



Our mission is to support and grow a food system in Maricopa County that is equitable, healthy, sustainable and thriving.

What is the Maricopa County Food System Coalition (MarCo)?

Founded in 2015, MarCo is an independent, volunteer community organization

advocating for the regeneration and advancement of the local food system in Maricopa County, Arizona. We focus on innovative and collaborative solutions to issues through the work of our committees and work groups.

Why Join?

MarCo members have access to a regional food system network. As the largest Food System Coalition in Arizona, MarCo is a great organization for making connections with a diverse mix of health professionals, food producers, land use leaders, policy makers and food advocates that can be accessed to help you.

You also have the opportunity to solidify MarCo as the “go to” food system resource in Arizona and the Southwest. MarCo fosters a culture of collaboration, sharing, and innovation and facilitates opportunities for members to make a difference in their communities .

What is MarCo doing?

- Completing a comprehensive regional Community Food Assessment (CFA) for Maricopa County. The key components are healthy food access, economic impact, and the food supply chain. The CFA will be instrumental in MarCo’s development of a Food Action Plan.
- Developing food policy best practices.
- Collaborating with the Arizona Department of Agriculture to host the Arizona Food Summit.
- Co-hosting annual Phoenix Food Day event to educate and promote healthy eating.
- Continue to support Community Gardeners of Phoenix-Maricopa County organization.
- Participating in the Arizona Food Systems Network.
- Supports the ongoing diverse work of its members.

Empowering members to impact current and future generations.

Who Belongs?

MarCo members represent a broad cross section of industries, from agriculture, health, access, processing, distribution, community, and government. The organization was founded by members representing more than 80 organizations.

Members share a commitment to exchange ideas and experiences, to learn best practices from each other, and to work together. For more information visit marcofoodcoalition.org

What MarCo Offers

| Benefit | Individual/Student | Friend |
|--|--------------------|--------|
| Access to the forthcoming Maricopa County Regional Community Food Assessment prepared by MarCo . | • | |
| Increased public exposure and recognition for you and your organization | • | |
| Access to food system information and resources. | • | |
| Access to full copy of MarCo publications, research documents, and reports. | • | |
| Participation in consensus decision-making. | • | |
| Access to invitation-only tours, receptions, workshops, etc. | • | |
| Public relations and marketing using MarCo’s social media network (Twitter, Facebook, website). | • | |
| Listing in the online member directory. | • | |
| Opportunity to serve on Committees. | • | |
| Networking with food system experts. | • | • |
| Participate in monthly meetings and Work Groups. | • | • |
| Access to communications network, including email notifications, e-newsletters, event calendar, etc. | • | • |

Member Types

Individual/Student membership is open to all and enables you to gain access to all MarCo benefits.

Individual/Student Membership

| | |
|------------|------|
| Individual | \$25 |
| Student | \$10 |

Another way to get involved in MarCo is to be a **Friend** and subscribe to our communication networks and stay informed about our work.

Core Values

Our local food system includes: growing, harvesting, processing, packaging, transporting, selling, eating, recycling and composting, considering how each affects the community, the environment, and the economy. Four core values unite and guide us in our work. The Coalition will collaborate to support existing initiatives and grow new ones that align with the following values.

Equitable

- Equal access to quality, affordable, and culturally appropriate food for all residents of Maricopa County.
- All parts of the food system have value.

Healthy

- Supports the physical, mental health, and well-being of all residents of Maricopa County.

Sustainable

- Supports the current population without compromising future generations.
- Responsible stewardship of our natural resources, particularly of our unique desert ecology.
- Resilient in the context of the community, the environment, and the economy.

Thriving

- Empowers the community.
- Drives a vibrant economy.
- Embraces our cultural diversity.

Methods

The Coalition will achieve its mission through a variety of methods, including but not limited to:

- Identifying and strengthening existing assets.
- Convening diverse stakeholders.
- Educating and raising awareness.
- Engaging the community and seeking feedback.
- Fostering partnerships.
- Influencing policy.
- Conducting research.
- Developing specific projects.

Principles of Operation

- Work together toward common goals and the greater good.
- Share leadership.
- Be community focused and collaborative.
- Be inclusive rather than exclusive - diversity is our strength.
- Respect the values of the communities we serve.
- Listen to and respect all opinions and ideas.
- Be open to new perspectives.
- Acknowledge that no one person is an expert on the entire food system.
- Maintain an open exchange of information.

Membership Agreement

As a member of the Maricopa County Food System Coalition (MarCo), I agree to abide by the MarCo Charter and the Mission, Core Values, Methods, and Principles of Operation included therein.

I agree to have an active role in the work of the Coalition and agree to abide by the following Membership expectations:

- Attendance – Attend at least at 70% of Coalition meetings and other Coalition activities per year to remain in good standing with the Coalition.
- Decision-Making — Coalition members are able to participate in the consensus decision-making process.
- Active participation — Join a Committee and/or Work Group.
- Engage in MarCo meetings using agreed upon principles and actively work toward established goals.
- Champion and represent MarCo in the broader community.

Print Name

Signature

Date

Email

Affiliation (published in member directory)

___ Individual

___ Student

Affiliation website link (optional)

For MarCo Use Only:

Agreement received: _____ Payment received: _____ Membership period: _____