

Welcome to the  
30% Maine Food  
by 2030 Subgroup

Meeting 2

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The collective task of the work groups is to update the 2020 Maine Won't Wait recommendations to make them:

- More specific
- More actionable
- More measurable
- More equitable



The mission of our subgroup is to develop strategies to achieve the goal from Maine Won't Wait: "Increase the amount of food consumed in Maine from state food producers from 10% to 20% by 2025 and 30% by 2030 through local food system development."



We will discuss when the strategies can be implemented, who can own the implementation of those strategies, and what the hoped-for outcomes of the strategies are.

# 30% Maine Food by 2030 Subgroup

## Mission

Meeting 1: Challenges and assets to get to 30 by 30

Meeting 2: Brainstorm and categorize strategies

Meeting 3: Identify what groups can enact the strategies and how

Meeting 4: Identify the timeframe and outcomes of the strategies

30% Maine Food by 2030 Subgroup

Meeting Topics

# 30% Maine Food by 2030 Subgroup

## Meeting 2 Agenda

Welcome

Interaction Exercise

Review Products of Meeting 1

- Challenges
- Opportunities
- What's Missing? What Did We Get Wrong?

Anatomy of a Strategy

Strategy Brainstorm by Affinity Group

- Producer
- Processor/Middle of Supply Chain
- Retail/Consumer
- Policy

Break

Public Comment

Read Out & Gallery Walk

Wrap-Up

Goal: 30% of Food Consumed in Maine from Maine by 2030.  
What strategies will help to reach the goal ?

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#### What is a strategy?

- A broad pathway to achieve a goal.

#### What will make a strategy appropriate and effective for this process?

- Does the strategy take into account and leverage an identified asset or address an identified barrier?
- Does the strategy reflect the core values of this process?
  - Preventing climate change and mitigating its impacts.
  - Reducing inequities and minimizing impacts on historically disadvantaged communities.



RHODE ISLAND  
**FOOD STRATEGY**

AN ACTIONABLE VISION FOR FOOD IN RHODE ISLAND

Examples of  
strategies:  
Rhode Island  
Food Strategy

## INTEGRATED FOCUS AREA: PRESERVE & GROW AGRICULTURE IN RHODE ISLAND

### EXPAND PRESERVATION OF ACTIVE FARMLAND

Rhode Island should invest in land conservation programs that would retain land in agriculture, ensure aging farmers can sell their land in a way that allows them to retire, and allow existing and new farmers to purchase and lease land at affordable rates.

The State and land trusts currently have successful programs in place, such as conservation easement programs and DEM's 2017 Farmland Access Program. To conserve additional needed acres, funding should be explored to support both existing farmland preservation programs and pilot new programs that could give retiring farmers who have already sold development rights incentives to transition their farmland to new or expanding farms.

#### METRICS

- Acres of agricultural land preserved with conservation easements (DEM)
- Acres of agricultural land owned by the State (DEM)
- Acres of land in agriculture (USDA)
- Annual state funding budgeted for farmland preservation programs (DEM)
- Number of farms in the state (USDA)

### ENHANCE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & IMPROVE COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION ABOUT EXISTING RESOURCES

Farms are businesses. And like the business sector at large, most Rhode Island farms are small businesses. Support services exist across the state for small business services – everything from business planning to accounting assistance and funding opportunities. However, many businesses do not know the breadth of the resources available to them – and farmers are no exception. Rhode Island must ensure that its farming community has access to the same business technical assistance as other small businesses in the state.

Farmers also need access to other forms of technical assistance specific to agriculture. This includes legal assistance, regulatory assistance, and farming/agriculture technical assistance. There are several organizations in the state providing these services to farmers – such as Conservation Law Foundation's Legal Food Hub and the University of Rhode Island's Cooperative Extension Services, which could be expanded and made available to more and different types of farmers.

#### METRICS

- Acres of agricultural land preserved
- Utilization rates of existing technical assistance programs:
  - Number of participants and legal fees deferred through CLF Legal Food Hub
  - Number of participants in trainings
  - Number or percentage of farmers served by URI's Cooperative Extension



Developed by:  
Metropolitan Area Planning Council  
Franklin Regional Council of Governments  
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission  
Massachusetts Workforce Alliance

For:  
Massachusetts Food Policy Council

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Examples of  
strategies:  
Massachusetts  
Local Food  
Action Plan



