Overview

Over the next two years, Capital Roots will work with community partners to conduct a comprehensive regional food system assessment based on four counties of consumption (Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady) and 11 counties of production (Albany, Columbia, Greene, Fulton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren and Washington). Assessment data will be accessed and utilized by community partners in the Capital Region to serve as a resource for future policies and the roadmap for a Regional Food Policy Council.

Mission

Increase equity and economic resilience in the Greater Capital Region Food System, specifically for low-income consumers and small/medium-sized producers and processors.

Goals

Production, Processing & Distribution - The assessment will look at the local food economy by analyzing food production, processing, and distribution in the 11 counties of the Greater Capital Region Foodshed. The goal is to identify opportunities to increase the purchasing of locally produced food. Findings will include information for producers on opportunities to scale-up production, establish connections with wholesale buyers, and identify gaps in regional food system infrastructure. The assessment will determine what is needed to strengthen the regional food economy and will make recommendations to guide regional planning and development.

Consumption - The assessment will identify methods to increase food security and healthy food access in low-income communities in the four main counties of the Capital District. We will conduct a community food security assessment with the goal of evaluating the retail food environment and regional food assistance systems. Findings will include information about the different communities in the Capital District and their identified needs in terms of food access, including barriers to food security, food in high demand, and successful programs and services currently supporting healthy food access and food security in the region. The assessment will develop recommendations for regional stakeholders geared towards supporting the equitable development of our regional food system at the community level.

Vision

Our Vision for the Upper Hudson Valley is that low-income residents will have consistent access to healthy and culturally appropriate food, farmers will have a viable place in the local markets, food-based businesses will easily be able to process their products to add-value and find steady local markets, and local food will be distributed throughout the region in an equitable manner.

For more information, please contact:

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The Greater Capital Region Foodshed

What is a foodshed?

Food•shed /foʊd ʃeɪd/ noun

The geographic location where food flows – from the area that it is produced to the place where it is consumed, including the land it grows on, the route it travels, the market it passes through, and the tables where it ends up.

IN THE CAPITAL REGION: 11 COUNTIES

4,500+ farms

800,000 acres of farmland

over $400,000,000 in sales

Source: USDA

70+ food processing facilities in the Hudson Valley. Out of those...

51% of dairy processing facilities

5 of the 8 livestock processing facilities

2 of the 4 poultry slaughter facilities

1 of the 2 grain mills

...are in the Greater Capital Region Foodshed

Source: Hudson Valley Food Hub Initiative

IN THE CAPITAL DISTRICT: 4 COUNTIES

157,000 residents are living in low-income, low-access neighborhoods

(18% of the population)

Source: USDA ERS Food Access

540,000 people are obese or overweight

Source: CDC
Greater Capital Region
Food System Assessment

Food Assessment Map

- Production
- Processing
- Distribution
- Consumption

Columbia
Greene
Fulton
Montgomery
Schoharie
Warren
Washington
Albany
Rensselaer
Schenectady
Saratoga

Local Food Economy Assessment
Community Food Security Assessment

Timeline

**Summer 2016**
Form Steering Committee

**Fall 2016**
Develop Research Goals & Objectives

**Winter 2017**
Plan for Research

**Spring 2017**
Begin Consumption Research

**Summer 2017**
Begin Production Research
Consumption Community Surveying

**Fall 2017**
Begin Processing Research

11/9 - 1st Stakeholder Forum

**Fall 2018**
Begin Distribution Research

**Spring & Summer 2018**
Processing & Distribution Community Surveying

**2019**
Finish Primary Data Collection
Synthesize and Write Assessment

**Fall 2020**
Publish & Present Assessment
Host 2nd Stakeholder Forum
Coalition Building for Food Policy Council
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Teri Ptacek
Agricultural Stewardship Association

Mark Castiglione & Kate Manyard
Capital District Regional Planning Commission

Amy Klein & Marissa Peck
Capital Roots

Peter Lion
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Steve Ammerman
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