

CHESAPEAKE

FOODSHED NETWORK

CATALYZING CONNECTIONS & COLLABORATIONS

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



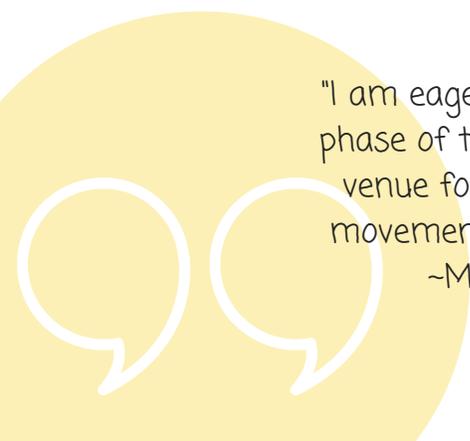
Network Growth

The CFN entered a new phase in the Network's development which will position it for expansion, collective action, & impact.

- Network Leadership transitioned to a **new Steering Team** that better represents the variety of food sectors, geographies, and people in the watershed. View Press Release [here](#).
- A process for supporting regional action was developed by a team of nonprofit and philanthropic leaders. The pilot **Community Ownership, Empowerment, & Prosperity Action Team** will launch in early 2018 to create equity guidelines & to identify regional solutions to dismantle racism in the food system.
- In partnership with Health Care Without Harm, the **Chesapeake Farm to Institution Work Group** was started at the recommendation of an advisory group. Initial focus will be on programming to support institutional procurement and producers.
- The **Food Waste & Recovery Work Group** hosted two webinars: "Repurposing Food & Reducing Risk," & "Food Recovery in Maryland" & was invited to participate in the Maryland Department of the Environment's Study Group for House Bill 171 (yard waste, food residuals, and other organic materials diversion and infrastructure). The work group continues to compile food waste and food recovery policy examples from across and beyond the Chesapeake Bay region.
- Served as an advisor on the VA Food System Council board of directors & the MD Food Charter Advisory Committee. The MD Food Charter ([linked here](#)) was finalized and released.

"I am eager to see CFN's new steering team lead us into the next phase of the network's evolution in 2018 - our founders created a venue for connectivity & now I anticipate this exciting group of movement builders will lead us to places we haven't imagined."

~Meredith Lathbury Girard, Town Creek Foundation



Programming



The CFN's programs enhance learning, raise awareness, and build connections. CFN's programs continue to be well attended and praised for their timeliness, resource experts, & knowledge-building. Programming options continue to increase through the adoption of videoconferences, providing opportunities for face-to-face engagement that promote dialogue & collaborative learning.



Hosted 12 webinars & 5
videoconferences archived at
www.chesapeakefoodshed.net

28 resource experts presented
1500 people registered

mainly focused in our priority areas



equity & inclusion



food waste & recovery



farm to institution

- **Webinars & Videoconference Meetings:** As part of monthly webinar programming, the CFN hosted a two-part policy webinar series featuring nationally renowned advocacy organizations including the National Sustainable Ag. Coalition, Carolina Farm Stewardship Association, & Rural Vermont.
- **Travel delegations & travel stipends:** Offering travel support is an effective way to provide professional development opportunities, connect stakeholders, & get people more involved with the broader food system movement. Delegations attended Future Harvest/CASA Conference, two Center for Livable Future Workshops (Farm to Institution and Equity), the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NESAWG) Conference, & the Community Food Systems Conference.
- **Event Planning:** The CFN helped plan NESAWG, VA Farm to Table, & WV Good Jobs Conferences.
- The Steering Team initiated an **Equity Learning Journey** to further unfold in 2018.

"The CFN is really important in bringing a larger region together. Especially in light of the similarities among our collective work."

~2017 Travel Delegate



Communications & Outreach



The Chesapeake Foodshed Network uses a set of diverse communication tools to raise awareness of the different organizations, programs, and policies in the region. This increases knowledge sharing, helps reduce duplication & increase efficiencies.

- Number of participants receiving CFN's regional food system digest, "The HIVE: Resources for Food System Changemakers", & other promotional materials has grown by 60% since the end of 2016. Through grassroots efforts, we now reach 1450 people (and growing!)
- Our Social Media Outlets continue to grow with 430 Facebook followers & 588 Twitter followers.
- Branding and promotional materials were refreshed.
- Website was revamped with a fresh new look, enhanced information, & interactive features, including 29 archived and searchable webinars and a resource library.



www.ChesapeakeFoodshed.Net



Future Growth

The CFN uses a variety of evaluation practices to continually assess needs & priorities of network participants.

Here's what we heard from you. The CFN should...

- Equitably represent the region;
- Raise awareness and advance key policy strategies by serving as an advocate, convener, and cross-pollinator;
- Compile, broadcast and archive regional resources;
- Offer professional development support & trainings to network participants.

The Chesapeake Foodshed Network provides:

"Opportunity to work with other people virtually and in person that you would not have the opportunity to connect with in your day-to-day to job."

-Reflections from a network participant



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