



# Food Policy Updates

Mara Momenee | COT Food Policy Manager | 6.25.26

The background of the slide features a nursery setting. On the right side, there are several black plastic trays filled with small, young green seedlings growing in a bed of brown mulch. On the left side, there is a dense patch of tall, thin green grasses, some of which appear slightly yellowed or dried at the tips. The overall scene is brightly lit, suggesting an outdoor or well-lit indoor environment.

# Agenda

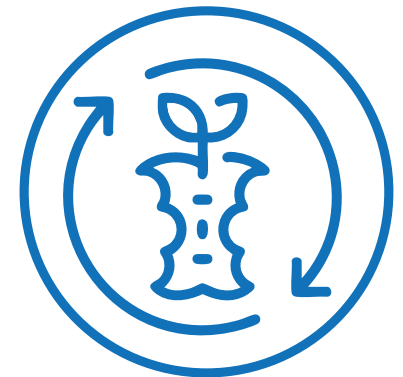
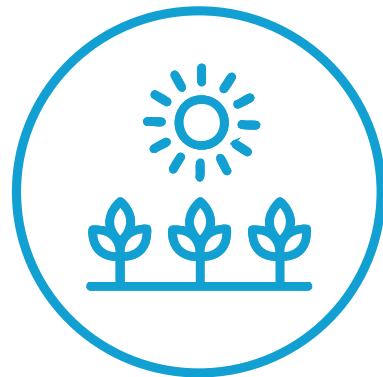
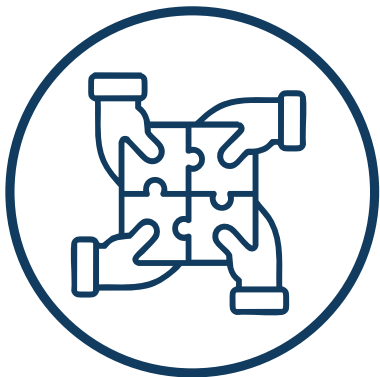
1. CARAT Audit Findings
2. Progress to Date
3. Next Steps
4. Questions

# CARAT Audit Findings



# Why CARAT?

- » Establishes a baseline + shared metrics
- » Emphasizes team + community approach → stronger with more contributors
- » Comprehensive in its analysis → reflects themes from Listening Tour



# Audit Overview

» 101 questions across 7 themes



» Cohort opportunity

» Mixed-methods approach

» 43 individual contributors + 4 focus groups

<p><b>ENSOTERRA</b> Lane County, OR</p>	<p><b>FPPC</b> Cleveland &amp; Cuyahoga County, OH</p>	<p><b>SOUL FOOD PROJECT</b> URBAN FARM Indianapolis, IN</p>
<p><b>SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT</b> Greater Sacramento, CA</p>	<p><b>Food &amp; Health Equity Coalition of Essex County</b> Essex County, NJ</p>	<p><b>FACTS</b> City &amp; County of San Francisco, CA</p>
<p><b>TOL</b> City of Toledo Toledo Metro, OH</p>	<p><b>GREAT PLAINS FOOD BANK</b> Cass County, ND &amp; Clay County, MN</p>	<p><b>N EXTENSION</b> Greater Omaha, NE</p>
<p><b>BOER way</b> Central Northside Pittsburgh, PA</p>	<p><b>Western Maryland Food Council</b> Washington, Allegany, and Garrett Counties, MD</p>	<p><b>Green Mountain Center for Sustainability</b> Prescott College Yavapai County Quad Cities Area, AZ</p>

# Audit Scoring Key

**3 – STRONG**

*A clear policy, program, or practice is adopted, implemented, and enforced.*

**2 – MODERATE**

*A program, policy, or practice exists but there are gaps in coverage and/or funding*

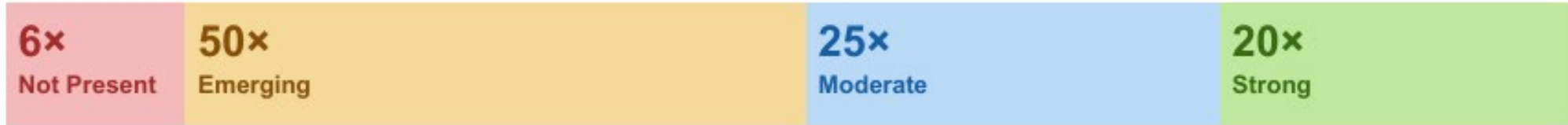
**1 – EMERGING**

*A draft proposal or early-stage initiative exists or strong evidence of informal practices.*

