



The Rhode Island Food Policy Council is building a more equitable, accessible, economically vibrant, and environmentally sustainable food system in Rhode Island.

est. 2011

**INDEPENDENT** • 501C3 NONPROFIT





\$12B

Economic impact of Rhode Island's food system



63,900

Number of food systems-related jobs in Rhode Island



**\$13.73** 

Average hourly wage for workers in RI's largest category of food system jobs: food preparation and serving. These are the lowest wages of any occupational category in the state.



56,864

Acres of agricultural land in Rhode Island



\$600M

Annual sales from Rhode Island's seafood and fisheries sector



348

Acres of aquaculture farms in Rhode Island waters



31%

Households in Rhode Island that are food insecure and unable to afford adequate food



100,000

Tons of food waste (vegetative and protein) entering the landfill. This compostable and sometimes edible material is the biggest single type of waste entering RI's landfill.

#### **CLEAN AIR**

FARMS & FISHERIES PRODUCTION



SUPPORTIVE POLICY

RI FOOD SYSTEM

Solve Market Town

**CLEAN WATER** 

**LAND ACCESS** 

**CAPITAL ACCESS** 





RETAIL

**HEALTHY SOIL** 





## COMMITMENT TO EQUITY

RIFPC recognizes the fact that many negative impacts of Rhode Island's current food system are grounded in a history of colonialism, genocide of indigenous people, slavery, private ownership of land, and the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of too few.

We also recognize that people with visible and non-apparent disabilities are among the most marginalized groups in our country. RIFPC believes that when power shifts to be shared more equitably across our communities and our state, we transform our future together for generations to come.

## **CORE ISSUES**



#### **Food Access & Nutrition**

Building equitable, culturally-relevant solutions to food and nutrition access problems.





#### **Food Business & Economy**

Empowering farmers, aquaculturists, fishers, and food entrepreneurs to thrive.



### Food, Climate, & Environment

Addressing issues at the intersection of climate change and food systems.



#### **Food Education & Workforce**

Growing educated stakeholders, informed youth, and a robust food sector workforce.

## 2023 POLICY PRIORITIES



#### PRESERVE OUR FARMS

Support land access for farming across Rhode Island, in both urban and rural environments...

#### **DIVERT FOOD FROM LANDFILLS**

Develop a comprehensive strategy for minimizing and diverting wasted food from business going into the landfill.

#### **ENSURE FOOD ACCESS**

Support food access and nutrition security, with a focus on increasing opportunities for local producers and harvesters to to sell nutritious, affordable, and culturally-relevant food to organizations that feed food insecure residents.

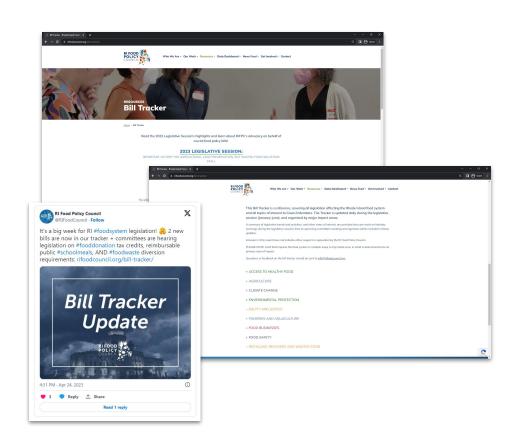
#### **SUPPORT FOOD BUSINESSES**

Support second stage food businesses with shared-use infrastructure, marketing and technical assistance, grants, tax incentives, and low-cost loans.

## RIFPC BILL TRACKER

- Tracks all legislation introduced
- Updated continuously
- Summary provided weekly

www.rifoodcouncil.org/billtracker





# PANELISTS



Diane Lynch Moderator



**David Dadekian** 



**Steven Arthurs** 





## **GET INVOLVED!**

## Join a Work Group!









- Active Farmland Access
- Benefits Cliff (SNAP)
- Communications
- Compost
- Farm Bill

- Fisheries
- Food Business
- Healthy School Meals for All
- Surplus Food Donation
- Urban Farmer Advocacy

## Share & Stay Connected!









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