

Poster Abstract

Community Participation in Sustainable Local Food System Development: A Methodology for Achieving Health for Oakland's People and Environment

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In 2007, a group of organizations, institutions, and community residents came together to form the HOPE (Health for Oakland's People and Environment) Collaborative to improve health and quality of life by transforming the food and fitness environments in Oakland neighborhoods suffering the most from health disparities. The HOPE Collaborative envisions vibrant Oakland neighborhoods that provide equitable access to affordable, healthy, locally grown food; safe and inviting places for physical activity and play; sustainable successful local economies – all to the benefit of the families and youth living in those neighborhoods. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation funded this planning initiative in Oakland and eight other communities.

In its efforts to achieve a sustainable local food system for all Oakland residents, the HOPE Collaborative has built a solid foundation for engaging in true participatory action research through organizing and hosting community listening sessions and surveys. Currently community design charettes and further conversations are being used to identify the assets and needs of Oakland's marginalized communities, and to determine agreed-upon strategies for achieving solutions. In this poster, we will demonstrate our methodology for developing “grounded policy” and “grounded practice” recommendations for sustainable local food systems.

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