WHAT IS THE MINNESOTA FOOD CHARTER?

Developed by thousands of Minnesotans, the Minnesota Food Charter is a roadmap to guide policymakers and community leaders in providing Minnesotans with reliable access to affordable, safe, and healthy food, regardless of where they live—access that not only improves the health and well-being of residents but that also has the potential to significantly improve the state’s economy.

The Food Charter contains 99 proven policy and systems change strategies designed to create healthier food skills, food environments, and food infrastructure. It is intended to guide planning, decision-making, and collaboration for agencies, organizations, policymakers, and public and private entities across the state.

Why a Food Charter?

There’s a real cost to society when healthy, safe food isn’t accessible and affordable for everyone. According to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), two-thirds of Minnesotans are now overweight or obese. A lack of access to safe, affordable, healthy food and too much access to inexpensive, unhealthy food contributes to growing rates of obesity and related diseases such as diabetes that cost Minnesotans $2.8 billion annually. Hunger is also expensive; according to Hunger-Free Minnesota, food insecurity costs Minnesotans upwards of $1.62 billion annually in preventable direct and indirect health and education costs.

Individuals, organizations, agencies, and partnerships across the state, including rural, tribal, suburban, and urban communities, are working together to implement many Food Charter strategies. These strategies can be initiated and implemented by an individual organization, a local unit of government, or even state legislature. From healthy institutional foodservices to farmers markets to food shelves to farmer training to farmland preservation to teaching food skills to food and farm enterprise development—there are many ways we all can work to build a healthy food future for all Minnesotans.

To learn more, visit mnfoodcharter.com
WHAT IS THE MINNESOTA FOOD CHARTER NETWORK?

The Minnesota Food Charter Network supports and fosters shared action and capacity to implement Food Charter strategies that increase access to safe, affordable, healthy food for all. Network partners represent many sectors, working together to foster healthy food skills, healthy food environments, and a healthy food infrastructure across Minnesota.

The Minnesota Food Charter Network was formed in concert with the Minnesota Food Charter to support and track statewide implementation of Food Charter strategies through regional food networks and myriad other organizations. The Minnesota Food Charter Network is growing into a supportive ‘ecosystem’ of people, information, relationships, and resources positioned to implement the 99 Food Charter policy and systems change strategies.

Why a Network?

Without you, the Food Charter is just a document. It takes you, and all of us working together, to create real change. The Minnesota Food Charter Network leverages the power of all individuals and groups to learn together, work together, evaluate together, and create change together.

The Food Charter Network has several teams, composed of Minnesotans from many backgrounds working hand-in-hand with over 60 local and regional food issue networks across the state.

To learn more, visit mnfoodcharter.com/the-network