**ENABLING GROWING ASHEVILLE’S FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY THROUGH NONPROFIT PARTNERS**

As a way to increase the city’s food self-sufficiency, Asheville has supported the work of the nonprofit Foodworks Asheville, which assists with planting and maintenance of edible permaculture gardens and conducts workshops and trainings to support food production in the city. Foodworks Asheville also supports the City’s Community Garden Network, which runs 16 gardens on public and private property across the region. The nonprofit Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP), aims to strengthen the regional and local food economy by building food self-sufficiency in the region by linking farmers to markets, schools, and research centers. ASAP connects consumers to producers at all levels, but it specializes in direct-to-consumer relationships with farmers. ASAP also stewards a program that authorizes the use of food stamps at farmer’s markets, fighting food insecurity while also increasing accessibility of local food.

**REDUCING WASTE TO FIGHT FOOD INSECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

Food waste reduction has been a key goal for Asheville in recent years to prevent food waste from local food systems, enhance food resilience, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from organic waste. The city’s stand was shared in the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) through its Food Matters program, which aims to increase access to food and reduce food waste. Community efforts to reduce food waste and increase sustainability, through nonprofits such as the Western North Carolina Food Waste Solutions, Asheville Greenworks, Food Connection, and MANNA Foodbank, have bolstered the city’s momentum to address climate change. MANNA FoodFARMA (Mountain Area Nutritional Aid, Alliance), an non-profit aiming to reduce food waste, and build food resiliency, works with over 200 nonprofit stakeholders to distribute over 1,500 metric tons of food per year to Western North Carolina’s communities. Simultaneously, fighting food insecurity and food waste, MANNA works with grocery stores in the Asheville area to send leftover food products to private, community run reclaim centers that alleviate financial stress for other uses in an effort to avoid waste. In its partnership with the Ingles grocery store, Asheville was an explicit part of the assessment’s scope. The report identified that residents would be particularly at risk from food insecurity in areas with combined high vulnerability and risk to flooding. The assessment noted that residents would be particularly at risk from food insecurity in areas with combined high vulnerability and risk to flooding. Asheville was one of the first cities to adopt the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations’ (FAO) Food Waste Footprint Summary, which analyzed the city’s vulnerability to climate shocks, and the design of a climate justice screening tool.

**BUILDING A RESILIENT FOOD INFRASTRUCTURE**

In 2018, the City of Asheville published a climate resilience assessment, which analyzed the city’s vulnerabilities to climate shocks, particularly flooding, wildfire, and landslides. Food infrastructure was an explicit part of the assessment’s scope. The report identified food distribution centers and food systems vulnerable to flooding, and it noted the intersection of these vulnerabilities and areas with high participation of residents in the federally funded food assistance program SNAP. In the event of an extreme flooding event, it was noted that residents would be particularly at risk from food insecurity in areas with combined high vulnerability and risk to flooding. This assessment identified food systems as a critical area for policy and planning. Food associations and governments are less responsive to food production and distributors. MANNA Foodbank, for example, is currently relocating one of its facilities from a 100-year floodplain that has repeatedly flooded in recent years.

**FOOD POLICY FACT BOX**

- Asheville’s environmental and climate justice strategies have been in place since 2001.
- The Asheville Buncombe Food Policy Council (ABFPC), a community-based coalition of volunteers, was founded in 2002 to develop policies for changes to the food system.
- The updated Food Policy Action Plan, drafted in partnership with the APFP and the City of Asheville, was approved by the City Council in 2017. The plan outlines strategies for building a resilient, local food system, including strategies to support local agriculture and climate emergency preparedness for the food system.
- Asheville has demonstrated how foresight and climate emergency planning can help build a just and resilient food system.

**LIFTING UP COMMUNITY-DRIVEN FOOD RESILIENCY**

The City of Asheville has demonstrated how foresight and climate emergency planning can help build a just and resilient food system. Asheville’s planning documents account for climate change’s ability to exacerbate existing inequalities in the food system, and this intentionality is rarely found among similarly sized municipalities and is worth celebrating. It continues a partnership-led approach with local non-profits to address food self-sufficiency, reduce food waste, and build resilient food infrastructure.