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HOMEGROWN EVANSTON: BUILDING A LOCAL FOOD AND FARM ECONOMY
an on-going assessment by the Evanston Food Council

**Healthy food, healthy economy, healthy environment =
healthy families and healthy communities**

A RESOURCE LIST

May 2012

The objectives of the Evanston Food Council are:

1. Adult Action-Learning: Help all Evanston adults enjoy working and learning together about food and farm systems, community interdependence, food policy, government operations, and local economics.
2. Develop "Complete Food and Farm Systems" framework (modeled on "Complete Streets")
3. Technical Assistance to local food projects and businesses (production to waste management).
4. Local Food System Building
 - a. Facilitate strategic partnerships
 - b. Project identification, planning and implementation
 - c. Policy identification, promoting, and implementation
 - d. Information collection, packaging, and sharing

Purpose of this Resource List

This resource list is intended to be a continuous work in progress, documenting all of the people, projects, and policies that are part of an Evanston local food and farm economy. It is intended to:

1. Explicate the definition of a local food and farm system
2. Identify Evanston-based people, projects, and businesses that are:
 - a. part of a local food and farm system
 - b. positively influencing a local food system
3. Identify major non-Evanston based people, projects, organizations, and policies that can positively impact Evanston's food system
4. Be available and useful to all Evanston people, projects, and businesses who want to restore and sustain a local farm and food economy in Evanston

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A. Resources and Support Networks: Evanston-based Projects and Partners

1. Grassroots and Non-profit Initiatives and Projects

Citizens' Greener Evanston

<http://www.greenerevanston.org/>

Citizens for a Greener Evanston is a group of community members working together with the City to help Evanston, Illinois reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and overall carbon footprint.

Evanston Backyard Chicken Committee

An initiative of the Evanston Food Council promoting backyard chicken keeping. Evanston ordinance was passed in September 2010. Committee continues to provide technical assistance to city and residents.

Evanston Food Council

Evanston Food Council is an action-oriented grassroots group working to ensure everyone's access to a safe, high quality, diverse food supply through the design and implementation of a fair and sustainable community-based food and farm economy.

Evanston 150

<http://evanston150.org/>

Celebrating Evanston's 150th birthday (in 2013), residents recently voted on 10 big ideas, two related to food:

- *Market for all Seasons*: Establish a year-round indoor/outdoor community market as the centerpiece of a revitalized public space.
- *Edible Evanston*: Develop sustainable local food sources by creating urban farms, community gardens, greenhouses, and composting sites.
- *Learn to Work, Work to Learn*: Develop vocational learning opportunities for all ages, integrating classroom study and work experience.

Family Focus/Our Place Garden

Edible garden for teenage girls and community members.

Family Table

Organizes cooking classes for low-income women, emphasizing easy and nutritious recipes. Maintains gardens at YWCA, connected to the women's shelter (Mary Lou's Place).

Garden Council of Evanston

Association of Evanston garden clubs. Resource for Evanston's 5 garden clubs. Hosts annual garden fair (May).

Interfaith Action of Evanston

www.interfaithactionofevanston.org

Organizes free meal programs on a regular schedule at different churches, synagogues, etc.

McGaw YMCA Farmers Market

Since 2009, the McGaw YMCA has hosted a weekly farmers market.

New Leaf Urban Gardens / Second Chance

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/New-Leaf-Urban-Gardens/197876400232263>

ECDC has joined local churches and Boocoo Cultural Center in an initiative to start an ex-offender entrepreneurship program. The idea is to give young men an opportunity to start their own business buying, growing, processing, and selling fresh food in order to support their families.

Curt's Cafe

<http://curtscafe.org/>

Cafe is a training program for youth that are being released from the judicial system and high-risk youth from our community to be trained in Life and Restaurant skills.

The Talking Farm

www.thetalkingfarm.org

An initiative of the Evanston Food Council. The Talking Farm cultivates healthy, sustainable communities by supporting the production and appreciation of locally grown food.

West End Market

<http://evanstoncdc.org/display.php?article&id=6>

Farmers market at Church and Dodge, Saturdays.

