



# Winning Practices from Cities of the Milan Pact Awards 2016



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## Winner of the Highest Score Award

**City: Baltimore (USA)**

**Practice Title: Baltimore Food Policy Initiative**

Understanding that food does not fit solely into one government agency, with the leadership and support of Mayor Rawlings-Blake, the City of Baltimore hired a full-time Food Policy Director in 2010 tasked to build stakeholder capacity and agency collaboration to address two goals;

1. “Establish Baltimore as a leader in sustainable local food systems” (Greening Goal #2, Sustainability Plan 2009)
2. “Address health, economic and environmental disparities by increasing access to healthy affordable food in Baltimore City’s food deserts”.

In order to accomplish these goals, in 2010, the Food Policy Director created the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative (BFPI), a formal collaboration between the Department of Planning, Office of Sustainability, Health Department, and Baltimore Development Corporation to address the complex, systemic problems of access to healthy affordable food and sustainable food systems. The staffing structure for BFPI has expanded from a part-time grant funded Food Policy Director to five full-time positions to develop strategic partnerships with 15 City agencies to address food system policies, strategies and programs from multi-agency perspectives. As a result of the food policy governance structure and stakeholder commitment, BFPI secured over two million dollars in grant funding for food access and local food systems; created extensive media exposure and awareness of the inequity of food deserts and local food issues; developed over ten City food plans; researched, drafted and advocated for 14 city, state and federal policies; helped develop an Urban Agricultural Plan and pass an urban farm tax credit and a land-leasing initiative for urban farmers.

In the past six years, BFPI has transformed a set of food systems recommendations into action and has used that momentum to create a movement much bigger than just one City agency, establishing Baltimore as a national leader and model for governance structure.

**Baltimore’s Plan to use the funds Awarded by the MPA:** In North America Division Map there are only nine mayors who have signed the MUFPP and the majority of the cities are mega cities. The first priority is to ask a minimum of three cities to sign the MUFPP. The strategy is to invite US cities that already have Food Policy Directors but do not yet have the multi-agency staffing platform and/or are considering food environment mapping as a policy tool.

<http://planning.baltimorecity.gov/baltimore-food-policy-initiative>



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## Winner of the Challenging Environment Award

**City: Mexico City (Mexico)**

**Practice Title: Community Dining Rooms Program**

In 2009, the Government of Mexico City created the Community Dining Rooms Program (CDRP) in order to establish a comprehensive Food Security Model that contributes to the Human Right to Food through the universal access to daily, complete, innocuous and nutritious meals at affordable and stable prices (10 MXN equivalents to 0.52 USD). The dining rooms are installed in areas with very high, high and medium marginalization indexes. This integral strategy was designed to transversally tackle the food access problem in Mexico City, under a critical financial crisis worldwide, which had an impact both in the purchasing power of people and the worldwide increment of food prices in the last decade. In its early stage, the program consisted of 160 dining rooms that served 8, 063 meals per day. Seven years later, Mexico City has 204 dining rooms distributed among its 16 districts and provides at least 33, 500 meals on a daily basis. The 171% expansion of the program from 2009 to 2015 has had a direct impact in the reduction of hunger. According to the national poverty measurement council (CONEVAL), a dining room reduces in 30% the population who suffers hunger in a given area. The goal for 2016 is to operate 352 dining rooms and provide over 56, 500 meals daily. The Community Dining Rooms operate under a co-responsibility model between the local government, academic institutions, organized civil society and the private initiative and are installed and operated by social and civil organizations interested in guaranteeing the Right to Food in their communities. The program also prioritizes the empowerment of the most vulnerable groups of society, due to the fact that it alleviates poverty and provides them with employment. These groups include women who have suffered domestic violence, senior citizens and people with disabilities, among others. Furthermore, the food that is served in each dining room, in addition to containing the needed nutritional requirements, is prepared and handled under the strictest quality and health standards by the dining room staff, which is subject to continuous monitoring training and instruction for improvement. The Community Dining Rooms enable residents to build solidarity bonds due to the social interaction that they promote.

**Mexico City's Plan to use the funds Awarded by the MPA:** In Latin America, 75% of the population lives in urban zones that have not been influenced by public policies or urban strategies that satisfy the needs of a constantly growing population. Mexico City has some examples that can be replicated in Latin American cities such as Guatemala City. The availability of food in Guatemala City has been affected mainly by natural events and inadequate agrarian economic policies. That is the reason why actions such as the Community Dining Rooms can have a positive impact in Guatemala City. The budget would be used to strengthen the capacity of Guatemala City to implement a Community Dining Room project with urban production systems.

