New York urban food policy

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Healthy and Sustainable Nutrition: Policy and Program Approaches from New York City

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Presentation

1. Policy frameworks

2. Defining and measuring success

3. Priority strategies and initiatives
New York City Policy Framework

- Food policy is integrated into the City’s strategic plan: OneNYC
- Long-term planning for growth, sustainability, resilience, and equity
- Initiatives are tracked for better management and accountability
New York City and the MUFPP
New York City’s food policy agenda aligns with the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact

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Measuring success

- Citywide focus on increasing racial and economic equity for all.
- Define intended beneficiaries (demographics and characteristics).
- “Outcomes” are observable changes among intended beneficiaries that are largely attributable to the City’s actions.
- Frameworks provide a focus on long-term success, but cities are necessarily focused on short-term outcomes and process measures.
Measuring success: examples

**Long-term outcomes**
- Decrease in number of households reporting food insecurity.
- Increase in median servings of fruits and vegetables eaten daily.
- Increase share of City-purchased food that is sustainably sourced.

**Short-term outcomes**
- All neighborhoods have enough pantry capacity to reduce the gap between need and supply to 50 percent.
- Increase availability of financial incentives to neighborhoods with low self-reported intake.
Strategies: setting priorities

- Outcomes
- Evidence
- Power
Purchasing policies

- New York City and its contractors spend over $300 million a year to provide approximately 240 million meals a year to primarily vulnerable residents.
- Procurement policy allows the city to ensure that public funds go to buying food that meets our standards.
- With NYC’s scale, our procurement policies have moved the market to produce what we want to buy.
- Policy goes hand in hand with menu planning. Both encourage serving more fruits and vegetables, buying and featuring local foods, offering vegetarian options, and testing scratch cooking.
- This improves nutrition and drives a more sustainable food supply.
Land use policies

• Through land use, cities have a lot of control over urban development, which affects housing prices, retail options, and healthy environments.

• Our zoning code allows and restricts development density and permits what kinds of activities (such as residential and commercial use) are permitted in every part of the city. These definitions and restrictions comprise our zoning code.

• As the City changes its zoning code to adapt to a growing population, it can respond to resident needs and build a healthier city by prioritizing parks, transportation, healthy food, health care, jobs, education, and affordable housing

  – New York City provides incentives to developers of full-service supermarkets in their projects in low-income areas.

  – New York City allows for urban agriculture in all use categories, enabling community groups to grow food and plants in vacant lots.
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