

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 Growers and Producers:

MCFM supports locally grown and produced food; food that is fresh, reflects the seasonality of our region, and that builds and strengthens our local economy. In selecting vendors, MCFM gives priority to regional farmers and producers within 250 miles of Minneapolis who bring products to market that are 100% grown and harvested, or foraged, by the farmer/producer on land they operate. This includes land they rent, own, grow on in a community/collective based structure, or forage on. Re-sale of agricultural products the vendor did not grow is prohibited.

Farmers who are a part of a growing collective are eligible to apply.

Local Makers:

Businesses selling value-added foods, baked goods, CPGs, or prepared food must use a *minimum* of 25% local agricultural products in their ingredients, preferably using local ingredients sourced directly from Mill City Farmers Market (MCFM) agricultural vendors. The percentage will be derived by volume of total ingredients incorporated into products sold at MCFM. See the Local Sourcing Standard for further details.

Sustainability:

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, regenerative practices and land stewardship as outlined below, including but not limited to USDA Certified Organic and Certified Naturally Grown growers. We recognize the barriers to certification, and do not require formal certification, but rather a commitment to regenerative agricultural practices that support the whole ecosystem.

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 the ecosystem by rejecting the use of non-organic pesticides and fertilizers, and following OMRI listed products if needed.

- 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 not using **hormones, GMOs, or antibiotics in feed**
- Conserving natural resources by **reducing erosion** and **pollution of air, soil and water** through regenerative farming practices
- Practicing **responsible post-harvest handling, and Good Agricultural Practices** for all food products to ensure safe products
- Guaranteeing **honorable workplace practices**, including fair and reasonable compensation for employees and a safe, respectful work environment. This includes meeting [minimum wage requirements](#) and sick and save leave while operating at MCFM which is located within Minneapolis. For 2025 this requires all employees be paid \$15.97/hour minimum while working the market.
- Producing non-edible products using local and sustainable sourcing as appropriate for the product, who follow the local sourcing standard.
- Providing clear, written information about production methods and product ingredients to the market and any customer who requests it, and providing clear pricing for all products.
- Commitment to **zero waste** through waste reduction practices in the production process, reusing materials where possible, and using BPI compostables for any ready to eat products at the market

Market Commitment:

MCFM strives for organizational 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 regenerative, local agriculture as well as encouraging and empowering them to participate actively in their food choices.