

# Welcome

**ERIE COUNTY**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT  
MAY 21, 2024 | RURAL OUTREACH CENTER**

**SPONSORED BY:**



# Opening Remarks

Lisa Chimera, Deputy County Executive  
Frank Cerny, Rural Outreach Center



**Feeding America's annual map of the meal gap report shows increase in food insecurity**

**Food insufficiency rates jump among SNAP recipients after expanded pandemic benefits end, Penn study finds**

**The Editorial Board:  
Community and government  
action can combine to expand  
food access**



# Keynote

Molly Riordan

Director of Institutional Impact, Center for Good Food Purchasing  
Chair, American Planning Association Food Systems Division





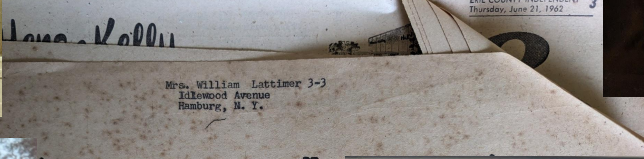




Image credit: Eagle Street Rooftop Farm



Image credit: Food Solutions New England

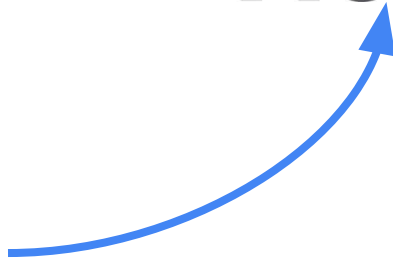
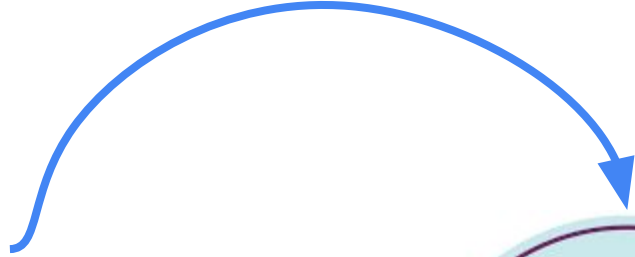






Photo credit: Oechsner Farms

 **REGIONAL  
ACCESS**



## HOT BREAD KITCHEN

EXPANDS OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
PROFESSIONAL, PERSONAL, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH  
THROUGH **HOLISTIC JOB SKILLS TRAINING**  
**FOOD ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMS**  
and an ECOSYSTEM OF SUPPORT in New York City.



