

2023 Legislative Priorities

Food systems are complex. Good food policy is everyone's business.



PRESERVE OUR FARMS

Support land access for farming across Rhode Island, in both urban and rural environments, by ensuring consistent, adequate funding for the Agriculture Land Preservation Commission, increased and sustained funding for the Farmland Access Program, and by creating a funded "Urban Farmland Access Program".



DIVERT FOOD FROM LANDFILLS

Develop a comprehensive strategy for minimizing and diverting wasted food from business going into the landfill that includes tax incentives for excess food donation as well as wider mandates and increased support for residential and commercial organic waste composting.



ENSURE FOOD ACCESS

Strengthen and endorse new and sustainable avenues for local farmers, seafood harvesters and food entrepreneurs (e.g., manufacturers and restaurants) to easily sell and deliver nutritious, affordable food via direct-to-consumer and indirect (e.g. wholesale and institutional) markets that serve food insecure communities and residents.



SUPPORT OUR BUSINESSES

Support second stage food businesses with shared-use infrastructure, marketing and technical assistance, grants, tax incentives, and low-cost loans. Require that a set percentage of selected incentives and grants go to historically underserved business owners.

The Rhode Island Food Policy Council is an independent network creating a more just and resilient food system in Rhode Island.

We are a diverse group of food systems stakeholders working together to bring benefits to the local food system, and to the communities, organizations, and businesses we represent.

We engage in advocacy to share our network's priorities and represent our communities at the State House.

