

Memorandum of Agreement between the Midlands Local Food Collaborative and the Midlands Food Alliance

This document defines the working relationship between the Midlands Food Alliance, housed under the Sustainable Midlands nonprofit, and the Midlands Local Food Collaborative. Both entities share the same goals and objectives of increased local production and consumption of farmed foods in the Midlands of South Carolina. The Midlands Local Food Collaborative, as a working group of agency and organizational representatives, works from an agency/organizational perspective; the Midlands Food Alliance, as a grassroots organization of individuals involved in food system change, works from an individual/grassroots perspective.

The Midlands Local Food Collaborative and the Midlands Food Alliance agree to...

- share meeting minutes, event information, projects, policy changes, and collaborative networking opportunities with each other and the public.
- have a Sustainable Midlands representative serve as the liaison between the Midlands Local Food Collaborative and the Midlands Food Alliance as the Midlands Food Alliance is housed under Sustainable Midlands and Sustainable Midlands also participates in the Midlands Local Food Collaborative.

The Midlands Local Food Collaborative was formed in 2012 as a partnership between a number of local government, academic, and non-profit organizations whose common goal is to promote a vibrant and sustainable local food system in the eight-county region known as the SC Midlands. To accomplish this goal, they work to improve local food distribution and food system access; to support local farmers and promote sustainable agriculture practices; to engage and educate the community; and to improve farm and food policies at the local, state, and national levels. MLFC participants join efforts to cultivate a thriving local food system through education, infrastructure improvements, policy development, community organization, and technical assistance.



The Midlands Food Alliance was formed after the Midlands Local Food Collaborative hosted The Future of Midlands Farms and Food Summit in August 2014 where over 100 farmers, agriculture educators, , natural resource professionals, food writers, distributors, chefs, and consumers gathered to discuss the most pressing issues involving farming and eating in the 50 mile radius surrounding Columbia. Four areas of focus for Midlands food system work were prioritized at the summit (Farm to School/Farm to Institution, Land Access, Agriculture Education, and Farm Labor), yet no local-food-focused, grassroots entity existed to work on these issues. The Midlands Food Alliance was formed the last week of September 2014 as a grassroots group under the nonprofit Sustainable Midlands umbrella to advocate and educate for a sustainable and equitable, localized food system in the Midlands of South Carolina.