Westside Food Collaborative

A community partnership in the West side of Evanston to address availability of fresh produce, outreach and education aimed at changing the food consumption behaviors of children and adults, outreach aimed at increasing the numbers

of low-income residents involved with (1) existing food sustainability initiatives and (2) urban gardening and other food based microenterprises.

2. Institutional Initiatives

EVANSTON HOSPITAL (NorthShore University HealthSystem)

Provided funding to the Friends of the Evanston Farmers Markets to enable Link card recipients to get double value at the main market.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Campus Kitchen

The Campus Kitchen at Northwestern University, started in 2003, is fueled by the energy of student volunteers. Volunteers are trained in proper food safety and sanitation, work in the kitchen, deliver meals, develop menus, and learn socially-responsible leadership skills. We currently prepare and deliver approximately 750 meals a week.

Living Wage Campaign

<http://www.nulivingwages.org/>

NU students and faculty: Living wage campaign got a new contract for NU food service workers (Sept. 2011).

Northwestern Community Development Corps

<http://www.ncdcnorthwestern.org/>

Volunteer opportunities with food and farm groups

Northwestern University Sustainable Food Talks <http://www.nusustainablefoodtalks.blogspot.com/>

New program built on partnerships between student organizations, faculty, staff, and community members. Mission is to strengthen our sustainable food systems network, our knowledge base, and find ways together to maximize our outreach.

School of Education and Social Policy

Master's in Learning and Organizational Change

<https://sites.google.com/a/u.northwestern.edu/msloc-local-foods-schools/>

In partnership with the Evanston Food Council.

2009-10: Illinois school food procurement goal from Illinois Food, Farms, and Jobs Act

2010-11: Illinois farm-to-school supply chain

Wild Roots

<http://nuwildroots.wordpress.com/>

A student-directed garden which grows fresh produce for the Northwestern and Evanston communities using sustainable practices. *Wild Roots* serves the evolving educational and social needs of the Northwestern community by inspiring students to think critically about the food we eat and by starting conversations about sustainability, social justice, and our food system.

3. Government Initiatives and Projects

CITY OF EVANSTON

Evanston Farmers Market

<http://www.cityofevanston.org/evanston-life/farmers-market/>

One of the oldest farmers markets in the Chicago area (started in 1975), Saturdays, May - November

Friends of the Evanston Farmers Markets

<http://www.evanstonfarmersmarkets.org/>

Citizens volunteer group created by the City to support all farmers markets in Evanston.

Community Gardens

<http://www.cityofevanston.org/parks-recreation/parks/community-gardens/>

The City of Evanston offers residents 220 plots for rent from March through mid-November at four sites. Sign-up to the garden rental wait list is open and ongoing. Prospective gardeners will be put on the waitlist when the sign-up form is received by the Ecology Center.

RIDGEVILLE PARK DISTRICT

Ridgeville Farmers Market. Ridgeville Park District, May - September (Wednesday afternoon-dusk)

COOK COUNTY

Cook County Food System Steering Committee. An ad hoc committee commissioned to (1) draft an ordinance creating a Cook County Food Council, (2) write a report assessing the current status of the county's local food system in terms of promoting health. Two Evanston residents are on the Committee (Patsy Benveniste - The Talking Farm and Chicago Botanic Garden; Debbie Hillman - Evanston Food Council).

STATE OF ILLINOIS

Illinois Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Council

www.foodfarmsjobs.org

New state body created in 2009 by the Illinois Food, Farms, and Jobs Act, legislation sponsored by State Rep. Julie Hamos through the initiative of the Evanston Food Council. 35-member Council commissioned to expand and support an Illinois-based farm and food economy. One Evanston resident is on the ILFFJ Council (Bob Heuer, PTA Joint Legislative Task Force).

4. School-based Initiatives and Projects

ALL SCHOOLS (public, private, and home)

SAGE (Schools Are Gardening in Evanston/Skokie)

www.evanstonsage.org

Mission: to promote a healthy future for our children by supporting edible, sustainable school gardens.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

District 65 (elementary and junior high)

Wellness Council, District 65

<http://www.district65.net/Community/Wellness>

Food Services, District 65

<http://www.district65.net/departments/foodservices/>

Dawes Elementary School Edible Garden

Kingsley Green Acres: elementary school developed a "farmer-in-residence" program funded by PTA

Other Dist. 65 schools have gardens.

