

CHAPTER 6: FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

INTRODUCTION

While the Berkshires as a region have a long tradition of agriculture, there is very limited agricultural activity remaining in North Adams. Some of this is due to the terrain, which affords limited opportunities; agricultural producing lands occupy only three percent of the total land area. This limited agricultural land supply has resulted in two trends in local food production: a strong relationship between farms in surrounding communities as the foodshed for the city through the farmers market and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares and a keen interest in urban gardening within city neighborhoods. The existing urban fabric of North Adams offers opportunities for creative reuse of old mill, church or school buildings and related infrastructure for the production, processing and distribution of food. Institutions like the North Adams Regional Hospital are active in identifying and promoting spaces for community gardens. North Adams is working as a community to actively address food access and equity through such efforts as the community garden program, Berkshire Food Project, Hoosac Harvest, and Northern Berkshire Community Coalition's Mass in Motion program. This section establishes goals for building a strong local food system in the city that facilitates access to healthy food for all residents.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE GOALS AND POLICIES

GOAL 1: STRIVE TO INTEGRATE A ROBUST, LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM (PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION AND ACCESS) INTO EXISTING URBAN FABRIC

Policy 1.1: Promote urban farming and community gardening as a way to produce and distribute local, healthy foods in North Adams.

Action A: Identify Viable Spaces for Urban Farming or Community Gardens

Use existing property databases and develop additional site criteria to identify vacant or underused parcels suitable for urban agriculture or community gardens. Water access, for example, is very important for a community garden or urban farm to be productive and successful. Identify city-owned vacant lots that are viable spaces for community gardens or farmers without farms. Create an inventory of available parcels or lots accessible and searchable to the public.

Action B: Facilitate Use of City-Owned Vacant Parcels for Garden Spaces

Use land holding techniques (e.g., land bank, land trust) to make city-owned vacant spaces affordable for food production. Cities such as Detroit have found success in land banking as a way to take ownership of vacant properties and encourage uses that offer community benefits, including community gardening and urban agriculture.

Create a process to proactively identify spaces owned by the city and suitable for community gardening and manage use, lease or purchase agreements between the City and community gardeners. Formulate standards of use (i.e., requiring raised beds, soil tests and organic maintenance) and use or lease agreements for these city-owned parcels. The Detroit Food Policy Council has helped

identify best practices in terms of what such a process should look and feel like to community members. Other cities and towns have developed programs that encourage gardening and farming activities on city owned properties, including: The purchase of a lot; the purchase for nominal price of vacant lots adjacent to an interested party's property; bid sales; or through a garden permit/Adapt-A-Lot Program. (See also Housing and Neighborhoods Chapter.)

Action C: Align Regulations with Local Food Goals

Ensure city regulations support neighborhood food production, such as front yard gardening and beekeeping. Sometimes, existing zoning regulations make agricultural production challenging or impossible within town or city limits. Current zoning regulations in North Adams are relatively flexible in terms of food production – livestock, for example, is permissible with a lot size of 2 acres or larger and enclosure for the animals. The 2 acre lot size could be a challenge for neighborhoods with higher density and less space and residents who would like to keep a few chickens.

Action D: Link Gardens to Education to Empower More People to Grow and Eat Fresh

Identify partnerships between North Adams Regional Hospital, community gardens, schools and institutions and food sites. Pursue ongoing and pilot projects that partner institutions with gardening and healthy food programs to North Adams food sites to ensure that all North Adams residents have access to healthy and local food from a variety of sources.

Action E: Incorporate Food Production in Affordable Housing Site Plans

Incorporate productive food spaces into affordable housing opportunities as they are proposed and potentially developed in or around North Adams. Food Works at Two Rivers Center, in Montpelier, Vermont, helps to manage and maintain gardening programs at affordable housing communities in Central Vermont, providing residents with educational programs focused on food production and nutrition education. A similar concept applied locally could increase access to healthy, local food in some of North Adams' lower-income neighborhoods and increase access to food education throughout the year.

GOAL 2: STRENGTHEN THE NORTH ADAMS ECONOMY THROUGH ITS FOOD SYSTEM

Policy 2.1: Encourage the growth of businesses that grow, distribute, process and sell local and healthy foods – especially those that offer healthy food access to low-income neighborhoods or areas designated as USDA Food Desert.¹

Action A: Market and Site Analysis to Understand Business Development Options

Value-added processing is a key way farmers can raise their profit margins, but the county currently lacks the infrastructure to support commercial-scale procession. The city and its partners should conduct a market study for local/regional food processing facility, cold storage and other food related infrastructure in northern Berkshire and southern Vermont area. Explore mill buildings and old church reuse as potential sites for these types of businesses, and promote these types of businesses as opportunities to promote North Adams as a great place to open and maintain a local business.

