

RI FOOD
POLICY
COUNCIL



POLICY — FOR THE — PEOPLE

2024 Legislative Priorities

October 17, 2023 • 12:30pm



Agenda

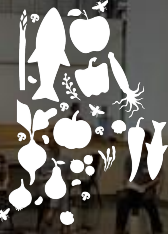
- Introducing the RI Food Policy Council
- What is a “food system”?
- 2024 Legislative Priorities & Work Groups
- Q&A

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Our mission is to build an **equitable, accessible, economically vibrant, and environmentally sustainable food system** for all Rhode Islanders.

PRIORITIES

- Community-based orgs
- Industry members
- Nonprofit leaders
- State agencies
- Elected officials

PARTNERSHIPS

PROJECTS

- Food access programs
- Business support programs
- Educational programming
- Fundraising assistance

POLICY

- Food justice
- Food economy
- Food access
- Food, Environment, and Climate
- Guidance on long term state plans

CLEAN AIR

FARMS & FISHERIES PRODUCTION



**SUPPORTIVE
POLICY**

PROCESSING



CAPITAL ACCESS

FOOD WASTE



**RI FOOD
SYSTEM**

CLEAN WATER

DISTRIBUTION



LAND ACCESS

CONSUMPTION



RETAIL

HEALTHY SOIL



Caretakers of the Land & Water

Caretakers of the Land & Water include the many organizations and individuals concerned with the health and resiliency of our natural environment, such as land trusts, environmental activists, and Indigenous communities.

Food Waste Facilities

Food waste facilities include on-farm composters, composting organizations, and anaerobic digesters.

Consumers

All Rhode Islanders fall into this category of stakeholders. Everyone consuming food in Rhode Island has a stake in what the Rhode Island food system looks like now and into the future.

Institutional Buyers

Institutional buyers include a broad range of large scale purchasers, such as hospitals, schools, prisons, state dining facilities, and universities.

Free & Low Cost Food Providers

Free and low cost food providers include food banks, food pantries, congregant meal sites, and all other organizations providing food for free or a reduced price to individuals in need.



Food Producers

Food producers include farmers, fishers, farmworkers, and others who work on the land or the sea in urban and rural settings to cultivate our food.

Food Processors & Entrepreneurs

Food processors and entrepreneurs include second-stage food manufacturers who create value-added food products.

Food Distributors

Food distributors include the organizations tasked with packaging and shipping food, as well as the truckers, pilots, warehouse workers, and others who contribute to moving the food from producers and processors to consumers.

Food Retailers & Restaurants

Food retailers and restaurants include all businesses selling food to consumers, such as full service super stores, grocery stores, bodegas, corner stores, and delis.



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Policy Priorities & Work Groups

Boost Support for Local Composting

Divert organic material from the landfill by funding and supporting community-based composting operations. Provide technical assistance to food scrap producers and ensure that Rhode Islanders have equitable access to composting options.

Support Second-Stage Food Businesses

Invest statewide in physical infrastructure, technical assistance, and capital support for food businesses that have passed the start-up phase and are scaling-up.

Incentivize Surplus Food Donation

Create a tax credit for qualified taxpayers that donate food to Rhode Island organizations to address food insecurity, propel environmental sustainability, support local businesses and help make surplus food donation a common practice.

Preserve Active Farmland

Support land access for farming by ensuring consistent, adequate funding for the Agricultural Land Preservation Commission through the state's Green Bond.

Provide Healthy School Meals for All

Make an investment in our children by providing free breakfast and lunch to all students, while promoting local food purchasing and ensuring culturally appropriate menus.

Alleviate the Benefits Cliff

Support access to benefit programs by enabling participants to remain eligible up to 250% of the Federal Poverty Line through the use of a sliding scale.

Reduce Tax Burdens for Urban & Small Farmers

Strengthen urban and small farmers by ensuring their farming operations remain competitive by reducing tax burdens.

QUESTIONS?



Get Involved!

- Join a Work Group
www.rifoodcouncil.org/join-a-work-group
- Share the priorities widely!
- Contact your legislators





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See you next time!

**The Federal
Farm Bill**
Wed. 11/08!



www.rifoodcouncil.org