District 202 (high school)

Nutrition Services Department, District 202

<http://www.eths.k12.il.us/dept/nutrition/index.asp>

Edible Acre Pilot Project at Evanston Township High School

Community garden and outdoor classroom through conversion of an empty lot into a community garden that will be designed, implemented, and partially maintained by ETHS students in collaboration with the residents, businesses, ETHS, and other neighborhood stakeholders. This food production project will provide learning experiences, leadership opportunities, and summer jobs for ETHS students, as well as fresh produce and health benefits for the larger community. A partnership of the Evanston Food Council and The Talking Farm.

PTA Council (joint Dist. 65 and 202)

Healthy Community Task Force, Dist. 65/202 PTA Council

A task force of the Evanston/Skokie D65/D202 PTA Council to work on food/nutrition, health/wellness, and green issues. Listserv: <http://groups.google.com/group/evanston-health>

Joint Legislative Task Force, Dist. 65/202 PTA Council

The Joint Legislative Task Force has membership from D65, D202, PTA Council, and the broader community to discuss and address matters of legislative importance to the local educational communities. Has drafted resolutions and worked with Ed-Red (suburban school district lobbying group) to engage school boards and legislators on food and wellness issues.

B. Evanston Independent, Locally Owned Food and Farm Businesses

(incomplete list)

Evanston calls itself the "dining capital of the North Shore" - for good reason. Many of our restaurants are truly members of a local food and farm economy. This list includes some of those restaurants, as well as other businesses that are independent and locally owned and help to make our food and farm economy go.

Anton's Greenhouse (annuals, perennials, food plants, shrubs, bulbs)

Bagel Art (buys locally produced herbs, vegetables)

Brothers K Cafe/The Other Brother (buys locally produced foods)

Buy the Yard (soil amendments, stone, gravel, mulch)

Carson's (yard service)

Clean Air Lawn Care

Cleeson's (wholesale greenhouse)

Collective Resources, Inc. Food scrap pick-up service.

www.collectiveresource.us

Greenwise (lawn care)

Harold's True Value Hardware

Kettelcamp & Kettelcamp (landscape designers with farming background)

Lemoi Ace Hardware

Lucky Platter restaurant
Nature's Perspective (design/build, yard service)
Now We're Cookin'. Commercial kitchen, demonstration and event studio, small food business incubator
Perla Cafe
Unicorn Cafe (buys locally produced foods, composts)
West End Florist

C. Resources and Support Networks: Non-Evanston based Projects and Partners

Publicly accessible groups, e-mail lists, meetings, media, etc. Based in Illinois unless otherwise indicated.

1. NATIONAL (too many to mention all)

Community Food Security Coalition (Portland, OR). Sustainable local and regional food systems. Active list-servs and support resources. Policy, technical assistance, programs. <http://www.foodsecurity.org/>

Crossroads Resource Center. Tools for Community Self-determination. <http://www.crcworks.org/>
Ken Meter has been studying local food and farm economies for years, often on a case-by-case basis. His studies are very readable. Many are free (downloadable).

Community Food Security Coalition
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
Women, Food, and Agriculture Network
Foodroutes (Buy Fresh, Buy Local campaign)
National Farm to School
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture
Farmers Market Coalition
National Family Farm Coalition
Food Chain Workers Alliance

2. REGIONAL (Midwest)

Good Greens (Chicago). USDA Food & Nutrition Service - Midwest Office (IL, IN, MI, MN, WI, OH).
www.goodgreens.org/

CEED@Chicago Coalition. Based at University of Illinois-Chicago. Minimize the impact of cardiovascular disease and diabetes in the Latino and African American communities. Quarterly meetings, monthly committee meetings.
www.ceedchicago.org

Chicago Farmers (Chicago). Annual Farmland Investment Fair, monthly meetings (200 S. Wacker). Fee.
www.chicagofarmers.org/

The Land Connection and **Midwest Farm Connection** (Congerville). Education, farmer training programs, local producers-consumers connection. <http://www.thelandconnection.org/>

Michael Fields Agricultural Institute (East Troy, WI). Research, education, advocacy. www.michaelfieldsagainst.org

WCPT Radio. Mike Nowak Show (Chicago, Sunday mornings, 9:00 - 11:00). Mike is the voice of local foods in the Chicago area.