**0 – NOT PRESENT**

*There is no policy, program, or practice. Efforts are nonexistent.*

# Score Overview



<b>Theme 1: Natural Resource Management</b>	<b>35 / 60</b>	<b>58%</b>
<b>Theme 2: Community Health &amp; Well-being</b>	<b>22 / 48</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>Theme 3: Self-Reliance in Food</b>	<b>27 / 42</b>	<b>64%</b>
<b>Theme 4: Distributive &amp; Democratic Leadership</b>	<b>12 / 30</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Theme 5: Focus on Local Farmers, Processors &amp; Distributors</b>	<b>27 / 57</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>Theme 6: Food Sovereignty</b>	<b>6 / 15</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Theme 7: Place-Based Economics</b>	<b>31 / 51</b>	<b>61%</b>

<b>Overall Score: 160 / 303</b>	<b>53%</b>
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# Key Strengths

- » Strong zoning and permitting framework for urban agriculture
- » Remarkable community-led food production
- » Robust water quality and wetland management infrastructure
- » CIFT provides exceptional food business development support
- » OSU & CSU Extension programming + support
- » Farm-a-lot Land Bank opportunity for land access



# Key Gaps

- » No active food policy council
- » Urban, BIPOC, and beginner farmers self-finance growth
- » No food hub, producer directory, or procurement system
- » Committed policies remain unimplemented on paper
- » No emergency food plan
- » Siloed workforce training
- » Funding crisis for critical supports

# Cross-Cutting Priority Recommendations

1. Re-launch and properly resource the food policy council
2. Invest in the farmers who feed Toledo
3. Build the infrastructure the local food economy needs
4. Turn existing policy commitments into action
5. Protect what is working from federal and state funding cuts
6. Work towards an Emergency Food Plan
7. Build a coordinated food system workforce pipeline
8. Affirm Toledo's commitment to change by signing the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact

# Progress to Date on Priorities



# 1. Re-launch and properly resource the food policy council

- » RFSP Grant Application
- » Lake Erie West funding proposal to Congresswoman Kaptur
- » Hosted a Toledo Farmer Gathering
- » COT Food Policy website revamp
- » Attended RT Power Talk @ UT
- » Interviews with peer FPCs
- » Engaging FPCs across OH via OFPN
- » Interviewee for latest CHA
- » Attended the NE OH Food Summit

## 2. Invest in the farmers who feed Toledo

- » Changed high tunnel permitting process
- » Secured \$15K + LB match for microgrants
- » Presented @ CSU Extension conference
- » Secured raised bed materials for garlic workshop + homesteading class
- » Presented several times on Farm-a-lot
- » Connected surplus plants to Fast-Track Farmer participants
- » Worked with Doehler Jarvis Visionaries
- » Facilitated talk @ OFMN conference
- » Planning NW OH Food Summit using Stinner Summit funds won to convene farmers

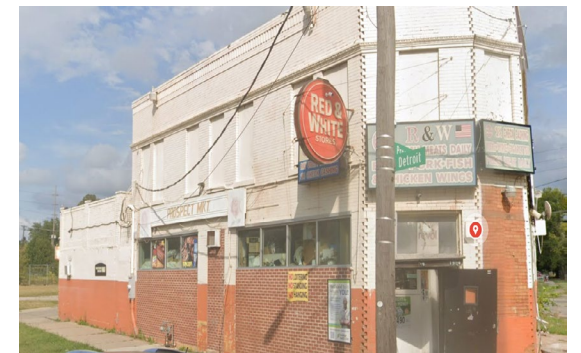


### 3. Build the infrastructure the local food economy needs

- » Exploring food hub funding
- » Provided feedback on the CEDS
- » Lake Erie West funding proposal to Congresswoman Kaptur
- » Strategizing for CIFT's future supporting value-added services
- » Supporting HFSMP continuation
- » Building a NW OH Farmer Directory using Stinner Summit funds won
- » Working to rebuild Red & White
- » Exploring pop-up FM @ Swayne Field



Specialty Crop Block Grant Program



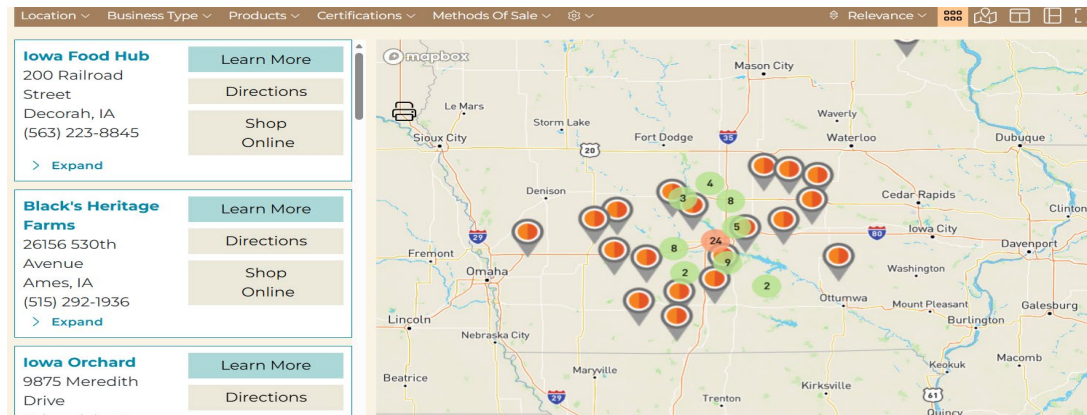
## 4. Turn existing policy commitments into action

