RHODE ISLAND FOOD SYSTEM FACT SHEET

# FOSTER

RI FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

**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.

**POPULATION:** 4,469

**LAND USE:**

- Developed
- Forest
- Agriculture
- Water
- Other Land

## 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.

| | City | State |
|---|---|---|
| Restaurants | 9 | 4,665 |
| Institutional Food Service Provider | 2 | 732 |
| Farmers Markets | 1 | 39 |
| Food Markets | 7 | 1,274 |
| Food Processors | 4 | 625 |
| Food Distributors | 0 | 143 |
| SNAP Retailers | 2 | 892 |
| Cash Benefits Spent at Farmers Markets | $0 | $273,024 |
| Municipal Fee to Landfill Residential Food Waste | $25,410 | $4,737,983 |

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The data is aggregated from a range of sources (2026). More information about the sources can be found at https://rifoodcouncil.org/municipal-fact-sheets

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## 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.

| | City | State |
|---|---|---|
| Aquaculture Farms | 0 | 58 |
| Commercial Fishers | 17 | 2,013 |
| Farms | 58 | 1,081 |
| Urban Farms | 0 | 32 |
| Annual Tons of Residential Food Waste | 341 | 71,045 |
| Food Waste Recycling Facilities | 0 | 4 |
| Public Schools Participating in Food Waste Prevention Programming* | 2 | 69 |
| Year Total Spent by Public School District on Locally Grown Produce* | $16,374 | $674,358 |

## Food Access & Security

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 |
|---|---|---|
| Congregate Meal Sites | 0 | 86 |
| Food Pantries | 2 | 240 |
| Meals on Wheels Home Delivery Recipients | 11 | 2,703 |
| SNAP Participants | 354 | 171,803 |
| Students Participating in School Meal Program* | 639 | 62,427 |
| WIC Participants | 31 | 18,105 |

*Represents data for Foster and Foster-Glocester school districts



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