Action B: Consider Growing and Recruiting Food Related Anchor Businesses

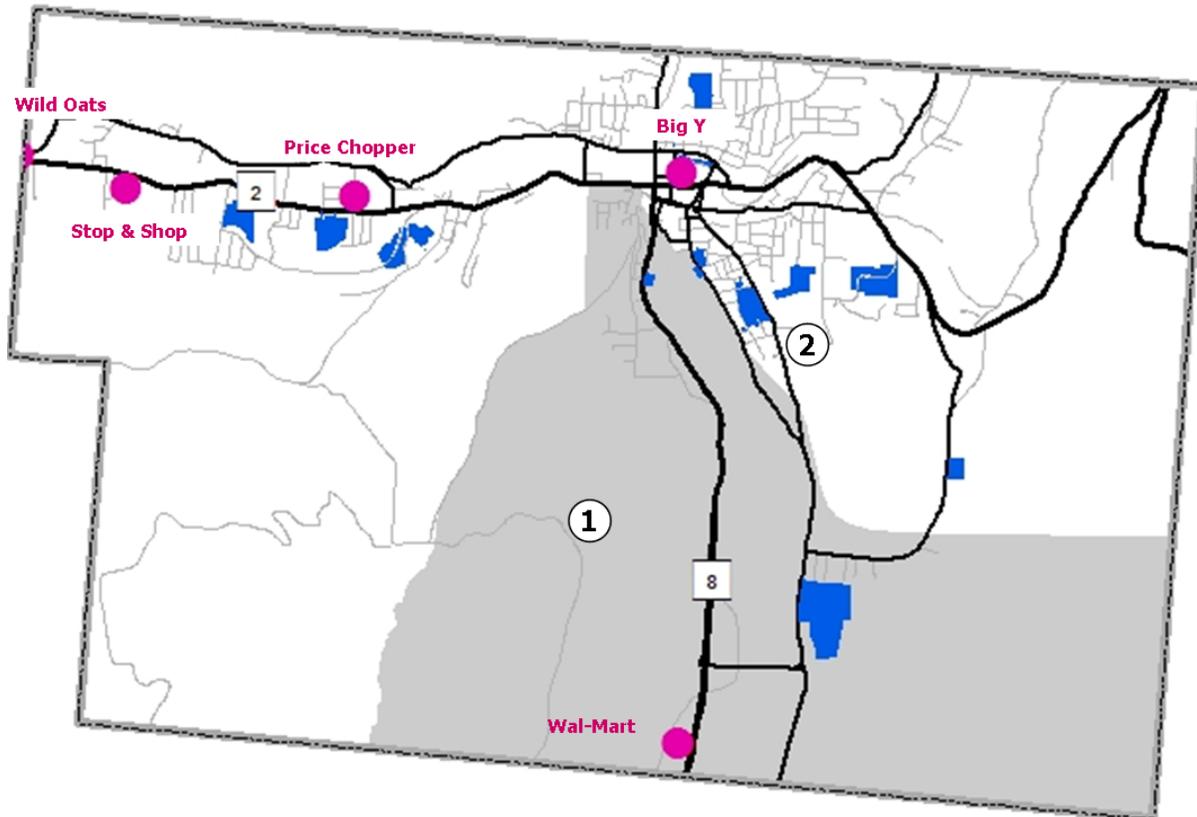
Continue partnering with 1Berkshire to identify and offer North Adams building stock as potential homes for business, specifically food and agriculture related businesses such as value added food processing, production and distribution. A food hub business that aggregates and distributes local produce, is one business identified as a missing piece in the food system.

¹USDA defines a "food desert" as an area where at least 500 people and/or 33% of the census tract population reside more than one mile from a supermarket or grocery store.

Action C: Encourage the Location of a Local Foods Market in North Adams

Locating a health food store or a coop like Wild Oats Market in Williamstown or Berkshire Organics in Dalton would increase access to healthy, local foods. A pedestrian-friendly location would further enhance access. Potential locations already exist, identified as the area surrounding Heritage Park or on (Main Street).

