

# FY2023 Buncombe County Tipping Point Grant Report

<b>Organization Name:</b>	Bountiful Cities
<b>Project Name:</b>	Asheville Buncombe Food Policy Council: Neighborhood Emergency Food Preparedness Cold Storage Project

Activities Accomplished	Annual Goal	Amount
# of student interns, volunteers and community leaders engaged in the emergency food preparedness cold storage project	10	20
# of outreach/marketing events held to inform and engage partner neighborhoods in emergency food preparedness policy work	5	7
# of lists created of existing community refrigerators in Buncombe County with current agreements documented	1	bottom of <a href="#">this document</a> )
# of draft agreements developed to be used between neighborhoods and local governments outlining roles, responsibilities and expectations	1	1 ( <a href="#">see here</a> )

Expenses (please list <u>all</u> grant related expenses)	Amount Spent
Total staff time spent conducting research, meeting with community members, drafting documents and reports, overseeing interns doing research work	\$ 5,000.00

**TOTAL:** \$ 5,000

### Narrative summary of grant related activities

In the first half of the year, the ABFPC did extensive research and identified two Asheville neighborhoods interested in collaborating to install community refrigerators — Shiloh and Oakley. After participating in numerous planning meetings with the Oakley Neighborhood Association, Shiloh Community Garden and Neighborhood Association and various community members, having conversations with a number of businesses and organizations in both neighborhoods to identify potential locations for the fridges, and working with local Black-owned contractor KS Phillips Construction on plans for custom shelters for the fridges if installed at outdoor locations, it was decided by both neighborhoods that their preferred spots were community centers located on City of Asheville property (Murphy-Oakley Recreation Center and Shiloh Community Center). At this point, in early spring 2023, Shiloh leaders withdrew from the project because it felt too daunting to work out the details with the City. Oakley Neighborhood Association leaders were still game, but the City officials halted the project in late spring until an agreement could be developed between the ABFPC, ONA, and the City.

At that time, the ABFPC consulted with Buncombe County Tipping Point grant administrators to refocus this grant's goals and activities to address the more pressing immediate need around community refrigeration in our area, which is clearly policy work. We have since developed a draft agreement document that can be used to facilitate relationships among the City, the ABFPC, and community organizations and landowners around community refrigerators in the City of Asheville. This agreement can also be customized to use with Buncombe County as well.

We have also worked with the North Carolina Food System Advocacy Coalition on drafting a guide for businesses and organizations wishing to distribute food directly to the public (this guide will be published in August 2023) and have connected with organizations working on community refrigeration in other nearby cities, including Atlanta, Charlotte, and Durham to find out what agreements they implement and what policies impact their work. Through this outreach, we've started an ongoing relationship with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Food Policy Council to keep each other informed on policy work happening around community refrigeration in our respective cities. Additionally, ABFPC reached out to local newspaper Mountain Xpress and encouraged them to do a story about the growing interest in community refrigeration in Buncombe County. They were receptive and interviewed and consulted with ABFPC staff for [this recent story](#), which resulted in several community members and organization reaching out to the ABFPC directly with interest in the topic.

Completion of this grant's activities is only the beginning for our work in the quickly growing community refrigeration movement in Buncombe County. The ABFPC is thrilled to have had the County's support in laying the policy groundwork to facilitate its continued evolution.