## Distribution: Goal 2

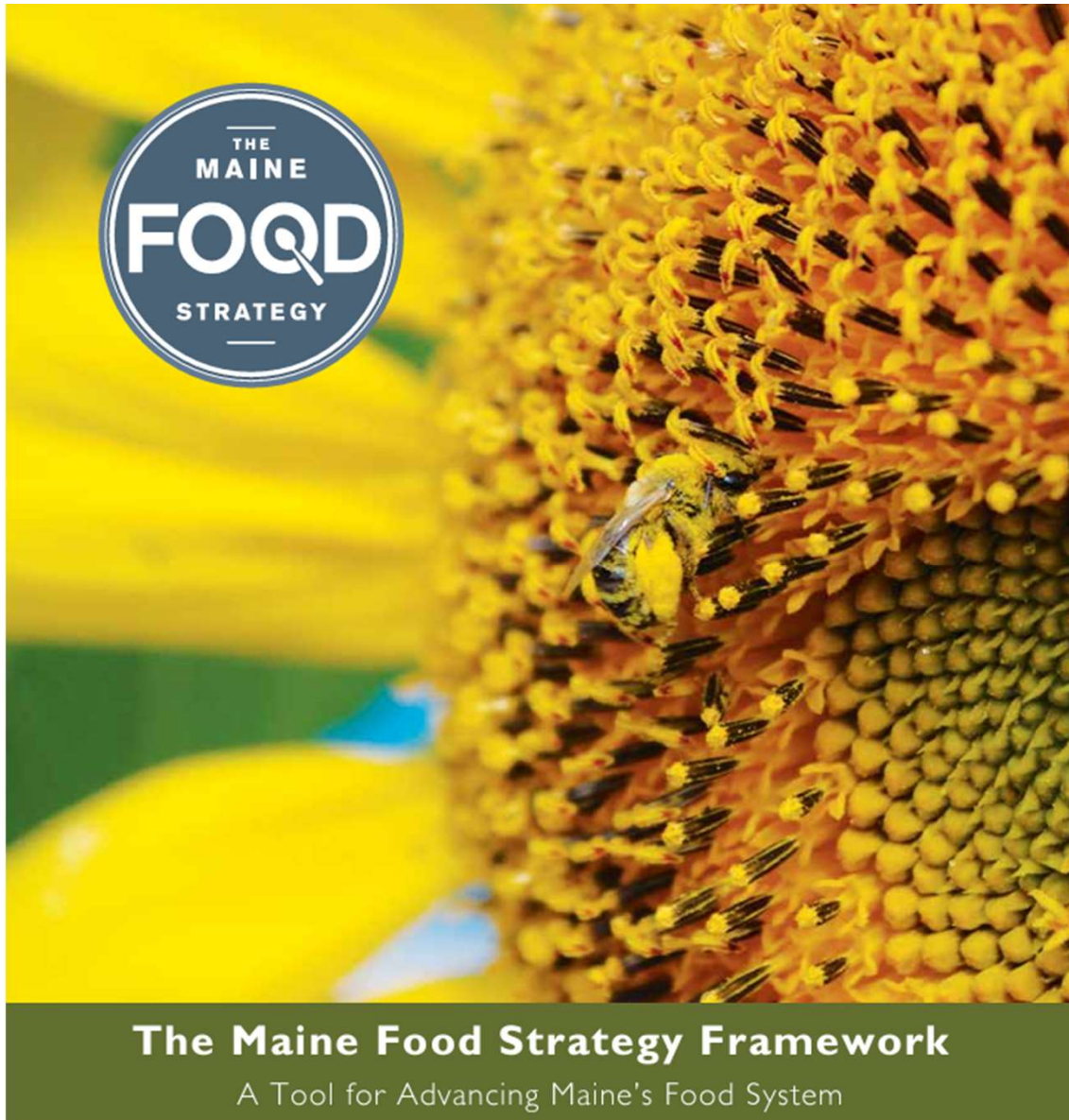
**Massachusetts-produced foods will be distributed more cost effectively.**

**Recommendation 2.1:** Foster relationships between producers, distributors, wholesalers, and retailers that facilitate and prioritize sale and purchase of Massachusetts-grown and -produced products.

**Action 2.1.1:** Dedicate resources for a full-time staff position at MDAR to provide technical support and build relationships to facilitate Massachusetts farms, fisheries, and businesses to participate in the wholesale and hotel, restaurant, and institution markets.

**Action 2.1.2:** Educate retailers and distributors about the benefits of carrying and promoting Massachusetts products.

**Action 2.1.3:** Provide information to distributors about locally grown, raised, caught, and produced products available for wholesale in the State.