Image credit: Hot Bread Kitchen



Image credit: Adaptation Fund

WELCOME

BEEES

KID'S CORNER

CHICKENS

the  
Side  
Yard  
farm & Kitchen

















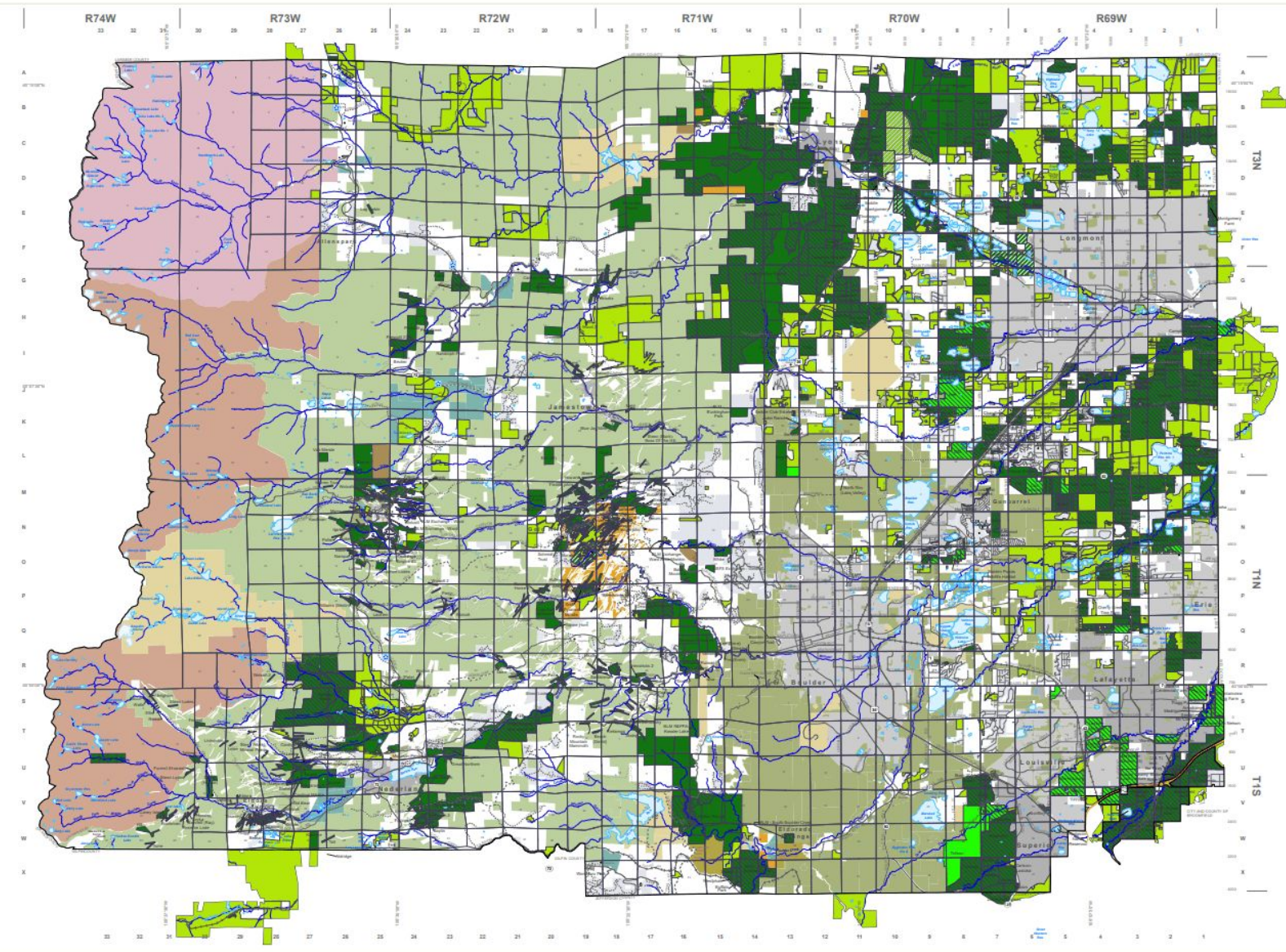
# APA

# Food





# Open Space in Boulder County



February 2024

- County Open Space
- County Conservation Easement  
Or Other Restriction on Property Use  
Dead, Deteriorated & Bare-Low Closures  
Private Property, No Public Access
- Joint County/City Open Space
- County Option Parcels
- County Closed Areas
- County Seasonal Closure Areas \*
  
- Municipal Parks and Open Space
- State Land Board
- State Parks
- Indian Peaks Wilderness
- USFS Land
- BLM Land
- Rocky Mountain National Park
- Other Public Lands
- Non-County Conservation Easements
- Subdivisions or Platted Area
- Incorporated Area
  
- U.S. / State Highway
- Northwest Parkway
  
- Unpaved
- Paved
- Collector
- Local Access
- Jeep Trail
  
- Scenic Byways

\* For individual property access and use details contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space at (303) 478-4200 or go to [www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/trails](http://www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/trails).



DISCLAIMER: This map is for illustrative purposes only and the Bureau does not warrant its accuracy. Boulder County Parks and Open Space is not responsible for any errors or omissions. The user assumes all liability for any use of this map. Boulder County does not warrant the accuracy, completeness, reliability, or availability of this map. Boulder County does not warrant the accuracy, completeness, reliability, or availability of this map. Boulder County does not warrant the accuracy, completeness, reliability, or availability of this map. Boulder County does not warrant the accuracy, completeness, reliability, or availability of this map.

