLY GROWN FOOD

**WHO?** Individuals • Families • Private Businesses | **TIMEFRAME** Short | **POTENTIAL PARTNERS** Local Governements, Local School Districts, University of Tennessee, Pellissippi State, Maryville College, and Other Educational Institutions

F12.E » SUPPORT A LOCAL FARM TO FORK PROGRAM

**WHO?** Community Organizations • Institutions • Local Governments | **TIMEFRAME** Short

**POTENTIAL PARTNERS** University of TN, TN Farmer’s Market Association, Pick TN Products, UT-Extension, Culinary Arts Programs (University of TN, Walter State), Local Restaurants, Farm Bureau, TN Tourism, Local School Districts, SYSCO East TN, Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy Council, Nourish Knoxville, Three Rivers Food Co-op

F13 » SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD BANKS, FOOD PANTRIES AND CONGREGATE MEAL PROVIDERS

**WHO?** Community Organizations • Institutions • Local Governments | **TIMEFRAME** Short

F14 » CELEBRATE LOCAL FOOD AS A VITAL PART OF THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND REGIONAL IDENTITY

**WHO?** Community Organizations • Institutions • Local Governments | **TIMEFRAME** Short

**POTENTIAL PARTNERS** University of TN, TN Farmer’s Market Association, Pick TN Products, UT-Extension, Culinary Arts Programs (University of TN, Walter State), Local Restaurants, Farm Bureau, TN Tourism, Local School Districts, SYSCO East TN, Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy, Three Rivers Food Co-op, Nourish Knoxville

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**INVEST IN LOCAL FOOD INFRASTRUCTURE**

*Invest in the systems that process distribute and sell local food products.*

F15 » PARTNER WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO DEVELOP PROCESSING FACILITIES THAT CAN BE USED BY LOCAL FOOD ENTREPRENEURS

**WHO?** Community Organizations • Institutions • Local Governments | **TIMEFRAME** Short

F16 » INVESTIGATE AND SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT A CENTRALLY LOCATED FOOD HUB THAT FACILITATES ALL THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE REGIONAL FOOD PRODUCTION SYSTEM

**WHO?** Community Organizations • Institutions • Local Governments | **TIMEFRAME** Medium

F16.A » INVESTIGATE AND SUPPORT THE CREATION OF REGIONAL MEAT AGGREGATION AND PROCESSING FACILITIES

**WHO?** Community Organizations • Institutions • Local Governments | **TIMEFRAME** Medium
F17 » ENABLE THE USE OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPACE FOR COMMUNITY GARDENS, GARDEN MARKETS, AND FARMERS MARKETS

**WHO?** Local Governments • Businesses | **TIMEFRAME** Short

F18 » SUPPORT ADEQUATE LOCAL FUNDING TO INVEST IN LOCAL FOOD INFRASTRUCTURE

**WHO?** Local Governments | **TIMEFRAME** Medium

F19 » SUPPORT THE USE OF SNAP BENEFITS IN FARMERS AND GARDEN MARKETS

**WHO?** Local Governments • Community Organizations | **TIMEFRAME** Short

F20 » CONDUCT A FOOD MAPPING PROJECT TO IDENTIFY EXISTING ELEMENTS OF THE LOCAL FOOD INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM AND IDENTIFY GAPS IN THAT INFRASTRUCTURE

**WHO?** Local Governments • Community Organizations | **TIMEFRAME** Short | **POTENTIAL PARTNERS** Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Organization, Knox County Health Department, Pick TN Products, UT-Extension

F21 » ENABLE THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD-ORIENTED STORES AND MARKETS WITHIN NEIGHBORHOODS

**WHO?** Local Governments • Neighborhood Organizations | **TIMEFRAME** Short

F22 » INCREASE COMPOSTING OF NON-EDIBLE FOOD AND YARD WASTE AS ESSENTIAL INPUTS FOR LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION

**WHO?** Local Governments • Neighborhood Organizations Individuals | **TIMEFRAME** Short | **POTENTIAL PARTNERS** Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Organization, UT-Extension

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**ENABLE FOOD ENTREPRENEURS**

Prepare the next generation of farmers, producers, and users of local food so that they are ready and willing to take over.

F23 » ENCOURAGE LOCAL SCHOOLS TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS SUCH AS FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA (FFA) AND 4H

**WHO?** Individuals • Families | **TIMEFRAME** Short | **POTENTIAL PARTNERS** Local School Districts, UT Extensions

F24 » CREATE A MENTORING PROGRAM TO MATCH EXISTING FARMERS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE WHO MAY WANT TO BECOME A PART OF THE INDUSTRY

**WHO?** Community Organizations • Institutions • Local Governments | **TIMEFRAME** Medium | **POTENTIAL PARTNERS** Local school districts, UT Extension, FFA, 4H

F25 » PARTNER WITH THE FINANCIAL INDUSTRY TO CREATE PROGRAMS TO REDUCE THE FINANCIAL BARRIERS TO BECOMING A PART OF THE LOCAL AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY

