

Homegrown Minneapolis

What is Homegrown Minneapolis?

Homegrown Minneapolis is an initiative to develop recommendations for the city of Minneapolis to improve sales, distribution and consumption of fresh, locally grown foods to positively impact the health, food security, economy and environment of our city and the surrounding region.

Why support Homegrown Minneapolis?

Homegrown Minneapolis is about creating a local, healthy, and sustainable food supply that will positively impact the city and region's:

- *Economy:* A local food system supports small farms and local jobs, creates new business opportunities, and encourages the re-circulation of financial capital within the city.
- *Health:* Increasing consumption of healthy foods contributes to improved nutrition and reduced levels of obesity and other chronic diseases.
- *Food Security:* The ability for residents to grow, sell, or easily obtain a consistent, adequate supply of fresh, local foods can empower families and communities to be more self-sufficient and enhance community cohesion.
- *Environment:* Producing and buying local food can improve air quality and pollution by reducing the amount of transportation and packaging required to bring our food from farm to table. Local foods grown in a sustainable manner can also reduce chemical and water usage.

Homegrown Minneapolis Leadership

Homegrown Minneapolis will bring together key partners from local businesses, city government, community organizations and residents. This group of stakeholders will develop recommendations for the City around a variety of topics including:

- Encouraging the production and consumption of locally grown foods
- Improving health by increasing access to fresh, healthy foods for Minneapolis residents
- Creating employment and small business development opportunities
- Connecting Minneapolis residents to existing resources such as local farmers markets

Specifically, four subcommittees will provide focused recommendations for future development and support related to:

1. Farmers markets
2. Community, school and backyard gardens
3. Small enterprise urban agriculture
4. Commercial use of locally grown foods

How can you contribute to Homegrown Minneapolis?

Homegrown Minneapolis will host 3 - 4 Stakeholder meetings from December 2008 - June 2009 to develop recommendations for the City of Minneapolis related to the local food system. In addition, individuals may share their expertise and opinions by contributing to one of the subcommittees listed above. Meeting frequency will be determined by each subcommittee, but will likely be monthly. The Stakeholder Group will also determine ways in which to solicit input from interested community members.

All Homegrown Minneapolis partners are invited to convene for an official Kick-Off meeting on December 10th with work on each subcommittee beginning shortly thereafter. Initial recommendations are due to the Mayor in April, with the final report due in June 2009.

For more information, please contact Kristen Klingler, Minneapolis Department of Health & Family Support at (612) 673- 2910 or Kristen.Klingler@ci.minneapolis.mn.us