<http://www.sds.cdmx.gob.mx/comunicacion/nota/boletin1006>



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## Special Mention in the Governance Category

**City: Vancouver (Canada)**

**Practice Title: Vancouver Food Strategy**

In January 2013, City Council adopted the Vancouver Food Strategy, an official plan that integrates a full spectrum of urban food system issues within a single policy framework that includes food production, food processing, distribution, access and food waste management. The results are further reaching than stand-alone food policies, and more in keeping with a systems approach to urban planning and development that aims to increase social, economic, environmental and health outcomes. The consultation and engagement of the Food Strategy involved over 2,200 people and included a number of creative formats to gather feedback and shape the Strategy.

The Vancouver Food Strategy identified (1) vision and principles (2) five over-arching goals; and (3) and an action plan. Since 2013, City staff have been working across departments and with partners to implement the Action Plan and achieve the goals. Key policy achievements and impacts include:

- Increasing the number of food assets in the city including community garden plots, community orchards, farmers markets, and community kitchens from 3,340 in 2010 to 4,612 in 2016
- Creating Community Food Market Guidelines with a specific focus on increasing access to fresh, nutritious and affordable food in under-served communities. There are now 13 Community Food Markets offering food in neighbourhood across the city.
- Increasing annual funding to \$170,000 to support Neighbourhood Food Networks – coalitions of committed people focused on food justice and resilience at the neighbourhood level. In 2014, Neighbourhood Food Networks engaged with over 20,000 people.
- Initiating food scraps/green bin pick up, and banning all food waste to landfill; resulting in a 370,438 tonnes of organics diverted from landfill in the first year.
- Adopting the Rezoning Policy for Sustainable Large Development which now requires large developments. This Policy has led directly to new food growing spaces, community kitchens and urban orchards incorporated into the design of new buildings.
- Supporting urban farming through zoning and licence bylaw changes. There are 18 urban farms operating in 2016 with a target of increasing to 35 by 2020.

The Vancouver Food Strategy created significant impacts on the ground in local communities, increased health and wellness, and created more resilient and sustainable communities. By taking a coordinated approach to the many roles the city can play in relation to food, the Food Strategy provides the platform to integrate different goals and actions to create new synergies. It continues to be a powerful tool for the city to meet its social, environmental, economic and health goals.



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<http://vancouver.ca/people-programs/vancouver-food-strategy.aspx>

## Special Mention in the Sustainable Diets and Nutrition Category

**City: Birmingham (UK)**

**Practice Title: Birmingham's Public Health**

One in four children in Birmingham are obese by the time they leave primary school. The Birmingham Childhood Obesity Partnership are leading a coordinated effort to impact on childhood obesity at all levels, this includes policy change, partnerships, communications as well as specific interventions. Since signing the MUFPP, Birmingham has been exploring and implementing innovative approaches to tackle childhood obesity, improve health and tackle health inequality. We commissioned a Public Health Nutritionist/Entrepreneur to focus on tackling the obesogenic environment. The 'Tackling the Obesogenic Environment Team' have since:

1. Secured £400,000 funding to support all schools and community centres to grow food and other interventions such as community cooking classes and physical activity programmes
2. Commissioned a behaviour change charity 'Shift Design' to transform the health impact of fast food restaurants and make healthy food as visible, tasty and cheap as unhealthy food.
3. Commissioned Crowdfunder to support/matchfund innovative community based health and wellbeing projects.
4. Presented to politicians to secure high level interest and backing for our work.
5. Started work with procurement officers to encourage healthier, more sustainable public sector procurement including the engagement in national debate about standards
6. Partnered with the Smart City Alliance so that big and small businesses are engaged in the planning of a Food Smart City.
7. Chosen to host a national policy summit delivered by the Food Foundation 'Eating more veg! addressing the supply side barriers to vegetable consumption in the UK'.

In addition to the above Birmingham City Council (BCC) became the first Local Authority in the UK to display nutritional information on all street side adverts and will begin to explore the potential impact of a sugar tax by hosting a National Institute Health Research fellow who will undertake a comprehensive economic evaluation of all school based childhood obesity services across Birmingham.