Image credit: Boulder County

S

Peoria

AVENUE

Spot



Image credit: KKT Architects



Image credit: The Business Journals





Image credit: Buffalo Rising



Image credit: Edible Western NY



# Morning Break

10:15 - 10:30



# Food Systems 101

Dr. Yeeli Mui

Bloomberg Assistant Professor of American Health  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health



# What are Food Systems?



Dispose & recycle  
(compost) food

Grow food

Process &  
package food

Store and  
distribute food

Get &  
make food

Retail food



# Why are Food Systems Important?

1. Nutritious diets, food security, and health
2. Livelihoods of food system workers
3. Environment and climate



# Nutritious Diets, Food Security, and Health

Dietary risks are greatest contributor to disease burden in the US

- Overconsumption of sodium, saturated fats, sugar, processed meats
- Underconsumption of fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, whole grains

\$173 billion/year in health care costs for treating obesity

	Australia	Austria	Belgium	Canada	Denmark	Finland	France	Germany	Greece	Ireland	Italy	Luxembourg	Netherlands	Norway	Portugal	Spain	Sweden	United Kingdom	United States
Dietary risks	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Smoking	3	2	2	2	1	4	2	4	2	2	3	2	1	2	4	3	4	2	2
High body mass index	2	4	3	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	2	3	4	3
High blood pressure	4	3	4	4	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	4	3	3	2	4	2	3	4
High fasting plasma glucose	6	7	6	6	7	8	7	6	6	8	6	8	7	6	6	5	6	8	5
Physical inactivity	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	5	5	5	5	6	5	5	7	6	5	5	6
Alcohol use	8	6	7	8	6	5	5	8	9	6	9	5	6	8	5	7	8	6	7
High total cholesterol	7	8	8	7	8	7	8	7	7	7	7	7	8	7	8	8	7	7	8
Drug use	9	11	11	9	11	10	11	11	12	9	11	10	11	10	12	9	10	9	9
Ambient PM pollution	16	10	9	11	10	14	10	10	8	11	8	11	9	15	10	10	14	11	10

Hawkes 2009; Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation 2013





# Cultural Food Security and Health



'Food security' often overlooks cultural preferences, food traditions and values

- Access
- Availability
- Stability
- Utilization (e.g., food sharing)

Impacts belonging, social connectedness, mental health

Alonso et al. 2018; Wright et al. 2021; Frimpong Boamah et al. 2024; Headrick et al. 2024



# Livelihoods of Food System Workers



21.5 million workers make up the largest US worker group

**“The people who do the dirtiest and toughest jobs in our food system come from the same categories as the people who have the fewest choices, live the shortest lives, and struggle the most to put food on the table.”**

Mark Winne, 2008  
Closing the Food Gap,  
Resetting the Table in the Land of Plenty

Bassarab & Palmer 2019; Ceryes 2024



# Intersecting Vulnerabilities Impact Food Workers' Health



Dangerous

- High injury/illness rate

“Precarious”

- Part-time/involuntary underemployment
- Inconsistent schedules
- Tipped and piece-work

