

# 090364

## EDUCC Focus Points for Community Food Systems Economic Development

- 1) • Expand City Local Preference Ordinance to include regarding food purchasing done by City departments, with clear preference given to purchasing from stores, vendors, distributors, etc. that source locally grown/produced goods before sourcing those from other areas.
  - Alachua County Energy Conservation Strategies Commission (ECSC) recommendations on Maximizing Local Food Production and Processing: "identify and work to correct, local and regional public policy barriers to local food security"
  - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) Recommendation #5.1.1 "...focus on sustainable agriculture through policy incentives..."
- 2) • Encourage farmers' market managers to support local economy through transparent market management structure and operations, including uniform signage at farmers' market booths that includes information on where the goods are grown/produced, growing method, etc. to better assist customers in identifying vendors selling local items produced using sustainable practices. Encourage farmers' market managers to implement a producer-only market policy.
  - EAR Recommendation #5.1.1 "...evaluation of policy framework for local farmers' markets..."
- 3) • Identify land owned by the City that is suitable for food production, and work with local nonprofits, faith-based organizations, etc. to develop those lands into gardens that will increase food security for low-income residents. Where feasible incorporate edibles rather than ornamentals into landscaping on City properties.
  - ECSC "consider purchasing agricultural land within local food shed; inventory land suitable for cultivation, make available to residents"
- 4) • Remove laws/ordinances that restrict people from planting edibles in their yards and discourage animal husbandry commensurate with family-scale and parcel size. Consider incentives for residential food production.
  - ECSC "Encourage (and consider appropriate incentives for) residents to plant backyard vegetable and fruit gardens..."
- 5) • Support local growers and food related businesses in regulatory concerns, by actively representing the City's policies and positions as such concerns arise, and acting as a supportive liaison between small businesses and regulatory agencies.
  - EAR Recommendation #4.6.2 "...assess policies for the location of certain types of agricultural produce processing facilities..."
- 6) • Develop guidelines for healthy food at city facilities and meetings (i.e. vending machines and food sales at community and recreation centers, parks, government buildings, etc.)
- 7) • Assist the development of a local distribution system by partnering with County, UF and others to make information available for local stakeholders, including assistance with determining locations for and approving markets, stores, vending locations, drop-off points, kitchens, processing, storage, gardens, supplies, composting and many other activities that are part of a food system.
  - ECSC "identify other food related infrastructure needs and local (or regional solutions)"
- 8) • Reduce waste in area landfills by supporting County efforts to increase composting, and mandate for residents and restaurants. Also require businesses to switch to either recyclable or compostable containers and silverware to discourage production of polystyrene foam and non-recyclable disposable foodservice containers. This will reduce the amount of non-biodegradable plastic that ends up in landfills and area waterways, which has a toxic effect on marine life and humans.
  - ECSC "insure that food waste, roadside brush cuttings and other suitable materials can be segregated and composted as a soil fertility amendment. Make this product available to community gardeners and county farmers"