



The Collaborative was created following the completion of the MA Local Food Action Plan. The Collaborative seeks to promote, monitor, and facilitate implementation of the Plan.





In 2013 the Massachusetts Food Policy Council launched a statewide planning process to address the opportunities and challenges of our State's local food system. The Plan was completed and accepted by the Council in December 2015.





Massachusetts  
LOCAL FOOD ACTION PLAN



## Four Main Goals of the Plan

- Increase production, sales and consumption of Massachusetts-grown foods.
- Create jobs and economic opportunity in food, farming and fishing, and improve the wages and skills of food system workers.
- Protect the land and water needed to produce food, maximize environmental benefits from agriculture and fishing, and ensure food safety.
- Reduce hunger and food insecurity, increase the availability of healthy food to all residents, and reduce food waste.





## Food System Sectors in the Plan

- Land
- Inputs
- Farming
- Fishing
- Processing
- Distribution
- Marketing
- Food Access, Security and Health
- Workforce Development and Training





## The Collaborative's Approach

- Research
- Networking
- Advocacy





## The Collaborative's Projects: Campaign for the Healthy Incentives Program Funding

The Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) enables people who use SNAP to double their money at farmers markets, increasing community health and the viability of local farms.

- Goals:
  - HIP receives increased funding to meet demand, operate year-round, and add new farmers to fill gaps in program coverage.
- Coalition:
  - More than 300 farmers, farmers markets, nonprofit agricultural/food system organizations, faith institutions, healthcare institutions, individuals with lived food insecurity experience, and more.
- Successes:
  - Advocated for more than \$47 million for the program





## The Collaborative's Projects: MA Urban Ag Coalition

- Beginnings:
  - During the pandemic to help urban ag organizations adjust their operations and feed their communities.
- Currently:
  - Over 200 people participate in regular skill shares and in the email listserv.
- Advocacy:
  - Outreach to ensure urban ag organizations are eligible for new state grant programs.





## The Collaborative's Projects: MA Food Policy Councils Network

- Membership
  - Includes representatives from almost 20 local councils throughout the state
- Meetings
  - Quarterly for the entire group
  - Monthly for six emerging food policy councils
- Purpose
  - Share best practices and exchange information
  - Learn about state legislation and how to get involved in advocacy







## The Collaborative's Projects: Climate Change and Agriculture

- Climate change and agriculture
  - Ensuring that all climate change discussions and plans include agriculture and representatives from farming communities.
- Farmland access and protection
  - Advocated for the state to create a farmland protection and viability action plan.
  - Now working with a partner to begin to write this.
- Small parcel agriculture
  - Advocacy to include small farms and urban farms in many of the state's agriculture programs.





## The Collaborative's Projects: Race and equity in the food system

- Advocacy
  - Brought together a group of BIPOC leaders in the local food system
  - Helped to write An Act promoting equity in Agriculture (S.502/ H.860)
    - To create a commission made up of leaders representing BIPOC farmers and supportive organizations to gather information and develop recommendations to create a more equitable local food system.





## The Collaborative's Projects: Campaign for Food System Literacy

- Goal
  - Expand food system education in K – 12 schools
  - Include lessons on nutrition, agriculture, food justice, and culinary skills
- Process
  - Interviewing dozens of educators
  - Writing a report on case studies, lessons learned, resources, and recommendations
  - Advocacy to come





## The Collaborative's Projects: Reducing food waste in MA:

- Research
  - Report: [Reducing Food Waste in Massachusetts: Local Successes Informing Statewide Solutions](#)
  - Brief: [Municipal Approaches to Reduce Food Waste](#)
- Network building
  - Quarterly meetings of the Food Waste Reduction Network
- Advocacy
  - Support several bills that increase food donation, and reduce food waste – [White Paper](#) on priority bills
  - Support regulation changes such as lowering the threshold





For more information:

[www.mafoodsystem.org](http://www.mafoodsystem.org)

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