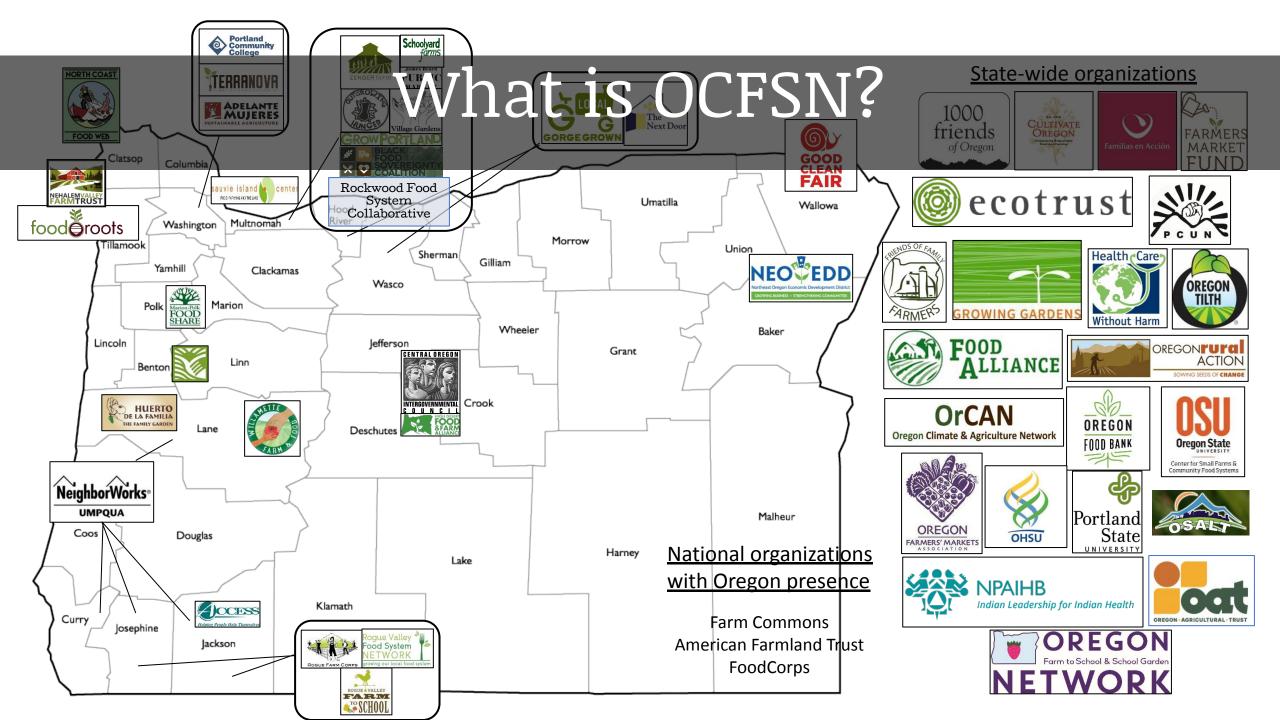


Community Food Systems at the Legislature: Equity and Allyship

Lauren Gwin Charlotte Epps 6.11.21

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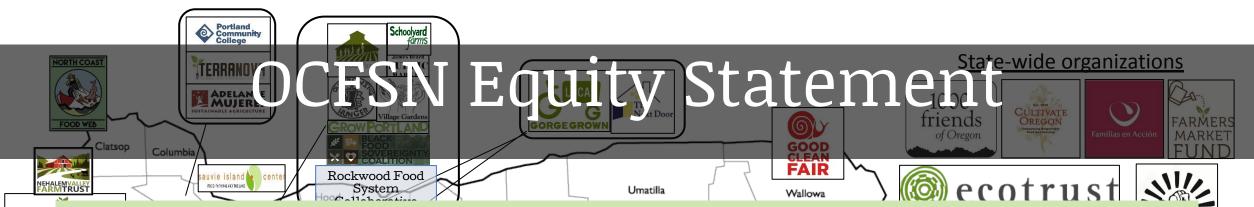


59 NGOs strengthening local and regional food systems for better economic, social, health, environmental, and equity outcomes.

broaden understanding of issues, build relationships and trust, develop common purpose, create collective capacity

Policy Committee: do all that for public policy transformation





We acknowledge that our food system is built and maintained on a foundation of oppression and systemic racism of Native peoples, people of color, and immigrants.

Through a coordinated statewide network, we address this historic and systemic inequality in land ownership, food access, and labor by prioritizing the allocation of resources, decision making and power to historically excluded communities.

We aim to hold ourselves accountable by building relationships, seeking inclusive participation, and practicing transparency.





