RHODE ISLAND FOOD SYSTEM FACT SHEET

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This document is designed to give Rhode Islanders a better understanding of how we produce, harvest, process, distribute, market, and consume food, and how we dispose of food waste. We have created one for every town and city in the state. Visit rifoodcouncil.org to learn more about where this data comes from.

To learn more about next steps, please check out the RIFPC Quick Action Sheet and the Planning Accessible, Equitable, and Resilient Municipal Food Systems Toolkit or contact us at info@rifoodpolicycouncil.org to schedule an exploratory conversation.





Food Economy

The food economy encompasses a broad range of industries and sectors involved in the multi-step process of producing, processing, distributing, and selling food. The data presented here can help municipalities understand the current impacts, future opportunities, and potential challenges to growing the community's food economy.

Land Use & Sustainability

More than any other level of government, municipalities maintain wide control of their land use and its related sustianability impacts. The data presented under Land Use & Sustainability may be used to understand how land is currently being used and to create alternative plans that account for the need to have a sustainable and resilient local food system.



Providers of free and low cost food options interface with the community in different ways to meet people where they are. The data in Food Access & Security can help municipalities identify how the extent to which current community members are able to access these critical resources and evaluate how to maximize the impacts of these different food assistance programs.

	City	State
Restaurants	293	5,461
Farmers Markets	1	26
Food Markets	89	1,302
Food Processors	40	703
Food Distributors	5	152
Municipal Fee to Landfill Residential Food Waste	\$301,961.62	\$3,835,384.15

	City	State
Aquaculture Farms	0	83
Commercial Fishers	9	2,416
Farms	6	1,274
Urban Farms	1	33
Annual Tons of Residential Food Waste	5,368	68,185
Food Waste Recycling Facilities	0	6
Year Total Spent by Public School District on Locally Grown Produce	\$14,698	\$ 1,201,611

	City	State
Congregate Meal Sites	33	214
Food Pantries	44	118
Meals on Wheels Is Home Delivery Recipients	227	3,042
SNAP Participants	15,903	143,023
Students Enrolled for Free/Reduced Meals	7,996	117,779
WIC Participants	2,085	19,297

The Rhode Island Food Policy Council promotes a more equitable, accessible, and sustainable food system.

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The data is aggregated from a range of sources (2022). More information about the sources can be found at https://rifoodcouncil.org/rhode-island-food-system-2022-snapshots