3. ILLINOIS

Illinois Local Food & Farms Coalition. Grassroots, statewide urban-rural events, legislative alerts, discussions related to localizing the Illinois farm and food economy. Wrote, passed the Illinois Food, Farms, and Jobs Acts (2007, 2009). Yahoo Group list-serv: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IllinoisLocalFoods/>

Illinois Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Council (Springfield). Meets quarterly in Springfield. www.foodfarmsjobs.org

Illinois Farmers Market Association (Springfield). <http://illinoisfarmersmarkets.wordpress.com/>
The Illinois Farmers Market Association helps farmers markets, their managers, and their vendors develop best practices via workshops, consultation, and peer-to-peer sharing of resources and information. Informally created in 2008, IFMA was formalized in January 2012. Serves all 300+ Illinois markets.

Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN) Local Foods Task Force. Illinois Community Colleges.
<http://www.igenc.org/workgroups/local-foods>

Illinois Interagency Nutrition Council (Springfield). Promotes health and wellness through nutrition education, coordination of services and access to nutrition programs so that Illinois residents can achieve food security.
<http://inc.aces.illinois.edu/>

Illinois Public Health Association - Food and Nutrition Section (Springfield). www.ipha.com/
Connects public health departments with food access and food security issues and policies.

Illinois Stewardship Alliance (Springfield). www.ilstewards.org/
Promotes establishment of sustainable local food systems and facilitates creation of food policy councils

4. REGIONAL (Greater Chicago)

Advocates for Urban Agriculture (Chicago). <http://auachicago.org/>
AUA is a coalition of organizations and individuals open to anyone interested in learning about, networking, and advocating for urban agriculture in the Chicago Area.
Google Group list-serv: <http://groups.google.com/group/advocates-for-urban-agriculture/>

Chicago Chicken Enthusiasts: Grassroots group especially for backyard chicken farmers. Google Group list-serv: <http://groups.google.com/group/chicago-chicken-enthusiasts?hl=en>

University of Chicago (Chicago). **Environment Agriculture and Food Working Group.** Program on the Global Environment. <http://eaf.uchicago.edu/>

University of Illinois-Chicago. Chicago Area Food Studies Working Group. Institute for the Humanities.
www.uic.edu/depts/huminst/food_grp.shtml

Chicago Stories: Urban Farming and Food Deserts <http://chicagostories.org/food>
Briefing papers and source lists to journalists visiting Chicago for the NATO Summit (May 2012) who are interested in connecting with local stories.

D. CURRENT POLICY FRAMEWORK

1. City of Evanston

a. **ORDINANCES** Research still needs to be done on ALL the ordinances that affect Evanston's food and farm system.

community gardens on public land or unused non-profit land
backyard livestock (chicken, duck, bee, rabbit, etc.)
farmers markets and farmstands
food scrap composting (home and commercial)
home-based businesses of all kinds (production, processing, cooking)
agricultural zoning (especially as it relates to small acreage)
commercial kitchens (shared kitchens)

Known ordinances and/or city-run programs (a work in progress)

Farmers Market
Backyard chickens
Residential bee-keeping
Community gardens

b. STRATEGIC PLAN (adopted in 2006)

ECONOMIC VIABILITY

Economics Vision: Evanston will have a viable, renewable economic engine, which can support the needs of the community, as well as enhance the life style of those living and working in the community.

Goal #1 Create and implement a comprehensive economic development strategy, which results in a vibrant and diverse economy for the City of Evanston.

Goal #3: Generate marketable job skills for Evanston residents.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

Neighborhood Vision: Evanston will maintain and build upon the uniqueness and strengths of its neighborhoods and parks. We will provide a high quality of life for all members of our diverse population.

Goal #11: Define Evanston neighborhoods and ensure that they are safe, clean, and attractive.

Social Programs Vision: Evanston is a socially-conscious and active City. We will address the social needs of all our citizens where additional help and support is required.

Goal #13: Strive to ensure that all Evanston residents have access to health care, as well as basic food, housing and shelter.

