RHODE ISLAND FOOD SYSTEM FACT SHEET

WESTERLY

RI FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

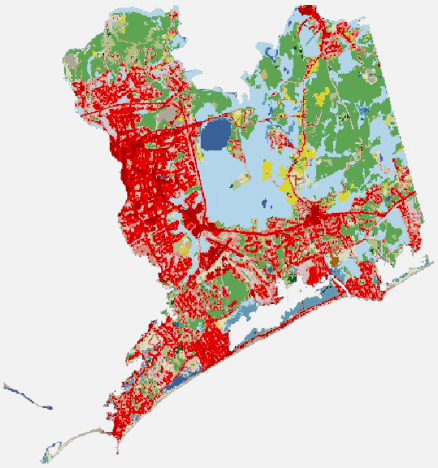
This document is designed to give Rhode Islanders a better understanding of how we produce, harvest, process, distribute, market, and consume food, and how we dispose of food waste. We have created one for every town and city in the state. Visit rifoodcouncil.org to learn more about where this data comes 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: 23,359

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	170	4,665
Institutional Food Service Provider	17	732
Farmers Markets	0	39
Food Markets	41	1,274
Food Processors	11	625
Food Distributors	3	143
SNAP Retailers	20	892
Cash Benefits Spent at Farmers Markets	$0	$273,024
Municipal Fee to Landfill Residential Food Waste	$131,837	$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	2	58
Commercial Fishers	68	2,013
Farms	31	1,081
Urban Farms	0	32
Annual Tons of Residential Food Waste	1,827	71,045
Food Waste Recycling Facilities	0	4
Public Schools Participating in Food Waste Prevention Programming	0	69
Year Total Spent by Public School District on Locally Grown Produce	$14,702	$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	4	86
Food Pantries	6	240
Meals on Wheels Home Delivery Recipients	47	2,703
SNAP Participants	2,359	171,803
Students Participating in School Meal Program	790	62,427
WIC Participants	176	18,105

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