



# FACT SHEET – Salt Lake City Food Policy Task Force

*Fostering a vibrant, sustainable and healthy food system for all Salt Lake City residents*

## ***Who are we and what do we do?***

Throughout the country there is a growing recognition that strengthening local food systems advances multiple social, economic and environmental goals simultaneously—from improving public health and food security, to stimulating economic development, creating local ‘green jobs’, and enhancing the sustainability of the food system. In response to this growing interest, municipalities across the country are beginning to assess the state of their local food systems and introduce supportive food policy initiatives.

Salt Lake City is committed to fostering the development of a more sustainable, resilient and healthy local food system capable of meeting the needs of *all* City residents. To help achieve this broad and ambitious goal, Mayor Ralph Becker convened the Salt Lake Food Policy Task Force in October 2009. The Task Force is comprised of a diverse group of individuals and organizations interested in improving food policy in Salt Lake City. Its purpose is to recommend and promote sustainable food initiatives and act as a liaison connecting local stakeholders with City policymakers.

### **The Salt Lake Food Policy Task Force is working to help:**

- assess the state of Salt Lake City's food systems;
- evaluate and recommend revisions to relevant policies and programs;
- raise public awareness about food policy and how it impacts all of our lives;
- reduce hunger and food insecurity by identifying opportunities to improve access to fresh and nutritious food for all Salt Lake residents;
- promote the revitalization of the local food economy;
- expand opportunities for urban farming and community gardening;
- reduce the environmental impact of food production, processing, distribution, consumption, and disposal; and
- empower residents to adopt healthier, more sustainable diets and lifestyles.

## ***What is food policy?***

A food policy is any legislative or administrative decision made by a government agency or partner which affects how food is produced, processed, distributed, purchased, and disposed of, designed to influence the operation of the food and agriculture system. Examples of food policy and programs include: laws that impact the quality and safety of foods that consumers have access to; loan and grant programs designed to support community-based food projects and small business development; government incentives, zoning ordinances and regulations influencing how and where food is produced and sold; budget decisions that fund crucial food assistance programs; and procurement policies that determine the quantity, quality and origin of food served through public institutions, such as public schools.

### **Current Salt Lake City food initiatives:**

- **Salt Lake City Community Food Assessment** –The Food Policy Task Force oversaw Salt Lake City’s comprehensive assessment of its food system. The assessment was completed in 2013, and is informing the City’s future efforts to promote a healthy, sustainable and equitable local food system.
- **Revised Ordinances for Beekeeping and Urban Chickens** – Salt Lake City has made changes to city ordinances to relax restrictions and allow residential chicken coops and beekeeping.
- **Sustainable Code Revision** – As part of the Salt Lake City Sustainable Code Revision project, members of the Task Force evaluated existing ordinances and supported revisions that reduced barriers to community and urban food production for city residents.
- **Community Gardening & Urban Farming** – Salt Lake City works directly with local non-profits and community members to develop gardens within City limits. The City also supports Salt Lake County’s countywide effort to expand urban farming opportunities.
- **Salt Lake City FruitShare Program** – Neighborhood fruit harvesting, waste reduction and donation program.
- **Curbside Yard Waste & Food Composting Program** – Salt Lake City’s Curbside Yard Waste Program now also diverts compostable food waste from the landfill. Learn more at: [www.slcgov.com/slccgreen/recycle/yard.htm](http://www.slcgov.com/slccgreen/recycle/yard.htm)
- **Culinary Incubator Kitchen** -- Salt lake City has identified funding to start an incubator kitchen to help launch local food microenterprises, and support local famers in processing produce.