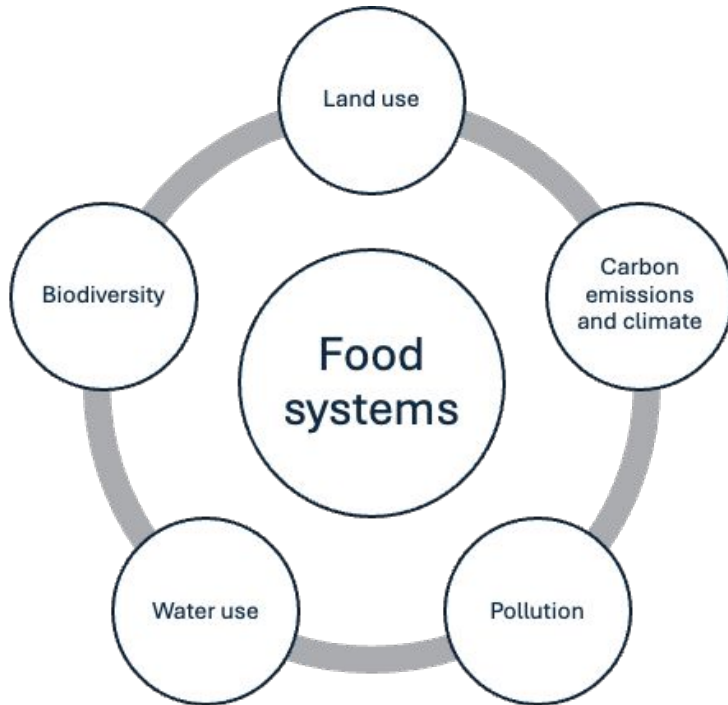
Low wage

Lacking benefits

Ceryes et al. 2021 & 2022



# Environment and Climate



Food systems affect and are affected by environmental domains

- Halting deforestation and land conversion will reduce carbon emissions and protect biodiversity
- Pollution (e.g., run-off, plastics) harms the environment and human health, and limits water for food production

# How Can Planning Transform Food Systems?

*Land access*

*Waste management*

*Land access*

*Soil quality*

*Water access*

Dispose & recycle  
(compost) food

Grow food

Process &  
package food

*Affordable housing*

*Water access*

*Employment*

*Transportation*

Get &  
make food

Retail food

Store and  
distribute food

*Transportation*

*Livelihoods & economic*

*development*

*Zoning*

*Transportation*



Mui et al. 2021, 2022 & 2024



# Why Food Systems Matter for Local Government

Diane Held

Executive Director,

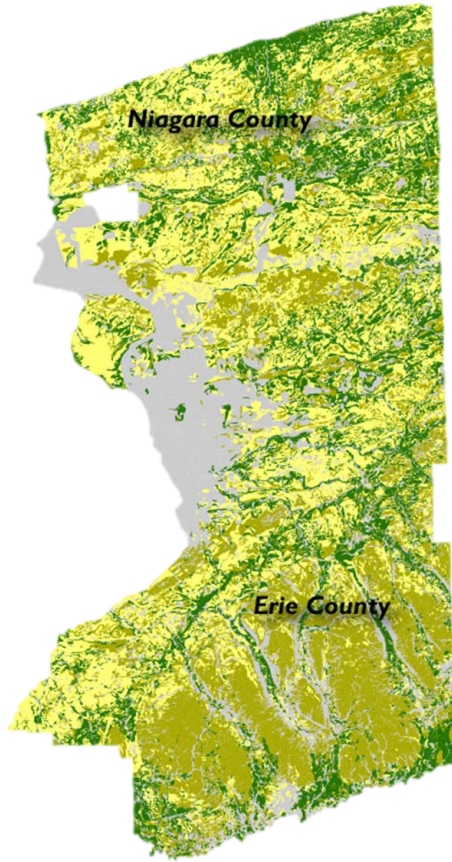
Cornell Cooperative Extension of  
Erie County

Dr. Samina Raja

Principal Investigator/Professor,  
University at Buffalo Food System  
Planning & Healthy Communities  
Lab



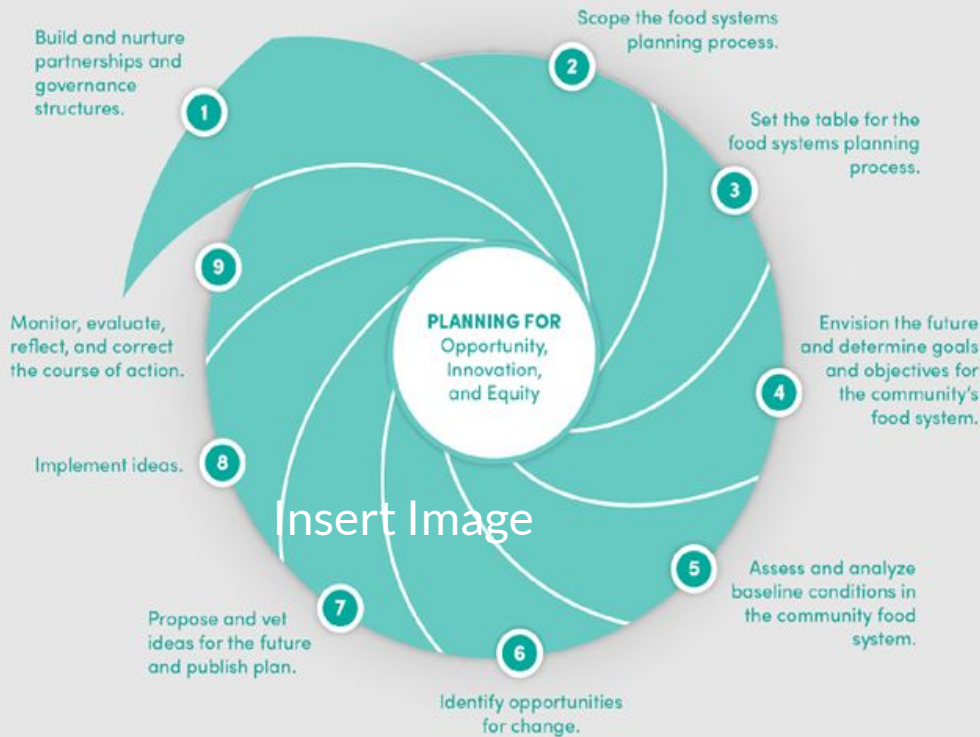
# Why Food Systems Matter for Local Government



