

# UC ANR FOOD POLICY COUNCIL STUDY

Julia Van Soelen Kim & Jennifer Sowerwine

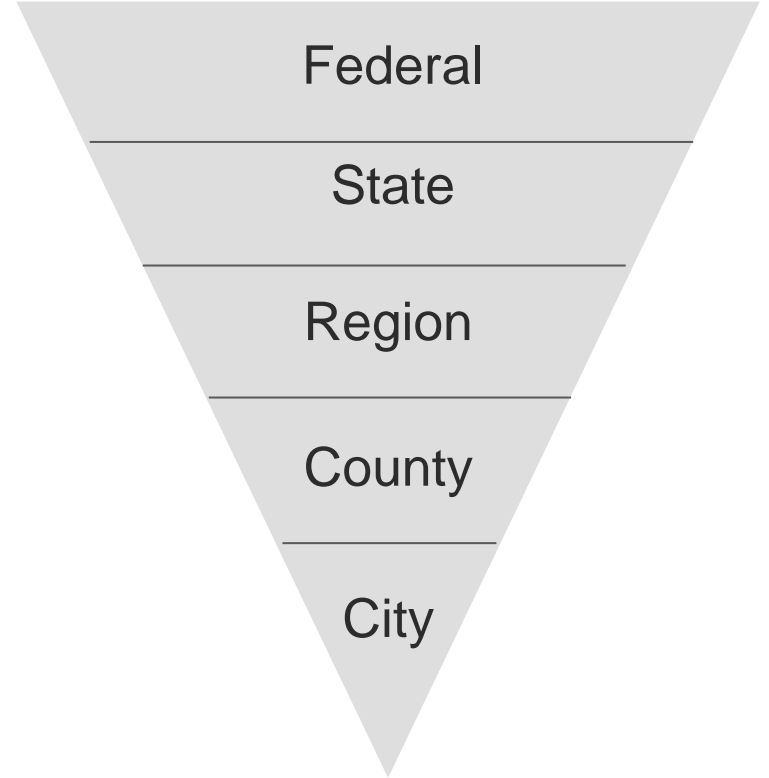
with Clare Gupta, Dave Campbell, Gail Feenstra, Shosha Capps, Kate Munden-Dixon

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# Overview of US food and agriculture policy

A complex combination of federal, state, and local policies impact food and agriculture in the United States.



# Background

- Relatively new institutional form
- Aim to promote social, economic, and environmental health of local and regional food systems
- Little known about the use of research in FPC work
- Little known about the relationship between FPCs and local government in policy collaboration and food system change

# Research Question

How do Food Policy Councils collaborate with local government to achieve sustainable agriculture and food systems policy change?

# Methodology

10 case studies across California

Semi-structured interviews

Focus groups

Statewide survey

**Kern**

**Los Angeles**

**Marin**

**Mendocino**

**Napa**

**Plumas-Sierra**

**Sacramento**

**San Mateo**

**Sonoma**

**Yolo**

# Findings

- Background information on the nature, structure, and functions of FPCs.
- Policy priorities and achievements
- Direct vs. Indirect Policy changes vs. programs
- How research based information intersects with FPC work.
- Value of numbers and stories

# Keys to effective FPC-government collaborations

- Intentional FPC leadership (committed to and experienced in policy work)
- Structural Autonomy (that preserves FPC independence)
- Inclusive process (authentic community engagement, fluid membership, two way flow of information)
- 3 pathways for FPC-Local government collaboration

# Pathway 1: Information sharing and trust building



- Key role of FPCs as “link tank” (See Schiff 2008)
- Information sharing and mutual education; creates opportunity for collaboration
- Introduction to new ideas, people, projects –outside of one’s field
- Opportunities to raise issues publicly elevates the potential for eventual policy attention and action
- Indirect policy work



## Pathway 2: Opportunistic collaboration to help implement specific project/program



- Shorter term, incremental, direct and indirect policy work
- Public agencies seek stakeholder input via FPC on specific issues
- FPCs leverage community engagement to hold local government accountable.
- Space for stakeholders to voice concerns directly to policy makers

## Pathway 3: Intentional alignment to advance common goal over time



- More strategic engagement in policy work
- Longer term policy strategies
- Emphasis on coalition building to promote new policies, projects or programs
- FPC is a trusted source of expertise on key issues (eg. advisory council)
- Potential for broader food system change

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Further questions: Clare Gupta, [cgupta@ucdavis.edu](mailto:cgupta@ucdavis.edu)

**Questions?**