**WHO?** Local Government | **TIMEFRAME** Short | **POTENTIAL PARTNERS** Local Financial Institutions, University of TN, UT Extension
F26 » ENABLE THE USE OF FOOD TRUCKS AND OTHER ENTRY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE LIKELY TO GROW THEIR INVESTMENT AND EXPERTISE IN THE LOCAL INDUSTRY

**WHO?** Local Governments | **TIMEFRAME** Short

F27 » SUPPORT AND PUBLICIZE TRAINING PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS FOR LOCAL FOOD GROWERS AND LOCAL FOOD USERS

**WHO?** Community Organizations • Institutions • Local Governments | **TIMEFRAME** Short | **POTENTIAL PARTNERS** Nourish Knoxville, Pick TN Products, Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy Council

F28 » DEVELOP CERTIFICATION COURSES IN LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION PROCESSING AND COOKING

**WHO?** Community Organizations • Institutions • Local Governments | **TIMEFRAME** Medium | **POTENTIAL PARTNERS** University of TN Farmer’s Market Association, Pick TN Products, UT-Extension, Culinary Arts Programs (University of TN, Walter State), Local Restaurants, Local School Districts, Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy Council

F29 » REDUCE THE CONFLICTS THAT ARISE WHEN DEVELOPMENT OCCURS ADJACENT TO AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS

**WHO?** Local Government | **TIMEFRAME** Medium

**LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLE:**

**KNOXVILLE-KNOX COUNTY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL**

The Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy Council is a forum for representatives of the local food system to gather and address problems with food production, consumption, processing, distribution, and waste disposal. The primary focus of the council is on innovative solutions that promote sustainability, economic development, and social justice within the local food system. This is accomplished through education of government officials, policy recommendations, research, cooperation among private, public, and non-profit interests, and submitting reports to the Knoxville City Council and Knox County Commission.

The Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy Council has several goals:

► **Ensure that an adequate and nutritious food supply is available to all citizens**
► **Strengthen the economic vitality of the local food system**
► **Improve the quality of food available to all citizens**
► **Encourage citizens to accept and consume nutritious food**
► **Minimize food-related activities that degrade the natural environment**
► **Limit wasteful use of resources needed for future food production and distribution**

In the Spring of 2013, the Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy Council completed a research effort targeting two important health/economic issues in Knox County:

► **Food access (insecurity) issues for area residents**
► **Farm to Fork (economic/food system) development efforts**

Recommendations from this report are based on the direct input of hundreds of community members, during eight public sessions. The project has resulted in a network of passionate consumers, farmers, and community leaders who care about the connections between obesity, hunger, poverty, and sustainable economic and community development. The Food Policy Council has agreed to continue this community-wide discussion into the future and remains committed to researching these issues on behalf of both the city and county.
ENABLE URBAN AGRICULTURE

Encourage opportunities to grow food within the parks, schools open spaces, and neighborhoods of our cities and towns

**F30 » SUPPORT COMMUNITY GARDENS IN ALL NEIGHBORHOODS**

**WHO?** Neighborhoods • Community Organizations | **TIMEFRAME** Short

**F31 » REDUCE THE BARRIER OF LIABILITY COVERAGE FOR COMMUNITY GARDENS**

**WHO?** Neighborhoods • Community Organizations | **TIMEFRAME** Short

**F32 » ALLOW THE CREATION OF EDIBLE LANDSCAPES ON APPROPRIATE PUBLIC PROPERTY**

**WHO?** Local Government | **TIMEFRAME** Short

**F33 » PLANT A GARDEN**

**WHO?** Individuals • Families | **TIMEFRAME** Short

**F34 » PARTICIPATE IN A COMMUNITY GARDEN**

**WHO?** Individuals • Families | **TIMEFRAME** Short

**F35 » SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD GROWERS BY SUPPORTING FARMERS MARKETS WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITIES AND GARDEN MARKETS WITHIN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS**

**WHO?** Individuals • Families | **TIMEFRAME** Short

**F36 » SUPPORT ALLOWING CHICKENS AND BEES ON PROPERTY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY**

**WHO?** Neighborhoods & Community Organizations • Local Governments | **TIMEFRAME** Short

**F37 » HELP ESTABLISH GARDEN MARKETS WHERE THERE ARE COMMUNITY GARDENS**

**WHO?** Neighborhoods & Community Organizations | **TIMEFRAME** Medium

**F38 » HELP TO DISTRIBUTE EXCESS PRODUCE FROM COMMUNITY GARDENS TO THOSE IN NEED**

**WHO?** Neighborhoods & Community Organization | **TIMEFRAME** Short

**F39 » IDENTIFY AND HELP TO ASSEMBLE SMALL TRACTS OF LAND INTO SIGNIFICANT, MORE EFFICIENT URBAN AGRICULTURE PROPERTIES**

**WHO?** Neighborhoods & Community Organizations • Local Government | **TIMEFRAME** Long

**F40 » ACCEPT THE LIABILITY FOR PROVIDING VACANT PUBLIC LAND FOR USE AS COMMUNITY GARDENS AND WORK WITH SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES TO DO THE SAME**