1. Food systems impact local government functions
2. Local government functions impact food system
3. Coordinated action can have multiple benefits



# Why Food Systems Matter for Local Government



Local governments

**plan** and  
**implement**

strategies to:

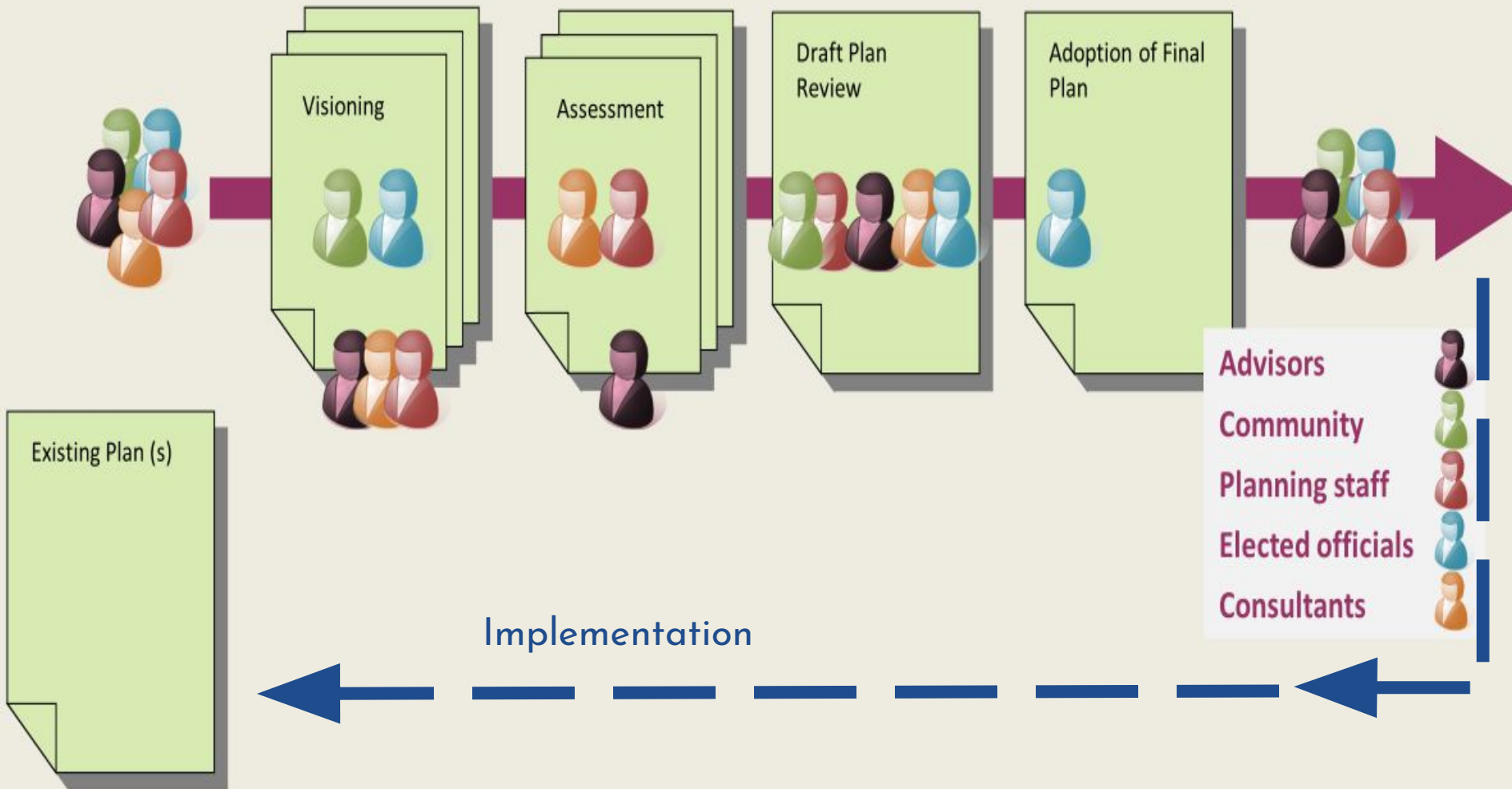
- Strengthen food systems
- Leverage food systems for broader public goals





