

Community Food Systems Common Language

Food System Sectors

- **Production:** Science, art, or occupation that involves cultivating land, raising crops, feeding, breeding, or raising livestock as well as hunting, fishing, or foraging
 - may include: gardening/ specialty crop production/ urban farming
- **Transformation + Processing:** Transformation of raw ingredients, physically or chemically, transforming into a value-added market
 - may include: value-added processing/ freezing and canning/ butcher shop
- **Distribution + Marketing:** Moving product from farm or processing site to consumer; including distribution and sales
 - may include: grocery stores/ food hubs/ food boxes / CSA
- **Consumption + Access:** Opportunities for an individual to gain access to food in a physically safe, financially viable, and culturally competent way
 - may include: restaurants/ food pantries/ food trucks/ meal assistance programs
- **Resource Management:** Efficient and effective deployment and allocation of community and business resources as it relates to land, water, soil, plants, food and created materials
 - may include: Conservation programs/ food waste recovery/ composting/

Community Assets:

- **Equity:** offering same status and equal access to social goods, services, property, freedom of speech; including equal opportunity for access to a healthy and good quality of life.
- **Education:** promoting experiences and programming related to food systems and health for a deeper understanding and increased opportunities to build skills
- **Wellness:** health status of a community, and individuals that live in it, as it relates to access to affordable and effective options for quality of life.
- **Environment (built and natural):** Surrounding conditions that include both natural environment and built space in which a person or animal lives
- **Policy:** principles or actions that have been adopted by governments, businesses and individuals to guide decisions and achieve rational outcomes.
- **Economy:** wealth and resources of a community or region that relate to the development and consumption of goods and services

Menu of Tactics

Internally, the Community Food Systems Program includes over 30 tactics that contribute to food system development.

Below are examples of those tactics based on food systems sectors. As new communities participate in the program, this research is expanded.

As a program, we provide technical assistance within areas of:

- Facilitation
- Project Management
- Food Safety
- Business Plan Development
- Business and Program Feasibility Studies
- Design (built and natural environment/ graphic / planning/ etc.)

Tactics within Production:	
Backyard Gardens	Integrate food plants with ornamental plants. Gardening is a great way to introduce healthy, fresh plants into family lifestyle at home as well as grow food for those in need. Includes opportunities for backyard chickens, small-livestock.
Faith Gardens	Incorporate aspects similar to community gardens, with particular faith-based affiliations. Many gardens offer produce to their volunteers or congregation members in need, and several also donate produce to food pantries in the community.
Corporate Gardens	Help establish healthy habits for employees and administration within a company and promote sustainable wellness for the community.
Community Gardens	Offer an opportunity for families to grow their own food. Community gardens can be created in a variety of rural or urban settings.
Farm to School (School Gardens)	Educate children about the environment and how to grow food, and incorporates multiple disciplines, such as math, sciences, English, and nutrition.
Public Edible Landscapes	Incorporate various forms of food (fruit trees, berries, herbs, and vegetables) with ornamentals to build up the environment, increase diversity, and improve food security through a connection to nature.
Community Orchards	Incorporate various forms of fruit trees and shrubs located in a public space. Many times may be considered a food forest with incorporation of various layers of herbs, food crops, perennials and fruit trees.