<http://birminghampublichealth.co.uk/>



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## Special Mention in the Social and Economic Equity Category

**City: Lusaka (Zambia)**

**Practice Title: Women Groups economical empowerment**

Lusaka is home to many urban migrants from rural Zambia that comes into the city to seek employment opportunities. While men migrants find jobs more easily, their female counterparts usually have a tough time to find economic activities to engage in. Some of the reasons why these women fail to engage in economic activities is their low levels of education and lack of capital. In their individual capacity, it is difficult for these women to make use of any skills they might have to help them support their livelihoods. Lusaka City Council through its social services department seeks to embrace this situation by organizing women groups to provide some form of social safety net, promote social inclusion and equity to vulnerable women. This is done in conjunction with the Social welfare Department of the “Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health “. Through this program, the council mobilizes women in the communities by advertising in the communities’ churches and conducting door to door sensitization programs. They mobilize women with various types of skills such as traditional food preservation, knitting, baking, cookery, organic farming etc., and register them with the council. These women are formed into groups which begin to meet under the supervision of the council and the ministry to share knowledge amongst them. Additionally, the women are asked to contribute very minimal amounts of money to invest in selected businesses such as farming or running small restaurants. These groups then affiliate themselves to an Association that is supervised by the ministry and through the associations; they are eligible to get loans that they use to take care of individual expenses. Through the associations, the ministry sometimes gives grants to deserving groups to buy equipment that they can use in their businesses. In addition, during the local government week celebrations, the council invites these groups to showcase and market their products. Currently, there are 7 women groups that are directly being supervised by the council but there are many more that are supported directly by the ministry. This program has enhanced the livelihood of various vulnerable families by:

- Enabling disadvantaged women to support their families through the loans they get from the association which they otherwise cannot afford to get from micro finance institutions and banks.
- Skills that the women are unable to make use of as individuals become useful once the women operate as a group.
- The initiative enables them to learn new skills from other members of the group.
- The food preservation skills that they learn from each other help promote food security for these families whenever such types of food are out of season.
- The program enables



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women who would ordinarily be socially excluded to find a platform where they can be useful.

## Special Mention in the Food Production Category

**City: Quito (Ecuador)**

**Practice Title: Participatory Urban Agriculture Project "AGRUPAR"**

Since 2002, the Municipality of Quito has had an iconic programme of urban, organic, and rural agriculture at the household level. The Participatory Urban Agriculture (AGRUPAR) is a powerful means to enhance food security and nutrition in the most vulnerable sectors of the population through the self-production of organic food and the promotion of urban agriculture as a livelihood strategy. With capacity to generate employment and improve family incomes, AGRUPAR promotes self-production, and selling of surplus through alternative short circuits marketing projects called bioferias, which are spaces where the democratization of consumption of healthy food is promoted as a civil right within the framework of responsible consumption and fair local trade. "Bioferias" are also located next to Points of Health Stations a municipal initiative that addresses basic health needs of citizens and give them advices on healthy foods. AGRUPAR has strengthened social relationships between producers and consumers, generating solidarity networks, and the inclusion of small farmers into the food system. Moreover, AGRUPAR reaches out to vulnerable groups in Quito. By looking at subsystems in primary production such as: the generation of seedlings and seeds, the production of organic fertilizers, natural active ingredients and minerals, breeding of small animals, beekeeping, and food processing, AGRUPAR has been innovating tools and productive infrastructures introducing micro-greenhouses and drip irrigation. This has created skills amongst citizens by generating knowledge and recognizing the importance of sharing it. Overall, the project contributes to the resilience and sustainability of Quito.

AGRUPAR is run by the Metropolitan Economic Development Agency CONQUITO. The governance model will secure the project CONQUITO AGRUPAR is institutionalized and sustainable. This will be done through the coordination of public actors, in addition to private and academic sectors, that include the assembly and CONQUITO directory. The Agency articulates actions with other municipal entities such as: Health, Territory - Housing, Environment, Culture, Social Inclusion, District Trade and Enterprise. Connections have been established with the National Government through its Ministries. Although urban agriculture has not been implemented through a specific public policy, there is a national, provincial and local regulatory framework that affects and impacts urban and peri-urban agriculture. AGRUPAR responds transversely to the objectives and policies of the social, economic, and environmental axis of the Metropolitan Development Plan of Quito to 2025. Furthermore, the the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact has been a reference for the municipality to articulate several actions on food.

