

ADVOCATE

Food system policy resources most often are to be found in organizations with a strong agricultural orientation. It seems that most Christian denominations don't have a strong farming or rural bent when it comes to issue advocacy. Perhaps the best in the United States is the Conference of Catholic Bishops. Catholic Rural Life is also a wonderful organization. <https://catholicrurallife.org/> Most faith-based lobbyists in Washington, D.C. will advocate for retaining SNAP in the Farm Bill, but don't seem very well informed or very active on other aspects of the food system. Faith-based environmental organizations do a little better. See handout 6-interfaith for places to start.

The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition is a great source of information and alerts regarding the U.S. Farm Bill. <http://sustainableagriculture.net/>

Many countries are ahead of the US in thinking systemically about food policy.

For example, see Food Secure Canada <https://foodsecurecanada.org/>

Keeping up with current issues

Civil Eats helps us all keep up with a range of current issues, including their ethical dimensions.

<https://civileats.com/>

If you get really interested, The Food and Environment Reporting Network will send you daily emails, though it is necessary to contribute to their journalistic efforts for full access. The daily blast contains information about what's happening in D.C. The weekly FERN's Friday Feed has a few interesting articles each week, and is free. <https://thefern.org/>

Food First supplies background on many issues in food justice and food sovereignty, globally as well as in the U.S. <https://foodfirst.org/>

From a health and safety perspective, see Marion Nestle's blog, Food Politics.

<https://www.foodpolitics.com/>

Your state may have a food policy council or other group which advocates for a just and resilient food system at that level. A good example is right here in Rhode Island. <https://rifoodcouncil.org/>

Look for state level NGOs, too. For example, in California we have the California Climate and Agriculture Network (CalCAN) <http://calclimateag.org/> as well as the policy arm of the Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) <https://www.caff.org/programs/policy/>

California Rural Legal Assistance is a key advocate for farm workers. <https://www.crlaf.org/>

Be sure to check out your **local food policy council** - which can go by another name but do basically the same work. A pioneering city in this work was Toronto: <http://tfpc.to/>

Many local groups welcome guests at their meetings or can connect volunteers with their efforts.

You can find out more about them and search a directory here.

<http://www.foodpolicynetworks.org/>