# Why Food Systems Matter for Local Government

## [Food system] planning process



# Why Food Systems Matter for Local Government

## MANY TYPES OF PLANS

### Food (Systems or Sector) Plans

- *Erie County Food Action Plan*
- *Buffalo-Niagara One Region Forward*

### Agriculture Plans

- Primarily focused on agriculture (e.g. Town of Wales)

### Comprehensive Plan

- With element on food systems

### Other plans

- Sustainability plans
- Economic development plans

## MANY IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

5 examples



# Why Food Systems Matter for Local Government

## Supportive public finance



**Urban/Suburban**  
Urban Agriculture Tax  
Credit, Baltimore, MD

**Rural**  
Food system fund  
Cabbarus County, NC

CITY OF BALTIMORE  
ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_  
Council Bill 14-0420

Introduced by: Councilmembers Welch, Henry, Scott, Kraft, Stokes, Branch, Clarke  
Introduced and read first time: July 17, 2014  
Assigned to: Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee  
Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
Council action: Adopted  
Read second time: April 27, 2015

### AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING

#### 1 Property Tax Credits – Urban Agriculture

2 FOR the purpose of establishing a property tax credit for urban agricultural property; providing  
3 for the amount, duration, and possible early termination of the credit; imposing certain  
4 limitations, conditions, and qualifications; providing for the administration of the credit;  
5 requiring providing that the credit be repaid and a surcharge imposed under certain  
6 circumstances; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the a property tax credit for  
7 urban agricultural property.

8 By adding  
9 Article 28 - Taxes  
10 Section(s) 10-18  
11 Baltimore City Code  
12 (Edition 2000)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the  
14 Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:



# Why Food Systems Matter for Local Government



**Rural**  
Town of Evans

**Suburban**  
Subdivision guidelines  
Minnesota

**Urban**  
Cleveland

## Supportive regulations

### PLANNING BOARD WAIVER FOR AGRI-BUSINESS/TOURISM

FILE # \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Criteria

This waiver may be used for projects that fit the criteria for a “small scale” agritourism/agribusiness enterprise, as established in §200-XXX of the Town of Evans Zoning Code:

- A use or facility that does not adversely impact surrounding farm uses, but may involve accessory buildings, structures, and facilities in order to accommodate the enterprise. Small scale enterprises may meet one or more of the following criteria:
  - The use has between 11 and 60 attendees at a given time.
  - The use has between 6 and 30 vehicles on the site at a given time.
  - The use generates between 31 and 80 vehicle trips a day. Entering the premise will count as a single trip and exiting the premise will count as another.
  - The use requires additional structures, or modifications to structures, greater than 300 feet and less than the maximum size allowed for agricultural buildings and structures as permitted within the underlying district. Where a maximum is not given, the maximum for small scale enterprises will be 2,000 square feet. Buildings open to the public are subject to building code requirements and permits.

