

RI FOOD
POLICY
COUNCIL



OUR PURPOSE

**Building a more just and resilient food
system for all Rhode Islanders**

Act on Climate Food Systems and Climate Change in Rhode Island Workshop July 27, 2022



We work toward an **equitable, accessible, economically vibrant, environmentally sustainable** food system by *addressing the most pressing food system needs.*

SPECIFIC GOALS FOR CLIMATE WORK



Meet
Act on Climate
goals



Build food
system
resilience
& **equity**



Remove silos
between energy
policy & food
system policy

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN CLIMATE ACTION?



Eliminate
new emissions



Sequester
existing
emissions



Adapt
to unavoidable
changes





FOOD SYSTEMS **NEED TO BE** INCLUDED IN CLIMATE PLANS

CLIMATE BENEFITS

- Carbon sequestration in agricultural land and oceans
- Reduced GHG through more organic waste composting
- Reduced GHG through shorter food supply chains
- Reduced GHG through climate-smart industrial practices

SOCIAL/ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Food security
- Food system resilience
- Improved public health



REALIZING BENEFITS IS A **LONG-TERM, MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PROCESS**

Identifying and quantifying climate-related impacts, costs, benefits, metrics throughout the food system

Increasing adoption of carbon-mitigation practices

Shifting consumer behaviors around food consumption and waste management

Disinvesting in carbon-intensive supply chain infrastructure

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS...METRICS

DEVELOP

Develop metrics to capture emissions from the food system as a whole

QUANTIFY

Quantify carbon sequestration in agriculture lands & oceans as part of the state's greenhouse gas inventory

PUBLICIZE

Include metrics in online public dashboard

INCLUDE

Include impacts from food imported to RI from outside of the New England region

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS...**RESEARCH**

Work with academic institutions to **develop RI-relevant methodologies for assessing 'blue carbon' sequestration** activities in the state

Identify research priorities for improving the environmental sustainability of food production, processing, transportation and distribution activities in the state

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS... **WASTE**

Take a fresh look at current state-wide food waste diversion practices

Evaluate a wide range of options for increasing food (and organic) waste diversion volumes, from consumer-facing programs > composting regulations/policies > other food/organic waste processing approaches

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS...**AGRICULTURE**



Increase support for conservation of agricultural land, both rural and urban



Increase support for soil-regenerative agriculture practices

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS...**PLANNING**

CENTER

Center climate change risks and opportunities in the RI's food strategy, Relish Rhody

LEVERAGE

Leverage regional food system partnerships to increase learning and share resources

CONSIDER

Consider a stand-alone climate strategy for nature-based climate solutions, including blue carbon, in Rhode Island's working lands and bay and coastal waters

KEY POINTS



Engage the land
& food sectors in
climate work



Plan for long-term,
multi-stakeholder
efforts



Reap climate, food
system resilience
& equity benefits

THANK YOU

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