Design Thinking and Community Engagement for Adaptive Food System Frameworks: Critical reflections on opportunities and limitations
Design thinking
Community engagement
Food system insights

Our emerging theory of food system change
Design thinking

• Allows solutions in ambiguous contexts
• Helps envision and model alternate futures
• Encourages intersectional, circular, and systems thinking within outcomes-based process
• Encourages multi-scale considerations
Community engagement
Too many people in Wake County struggle with hunger. This affects all of us.

135,000

250,000

What is “Food Security”?

Food secure if we would have enough to eat. All individuals have the daily means to eat nutritious meals in meal plan.

In a “food secure” Wake County, 18% of Wake County households struggle with hunger.

11%
Community engagement

- Reflect community needs in planning
- Caution around extractive vs participatory methods
- Key elements include transparency, clear communication, investing in trust
Adaptive planning frameworks
Adaptive planning frameworks

• Drive coordinated action in ambiguous contexts
• Encourage regular feedback loops and learning
• Adjust to changing conditions without losing value
Two case studies
Strathcona County Urban Agriculture Strategy

Urban Agriculture Strategy
Strathcona County, AB
Strathcona County Urban Agriculture Strategy

Developed by:
Transportation and Agricultural Services

Project Team:
Intelligent Futures and Community Food Lab

Implementing Leadership:
Transportation and Agricultural Services
Engagement activities and stats.

**ROADSHOW STOPS**
Antler Lake Community Hall / Ardrossan Recreation Complex / North Cooking Lake Community Hall / Josephburg Community Hall / Sherwood Park Ottewell Barn / South Cooking Lake Community Hall

**EVENTS ATTENDED**
Ardrossan Farm Safety Fair / Ardrossan Picnic and Parade / Baseline Farmers’ Market / Canada Day / Deville Hall Farmers’ Market / Greenland Greenhouse / Salisbury Farmers’ Market / Sherwood Park Farmers’ Market / South Cooking Lake Bookmobile / South Cooking Lake Seniors Potluck / Strathcona County Trade Fair / Rural Living Days

**PARTICIPANTS**
2,253

**IDEAS**
8,896

**HOURS OF ENGAGEMENT**
85

**ENGAGEMENT PHASES**
2

**EXPLORE & ASSESS**

**SYNTHESIZE**

**FEEDBACK CHANNEL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feedback Channel</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Ideas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance at events and businesses</td>
<td>979</td>
<td>949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roadshow open houses</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>119</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Survey 1</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Survey 2</td>
<td>1051</td>
<td>7456</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>188</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interviews</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>2253</strong></td>
<td><strong>8896</strong></td>
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Strategy Areas

A - Community Gardening
B - Public Agriculture
C - Urban Farming

D - School Agriculture Programs
E - Urban Livestock
F - Home Gardens
G - Education and Coordination
Urban Agriculture Strategy

Actions for 3 Years

Review & Reflect

Place-Based Food Systems Conference
August 11, 2018
Wake County Food Security Plan

Moving Beyond Hunger
COMPREHENSIVE FOOD SECURITY PLAN AND ACTION MANUAL FOR WAKE COUNTY
SUMMER 2017
1.1 million residents
3.8% unemployment
12.7% food insecure
Wake County Food Security Plan

Developed by:
Wake County Human Services and Cooperative Extension

Project Team:
Community Food Lab and Capital Area Food Network
(food council)

Implementing Leadership:
Capital Area Food Network and Wake County
## Engagement Activities and Stats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Summer 2016</th>
<th>Nov 2016 - Feb 2017</th>
<th>Feb - March 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase 0:</td>
<td>PHASE 0: Food Security Summit</td>
<td>PHASE 1: Define Success</td>
<td>PHASE 3: Synthesize</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>130 Attendees</td>
<td>1,071 People Engaged</td>
<td>102 Participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surveys</td>
<td>429 Online Surveys</td>
<td>552 In-person Surveys</td>
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<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td>1 Event</td>
<td>16 Direct Engagement Events</td>
<td>4 Feedback Gatherings</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 Focus Groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,303 Total Wake County Residents Engaged</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ideas</td>
<td>1,234 Ideas Generated on Creating Food Security</td>
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VISION

A food secure Wake County, where ALL people have physical, social, and economic access to safe, nutritious, culturally appropriate, and affordable food.

APPROACH

Building a culture of connections and nourishment

FIVE STRATEGIES

1. Ensure Food Access
2. Communicate and Educate
3. Develop Sustainable Food Supply
4. Build Economic Opportunity
5. Leading through Networks
INITIAL PHASE OF PLANNING

3 YEARS OF ACTION

EVALUATION

REFLECTION

PLANNING

Actions by multiple partners across County

CAFN leads this process

REPEAT

Place-Based Food Systems Conference
August 11, 2018
Emerging Adaptive Project: Durham County Food Planning

Developed by:
Duke University and Durham City/County Gov’t

Project Team:
Community Food Lab and purpose-built community design team

Implementing Leadership:
TBD
Opportunities for Adaptive Frameworks

• Find planning processes that build community cohesion, trust, and shared ownership
• Plan for intersecting systems and cultures
• Grow comfort in ambiguity and changing landscapes
• Plan for lasting structures and networks
• Plan like an organizer
Limitations of Adaptive Frameworks

• Can be slower to develop and complete
• May need to bring along funders, elected officials, and community in new approaches
• Requires regular planning effort to reflect, revise, and update plans
• Less valuable where there is relatively little ambiguity
@comm_food_lab
www.communityfoodlab.org

Strathcona Urban Ag Strategy

Wake County Food Security Plan
https://www.capitalareafoodnetwork.org/foodplan/