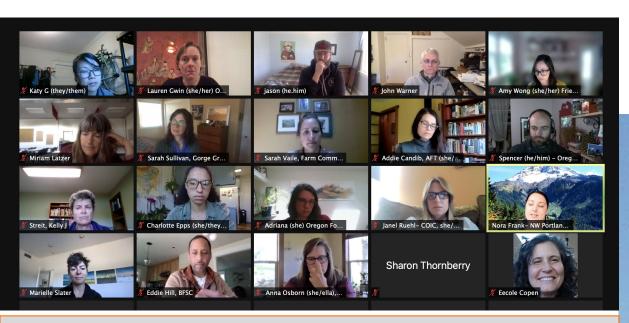






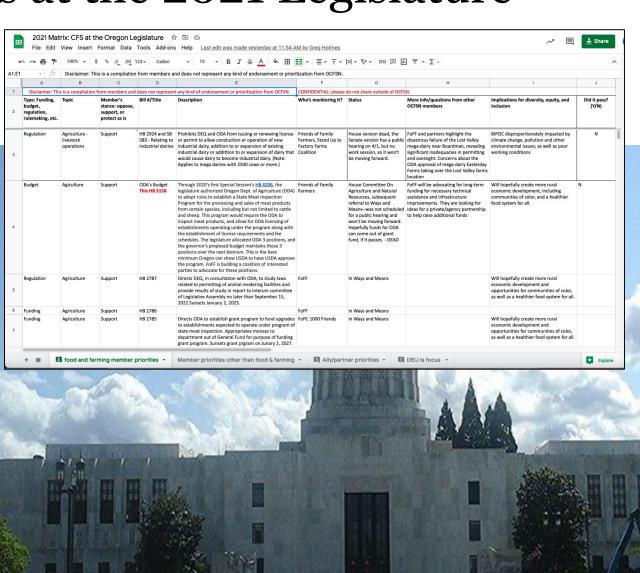


Community Food Systems at the 2021 Legislature



- Newsletter, listserv, website, biweekly meetings
- Who are racial equity leaders & what are their legislative priorities?
- Matrix w/DEI
- Allyship workshops





Allyship means ...

"An active, consistent, and arduous practice of unlearning and re-evaluating, in which a person in a **position of privilege and power** seeks to operate in solidarity with a marginalized group."

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Three workshops:

- Oct. 12, 2020
- Feb. 18, 2021
- July 13, 2021



Allyship Workshop #1

- pre-session -

Participant Strategies for the Legislative Session (examples)

Allyship means ..

- Share policy priorities early
- Track partners' priorities and specific ways to support
- Educate hesitant board members on 501c3 advocacy opportunities
- Amplify voices of marginalized farmers, ranchers, rural Oregonians
- ❖ Actively respond to partner requests → endorse bills, distribute action alerts, contact legislators
- Hold Governor accountable for prioritizing DEI and environmental justice in state budget

Allyship means ...

Allyship Workshop #1

Participant takeaways:

- Allyship is:
 - > a continuous practice, not a self-proclaimed identity
 - awareness of the space we take up
 - decentering white voices
- They are eager to learn ... but uncertain how to implement
 - lack of organizational knowledge and capacity on public policy
 - divisiveness within organizations on how to do the work
- Building community, genuine relationships are crucial to center the voices of those most affected
- Intentional re-frame of the land acknowledgement:
 - intention vs. impact

Allyship workshop #2: Feb. 18, 2021



Allyship in Bills Activity

Discuss the following questions and use the jamboards to map out action items and shared language to support this bills.

- 1. What's the connection between this bill and OCFSN objectives?
- 2. From a DEIJ stance, why is it important for us to support this bill?
- 3. What actions would help move this bill forward?



Current Committee: House Committee on Revenue

HB 2819: Leave No Worker Behind

https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/ 2021R1/Measures/Overview/HB2819 Chief Sponsors: Rep. Reardon, Campos, Hudson

How does this bill connect to community food systems?

supports the future of undocumented farm/food workers

one way of many to bridge gap in ag work field of protections and benefits for undocumented food/farm workers

building broader support in legislature to make more possible for these workers proactive in providing them access to things which they struggle to access currently Why is it important for us to support this bill?

improving quality of life for essential work force Agriculture is dependent upon an immigrant workforce.

building broader coalitions between people excited about local food and the reality of the food/farm industry Ag workers are essential. Actions that will help move this bill forward?

adding our organizations as endorsers ask bill leaders on how we can best support

submitting testimony when helpful or finding others who can building broader coalitions between people excited about local food and the reality of the food/farm industry -- taking action for what you believe in



Current Committee: House Committee on Rules

HB 2366: Voter Rights for Incarcerated Persons

https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/ 2021R1/Measures/Overview/HB2366 Chief Sponsors: Representative Salinas, Senator Gelser, Representative Bynum, Senator Dembrow (from BIPOC Caucus)

How does this bill connect to community food systems?

when person incarcerated family thrust into deep food insecurity - on avg. 300% below poverty line exacerbated by debt associated with incarceration

labor and incarcerated population is disproportionately Black, indigenous, and people of color (whether culturally or due to disenfranchisement)

gives people the ability to advocate for themselves ultimately, may lead to more voter support for other food friendly legislation

class action lawsuits against OR DOC for serving inhumane food Why is it important for us to support this bill?

This bill is a tool to provide shared liberation everyone deserves a voice in our government/decisionmaking, especially the least visible parts of our community (labor, incarcerated, BIPOC)

such a long standing practice of voter suppression; this is a step to directly address this and give power back to people Dismantle the prison industrial complex!!