- a. Regularly assess community health and wellness and the need for human services.
- b. Assess the effectiveness and responsiveness of human service programs.
- c. Support and promote a collaborative network of human services programs in Evanston.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Natural Resources Vision: Evanston will be known as “The Green City.” We will embrace the best ecological practices and policies in our government, services, and infrastructure.

Goal #5: Protect and optimize the City’s natural resources and built environment, leading by example through sustainable practices and behaviors.

c. EVANSTON CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (adopted in 2008)

Food Production & Distribution

1. Reduce emissions related to the production and transportation of food.
 - a) Support and encourage efforts to grow more food in Evanston
 - b) Promote and continue to expand the Evanston farmers markets.
 - c) Work with the community to increase the amount of local and healthy food served in local institutions and food establishments.
 - d) Promote and support educational programs that address food-related health and environmental issues.
 - e) Complete a community food assessment, inventorying local food resources and community access.
 - f) Regularly publish articles in the local papers on food related environmental and health issues.
 - g) Encourage the establishment Evanston.

Waste Reduction & Recycling

1. Increase residential waste reduction and recycling participation efforts.
2. Increase commercial waste reduction and recycling participation efforts.
5. Increase waste reduction and recycling participation at City buildings, parks, and events.

Forestry, Prairie & Carbon Offsets

1. Create a local carbon offset program to complement Climate Action Plan emissions reduction strategies.
2. Optimize tree planting and protect existing trees for maximum carbon storage/sequestration and energy savings.
3. Optimize the use of native plants throughout Evanston.
4. Reduce amount of water used by 15% below 2000 water consumption levels by 2015.
5. Implement policies and practices that treat rainwater as a precious resource and make use of it where it falls.

Policy & Research

1. Track and disseminate information on climate change trends, policies and best practices.
2. Ensure that policy decisions at all levels seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
3. Secure and leverage funding for Evanston Climate Action Plan initiatives and strategies.
4. Support local, state and national efforts to mitigate climate change.

Education & Engagement

1. Empower the community to take action around climate change.
2. Gain support from the six largest Evanston institutions and businesses for the implementation of the Evanston Climate Action Plan.
3. Use festivals, markets and celebrations to promote and model "green practices."
4. Connect residents, businesses, and City staff to workshops, training, and lectures on green topics.

Communications & Public Relations

1. Disseminate information to the community around climate change and the Evanston Climate Action Plan and promote community and City efforts as pertinent.
3. Encourage residents, businesses, students and community groups to use the Zerofootprint Evanston online carbon footprint calculator.

2. Cook County

Cook County Food System Steering Committee. Writing a snapshot assessment of the Cook County food system and proposing a Cook County food council. Report and ordinance to be completed by March 2012. (Lara Jaskiewicz, Project Manager, under a CDC grant to the Cook County Department of Public Health under the Communities Putting Prevention to Work initiative).

3. Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (regional)

CMAP Go to 2040 Plan. "Promote Sustainable Local Food" (2010, 18 pages), one of 12 major recommendations by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. CMAP currently working on model ordinances, data collection, etc.

4. State of Illinois

a. Local Food legislation passed in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012

Senate Resolution SR0530 Adopted Feb. 9, 2012

Sen. D. Koehler

Urges Congress to adopt a farm bill that supports and promotes the development of local and regional food systems.

Illinois Food, Farms, and Jobs Act HB3990 Public Act 96-579

Rep. J. Hamos

- Commissions the **Illinois Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Council** to facilitate development of an Illinois-based food and farm economy, whereby Illinois farmers grow diverse foods and other farm products for Illinois consumers. Goals are based on report commissioned in 2007: **Local Food, Farms, and Jobs: Growing the Illinois Economy** (2009, 48 pages). www.foodfarmsjobs.org
- Sets forth procurement goals for state agencies and state-funded institutions.
- Authorizes the development of a labeling and certification program, whereby a label may be placed on local farm and food products that are grown, processed, packaged, and distributed by Illinois citizens or businesses located wholly within the borders of Illinois.