<http://www.conquito.org.ec/servicios-agrupar/>



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## Special Mention in the Food Supply and Distribution Category

**City: Toronto (Canada)**

**Practice Title: Grab Some Good**

Grab Some Good is a collaborative initiative between Toronto Public Health and a range of not-for-profit and private sector organizations bringing healthy food into Toronto's food deserts and "food swamp" neighbourhoods (areas with high concentrations of unhealthy food). Typically, these are low income neighbourhoods that tend not to be served by conventional suppliers of healthy fresh food. Specifically, Grab Some Good utilises short, novel and inexpensive food supply and distribution chains, as well as new markets for local suppliers, to deliver healthy food to those most in need. Through FoodReach, fresh food is sourced directly from the Ontario Food Terminal (the main fresh food distribution centre for Ontario), local farmers and other wholesale suppliers, and distributed using innovative approaches such as converted buses (stores on wheels) visiting low-income neighbourhoods, community agencies serving meals to vulnerable groups and corner store owners selling fresh produce at affordable prices in low-income neighbourhoods. In turn, vulnerable groups such as people experiencing homelessness, children and single parent families have increased access to fresh and healthy food. At present, Grab Some Good supplies and distributes food in four key ways:

- Pop-up markets. These bright stalls are currently set-up at the three ends of Toronto's subway lines (in neighbourhood priority areas). They are open twice a week during peak commuter times and provide fresh produce, sourced directly from local farmers and the Ontario Food Terminal. People purchase for home cooking and for eating on the go.
- Mobile markets. These are retrofitted trucks that operate as "stores on wheels", visiting priority neighbourhoods with a mix of fresh produce. The mobile markets have the advantage of being able to serve neighbourhoods – one truck might have a total of 30 stops over the week.
- Healthy Corner Stores. Through Grab Some Good, Toronto Public health worked with three corner store owners to assist them in carrying and selling a greater range of fresh produce and other 'healthy snacks' (e.g. healthy muffins). There are plans to increase the number of stores and to explore a 'store-within-a-store' concept to scale this initiative. This will systematize supply, improve branding and reduce the amount of work for owners.
- FoodReach. A collaborative not-for-profit organization, providing a range of community agencies (including child care centres, community agencies, school nutrition programs and city of Toronto divisions/programs) with access to fresh, healthy food at wholesale prices. Members place orders through an online portal, with no minimum order and free next day delivery, and receive fresh food sourced from a partner consolidator.



<https://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=80ca044e17e32410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD>

## Special Mention in the Food Waste Category

### **City: Riga (Latvia)**

**Practice Title:** From food waste to healthy, off-season food

"Getliņi EKO" is an environmentally friendly, high technology ecological waste management company owned by the Municipality of Riga (in its majority) that operates the waste landfill "Getliņi". It is responsible for the collection and ecological management of waste within the Riga waste management area. About 50% of all waste produced in Latvia, or 300'000 tons of waste annually, is transported to "Getliņi". Food waste is 41,50% of waste biomass. The efficient use of this waste has been an issue to solve for the municipality for many years, because: The food waste is creating a huge volume of waste deposit. Due to environmental safety, the well-being of surrounding areas and limited opportunities to grow territorially, this growth had to be limited. The food waste, when disposed, is creating landfill gas that should be properly gathered and used; otherwise it creates a very negative impact to the environment and soil. The practice plan for the landfill is based on 2 main pillars: operational practice and social education. Operational practice Food waste is deposited in environmentally safe biodegradable cells. The landfill gas that forms in the cells is channelled to the Getliņi power unit and transformed into energy. The impact of waste on the environment is reduced to a minimum. The gas is transformed to the energy. Getliņi ecological landfill is one of the largest producers of green energy in Latvia (in 2015 - 33'718'200 kWh). The side-product of energy production is the heat (in 2015 - 21'336'800 kWh). The heat is used for the needs of greenhouses that are located in the territory of the landfill and operated by "Getliņi EKO". The greenhouses team is growing tomatoes during the local vegetable off-season and supplying Riga municipality's citizens via the largest supermarket chains. This is an important aspect since Latvia as a Nordic country is experiencing insufficient quality vegetable supplies in winter and spring seasons. Only biological solutions and natural organisms are used to grow tomatoes as healthy and valuable products. The amount produced during the off-season period is 390 tons. The product quality and nutrition value of the products is high compared to imported tomatoes. This ecological management practice has created a chain of benefits: food waste turned to green energy and high nutrition food, with huge positive impact to environment. Due to this practice our atmosphere is protected from 2000m<sup>3</sup> environmentally harmful gases per hour. Educational practice An intensive educational practice is performed to educate society about the life-cycle of household waste, recycling and food waste reduction. Company is organising free of charge field trips to landfill or visiting seminars on this issue. The field trips are available for pre-schools, schools and universities, for companies, groups of visitors, groups of tourists, and groups of



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environmental activists, etc.

<http://www.getlini.lv/en/>



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