

IFNPAC Q1 Meeting

Interagency Food and Nutrition Policy Advisory Council

Thursday, March 20, 2025 11:00am – 12:30 pm Rhode Island Commerce



Agenda

- 1. Welcome & Introductions of New Members
- 2. Approve Q4 Meeting Minutes
- 3. Formal welcome Director of Food Strategy & DCYF to the Council
- 4. Local & Healthy State Food Procurement Subcommittee Update
- 5. RI Food Strategy 2030 & Food System Research
- 6. IFNPAC Agency Updates: Funding and Program Status
- 7. Public Comment



Welcome & Introductions



Council Members

















Department of Environmental Management (DEM)

Chair, Terry Gray, Director Ken Ayars, Chief of Agriculture

Department of Health (RIDOH)

Randi Belhumeur, Health Program Administrator

RI Commerce Corporation (RICC)

Georgina Sarpong, Director of Food Strategy

Department of Education (RIDE)

** Rosemary Reilly-Chammat, Director, Office of School Health and Wellness (on IFNPAC while hiring for Child Nutrition Program Coordinator)

Department of Administration (DOA)

Max Righter, Chief Procurement Specialist

Department of Corrections (DOC)

Terrence McNamara, Administrator Physical Resources

Office of Healthy Aging (OHA)

Maria Cimini, Director

Department of Human Services (DHS)

Jenna Simeone, Assistant SNAP Administrator

Department of Children Youth & Families (DCYF)

Brandi DiDino, Deputy Director







Formal welcome Director of Food Strategy & DCYF to the Council



Local & Healthy Food Procurement Subcommittee Update

Sarah Blau, HEAL Program, RI Dept of Health



Sub-committee Convening Update

- January 27, 2025 attended RIFPC Food Business Working Group Meeting
- January 30, 2025 first convening held
 - Reviewed project charter
 - Identified sub-committee interest, challenges and opportunities
- Identified key goals
 - Increase purchasing transparency
- Upcoming: send invitation for regular meetings



RI Food Strategy 2030

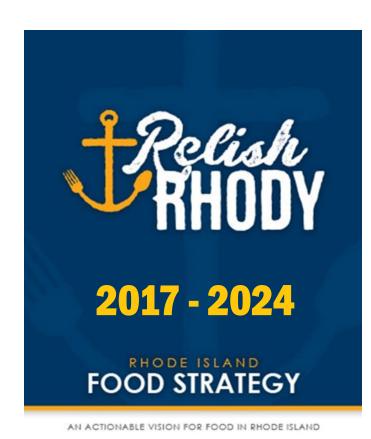
Georgina Sarpong, Director of Food Strategy

Alison Macbeth, Food Strategy Project Manager

RI Commerce



Planning for RI's Food Strategy 2030



- √ 2024 2030
- ✓ Planning supported by backbone agencies Commerce, RIDEM & RIDOH
- ✓ Co-created and "whole of government" approach
- ✓ Dynamic and iterative
- ✓ Equity-centered and participatory planning informed by impacted communities, industries and stakeholders
- ✓ Accessible and measurable impact metrics

Development of the 2030 Food Strategy has been guided by four principles:



Collective impact: Effective implementation and enduring success is dependent upon cooperation across a broad and inclusive network of collaborators. Collective impact brings people together in a structured way to learn together and align their actions in service to achieving systems change.



Equity: Negative impacts of environmental, economic and public health outcomes of our food system disproportionately impact communities of color and low-income communities. Decision-making must be designed to involve all those that stand to be impacted by action—or inaction—and prioritize outcomes that strengthen equity throughout the food system.



Sustainability: Food system impacts natural ecosystems and are uniquely vulnerable to changes in weather and climate. Rhode Island's future food system ctivities must operate in alignment with nature, recognizing, respecting, and working within natural boundaries, which includes transitioning from extractive to regenerative practices.



Regionality: Disruptions to global and national food system can have immediate and persistent impacts locally, but when we don't have enough farmers or fishermen Rhode Island cannot simply pivot to supporting demand with local production. A resilient food system is defined by its ability to mitigate disruption, maintain food security amidst shocks, and recover or adapt with expediency to changes. Resiliency can be increased through strategically redundant and flexible infrastructure, diversified and transparent supply chains, active partner networks and regional collaboration.

RI FOOD STRATEGY - PROCESS



PHASE 0 (Process Development & Fundraising)

- SteeringCommittee Formed
- Northbound
 Ventures was selected
 through a competitive bid
 process to provide
 consulting services
 throughout process.
- ✓ Funding through
 the <u>Henry P. Kendall</u>
 <u>Foundation</u>, <u>Rhode Island</u>
 <u>Foundation</u> and <u>RI</u>
 <u>Commerce</u> secured.

PHASE 1 (Initial Outreach & Early Engagement)

- AdvisoryBoard established
- ✓ The <u>5 Year</u>

 <u>Retrospective</u>

 published
- Develop Crosscutting, issue and market briefs co-authored by subject matter experts

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PHASE 2 (Research & Development of RI Food Strategy 2030)

- ✓ Draft strategies/plan from the issue briefs
- ✓ Hold public listening sessions
- Public comment period

PHASE 3 (Public Launch, Outreach, & Implementation)

- Launch & widely distribute completed plan
- □ Drive implementation of strategies integrate!