Farm Fresh Schools Program HB78 Public Act 96-0153

Rep. S. Cole

Illinois Fresh Food Fund (DCEO Capital Bill) SB1221 Public Act 96-0039

Sen. D. Trotter

Obesity Prevention Initiative HB3767 Public Act 96-0155

Rep. E. Coulson

EPA Composting Facilities SB99 Public Act 96-0418

Sen. H. Steans

Solid Waste - Use of Compost SB1932 Public Act 96-0077

Sen. D. Wilhelm

Farmers Market Technology Improvement Program HB4756 Public Act 96-1088

Rep. L. Ford

Chemical Drift Specialty Crop Farm Registry SJR105 Adopted

Sen. D. Koehler

Farm-to-School Database (Local Food, Farms, & Jobs Act) SB615 Public Act 96-1095

Sen. L. Holmes

Public Health - Honey Exempt SB2959 Public Act 96-1028

Sen. D. Luechtefeld

Farmers Market Task Force SB1852 Public Act 97-0394

Sen. D. Luechtefeld

Food Handling-Cottage Food SB840 Public Act 97-0393

Sen. D. Koehler

Liquor Craft Brewer Distributor SB754 Public Act 97-0005

Sen. D. Trotter

Illinois Food, Farms, and Jobs Act of 2009 (details)

(1) Report: Local Food, Farms, and Jobs: Growing the Illinois Economy (March 2009)

A plan containing policy and funding recommendations for expanding and supporting a State local food system and for assessing and overcoming obstacles to an increase in locally grown food and local organic food production.

Goals for 2020:

- (1) Coordinate state institution food procurement policies to increase purchase of Illinois local farm and food products

at state-funded cafeterias to 20% of total purchases..

(2) Support and expand programs that recruit, train, and provide technical assistance to 20,000 Illinois residents (5,000 farmers, 12,500 farm laborers, and 2,500 infrastructure entrepreneurs) to produce, process, and distribute Illinois local farm and food products.

(3) Increase the accessibility of Illinois local food products by Illinois consumers to 10% of total food dollar expenditures.

(2) Legislation: Illinois Food, Farms, and Jobs Act of 2009 (signed into law August 2009)

Immediate Implementation Strategies:

Section 15. Creation of the Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Council.

(a) The General Assembly authorizes the Department of Agriculture, in accordance with Section 10 of the State Agency Entity Creation Act, to create the Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Council.

(b) The purpose of the Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Council shall be to facilitate the growth of an Illinois-based local farm and food product economy that revitalizes rural and urban communities, promotes healthy eating with access to fresh foods, creates jobs, ensures a readily available supply of safe food in an emergency event, and supports economic growth through making local farm or food products available to all Illinois citizens.

Section 20. Responsibilities of the Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Council.

The responsibilities of the Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Council include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) Procurement. To assist State agencies, State-owned facilities, and other entities with the purchase of local farm or food products and with tracking and reporting of such purchases in order to meet the goals established in Section 10 of this Act.

(b) Entrepreneurs. To assist local farm and food entrepreneurs to identify and secure necessary resources and equipment to begin, maintain, and expand projects and networks necessary for the development of local farm or food products; provided, however, that it is the intent of this Act that the Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Council will facilitate program start-ups and then relinquish rights, benefits, and control within a reasonably short duration of time.

(c) Infrastructure. To facilitate the building of infrastructure, including aggregation, processing, storage, packaging, and distribution facilities necessary to move local farm or food products to local and other markets.

(d) Farmer training. To support and expand programs that recruit, train, and provide technical assistance to Illinois farmers and residents in order to encourage the production of local farm or food products.

(e) Coordinate agencies, organizations, and institutions. To coordinate interagency policies, initiatives, and procedures promoting local farm and food products in Illinois communities, by working with and involving State, federal, and local agencies, as well as community based organizations, educational institutions, and trade organizations in executing the purposes of this Act.

(f) Remove legal barriers. To facilitate the elimination of legal barriers hindering the development of a local farm and food economy by working with federal, State, and local public health agencies, other agencies and applicable entities, and the Illinois Attorney General to create consistent and compatible regulations for the production, storage, distribution, and marketing of local farm or food products.

(g) Public lands for food. To facilitate the use of public lands for growing local farm or food products by working with governmental entities at the local, State, and federal levels.

