



New Jersey Food Policy Council

Overview, Composition, & Alignment with State Priorities





1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Overview of New Jersey Food Policy Council
3. Agency Participation & Administration Coordination
4. Administration Priorities & Opportunities for Alignment
5. Next Steps



Vision & Scope

*The **New Jersey Food Policy Council** advances food system policies and systems-change through a holistic approach, prioritizing policies that strengthen local and regional food systems, support resilient communities, and empower producers and consumers across New Jersey.*

A photograph of a market stall with various vegetables like tomatoes and peppers. The stall is filled with fresh produce, including bright red tomatoes, green and yellow peppers, and other vegetables. In the background, several people are visible, some looking at the produce. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting an indoor or well-lit outdoor market.

Food Policy Councils

Multi-stakeholder composition of 15 to 21 members that span the entire food supply chain.

Include government officials, nonprofit groups, industry groups, and community advocates.

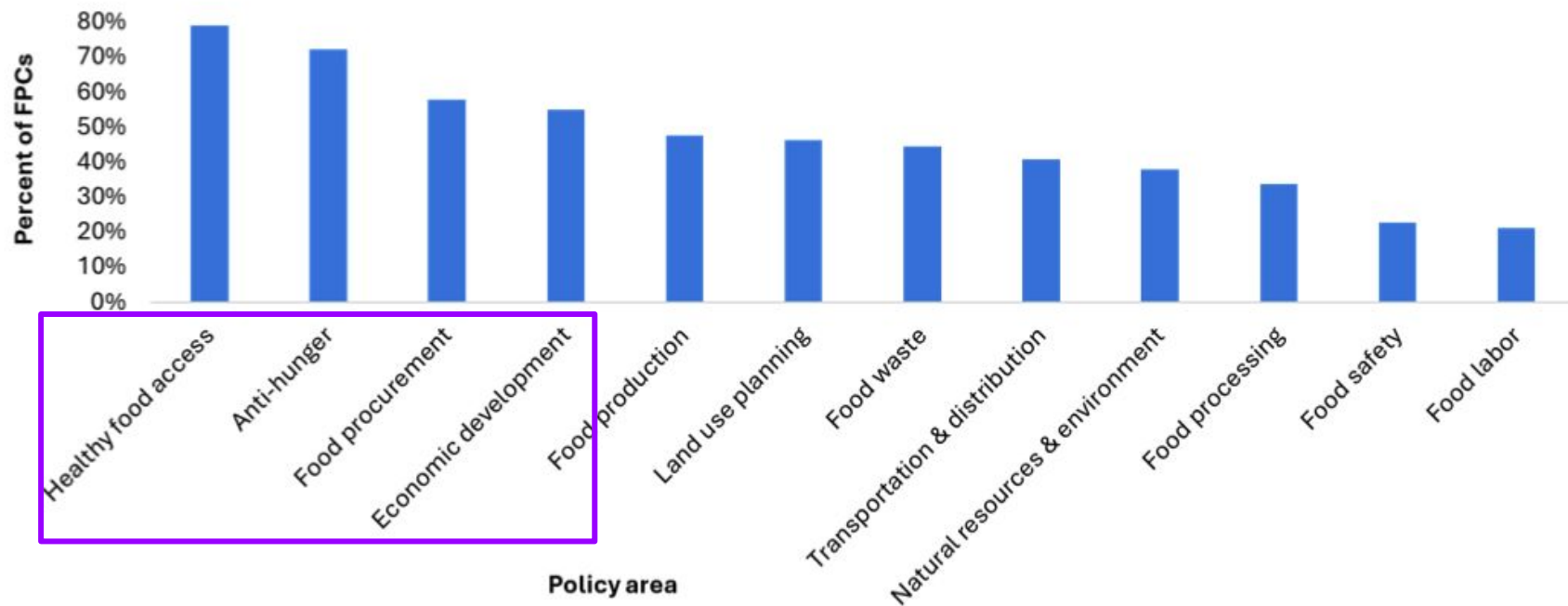
Aim to address food system needs at the local, county, or state level through coordinated policy development.

Examples



300+ city and county
~ 15 state-level councils

Areas of policy work



Percent of FPCs that helped to develop or advocated for policies by topic area (n = 216)

History of New Jersey Food Policy Council

2020 - 2025

NJ Food Democracy Collaborative (NJFDC) exists as New Jersey's open network-style independent food policy council. *Name choice avoids confusion with NJ Food Council.*

Milestones:

- Published **NJ Roadmap for Food System Transformation**
- Hosts first four annual "NJ State of the Food System Summit" state-wide convenings
- Establishes statewide working groups, policy agenda

Jan 2026

NJ FDC Advisory Board votes to approve a organizational refresh, creating a **NJ Food Policy Council** with a formal, traditional structure.

