

## Sustainability Statement

As part of the annual application process, all vendors participating in Mill City Farmers Market (MCFM) are expected to read and agree to the following Sustainability Statement.

### 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 products to market that are 100% grown and harvested on land 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 and fill product gaps.

### 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 and Certified Naturally Grown growers.

### Vendor Commitment:

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

- Building and maintaining **healthy soils** by applying farming practices that include crop rotation, 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**, 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 **responsible post-harvest handling** for all food products to ensure safe products

- Operating within a framework of **sound business planning**
- Guaranteeing **honorable workplace practices**, including fair and reasonable compensation for employees and a safe, respectful work environment
- 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 local purveyors practicing sustainable farming, whenever possible. Prepared and processed foods are required to use a minimum of 25% local ingredients in their products (see "Local Sourcing Standard" on next page.
- 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 as well as 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 as well as encouraging and empowering them to participate actively in their food choices.