Community Food Systems Common Language

Incubator Farms	Assist beginning farmer entrepreneurs in efforts to establish their own successful businesses. The farms typically train on successful business tactics and provide resources and services that are expensive or difficult for start-up entrepreneurs to access.
Urban Farms	Use of city land to maximize local food outputs and meet needs for local food production and community food security.
Rural Farms	Use of rural land to often operate at a larger scale than urban farms, and can thus provide larger quantities of food into the food system.
Agrihoods	Plan of residential development that connects the community with nature and a food supply. Many agrihoods also take into consideration conservation programs, gardens, and social spaces.
Fisheries*	Fisheries produce fish and other aquatic species for human consumption or for fish products. Fish are harvested for either commercial or recreational use or self-consumption
Hunting + Foraging*	
Agritourism	Agriculturally based operation that allows for public to come to their property through events, meals or shopping. Many times this is a way to diversify the farm income and provides education for consumers on local food businesses.
Beginning Farmer Programs	On farm and classroom based training and education for new farmers to understand production of crops, livestock and farm management. May also be used as a form of succession planning.
Tactics within Transformation + Processing:	
Processing Facilities	Allow for raw food products (such as produce, dairy, or meat) to be physically or chemically altered into value-added forms.
Mobile Processing Units	Provide animal or specialty crop processing directly on farms to offer locally-produced, locally-raised products.
Shared-Use Kitchens	Enhance local food businesses by offering commercial kitchens for public use. Typically organized by a non-profit organization and rented out to food entrepreneurs.
Food Enterprise Centers	Build businesses through entrepreneurial investments in local food, creating a self-financed, sustainably profitable model.
Distribution + Marketing:	
Community Supported Agriculture	Promote agriculture sales through membership, which allows for share in risks of production, and for concentration on growing food and caring for the land. Members, in return, receive shares of ultra-fresh and unique produce. In some cases, CSA's may also operate as a subscription service for customers as well.
Farmers Markets	Allow for city space to be re-used as a market for food businesses and for customers to socialize and purchase fresh products. Some markets incorporate food assistance programs such as Women Infants and Children (WIC) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP) or Double Up Food Bucks (DUFb).
Public Markets	Like farmers' markets, public markets provide space for food businesses like grocers and retailers, restaurateurs, and other food business to have permanent space for their markets. This benefits the local economy, delivers seasonal products, and increases options for natural and organic production. This provides customers with high quality products and builds the infrastructure for an effective local food system.
Grocery Stores	Promote food purchases through convenience stores, delicatessens, greengrocers, and health food stores. Within the local realm, a common goal of these stores is to enhance community economic development.
Food Boxes	Aggregate products from farmers (meat, vegetables, fruit, etc.) into a box that allows customers to have easy access to local and regional food. Boxes are typically offered on a weekly basis.
Food Hubs	Connect consumers, buyers, producers, and food businesses by managing aggregation, distribution, and marketing of products from local producers. This can fill a gap in the current distribution industry that distributes 80% of wholesale products from large-scale producers.
Auctions	Allow consumers to purchase from local producers. The auction method offers a true supply-and-demand environment.
Cooperatives	Similar to grocery stores, but are collectively owned by workers and/or customers. Many cooperatives offer education opportunities to members, high quality products, member authority, and support for local communities.
Food Banks	Food security based businesses that provide dry, cooled, and frozen storage space for food that will be distributed to pantries and partner agencies such as food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters.
Awareness Campaigns	Provide opportunity to support community and organizational identity and assist in bringing visibility and attention to a specific cause; if used as a call to action, they can assist in behavior change.
Farm to School Procurement	Procure foods from local farmers, where kids have an opportunity to learn through eating.
Small Market Retail*	
Tactics within Consumption	
Restaurants	Procure local foods and offer unique options to consumers seeking connection with community; many customers demand locally sourced protein and produce, environmentally sustainable options, and healthy meals.
Food Trucks	Offer a restaurant business model with relatively low start-up costs that assist persons with diverse backgrounds and socioeconomic statuses. They also offer opportunities to connect with local food production as a means to offer exceptional food in unique locations around the city.
Farm to School (Nutrition Education)	Educate children on agriculture, food, health and nutrition, where kids have an opportunity to learn through hands-on experience.

Community Food Systems Common Language

School Wellness Policies	A mandated policy for all schools that promote student and staff wellness, prevent and combat childhood obesity, and encourage that school nutrition guidelines meet the minimum federal school meal standards.
Education Centers	Teach young and old alike about agricultural systems through hands-on experiences. Many offer learning labs and workshops to teach about food production and how to integrate practices into life at home.
Teaching Kitchen	Offer demonstrations and educational space to teach various culinary practices; typically include hands-on programming for participants to learn about nutrition, cooking fundamentals and cultural identity of food.
Food Pantries and Meal Programs	Provide assistance programs that serve individuals who are hungry and need access to prepared meals or grocery items.
Food System Policy Councils	Bring together food activists, community members, urban and rural planners, and local, municipal, and state governments as partners in creating local food initiatives.
Local Food Coordinators and Coalitions	Build and connect food systems stakeholders and develop leadership within the community to orchestrate food system evolution.
Tactics within Resource Management:	
Waste Prevention	Waste prevention consists of recycling, prevention of waste, waste management and is tied to food donation and recovery, composting.
Food Donation + Recovery	Sometimes also called gleaning, bridges the gap between food waste and fighting hunger by offering opportunities for individuals, organizations, and farmers to donate food that is not used, rather than throwing it away.
Composting	A way to reuse organic material such as food scraps, yard waste, manure etc. and turn into a soil amendment. This process is an alternative for throwing food away that will end up in a landfill.
Renewable Energy	Promote alternative energy sources, renewable in nature: solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, etc.
Land Conservation	Manage land through programs that promote environmentally sustainable options for sensitive or damaged areas: sustainable farming, conservation land, wetlands, prairie or grassland, water protection and storm water management, etc.
Water Conservation	Water conservation practices can occur at multiple different scales from individual use, food business or farm or community planning strategies. This practice encourages utilizing water effectively and efficiently to conserve this limited resource and can include various forms of implementation from monitoring use, to implementation of site designs for water mitigation.
Reef Management	Preservation of oceanic ecosystems' health; including coral reefs, native species, resources, shorelines, tourism, cultural values, marine life, etc.