(h) Consumer data (baseline and tracking). To set annual goals for all purchases of local farm or food products by Illinois residents and to monitor the development and expansion of a local farm and food economy through data collection, tracking, measurement, analysis, and reporting on progress made in an annual report to the Illinois General Assembly.

(i) Illinois label. To develop, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, a label and certification program different than the "Illinois Product" label program, whereby a label with a specific name and unique design or logo may be placed on local farm and food products.

(j) Public awareness campaign. To initiate and facilitate public awareness campaigns about the economic benefits of a local farm and food economy.

b. Illinois Community Colleges

Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN): *The Role of Community Colleges in Developing the Illinois Local Food System* (2011, 28 pages). Report of the IGEN Local Food Task Force. www.igencec.org

5. Federal

a. Know your Farmer, Know your Food (USDA)

Not a separate law or policy, but a coordinating framework adopted by the USDA. Here is the description from the KYF, KYF homepage.

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=KYF_MISSION

Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food (KYF2) is a USDA-wide effort to carry out President Obama's commitment to strengthening local and regional food systems.

We know that demand for local and regional foods is strong, as consumers across the country are looking to connect with their food and the people who grow and raise it:

- The number of farmers markets has more than tripled in the past 15 years and there are now more than 7,175 around the country;
- In 1986 there were two community supported agriculture operations, today there are over 4,000;
- There are farm to school programs in 48 states, totaling more than 2,200 and up from two in 1996;
- All 50 states in the U.S. have agricultural branding programs, such as "Jersey Fresh" or "Simply Kansas;"
- As Governor of Iowa, Tom Vilsack started one of the first food policy councils. Today there are over 100 food policy councils;
- And the National Restaurant Association declared "locally sourced meats and seafood" and "locally grown produce" as the top two trends for 2011.

Local and regional markets often provide farmers with a higher share of the food dollar, and money spent at a local business often continues to circulate within community, creating a multiplier effect and providing greater economic benefits to the area.

An Economic Research Service Study (May 2010) identified barriers to local food market entry and expansion, including capacity constraints for farms, a lack of infrastructure for moving local food into mainstream markets, and regulatory uncertainties. This is the work of the Initiative.

Our mission is to strengthen the critical connection between farmers and consumers and supports local and regional food systems. Through this initiative, USDA integrates programs and policies that:

- Stimulate food- and agriculturally-based community economic development;
- Foster new opportunities for farmers and ranchers;
- Promote locally and regionally produced and processed foods;
- Cultivate healthy eating habits and educated, empowered consumers;
- Expand access to affordable fresh and local food; and
- Demonstrate the connection between food, agriculture, community and the environment.

Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food also leads a national conversation about food and agriculture to strengthen the connection between consumers and farmers.

Thanks to the 2008 Farm Bill, there is more support for local and regional agriculture than ever. To make the most of our programs we are working to foster innovative, effective, and open government. While there is no office, staff, or budget dedicated to KYF2, Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan chairs a task force of USDA employees representing every agency within the Department in order to break down bureaucratic silos, develop common-sense solutions for communities and farmers, and foster new partnerships inside USDA and across the country.

b. Local Farms, Food, and Jobs Act S. 1773 and H.R. 3286

This bill is currently in the pipeline in Congress. Currently, there are only two Illinois co-sponsors (Jan Schakowsky - 9th district and Daniel Lipinski - 3rd district). Here is the summary as taken from the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition website: <http://sustainableagriculture.net/our-work/local-food-bill/>

Sponsored by Representative Chellie Pingree (Maine) and Senator Sherrod Brown (Ohio)

The Local Farms, Food, and Jobs Act will improve federal farm bill programs that support local and regional farm and food systems. This legislation will help farmers and ranchers engaged in local and regional agriculture by addressing production, aggregation, processing, marketing, and distribution needs and will also assist consumers by improving access to healthy food and direct and retail markets. And of utmost importance, this legislation will provide more secure funding for critically important programs that support family farms, expand new farming opportunities, and invest in the local agriculture economy.

c. Let's Move (adopted 2010)

Let's Move will give parents the support they need, provide healthier food in schools, help our kids to be more physically active, and make healthy, affordable food available in every part of our country.