This is a step to re-write systemic racist practices in Oregon's history Actions that will help move this bill forward?

network endorsement? endorsement from individual organizations

ask the people who are working on this bill

provide testimony help tell the stories of people currently affected by this policy. getting our orgs to see the connection between community food systems and this bill -- local education on connection to broader systems

follow Next Up, follow their requests for help

Allyship in Practice Examples



Farmworker Overtime Email to Legislators

Help us make a difference by contacting your legislator today to pass HB 2358, Farmworker Overtime to protect and support our farmworkers!

2021 Oregon Food Security Agenda



















Questions?

Christina Bodamer American Heart Association christina.bodamer@heart.org 971-832-3089

HB 2536 Hunger-Free Schools 2.0

Clarifies the intent of Oregon's school meal policy within the Student Success Act by ensuring the new Expanded Income Eligibility Guidelines for meals at no charge by applying the Expanded Eligibility Guidelines (186-300% FPL) for students at all schools that serve school meals. No fiscal

Lead Org: Partners for a Hunger Free Oregon

HB 2785 Oregon Meat Processing Capacity Building

Oregon's acute lack of meat processing capacity was further strained during Covid-19 and the legislature smartly authorized ODA to establish a State Meat Inspection Program. This bill is integral to growing the nascent Program, which will address processing bottlenecks, improve regional food security, support rural Oregon, and make it easier for producers to donate locally produced meat to food banks. (\$10 million Federal Match Available)

Lead Ora: Friends of Family Farmers

SB 404 Oregon Organic Action Plan

Growing organic acreage in Oregon is a way to build carbonsequestering healthy soils, improve rural economic development and health outcomes, reinvest more dollars in local economies, and strengthen regional food system resilience. 7FTE's plus an economic analysis study (\$1.5 million) Lead Org: Oregon Organic Coalition

HB 2833 & HB 2834 Oregon Hunger Task Force

Updates statute so that membership better reflects people with lived experiences of hunger and communities most impacted. Request for increased funds to support these members and community engagement. (\$150,000)

Lead Org: Partners for a Hunger Free Oregon

Agriculture and Land Access Allocation for BIPOC Farmers

Black, indigenous and farmers of color have been historically disenfranchised in farm ownership, with Black farmers losing over 12 million acres of farmland in the last century and BIPOC farms making up only 9% of Oregon's agricultural acres. In order to improve food security, access to agricultural land and farming infrastructure for BIPOC farmers must be made a priority. The Emergency Relief for Farmers of Color Act seeks to support farmers through technical assistance & infrastructure, direct relief payments for farm loans, and funding for projects to improve land access and acquisition. (\$4 million)

Allyship in practice: takeaways, next steps

Takeaways:

- Allyship <u>at</u> the legislature needs work <u>before & after</u> the sessions.
- It needs to develop in the policy arena <u>and</u> in ways not specific to policy.
- There is no allyship "checklist" for policy agenda development.

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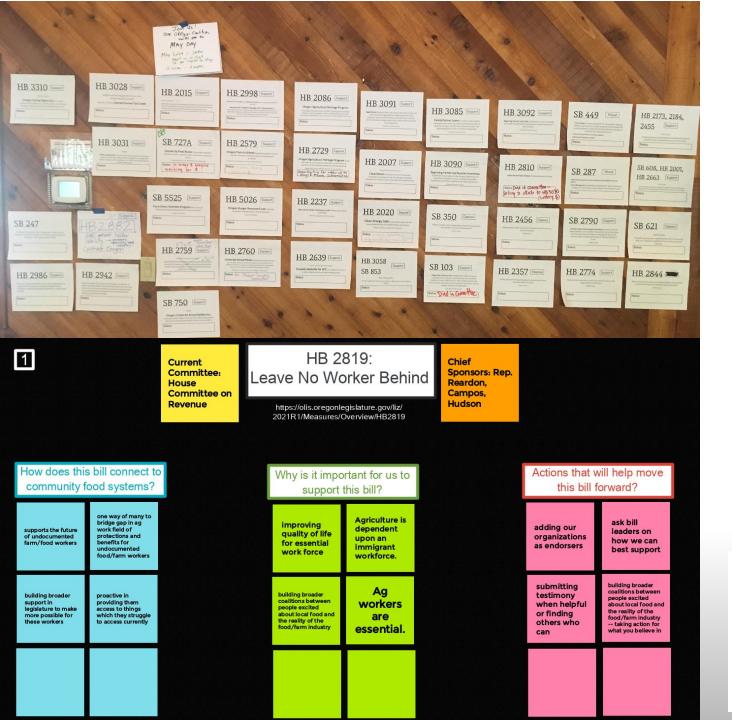
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Next steps (examples):

- "Why that bill now?" Understand PCUN's process, long-term vision
- Learn practices: e.g., NSAC's racial equity assessment tool for policy prioritization.
- Keep listening: Food Charter process
- Intersections: housing, poverty, "Fair Shot"





Onward: [Still] Central Questions

- How are voting rights for incarcerated people related to food systems?
- Once we see these connections, how do we act effectively?
- When are well-meaning actions helpful? When are they harmful?

O C F S N