Figure 1: Food Desert and Community Garden Sites



1 Food Desert— A food desert, as defined by the USDA, is a low-income census tract in which a large number or share of residents have low access to a supermarket or large grocery store. At least 500 people, and/or 33% of the census tract population must reside more than one mile from a supermarket or grocery store. This low access can have negative health implications, as it can impede the purchase and consumption of fresh fruits, vegetables and whole, healthy foods. The North Adams neighborhoods of South Church Street, West Shaft Road, Church Street, State Street and Braytonville are shaded as a food desert. However, the recent location of a Super Wal-Mart may have resolved the food desert status by providing grocery access to that area of the city.

2 Community Gardens—there are a number of community gardens across the city. Some are tied to community kitchen to support meals, others are linked to a neighborhood to provide grow-your-own options for residents. These programs can be very valuable to enhancing nutrition and hunger, as well as providing space for hobby recreation and social interaction.

GOAL 3: PROVIDE ACCESS TO HEALTHY, LOCAL FOOD FOR ALL NORTH ADAMS RESIDENTS

Policy 3.1: Promote pedestrian friendly locations for food outlets, including healthy food retail, farmers markets and community gardens within easy walking or cycling distance of low-income neighborhoods, work places and other gathering points.

Action A: Safe Routes to Food

Work with regional and local entities to include proximity to food access points as a priority evaluation criterion in transportation planning considerations, including pedestrian improvement planning. Regional and local planners could either consider the potential to increase food access on a case-by-case basis, or create a toolkit or criteria matrix to help guide the inclusion of food access into transportation plans and projects, planning transportation for health. The Nashville, Tennessee Metropolitan Planning Organization, for example, prioritizes project investments with a 100 point criteria system. Sustainable Development, Multi-Modal Options and Health and Environment are 10 and 15 point categories, with food access falling into the health and environment category. They award points based on the proximity and number of food outlets in the area surrounding the proposed transportation system investment.

Action B: Eliminate Food Desert

Use incentives for businesses to site healthy food access points in neighborhoods identified as Food Deserts. Incentives can include expedited permitting or gap funding opportunities for businesses committed to increasing food access and promoting community health and wellness through their enterprise. This kind of effort could be in conjunction with economic development efforts.

Action C: Relocate North Adams Farmers Market

Identify a site for the North Adams farmers market that promotes pedestrian access for all North Adams residents, but especially low-income neighborhoods or areas identified as Food Deserts. Incorporate food and nutrition education into the new Farmer's Market site through training workshops and food demos.

Action D: Encourage Healthy Options in all Food Retail Sites

Support Mass in Motion's Healthy Market initiative to make available and promote healthy options in "convenience stores" throughout North Adams.

Policy 3.2: Enhance affordability and access of local, healthy food options for all North Adams residents.

Action A: Expand Retailer Options for Food Subsidy Program Recipients

Enable and encourage use of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT)/Women, Infants and Children (WIC) use at North Adams Farmers Market. While some vendors already accept EBT/WIC resources, not all do. It is also important that everybody with EBT/WIC benefits know that the North Adams Farmers Market does accept EBT/WIC, so marketing and outreach is a key element in further promoting healthy, local food access through outreach and communication. Work with the North Adams WIC office to encourage the use of these benefits at the Farmers Market when consulting with users.

Action B: Offer Healthy Food Purchase Incentives

Investigate dollar stretching programs to incentivize the purchase of local, healthy food products at farmers markets and other food outlets (i.e., Double value coupon program or 'Fresh Bucks' – multiplies value of federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits). Wholesome Wave is one example of a doubling program for farmers markets.

Action C: Offer 'Fruit and Vegetable Prescription Program'

With health care shifting increasing focus to preventative health programs, the city and hospital should look for opportunities to forge a collaboration to promote healthy eating as a health care step.

Local health care providers could encourage the purchase of fresh fruit and vegetables through coupons, cost-sharing or subsidizing and partnerships between health clinics and food outlets.

Action D: Continue to Support Subsidized CSA Share Programs

There are good examples of subsidized or donated community supported agriculture (CSA) shares in the region, such as Berkshire Grown's 'Share the Bounty' program and its north Berkshire presence Hoosac Harvest. Community service groups could partner to support this program and expand its ability to provide shares to city residents.

Action E: Create Mobile Food Options

Explore mobile food access opportunities, such as a Veggie Mobile, a Farm-to-Family drop-off system, or a work-place delivery system such as that in place between Berkshire Organics and North Adams Regional Hospital. The Capital District Community Garden Veggie Mobile brings fresh and local (as available) produce to neighborhoods throughout the Albany, NY region. They offer food and cooking demos using ingredients available from the veggie mobile. Each of these should accept SNAP/WIC benefits in North Adams.