Land Acknowledgement	
Letter from IFNPAC	ii
Executive Summary	
Introduction	
Key Concepts	
Food System Planning Matters	
Integrated Planning	6
Timeline	
Methodology	
2030 Food Strategy Briefs	13
Priorities and Actions	78
Integration	106
Strategic Planning Collaborators	108

PRIORITIES are the desired outcomes of collective action

Links are provided to relevant **BRIEFS**

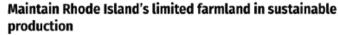
INDICATORS With publically available data are highlighted (data sources are linked in each Brief)

PARTNERS include organizations that can increase the odds of collective success

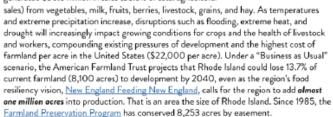
RELATED PLANS AND PROGRAMS include other resources related to the recommended Action



ACTION 1.1



Working lands are areas actively managed for agriculture, forestry, fiber, or other production practices. In 2022, Rhode Island had 59,000 acres of land in agriculture, with 46% (27,500 acres) concentrated in Washington County alone. The state's 864 food-producing farms generated \$30.6 million in sales (35.3% of total agricultural



The cost to lose working lands will be far greater than protecting them, so efforts need to accelerate to meet the rate of loss. Helping farmers to increase profitability and scale existing production would be a valuable and a sustainable model for increasing local production. Reductions in restrictions, support with market fluctuations, investments in the market chain to stimulate markets, supports with scaling operations, and dealing with the disparities in the cost of production versus market value would all be beneficial.

Farmers	Municipalities	RIIB	RI Commerce
Legislators	Department of Administration: Division of Planning Land Use Section	RI Resource Conservation and Development Area Council	Agricultural Lands Preservation Commission (ALPC)
Land trusts	State Conservation Commission	Conservation advocates (e.g., American Farmland Trust)	Researchers

RELATED PLANS AND PROGRAMS:

- Farmland Preservation Program
- Land Use 2025
- 2025 Climate Action Strategy
- Local Open Space Grant Program
- Farmland Access Program Competitive Grant
 Program

ACTIONS are specific interventions—capacity building, coordination, funding and investment, research and knowledge sharing, policy and regulations—identified to advance each priority

A **CHAMPION** is the lead state agency or food system network organization best positioned to centralize information and coordinate activity among partners—individuals, organizations, and coalitions—who have an interest or expertise to be incorporated

establish the current context of challenges and opportunities for each topic



6. Stewardship of

INDICATORS:

Number of Farms

Land in Agriculture

59,076 acres

Farmland under

Conservation

Easement

8,253 acres

Farmland Real

Value of Ag Sales

\$86,647,303

Sales by Size

2.1% of farms accounted for 49.7% of sales

Estate Value

Food Producing





23

CHAMPION

DEM



1. Secure the state's long-term food production and harvesting capacity

ACTION 1.1	Maintain Rhode Island's limited farmland in sustainable production
ACTION 1.2	Increase land access for farmers through fair succession transactions and use agreements and ensure beginning, BIPOC, and veteran farmers are competitive in acquisition processes
ACTION 1.3	Expand urban and peri-urban food production
ACTION 1.4	Accelerate adoption of restorative ecosystem practices to mitigate climate change and ensure adequate healthy water and soils
ACTION 1.5	Incentivize new entrants to the agricultural and commercial fisheries professions
ACTION 1.6	Encourage and facilitate coordination and communication between regional, state, interstate and federal regulatory bodies and fishing and aquaculture industry operators
ACTION 1.7	Invest in climate-smart indoor fresh food production



ACTION 2.2

ACTION 2.4

2. Invest in local and regional food value chain development

ACTION 2.1 Increase wastewater processing infrastructure to relocalize small-to-medium capacity seafood processing

Increase funding for and expand participation in the Local Agriculture and Seafood Act

ACTION 2.3 Develop second-stage food business capacity

Support local and regional food hubs as essential value-chain partners in small food business viability



3. Create community food environments that promote equitable food access and contribute to regional resiliency

ACTION 3.1	Support community-led efforts to improve neighborhood access to fresh, local and culturally relevant food
ACTION 3.2	Simplify access to integrated nutrition
ACTION 3.3	Engage grocery retailers and food service establishments to source more Rhode Island and regional food
ACTION 3.4	Increase public institutional procurement of local products, including locally-landed and processed seafood
ACTION 3.5	Build support for universal free school meals in Rhode Island schools
ACTION 3.6	Restore Indigenous sovereign rights to waterways, hunting grounds and open space for food gathering
ACTION 3.7	Provide a living wage to food preparation and serving workers



4. Scale up wasted food prevention, recovery, and recycling efforts

ACTION 4.1

Strengthen RI's Food Waste Ban and ensure sufficient funding for agencies to provide staffing for enforcement

ACTION 4.2

Maximize surplus food value and reduce wasted food by creating alternative pathways and partnerships

ACTION 4.3

Incentivize and remove barriers to increasing residential and commercial composting infrastructure and implementation

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Based on the time spent creating this plan and now looking at the priorities, what are your first thoughts on how these actions will be implemented?
- What can IFNPAC do to operationalize the RI Food Strategy 2030?
- How can the Food Strategy program support each IFNPAC agency in implementation?





NEXT IFNPAC MEETINGS 2025

Tuesday, June 10th, 9:30-11am

Tuesday, September 9th, 9:30-11am

Tuesday, December 9th, 9:30-11am