Examples of strategies: The Maine Food Strategy Framework

## GOAL IV



**Public policies are supportive of farms, fisheries and other food production supply chain businesses that contribute to communities, local economies, and natural resource sustainability.**



**Build community and consumer awareness of positive community, economic and environmental impacts created by food producers, farmers, and fishermen.**



Increase the number of, and participation in, programs that provide hands-on community education about local food production such as school and community gardens, harvest lunches and community suppers using local foods.



Increase community awareness of existing Pre K-12 educational resources on Maine agriculture, aquaculture, and fisheries.<sup>17</sup>



Increase producer and community participation in the network of educational programs seeking knowledgeable and experienced speakers and volunteers from farming, aquaculture and fishing businesses.



Support programs that provide consumer education on food safety, oversight for food safety, and potential risks associated with the manner in which food is processed before sale.



Promote and expand youth programming on careers, entrepreneurship, leadership, and employment in food sector jobs.



Strengthen and expand programs that promote local food production as a community, ecological, and economic asset including those offered through the downtown and tourism promotion councils, public health organizations, conservation groups, and emergency food service providers.

## VERMONT FOOD SYSTEM PLAN ISSUE BRIEF



### ISSUE:

*Racial Equity in the Vermont Food System*

### What's At Stake?

Vermont must work towards racial equity in its food system in order to make the food system truly sustainable for everyone. Equity is “the condition that would be achieved when a person’s race... is no longer predictive of that person’s life outcomes.”<sup>1</sup> While food and agriculture can be a source of justice and equity for Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities, the Vermont food system is built on hundreds of years of marginalization and inequity. As a result, BIPOC communities experience entrenched and varied challenges throughout the food system. Vermont must build racial equity into all areas of its food system, including processes, structures, initiatives, and practices. Creating a truly sustainable local food system requires more equitable solutions developed by and for BIPOC communities.

### Current Conditions

Inequities exist throughout Vermont’s food system, from land and farming to food security, the workforce, and beyond. Some of these inequities are rooted in the history and policies that shaped the US food system, which was built on land taken from Indigenous people and further developed with the forced labor of enslaved Black people. Indigenous people, primarily Abenaki, are the original land stewards here and have grown crops, hunted, gathered, and fished across present-day Vermont for over 10,000 years. Europeans brought foreign diseases, waged war, took land, and led the eugenics movement, leading to a significantly reduced and marginalized Abenaki population with little access to their unceded ancestral lands.

Vermont is heralded as the first state to abolish slavery (1777), but the ban only applied to Black individuals over age 21, allowing enslavement of Black youth for another 30 years. Today, many Black people in Vermont—both multi-generation Vermonters and newer community members—still experience marginalization in access to

success, food security, and the workforce. There are many other fundamental areas of the food system that must be addressed. Ultimately, more focus, financial support, and effort is necessary to conduct a thorough evaluation of the state of racial equity in the Vermont food system and to develop an equitable path forward.

### Glossary of Terms

*It is important to note that language and terminology are constantly evolving. Being adaptable and using language preferred by communities of different identities is vital to being inclusive and more equitable.*

- **BIPOC:** an acronym for Black, Indigenous, People of Color, used both as an adjective and a proper noun. This term is considered more inclusive than People of Color alone, and reflects our varied experiences of oppression and marginalization.

# Examples of strategies: Vermont Farm to Plate

## Recommendations

- Develop a scope of work for—and raise sufficient funding to support—in-depth research, data collection, and a thorough investigation of racial equity in the Vermont food system, leading to a comprehensive plan of action. It is crucial that this work and any resulting initiatives include BIPOC leaders who are compensated for their contributions.
- Organizations and stakeholders across all components of the food system should prioritize racial equity and the leadership, participation, and representation of BIPOC. It is imperative that initiatives focused on BIPOC be developed with paid partnership and input from the BIPOC community. All organizations in the food system should undertake guided, systematic internal processes to make racial equity a core principle of their work.
- Funders should improve funding opportunities for BIPOC organizations and BIPOC-owned businesses through such tools as developing multi-year, unrestricted BIPOC-centered grants and loan programs, removing barriers such as unnecessarily long grant application processes, and combatting explicit and implicit bias against BIPOC communities.
- The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets should expeditiously operationalize the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) principle on racial equity that was ratified by NASDA and supported by all the members of the Northeastern Association of State Departments of Agriculture.
- The Vermont Farm to Plate Network should commit to a plan of action to promote equity within the Network, help dismantle white supremacy culture, and eradicate the structural racism that continues to disenfranchise Black, Indigenous, and other communities, farmers, and food system workers of color.