

Italics = recommended changes to existing FARM language.

~~Strikethrough~~ = recommended deletion of existing FARM language

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Policy Committee

FARM's Mission

To support development of long-term regional direction and collaboration toward a more resilient, equitable, connected food and farm economy (food system) across *Metropolitan Washington's* urban, suburban and rural communities ~~in the metropolitan Washington region that~~ to provide more of the region's food needs.

To further this mission, FARM prioritizes:

- Improving food security in the region
- Supporting Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and small farmers
- Focusing FARM's work on farmland preservation, land use regulations, environmental sustainability, and resilience
- Leveraging procurement to support equity and the region's food and farm economy
- Improving and communicating regional food system data *and emerging best practices*.

We deliver on our mission when:

- Local governments, policymakers, and communities are dynamically informed and empowered to help eliminate food insecurity and improve food system resilience.
- Increasing agricultural land preservation and access, supporting the region's farmers, and increasing food production and commerce, are widely embraced as regional priorities.
- Organizational and member capacity are strategically aligned with complementary or related initiatives and partnership opportunities at the local, state, regional, and federal levels.

Our Actions

To best deliver on our mission in 2023 and 2024, we will:

- Steward, update, and communicate the [Healthy Food Access Policy Compendium for Metropolitan Washington](#)
- Continue to build the region's relationship with the U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Maximize the work and investment in the Catalytic Opportunities Work Group by considering ways to implement the recommendations of its upcoming research¹
- Provide education and outreach on [Farm Bill Reauthorization](#).
- Visit Loudoun County and other locations in Metropolitan Washington to help build regional expertise, identity, and commitment to investments in agriculture, land preservation and access, and regional food infrastructure,
- Collaborate across COG Committees and with other partners to recognize and participate in Hunger Action Month, Farmers Market Week, and Chesapeake Bay Awareness Month, etc.
- Placeholder for leveraging federal and other funding opportunities to complement member investment, increase capacity, and accelerate impact.
- Placeholder for Food and Water Resilience Project/planning for food security in disasters

¹ With support from a local family foundation, FARM's Catalytic Opportunities Work Group will engage a consultant to develop research and recommendations on supporting Black American farmers to participate in institutional food procurement opportunities, as a first step in disaggregating the needs of different groups of farmers of color in and around the region.

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Work Groups' Actions

In support of FARM's mission and priorities in 2023 and 2024, we will:

- Develop a Charter and updated membership list for each Work Group
- Work with the FARM Chair, Vice Chairs, and staff to elevate timely issues for FARM Policy Committee meeting agendas.
- Set discrete goals for 2023 and 2024, such as:
 - Assisting staff with review and communications of the new National Capital Farms.org website prior to launch
 - Providing subject matter expertise and guidance on the next update to *What Our Region Grows*
 - Working with the Metro DC Food Policy Directors and Food Security Coordinators Work Group to best leverage members' participation in the [Regional Food Policy Council Community of Practice](#) to the benefit of the region and COG member jurisdictions.
 - Placeholder for additional

Staff Actions

In support of FARM's mission and priorities in 2023 and 2024, we will:

- Support the implementation of the regional Food and Water Resilience Project in partnership with DC's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, RESF-5, and RESF-6/11
- Work with a range of local and regional partners to support the next phase of improvements and maintenance to the NCR GDX emergency food resources GIS layer.
- Complete, thoroughly vet, and support the release of an Emergency Preparedness Guide for Food Pantries; building off of the 2022 *DMV Food Security Emergency Playbook* from Capital Area Food Bank and Connected DMV
- Placeholder for additional