#### Sketch Plan

- A sketch of the parcel on a location map (e.g., tax map), showing boundaries and dimensions of the parcel of land involved, and identifying contiguous properties and any known easements or rights-of-way and roadways. If there is an existing survey of the property available, this is preferred.
- Show the existing features of the site including land and water areas, water or sewer systems and the approximate location of all existing structures on or immediately adjacent to the site.
- Show the proposed location and arrangement of buildings and uses on the site, including means of ingress and egress, parking and circulation of traffic.
- Show the proposed location and arrangement of specific land uses, such as pasture, crop fields, woodland, livestock containment areas, or manure storage/manure composting sites.



# Why Food Systems Matter for Local Government



**Urban/suburban**  
Intervale Center  
Burlington and  
Chittenden County  
Vermont

**Rural**  
Wisconsin Food Hub  
Cooperative  
(aggregation, storage,  
transportation)

## Physical infrastructure

### Intervale Center

- 360 acre campus
- Farm incubation, food system development, composting, agri-business
- Local government support
  - Land
  - Roads

# Why Food Systems Matter for Local Government



## Urban/Suburban

Food-Retail Development  
NYC, NY

Urban food production  
Seattle, WA

## Rural

[Food Future WNY]

## Programs

### Food Retail Expansion to Support Health (FRESH) Program, NYC

- Targeted areas
- Package of econ dev. benefits
  - Real Estate Tax reduction
  - Mortgage recording tax reduction
  - Sales tax reduction
  - Reduced parking requirements
  - Grocery stores as-of-right in light manufacturing districts



# Why Food Systems Matter for Local Government



Food Policy Councils  
Buffalo & Erie County

Inter-agency Task  
Force  
Seattle, WA

Equity Advisors  
Baltimore, MD

## Governance

### RESIDENT FOOD EQUITY ADVISORS

FOOD AND PUBLIC HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS

WITH BALTIMORE FOOD POLICY AND PLANNING AND THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF BALTIMORE CITY



#### 2020 RESIDENT FOOD EQUITY ADVISORS OVERVIEW

The Resident Food Equity Advisors (RFEA) work with Baltimore Food Policy and Planning to drive equitable food policies through an inclusive, resident-informed process and exchange of ideas. Advisors are chosen through a competitive application process based on their passion for the issue, personal experience related to the topic, ability to commit to the group, and willingness to engage in deep, continual dialogue over 6+ meetings. Advisors are compensated for their time.

The 2020 RFEA represented 13 residents of public housing from each of the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) Family Developments. Over the course of six meetings, Advisors discussed their visions for the intersections of food and public housing in collaboration with Food Policy and Planning and HABC Office of Resident Services. Various organizations and subject matter professionals joined the meetings to provide information and answer questions. Advisors engaged in activities to share preferences and took brief surveys to provide additional data for the group to consider.

This document summarizes the discussions and the key recommendations provided over six meetings. Three meetings were held in person between January and March 2020, and due to the coronavirus pandemic and restrictions on meetings, three meetings were held virtually. The pandemic significantly impacted the food system and food access for Advisors, and these experiences are reflected throughout the recommendations.



# Why Food Systems Matter for Local Government



**[growingfoodconnections.org](http://growingfoodconnections.org)**

Translate 300+ local government  
planning/policy ideas to your  
own context!!!

## Available Resources

1. Growing Food Connections Policy Database
  - a searchable database with examples of adopted local govt. plans/policies/tools from across the US
  - [growingfoodconnections.org](http://growingfoodconnections.org)
2. Food Future WNY Food System Dashboard
  - Contains local data down to municipality/neighborhood
  - [foodfuturewny.org](http://foodfuturewny.org)





# Taking Action

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# Breakout Groups

Facilitated by Food Policy Council Members



# Taking Action - Breakout Groups

Review materials at your table *individually*

1. Review guiding questions
2. Identify one recommendation (in response to question 5)
3. Discuss with your group
4. Report back to large group

## Groups

1. Group A - Urban Areas
2. Group B - Urbanizing Areas
3. Group C- Rural Areas



# Closing Remarks

Thomas Baines, Esq.

Deputy Commissioner

Erie County Department of Environment & Planning

