



Eaton Good Food Council

By-Laws

Adopted January 16, 2013

Mission:

The Eaton Good Food Council (EGFC) mission is that everyone in Eaton County has equitable access to safe, healthy and affordable food.

Purpose Statement:

EGFC develops collaborative partnerships and relationships across Eaton County to increase production, consumption, and easy access to good food; educate residents how to access nutritious local foods; advocate for policies and systems that strengthen quality and equality in our local food system; and increase agricultural production and economic viability.

Vision:

The EGFC functions:

- To provide forums for discussing food issues,
- To foster coordination between sectors in the food system,
- To evaluate and influence policy, and
- To launch or support programs and services that address local needs.

Definitions:

The EGFC wishes to adopt the Michigan Good Food Charter's definition of good food;

Good food is:

- **Healthy - It provides nourishment and enables people to thrive**
- **Green - It was produced in a manner that is environmentally sustainable**
- **Fair - No one along the production line was exploited for its creation**
- **Affordable - All people have access to it**

Membership:

The EGFC has no limit on the number of participants. However, since membership does not require any specific actions, EGFC will also work to recruit participation from a broad array of perspectives, including farmers/growers, emergency food systems, health and wellness, food services, restaurateurs, food manufacturers and distributors, waste management, planning, transportation, schools, grocery, business or economic development, human services, educators, community and/or faith based organizations, land use, elected officials and community members. The membership selection process shall strive to encourage racial, socioeconomic, ethnic and geographic diversity.

Structure:

The EGFC will have three (3) Elected Officers whom will be elected annually by the membership. The elected officers and their duties will be as follows:

One Chair and Once Vice Chair:

- Develop meeting agendas and lead the Council meetings.
- Serve as the main liaison between the EGF and government representatives.
- Represent the EGFC to the community.

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- Ensure the EGFC acts in accordance with policies and mission.
- Facilitate consensus decision-making whenever possible.
- Put aside personal opinions when speaking for the EGFC.
- Commit to keeping the work of the EGFC going between meetings.
- Serve a one-year commitment with a three term limit. Extension of term can be authorized with member approval.
- Chair appropriate workgroup

Secretary:

- Keep full minutes of all meetings.
- Conduct official correspondence of the workgroup as directed by agreement at meetings.
- Serve a one-year commitment with a three term limit. Extension of term can be authorized with member approval.
- Chair appropriate workgroup

Meetings:

The council will meet at least quarterly. Established workgroups will decide their meeting schedule and report back to the council at meetings or via email. The council meeting schedule will be set for one year.

Ground Rules for Meetings:

At-large members agree to:

- Start and end meetings on time.
- Turn cell phones to vibrate or off.
- Read minutes when a meeting has been missed.
- Build trust by meeting commitments to one another.
- Fully participate, actively listen and use open communication methods.
- Value each other's opinions.
- Maintain a focus on vision, mission and strategies.
- Work toward progress.
- Uphold decisions made by the Council (speak with a unified voice).
- Bring perspectives of their food sector, not necessarily represent their sector.

Decision Making:

The Workgroup will use an "inclusive decision-making" model. General decisions for the Workgroup will be made during the regular meetings to be held at least quarterly.

- All members may vote on motions. Voting may take place via email with a five-day limit for voting.
- A simple majority will be determined by attendance of members or responders to the email.
- The elected officials may call for referendum votes (a polling of all At-large members conducted outside of a regular or special meeting where email or other methods of voting may be employed).
- The elected officials may serve as an executive committee if action is required between general meetings.

Changes to By-Laws

Any amendments to the EGFC By-Laws will require the approval of 2/3 of the council members present at a meeting.