

LOCAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION WORK GROUP MEETING

The Year Ahead and Getting to Know Local Social Enterprise Members

Lindsay Smith, COG
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Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

About COG

- The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is an independent, nonprofit association
- Brings area leaders together to address major regional issues in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia
- Membership is comprised of 300 elected officials from 24 local governments, the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures, and U.S. Congress



April 28th: Local Food Distribution Conf

VA Dept of Ag • MD Dept of Ag • MD Farm Bureau • VA Farm Bureau • Future Harvest Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture • VA Association of Biological Farming • PA Association for Sustainable Agriculture • WV Food & Farm Coalition • MWCOG • Montgomery County Department of Agriculture • Loudoun County Economic Development • Loudoun County Public Schools • Loudoun County Soil and Water Conservation District • Southern MD Ag Dev Commission • USDA • MD Food Center Authority • MD SHA • VA DOT • DDOT • Baltimore Metropolitan Council • Baltimore Food Policy Initiative • Keany Produce • Coastal Sunbelt Produce • Local Food Hub • 4P Foods • From the Farmer • Treaserra Organic Growers • Chesapeake Harvest • Mock's Greenhouse • Red City Farms • DC Central Kitchen • Capital Area Food Bank • Arlington Food Assistance Center • Food for Others • Arcadia • United Fresh Produce Association • LuLu's Local Food Hub • Northern Neck Fresh, LLC • Virginia Community Food Connections • Community Foodworks • DC Greens • Montgomery County Food Council • Prince George's Food Equity Council • MD Farmers Market Assoc • Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission • Chesapeake Foodshed Network • Second Spring Farm • Chesapeake Farm to Table • Glen's Garden Market • The Common Market • T&E Meats • Virginia State Dairymen's Association • Chesapeake Farm to Table • Potomac Sprout Company • Dorchesters Farm FoodHUB • Shenandoah Growers • UMD Extension (PGC) • MD Organic Food and Farming Assoc



Additional Work

- June: MD Market Center presentation, review of meeting themes
- July: Local Food Distributor Listening Session (call) with DC Dept of Transportation
- August: Cold storage visit with DC urban farmer, initial 2018 schedule vetting
- November 2017 NESAWG Discussion: Exploring Potential and Emerging Niches for Local Food



April 28, 2017 Panel: Infrastructure and Transportation Perspectives on Distributing Food to the Region

Themes and Observations

- Expertise
- Farmers want to supply more local food
- Relationships and Networks
- Decentralization and Optimization
- Infrastructure and Information
 - Values-based
 - Near and Long Term Focus
- Education
- Desire to Collaborate
- Strategic Engagement
- Invest in Small



April 28, 2017 Panel: Meeting the Demand for Local Food: Grower and Distributor Perspectives on Demand and Getting Produce to Market

[Link](#) to Local Food Distribution Conference Webpage

Discussion: The Year Ahead

Prioritize issues for future inquiry,
including meetings for Local Food
Distribution Work Group

Key issues

Proposed speakers, site visits?

Timing, location, frequency, and
collaboration opportunities

Who is missing?

Can we measure the value of this
learning collaborative and
information exchange at this time?



November 2017 NESAWG Discussion: Exploring Potential and Emerging Niches for Local Food in the Chesapeake

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