Post-Workshop Tips

What happens when the workshop is over? The Local Foods, Local Places workshop will build a lot of excitement and enthusiasm around your goals and the action plan. In some cases, it will reignite interest and hope in initiatives that have stalled. It will promise change and a commitment to follow-through on what has been discussed and decided upon by the people involved.

Share the Action Plan

1. **Host an Action Plan Launch Party** – The action plan will be refined by the steering committee in the weeks following the workshop. Hosting a launch party for the action plan is a great excuse to bring folks together again soon after the workshop, to celebrate the community's effort, and to share the final product. Some communities use this event to identify more resources and/or support for specific action items or as a kick-off for a targeted action. Invite everyone that attended the workshop and spread the word to anyone else who might be interested.
2. **Circulate the Action Plan** – Email the action plan to everyone who attended the workshop and encourage them to share it with their personal and professional networks. Include any reminders of their next chance to get involved with implementation and/or how to share ideas in support of action items in the future. Post the report on an appropriate community organization's website. Announce the report's availability through social media.
3. **Add it to the Agenda** – Consider possible standing events and mailings where progress can be shared with the community. Ask organizers to add an update on the Local Foods, Local Places Action Plan as an agenda item every few months. If you have local elected officials' involvement, see if they will include it in their meeting agendas (e.g., Town Council, Board of Supervisors).
4. **Create an Executive Summary** – Consider making a one pager of the effort that lists the goals and actions. You might convert the flyer advertising the workshop into a handout that summarizes what the workshop accomplished. Share it via social media, email, personal correspondence, etc.
5. **Distribute a Press Release** – Consider writing a simple 1-page press release and sending it to local newspaper, television stations, and radio stations. Include a copy of the action plan and photos from the workshop.
6. **Invite More Participation** – The action plan is a next steps plan, and some of the items of this 'to-do' list will be accomplished quickly in the months following the workshop. It is important to frame this action plan as the start of a continued effort that can be added to and built upon in subsequent events. Many future partners might not have participated in the workshop, so encourage and invite people to get involved as the action plan implementation proceeds.

Sustain Community Engagement

1. **Continue to Meet** – Many steering committees continue to meet on a regular basis after the planning assistance process has concluded. These meetings provide an opportunity to check-in on action plan progress and can include anyone involved or interested in supporting the community's goals. In some cases, sub-committees form temporarily to address a specific goal or item.
2. **Keep Communication Flowing** – Identify in-person and online communication channels through which steering committee members can share action plan progress and solicit input from stakeholders. Provide a clear and simple way for community members to offer suggestions, resources, and feedback.
3. **Activate Change Agents** – Community action plans need many hands and many ideas to be successful. Consider opportunities to invite people out to experience neighborhood improvement at a specific location, to tour a business, to meet a local food entrepreneur, or to participate in any new opportunity created because of the action plan.
4. **Celebrate Achievements** – Different action items and goals will be completed at various times. Don't miss any opportunity to celebrate each with an announcement or in-person gathering, be it as informal as a happy hour, luncheon, or community potluck.

Stay Connected with Local Foods, Local Places Program

1. **Connect with other LFLP alumni on Facebook.** This is a private group of people who have participated in previous LFLP. https://www.facebook.com/groups/LFLPcommunity When you sign up, please indicate you participated in this workshop when prompted for your connection to the Local Foods, Local Places program.
2. **Visit the EPA Smart Growth Website** – Get the latest information on EPA community revitalization and smart growth publications, webinars, case studies, tools, and planning assistance opportunities. You can also subscribe to the Community Revitalization Listserv by sending a blank email to epa_cmty_revital-subscribe@lists.epa.gov.
3. **Share Your Successes with EPA** – Let your EPA contact for the program know how implementation of your action plan progresses. Being able to share program successes helps build support for the program and will help program staff know who to connect with funding and assistance opportunities that become available.