



# City of Madison

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
[www.cityofmadison.com](http://www.cityofmadison.com)

## Meeting Minutes - Draft MADISON FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

*Consider: Who benefits? Who is burdened?  
Who does not have a voice at the table?  
How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?*

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Wednesday, August 20, 2025

5:30 PM

Virtual

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The City of Madison is holding the Madison Food Policy Council meeting in virtual format.

Written Comments: You can send comments on agenda items to [mfpc@cityofmadison.com](mailto:mfpc@cityofmadison.com)

Register for Public Comment:

- Register to speak at the meeting
- Register to answer questions
- Register in support or opposition of an agenda item (without speaking)

If you want to speak at this meeting you must register. You can register at <https://www.cityofmadison.com/MeetingRegistration>. When you register to speak, you will be sent an email with the information you will need to join the virtual meeting.

Watch the Meeting: If you would like to join the meeting as an observer, please visit <https://www.cityofmadison.com/watchmeetings>.

Listen by Phone: (877) 853-5257 (Toll Free) Webinar ID: 894 9014 4979

Call to Order/Roll Call

Others Present: Nicholas Heckman, Casey Vetter, Walter Strange

Madison Food Policy Council Meeting called to order at by Chair Leete at 5:34PM.

**Present:** 16 - Bill Tishler; Tag Evers; Nicholas S. Leete; Logan C. Morrow; Rebecca Kemble; Hedi L. Rudd; Mathew N. Salbego; Josh Perkins; Noah R. Bloedorn; Christopher G. Brockel; Devika J. Suri; Lindsey Day Farnsworth; Kelsey Abad; Katie L. Strader; David D. Leeper and Nan Fey

**Absent:** 2 - Dadit G. Hidayat and Sarah M. Larson

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from July made by Rudd. Second by Bloedorn.  
Motion passed with unanimous approval.

**Public Comment**[89547](#)

Public Comment: MFPC 8/20/25

None

**Disclosures and Recusals****New Business**1. [89548](#)

Update on Food Recovery Efforts and Healthy Food For All

Brockel reports from his role as co-director of NPC and manager of the FEED Kitchen. Healthy Food For All is a program of the FEED Kitchen and the North Side Planning Council. HFFA began in 2015 with a \$3,000 SEED grant from the Madison Food Policy Council.

Food is the largest contributor to the Dane County landfill, with approximately 25% of total waste being organics, and a third of that food is edible at the point it was discarded. Brockel shares that 40% of food grown in the United States is never eaten. Food recovery is the diversion of edible food from the waste stream to bring back into the food system.

Food recovery in Dane County has been occurring since early 1990s (Wisconsin Harvest). In 2015, HFFA began when farmers identified the need to increase gleaning of available food. That summer, Epic Systems approached the organization to manage food recovery for its major event. This became a weekly food recovery partnership. HFFA focus became recovery of large quantities of prepared food, leveraging FEED Kitchen commercial space for repackaging. Other partners now include Memorial Union catering, Pyle Center, and more. Farm pickups continue, including Troy Farm and other locations. End destinations include Second Harvest, food pantries, community centers, and some affordable housing locations.

During the pandemic, HFFA was overwhelmed with restaurant donations, and served to connect salvaged ingredients for fresh meals distributed at FEED Kitchens.

2023 Community Action Coalition gleaners (formerly Wisconsin Harvest)—CAC decided to no longer operate the gleaner program. HFFA adopted the program as the Retail Food Recovery Program. 27 volunteers drive daily routes between grocery sites to deliver directly with end users. Collaborate with Second Harvest to manage relationships with state/national retailers (e.g. Pick n Save/Kroger, Walmart, Kwik Trip). Additional food recovery occurs through Second Harvest, and direct relationships between pantries and vendors. In 2025, focus has become farmers market collection to collect un-sold products. Buy One for a Neighbor program at farmers markets. Buy Out the Market events have also been helpful to support farmers.

Today, HFFA is doing 250,000 lbs of recovery. With gleaning program, this is more than 1 million pounds of recovered food per year.

Discussion:

- How to vendors manage food safety?
  - o Brockel: HFFA has developed protocols. No food is acquired from buffet tables or staging. Food must be cooled to transport, and staff will measure temperature. Commercial kitchen at FEED supports healthy and safe repackaging. Educate vendors about Emerson Good Samaritan law around good faith donations.
- Is Costco on the gleaning list?
  - o Brockel: They do donate to Second Harvest and Wayforward Resources.
- Who is doing farm gleaning?
  - o Brockel: HFFA did this for several years a decade ago. Today farmers prefer to pick product and bring it to markets.
- GreenBox is interested in collaborating on some recovery work. Epic is managed by Badger Prairie Needs Network, other gleaning of prepared food would need support
- How close are we to a more coordinated, collaborative recovery effort?
 

How can we improve efforts?

  - o Brockel: This work began before the pandemic, but opportunity exists to resume it.
  - o Suri: can we form a landscape scan of assets and logistics, and can this be included in the Food Action Plan?
  - Bloedorn: REAP is working with an organization called Maize to develop an app that can create a market for
- Have there been any connections to food hubs that can be gleaned from seconds markets (e.g. ugly produce)

#### Special Presentation

#### Report from the Chair

2. [72741](#) Madison Food Policy Council Chair
 

Continuing to recruit new members.

#### Regular Business Reports

3. [72192](#) Regional Food System Planning
 

Currently winding down community engagement phase. Recent events have included town halls and focus groups.

Upcoming Events

We have many more opportunities for you to connect, learn, and share your thoughts. We'd love to see you there!.

  - September 11th | Mt. Zion Baptist Church  
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Faith & Food Summit. Gathering of faith leaders and emergency food providers.
  - September 27th | Yowela Farms (Stoughton)  
2:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Harvest Gathering. Includes a State of the Food System Presentation and Town Hall.
4. [72193](#) Regional Agriculture and Food Sovereignty

Ag lease templates have been revised and shared with leasees for comment. Intent is to introduce templates for approval via Madison legislative process in September.

5. [77772](#) Dane Food Access Network

Food pantries continue to report challenges and high demand.

6. [75103](#) Farmland Preservation Task Force

Staff is moving ahead with conversations with farmers that have leased City lands. Updated lease language intended to be added into City legislative process in September.

7. [72198](#) Madison Metropolitan School District

No report

8. [72199](#) Double Dollars Program

Funding challenges remain a primary concern for 2026 season.

9. [72197](#) Community Gardens

No report

10. [77773](#) Food System Assessment

No report

#### Staff Reports

11. [72194](#) Business Development Specialist

No report

12. [72195](#) Public Health Madison & Dane County

No report

13. [72196](#) Extension Dane County, UW-Madison

No report

#### Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the MFPC made by Rudd. Second by Day Farnsworth. Motion approved by unanimous approval at 6:49 PM.