- » Building regional farmer directory to promote local sourcing
- » Worked with HD + local chef on a Food Rescue + Donation Guide
- » Promoting KTLCB Sustainable Restaurant Program
- » Joined statewide NRDC calls on organic waste management



**Toledo-Lucas County  
Food Rescue & Donation Guide**

**How to Safely Donate Surplus Food  
in Compliance with Ohio Food Safety  
& Liability Laws**



## 5. Protect what's working from federal and state funding cuts

- » Participated in community strategy sessions on the future of CIFT and the NOCK
- » Participated in funder stakeholder sessions to strategize around future of Produce Perks funding
- » Continuing to support the continuation of the HFSMP beyond end of ARPA funds



**HEALTHY CORNER STORE  
 KICK-OFF EVENTS**



## 6. Work towards an Emergency Food Plan

- » Supported UW-led SNAP efforts during government shutdown
- » Helped plan a COT food drive in partnership with the Grand Lodge Food Pantry raising 1,500+ lbs of food



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## 7. Build a coordinated food system workforce pipeline

- » Presented to UT Prof Emily Bedwell's food class on food policy efforts
- » Partnered with UT Prof Olivia Simmons' honors engagement class on food co-op best practices
- » Connected COT + the NOCK
- » Advocated for SB 120




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**Paula Hicks-Hudson**

**Establish the Urban Farmer Youth Initiative Pilot Program**  
[ Show Long Title ]

**Current Version**  
[As Passed by the Senate](#) PDF





## 8. Affirm Toledo's commitment to change by signing the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact

- » Wrote briefing to the Mayor to encourage him to sign onto the MUFPP as a sign of Toledo's commitment to food systems improvement
- » Engaged peer cities in OH to learn benefits of being pact members + lay groundwork for collaboration



# Milan Urban Food Policy Pact

More than 50% of the world's population currently lives in urban areas, a proportion that is projected to increase to almost 70% by 2050.

# Next Steps



# Cross-Cutting Priority Recommendations

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# Launch Food Policy Council

- » Governance working group
- » Identify priority indicators from CARAT
- » Assign metrics to track key indicators
- » Form working groups + move into action planning

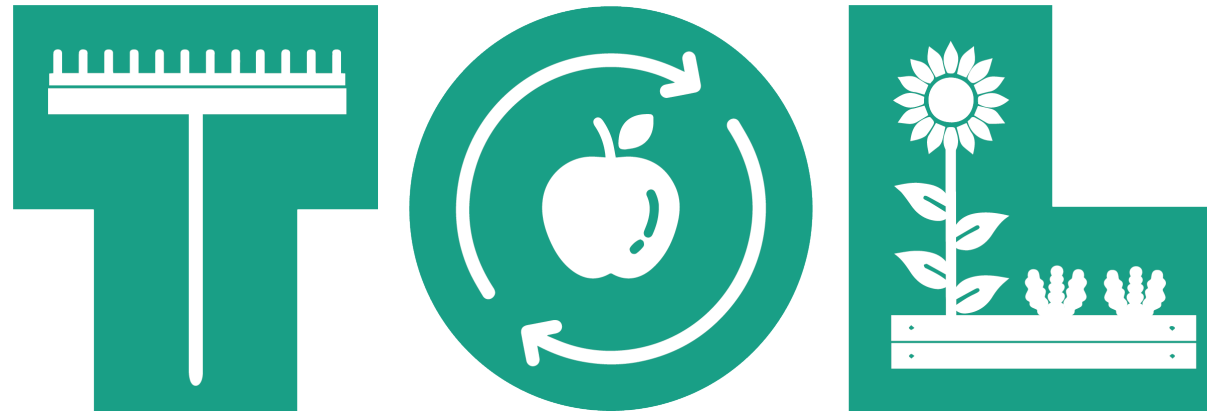


# Sign on to Milan Urban Food Policy Pact

- » Work with peer cities to continue gathering best practices and coordinate efforts
- » Align CARAT priorities with the Pact Monitoring Framework to form an action plan



# Questions?



**Thank you!**

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