



AUGUST 2011 NEWSLETTER

Check out our [website](#), follow us on [twitter](#), read our [blog](#), or read our Newsletter below! To unsubscribe, email anna@dcfarmtoschool.org.

Read on for exciting local and national updates, some incredible upcoming events, and valuable funding opportunities!

LOCAL UPDATES

We've been blogging!

Want to learn about our field trip to the Eastern Shore to visit growers, processors and distributors; or about a D.C. school buying local, sustainably-grown ground beef? Check out the D.C. Farm to School Network's blog posts on Arcadia's blog [here](#)!

Farm Fresh Feature in the works

The D.C. Farm to School is developing a Farm Fresh Feature program to highlight a different local, seasonal fruit or vegetable each month in school meals! Read more about the upcoming program [here](#).

Eastern Shore Farm to School Field Trip

The D.C. Farm to School Network organized a group of D.C. and Maryland school food stakeholders on a field trip on July 26th to Delaware and Maryland to visit large scale farms and food processing facilities. Read about our trip [here](#) or view photos from the day [here](#).

Health Schools Act Amendment passed

The Healthy Schools Amendment Act passed the Council on July 12. The amendment will take effect immediately. The [Healthy Schools Act of 2011](#) clarifies that local milk will no longer make a meal eligible for the 5-cent farm to school reimbursement. More information on the Healthy Schools Act is available [here](#).

Washington, DC Foodshed Map

[Ecocity DC](#) has created a Washington, DC area Regional Foodshed Map that focuses on sustainably produced food within 100 miles of D.C. It lists a variety of distribution channels and sources of food, including farmers' markets, restaurants, non-profit organizations, community gardens, farms, and more. View the map [here](#).

Healthier school meals at Watkins Montessori

DCPS is making changes to the Capitol Hill Montessori Program at Logan Elementary, thanks to an organizing effort by their Healthy Schools Committee. The program will feature "from-scratch" meals served family style, and composting of scraps for the nearby Farm at Walker Jones. Read more [here](#).

Tell DCPS your Hopes and Dreams include healthy school food

Continue to share your hopes and dreams with DCPS through a brief survey [here](#). Let them know that you want to see a healthy, local, minimally-processed school food environment!

NATIONAL UPDATES

F as in Fat - How obesity threatens America's future 2011

Check out the latest all-inclusive adult and child obesity report [here](#) from Trust for America's Health. The data shows that while D.C. has the **second lowest** adult obesity rate, we have **the ninth highest** child obesity rate nationwide.

USDA Farm to School Team's 2010 Report released

The USDA formed a Farm to School Team just published a report designed to gain a greater understanding of the variables that affect farm to school; determine what needs exist for school districts and farmers around farm to school activities; and what support the USDA could provide for these efforts. Download the report [here](#).

Local food purchasing success stories

A new pilot in Michigan and Florida will allow school districts in those states to purchase local foods with their entitlement (USDA Commodity) dollars. Read the stories about Michigan [here](#) and Florida [here](#).

Farm to School and School Garden Bill passed in Oregon

Other states are following D.C.'s lead in the policy realm - Oregon just passed [HB2800](#) which creates a competitive grants pilot program in two school districts, provides schools an additional 15 cents per school lunch to buy Oregon foods, and funds school garden teaching activities. Additionally, [The Impact of 7 Cents](#) report by non-profit EcoTrust proved to the legislature that an investment in school food would provide significant economic benefit to the state.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 4- Great free workshop on Healthier Vending, Fundraisers and Celebrations

The [Alliance for a Healthier Generation](#) is offering a half day workshop for D.C. and MD school district contacts to learn about ways to improve school health through vending, healthier fundraisers and celebrations. The workshop will take place from 8:30am to noon in the library at Laurel High School, Laurel MD. A healthy breakfast and lunch will be provided! Register [here](#) by **TODAY!**

August 4- DCPS family and community engagement meeting

DCPS has begun the [process of refocusing](#) the Office of Family and Public Engagement to strengthen their support of schools and families. On Thursday, August 4 at 6:00pm at [Miner Elementary School](#), learn about new efforts to better engage and support parents and families, and tell them your thoughts about school food.

August 5- Farm to School Week 2011 brainstorm conference call

[Last year's](#) D.C. Farm to School Week was as a huge success, with hundreds of schools highlighting local foods in school meals, visiting local farms, and cooking with area chefs. What will the event this year look like? Join us for a brief 30 minute brainstorming conference call to discuss what this year's celebration will entail.

When: Friday August 5th, 10:00 - 10:30am.

Conference Call Number: [\(712\) 775-7000](#), when asked enter Participant Access Code: 1033059#

August 8- Local food project at Airlie Conference: Stone Barns to Santa Cruz

This year's conference is themed Stone Barns to Santa Cruz; The Role of Institutions in the Future of Local Food. The conference will concentrate on important contributions institutions can make in advancing a healthier food system. The conference will highlight successful models of institutional farm projects, food purchasing, farmer training and community outreach. More information [here](#).

October 14-16: The Black Farmers and Urban Gardeners Conference

The 2011 Black Farmers and Urban Gardeners Conference will convene farmers, students, consumers, activists and organizations from across the country to talk about Growing Wealth, Health and Justice.

This second annual event will empower attendees to nurture the health and well being of Black America and the environment as a whole. More information [here](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

D.C. Fund- Applications due August 15

The [Diverse City Fund](#) gives out grants to fund volunteer-powered initiatives to create more justice in D.C. neighborhoods and communities of color, led by changemakers with little access to foundation funding. Grant requests must be less than \$5000, propose projects in communities of color in the District, demonstrate little access to funding and a vision for social change. Complete the grant application [here](#).

Children's Hunger Service-Learning Grants- Applications due August 15

The [Sodexo Foundation](#) and [Youth Service America](#) are accepting applications for the Sodexo School Engagement grant program, which will support teachers and students, grades K-12, in learning about incidences of childhood hunger in their community, and in leading meaningful activities that facilitate access to nutritious food for all children. More information [here](#).

People's Garden Grant Program- Applications due August 26

The [National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#) is accepting applications for the People's Garden Grant Program. The program is designed to facilitate the creation of produce, recreation, and/or wildlife gardens in urban and rural areas, which will provide opportunities for science-based informal education. Successful applicants will provide micro-subgrant support to smaller local projects. More information [here](#).

Youth-Led Children's Hunger Volunteer Projects- Applications due September 16

With support from the [Sodexo Foundation](#), [Youth Service America](#) will award twenty-five Youth Grants of \$500 to support youth-led service projects in the U.S. that address the issue of childhood hunger during National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week (November 13-20, 2011). The grant program seeks to fund youth-inspired solutions to ending childhood hunger in their community. More information [here](#).