Key factors: name & government engagement

Jan - July 2026

Council is formed.
Establishes vision, mission, structure, bylaws

14 seats for private organizations representing key areas of the food system

4-6 non-voting advisory seats, state government, research/academia

Council Structure & Composition

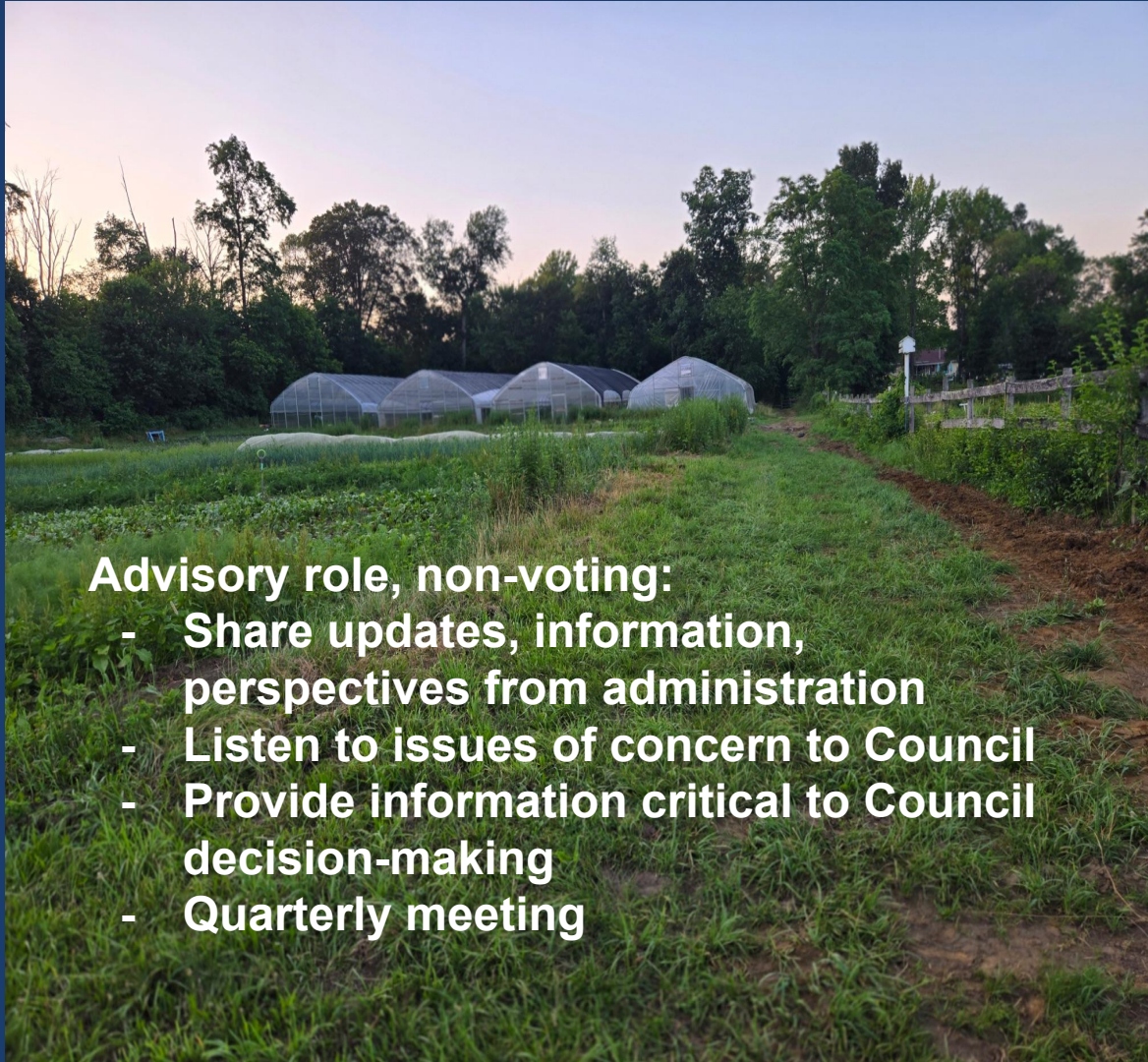
Member (V/NV)	Representing...
NOFA-NJ, North Jersey RC&D, Pinelands Alliance (V)	Sustainable / Regenerative Ag, Organic Ag, Small farms, Beginner farmers
M.E.N.D., Hunger Free NJ, NJ Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics (V)	Charitable Food/Anti-Hunger, School Meals, FNA
CATA-Farmworkers Support Committee NJ Home Bakers Association (V)	Food and Farmworker Rights/Labor, value-added production
FHEC, Passaic County FPC (V)	Regional Councils
C.R.O.P.S., Urban Agriculture Cooperative, New Roots (V)	Local fresh food access, urban ag
City Green, The Food Trust, NJ Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics (V)	Healthy food incentives, fresh food access, local markets
Rutgers University (NV)	Research, cooperative-extension

State Agency Council Seats: Advisory Roles

- DHS
- DOH
- OFSA
- Ag

Advisory role, non-voting:

- Share updates, information, perspectives from administration
- Listen to issues of concern to Council
- Provide information critical to Council decision-making
- Quarterly meeting





Discussion

- Recommendations for agency representation
- Process for engaging agency leadership and staff
- Opportunities for ongoing coordination between the Council and administration
- Administration Priorities & Opportunities for Alignment

Next steps

- Q4 meeting date
- 5th NJ State of the Food System Summit, December 10

