

WHAT'S LAND GOT TO DO WITH IT!?

A Checklist for Advocating for Urban Agriculture in Zoning Ordinances

Improving food access in our communities takes community cooperation, time, and a little elbow grease. While not exhaustive, the following checklist is meant to serve as a starting place for you to begin advocating for planning and zoning policies that respect the intrinsic relationship between the food, land, and the people.

KNOW THE TURF

- ☐ I know how many people live in my county or municipality.
- ☐ I know the median household income in my community.
- ☐ I know the what my property (or property of interest) is zoned as.
- ☐ I know which uses the zone that my property (or property of interest) allows.

KNOW THE PLAYERS

- ☐ I know my county or municipal elected representative.
- ☐ I know when my county or municipal elected body meets.
- ☐ I know my county or municipal executive/manager/administrator.
- ☐ I know who sits on my county or municipal Planning Board/Commission.
- ☐ I know when my county or municipal planning board/commission meets.

KNOW THE CODE

- ☐ My county or municipal government has established a community vision, plan, or policy for food system and food access.
- ☐ Urban agriculture, including urban farms and urban gardens are legally permitted in my county or municipal zoning ordinance.
- ☐ My community has a mechanism to measure health in land use policies or zoning codes. This can be done through a comprehensive scorecard, health impact assessment, or health in all policies approach.
- ☐ My county or municipal government allows urban gardens or farms by right.
- ☐ My State or County government provides tax credits or incentives for properties in agricultural zones.
- ☐ My county or municipality is planning to update or rewrite the zoning ordinance.

KNOW THE TOOLS

- ☐ My county or municipality has a digital zoning map or where I can view the zoning in my community.
- ☐ My county or municipality has a development activity notification email/website where I can be learn about new or updated development projects.
- ☐ My community has a citizen's zoning academy where I can learn more about the planning and zoning process.
- ☐ My county, municipal government, or community has a food equity council or food policy council.