

# USING YOUR MUNICIPAL FACT SHEET FOR PLANNING

**Each municipal fact sheet offers a snapshot of the most pressing food systems issues in the jurisdiction. The data can be a useful guide for community conversations on areas in need of additional support and investment. To learn more about next steps, please check out the RIFPC Planning Accessible, Equitable, and Resilient Municipal Food Systems Toolkit (<https://rifoodcouncil.org/municipal-fact-sheets/>) or contact us at [info@rifoodpolicycouncil.org](mailto:info@rifoodpolicycouncil.org) to schedule an exploratory conversation.**

## Develop a Municipal Food Systems Plan

Data in the factsheet can help municipal offices identify areas of need and opportunity. Using these findings along with intentional community engagement, each municipality should develop a comprehensive, just, and sustainable municipal food system plan. This plan should address at least the following areas: food production, food manufacturing, food businesses, food access and security, food waste diversion, land use, and climate change resilience.



## Build the Food Economy

The information under “Food Economy” can be used to identify the predominant types of food businesses in the area (e.g. farms, second-stage food manufacturers, restaurants). By exploring the predominant industries in the municipality, local governments can integrate practices and policies that intentionally attract more food businesses, thus increasing employment and raising revenue. These practices and policies should uplift and target BIPOC-owned food businesses as well as support historically low-income neighborhoods.



## Plan a Sustainable Municipality

“Land Use & Sustainability” data can assist municipalities in understanding current land use patterns. Once aware of current land use patterns, municipalities should focus planning efforts on increasing green space, while intentionally supporting the agrobiodiversity potential of those areas, and focus on the sustainability of the local built environment. For example, local governments can invest in projects that increase green cover by building more green space and investing in tree planting, expand agricultural opportunities through intentional zoning, and develop more resilient ecosystems in the face of climate change.



## Improve Food Access & Security

The data under “Food Access & Security” can help municipalities identify areas in need of additional food access support. This information can inform where public investment is necessary to ensure food access for all residents, especially in the event of a public health emergency, natural disaster, or climate catastrophe. Local governments can also use this information to target outreach for federal and state nutrition programs among underserved and under-resourced populations. All policies and programs must use a social justice framework in order to successfully achieve meaningful advances in food access and security.