

Oregon Policy Working Group

Plan for Working Group Activities

July 2026 - July 2027

What We Do:

This Working Group builds the Oregon Community Food Systems Network's (OCFSN) Members' individual and collective capacity to engage with and influence state level public policy to achieve an equitable and resilient food system. The Working Group does this by providing a space for OCFSN members and partners to connect and share policy priorities and strategies.

Our primary activity is the annual "Community Food Systems at the Legislature" project (details below). We also offer food systems policy education to build Member understanding, engagement, advocacy capacity, and skills. This includes monitoring state agencies and the Governor's office for opportunities and connections to food systems policy priorities and sharing those with the Working Group.

What is an OCFSN Working Group?

Mission

OCFSN brings together organizations from across the state and food system to build capacity and trust, share knowledge and resources, and mobilize member-led action.

Vision

A thriving statewide network where people and organizations collaborate to advance a just, equitable, nutritious, and resilient food future for Oregon.

OCFSN's Structure

OCFSN is made up of nonprofit food systems organizations and allies that endorse the stated mission and vision, and volunteer time to participate as Members. Members form collaborative Working Groups to build capacity and fulfill the mission and vision through joint projects and programs. A Leadership Team elected by the Members advises on network-level planning and programming. A Board of Directors elected by the Leadership Team has legal and fiscal responsibility for OCFSN.

The Oregon Policy Working Group is one of these Member formed Working Groups.

Working Group Activities:

Community Food Systems (CFS) at the Oregon Legislature Project:

- OCFSN hosts meetings during each session of the Oregon Legislature. Goals of the project include:
 - OCFSN Members that are active at the Legislature will learn about the legislative priorities of other OCFSN Members and partners and learn about their calls to action.
 - OCFSN Members, individually and in coalition, will be successful with their legislative priorities.
 - More OCFSN Members will participate in the Legislative process in some way and feel more empowered to do so in future.
- The project is supported by the Working Group Chair, OCFSN staff and a dedicated CFS at the Legislature intern. Each year in the summer, the Working Group identifies specific activities/timeline for the upcoming short or long legislative session.
- The Working Group engages the full Network by:
 - Sharing info on bills/Legislature news and Working Group happenings through our newsletter, listservs, virtual and in-person convenings, and other Working Group meetings. Specific materials created and shared include:
 - Bills to Watch matrix and slides
 - Bills We Watched report after each session ends
 - Meeting notes
 - Member calls to action
- [Working Group Meeting Notes](#)

Food Systems Policy Education:

In addition to OCFSN's CFS at the Legislature project, the Working Group hosts occasional workshops, presentations or webinars to educate and engage OCFSN Members on salient State agency, policy coalitions and advocacy issues with food systems relevance. Activities include:

- Tracking public agencies with jurisdiction/influence over agriculture & food systems and the Governor's Office.
 - Agency Policy Option Packages
 - Rulemaking
 - Agency initiatives
 - Governor's initiatives
- Tracking food systems adjacent policy coalitions. Some of these include:
 - Allies for a Healthier Oregon
 - Oregon For All
 - League of Conservation Voters
 - Oregon Farm Bureau
 - Update on farmworker-related policy in Oregon and policy issues for other food sector workers in Oregon

Activities/Timeline for CFS at the Legislature, 2027

- **Before the session starts (Sept - Dec):**
 - Recruit intern to start in fall/winter 2026 to prepare for 2027 session
 - Update Working Group materials
 - Working Group webpage
 - Working group running notes document
 - Bill matrix
 - Bills to Watch for 2027
 - List of external coalitions/organizations whose priorities we will track
 - Start CFS at the Legislature working group meetings and mini-convening with full Network before session - December
 - *Watch for release of the Governor's budget for 2027-29 (in December? Prior to State of the State in January), regarding high-level themes and priorities for the coming session.*
- **Right before the session (January)**
 - When bills drop (right after the legislature is sworn in?), begin gathering bills for the matrix, from members and others.
 - Some members will track only their bills (e.g., OrCAN)
 - Some will review all the bills (e.g., 1000 Friends)
 - Some will track their bills and find out what certain coalitions are tracking (e.g., FoFF)
 - Outreach to members about the matrix/bills to watch, etc.
 - Share basic "get informed/get ready" info with our Network (one-pager)
 - About the Legislature itself (e.g., [The Legislative Body](#))
 - About how Legislative Concepts are developed (here's [the official info](#); OCFSN members & partners can add some "in practice" tips)
 - About advocacy opportunities/rules for nonprofits (see OCFSN website)
 - Identify training/education opportunities offered by OCFSN members and help w/outreach, attend, and gather any durable materials afterwards.
 - Set a tentative calendar for mini-convenings & similar:
 - Mid-session to speak about priority bills (maybe only during long sessions, odd years)
 - End of session wrap-up
- **During the session**
 - Gather info from OLIS and members/partners about priority bills, update the bill tracking matrix/bills to watch
 - Events for advocates to speak about bills
 - Host mid-session CFS at Legislature virtual convening
 - Panel at OSU Small Farms Conference
 - Share info with OCFSN Members via newsletter & website.
 - CFS at the Legislature meetings - monthly

- **After the session (July)**
 - Create final report, "Bills We Watched" and send out to Network members
 - Host a "debrief/what's next" listening session
 - How to improve our communication tools for next year
 - What are the next big Issues - both policy admin and also for next session

Who is involved and what is their role?

Role	Tasks
Working Group co-leads (Lauren Gwin & Andrew Collins-Anderson for 2026/2027)	● Schedule meetings, create agendas, communicate with working group members ● Review notes and communication materials for accuracy ● Recruit new members and support outside orgs presenting to group ● Share Working Group updates with full Network ● Provide check ins with Intern ● Keep OCFSN LT and Board informed on salient food systems policy activity ● Communicate policy connections with other Working Groups and identify crossover
Working Group members	● Supports each other's and shared priorities for the Oregon Legislature ● Meet to share and discuss legislative priorities ● Share action alerts and outreach about legislature-related events led by members
Policy Intern	● Manages Bills to Watch: matrix, slides, final report ● Support regular outreach to Working Group and full Network via OCFSN newsletter and working group lists More detail: ● <u>Bills to watch: matrix, slides, final report</u> ■ Ask work group members weekly for bill #s/names/summaries ■ Ask whole network, via OCFSN newsletter ■ Compile matrix in late January and ask work group members to review and fix as needed. ■ Share out w/network when ready. Send w/reminder that this is not an "OCFSN platform," it's a collection (language is in a Bills to Watch slide)

