

MCFM Sustainability Statement, 2013

As part of the 2013 Application, all vendors participating in Mill City Farmers Market are expected to read and agree to the following principles, as indicated in the Letter of Intent.

Mission

Mill City Farmers Market's mission is to support local, sustainable and organic agriculture, increasing economic opportunities for farmers, urban youth, small businesses and food artisans. To offer experiential learning about and access to healthy local foods and build a vibrant gathering place for Minneapolis residents and visitors.

Local

MCFM supports local food; food that is fresh, healthy, seasonal and that builds and strengthens local economies. In selecting vendors, MCFM gives priority to regional farmers and producers who bring product to market that is 100% grown and harvested on land that they own and or operate. Occasional non-local exceptions, reviewed on a case by case basis, are made for producer direct products that complement MCFM's mission.

Sustainable

MCFM vendors are selected based on their fit with our mission and commitment to environmentally, economically and socially sustainable practices. MCFM supports growers and vendors committed to sustainable practices and land stewardship including USDA certified organic growers.

Vendor Commitment

Each vendor at Mill City is committed to a holistic approach to sustainability that includes:

- Building and maintaining **healthy soils** by applying farming practices that include rotating crops annually, using compost, cover crops, green manures and reducing tillage
- Serving the health of soil, people and nature by limiting or rejecting the use of **synthetic pesticides and fertilizers**

- Rejecting the use of **GMOs** and genetically modified seeds, and genetically modified livestock feed
- Treating **livestock humanely** by providing pasture for ruminants, access to outdoors and fresh air for all livestock, banning cruel alterations, and using no **hormones, GMOs or antibiotics in feed**
- Conserving natural resources by **reducing erosion** and **pollution of air, soil and water** through responsible farming practices
- Practicing **minimal processing** and **responsible post harvest handling** for all food products to preserve the natural **nutritional value** of food
- Operating w/in a framework of **sound business planning**
- Supporting agricultural **markets and infrastructures** that enable small farms to thrive
- Producing prepared/processed foods using raw ingredients that are locally grown and sourced from within the market or from other purveyors practicing sustainable farming, whenever possible.
- Producing non-edible products using local and sustainable sourcing as appropriate for the product
- Providing clear, written information about production methods and product ingredients to any customer who requests it.

Market Commitment

MCFM strives for organizationally sustainable practices including maintaining financial stability and the integrity and diversity of our vendor/product selection. We examine our waste management practices to reduce our environmental impact. Furthermore, we work in the community to strengthen agricultural infrastructures that enable small farms to thrive, and work to develop ways to make local healthy food available to more of our community.

MCFM and our vendors are committed to educating our customers about sustainable, local agriculture and encouraging and empowering them to participate actively in their food choices.