



Planning for Food

State Local Food System
Planning and Action

Growing a stronger food
system in MAGIC

Discussion

A food system is...



everything that is required to grow, make, move, sell, and eat food.



Massachusetts Local Food Action Plan



Increase production, sales and consumption of Massachusetts-grown foods;

Create jobs and economic opportunity in food and farming, and improve the wages and skills of food system workers;

Protect the land and water needed to produce food, maximize the environmental benefits from agriculture and fishing, and ensure food safety;

Reduce hunger and food insecurity, increase the availability of fresh, healthy food to all residents, and reduce food waste.

Findings

Since 1982 nearly 1/5 of Massachusetts farmland has been lost.

As it becomes scarcer, it's increasingly expensive. (2014)

- Massachusetts \$10,400 /acre
- New England \$7,486 /acre
- US \$2,950 /acre

Findings

At 10.6 percent, Massachusetts has lower rates of hunger than national averages.

Even with better conditions than national averages, Massachusetts is challenged with addressing the complex causes of food insecurity and poor health that impact residents who lack resources or face other barriers to accessing enough food that supports good health.

Findings

With Massachusetts ranking third nationally in total seafood sales (\$8.4 billion), and its residents spending an estimated \$314 million annually on seafood, there is a significant opportunity to make sure that more of the seafood bought by Massachusetts residents is from Massachusetts waters.

Innovations

Town-owned land leased to a successful community farm

- Greenfield and Mount Grace Land Trust

Frozen vegetable operation is enabling more local vegetables to be grown, distributed to schools in Massachusetts, and eaten year-round

-Western Massachusetts Food Processing Center

Tracking technology is reducing paperwork burden for fishermen, and enabling customers to know how their seafood was harvested, and by whom.

-Red's Best

Priority Actions

Strengthening Umass Extension, and education, research and resources it offers

Develop policies and tracking for state procurement of local food

Priority Actions

Address land access issues identified in the Plan

Improve regulatory oversight of local food system with respect to public health

Questions?

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Minuteman Area Comprehensive
Agriculture Plan

Purpose:

Promote increased food
production

Strengthen markets inside the
Region and beyond

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Areas Explored

- Incorporating Agriculture into Planning
- Agriculture as and Economic Development Engine
- Zoning and Regulatory Reform
- Non-Regulatory Policy Frameworks
- Land Tenure and Access to New Farmland
- Farm Succession and Transfer
- Leasing for Farming
- Public Education and Outreach
- Marketing

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Establish Ag Commissions where there are none

Encourage school districts to purchase local foods

Preserve agricultural land

Identify existing and potential farmland

Promote Farm Friendly communities

Increase purchasing of local foods by towns, schools, senior programs

Discussion:

One interesting idea

Discussion:

One way you would like to improve
your food system – in your town – in
MAGIC



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