Action F: Healthy Cooking Training for Food Service Employees

Increase food and nutrition education and training opportunities at pantries, schools, and in elder service programs such as Meals on Wheels and senior meal program at All Saints Church. There are many resources for cooking locally and seasonally, including a Mass Farm to School cookbook that helps take the guesswork out of meeting food requirements in a school setting.

Action G: City-MCLA Garden Partnership

Pursue collaboration with MCLA to integrate larger North Adams community into its garden program through work shares or other agreements. Cultivate a partnership that benefits MCLA staff and students as well as North Adams residents through the sharing of a community garden.

Action H: Promote Food Education to Facilitate Healthy Eating Behaviors

Education is a critical element in promoting healthy, local eating behaviors. Incorporating activities and projects into school curriculum is a way to introduce it; parallel efforts in the cafeteria and at home reinforce healthy food behaviors. Vermont FEED (Farm to School Education Every Day!) is a good example of how federal agencies, non-profits and schools can collaborate to integrate farm to school and food education into the classroom and cafeteria.

Policy 3.3: Support food assistance sites, such as pantries and meal locations, in providing local, healthy foods.

Action A: Increase Presence of Local Food in Emergency Food Options

Coordinate gleaning partnerships between area farms and local pantries and meal sites and the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. Gleaning is the collection of left over product from agricultural fields after harvest.

- Partner with Hoosac Harvest to strengthen existing program and identify new opportunities.
- Promote 'grow an extra row' partnerships – identify new opportunities for such programs.
- Partner with Mass in Motion and Hoosac Harvest to recruit volunteers for a 'grow an extra row' program.
- Consider school gardens as sources for pantry or meal site foods.
- Assist food pantries and kitchens with the sourcing of local food products, emphasizing fresh vegetables or fruit.
- Encourage pantries or food sites to purchase a CSA share, or enter into a purchasing contract with a farmer.
- Facilitate subsidized shares or direct contracts between farms and food assistance sites.

Action B: Increase Exposure to Healthy Food

Promote food and nutrition education at food assistance sites: Provide tasting samples and recipes to those waiting for food at pantries and meal sites, or food demos. Coordinate efforts with food pantries to encourage and raise awareness for healthy donation options during Postal Food drive as well as other food drives.

Action D: Season Extension

Promote seasonal extension methods to ensure year-long access to fresh fruit and vegetables – i.e., mobile fruit & veggie processing unit for flash freezing bulk items for institutions and food pantries or kitchens. This can be done in bulk at the food processing facility in Greenfield. Also, consider partnerships that provide storage opportunities to enhance capacity for keeping and serving fresh, local foods at food assistance sites in North Adams.

Policy 3.4: Enhance existing opportunities for healthy and local foods at local restaurants, stores and other market outlets.

Action A: Partner with Northern Berkshire Community Coalition’s Mass in Motion Program to Assist Local or Neighborhood Stores in Stocking Fresh, Healthy Foods

Identify ongoing programs and funding opportunities to assist smaller stores in stocking healthy foods, and promoting the purchase and consumption of healthier foods through signs, coupons and in-store promotions. Capital District Community Gardens, in Albany, New York, have a program called the Healthy Convenience Store Initiatives, in which they install refrigerator units in neighborhood stores, and stock with healthy food options twice a week, and work with owners to limit price mark-up. Partner with Northern Berkshire Community Coalition and Mass in Motion (MiM) to enroll convenient stores in MiM activities, including the provision and promotion of healthier foods and consumer food and nutrition education. This should be prioritized in low-income or food desert areas.

Action B: Augment Awareness of and use of SNAP or WIC Benefits at the North Adams Farmer’s Market

Partner with Northern Berkshire Community Coalition’s Mass in Motion (MiM) Program to increase benefits utilized and spent at the North Adams Farmers Market by increasing awareness and resources. Encourage outreach and information campaigns, and provide assistance where applicable.

Action C: Encourage Healthy and Fresh Food Options in Local Restaurants—from the local pizza shop to higher end or specialty restaurants.

Work with local restaurants to offer and promote healthy dining out options. In the central Berkshires, Tri-Town Health is responsible for the Healthy Dining Program. This program includes 60 eateries and institutions that create menus focused on encouraging healthy eating habits. Through this program, restaurants commit to designating nutritional information for each menu item, making salt shakers available by customer request, banning trans fat,, reducing portion size, offering gluten free substitutions and providing low fat or non-dairy options when milk is offered as a beverage.

GOAL 4: INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS IN NORTH ADAMS SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS

Policy 4.1: Promote health and nutrition through better eating and other wellness activities in and around North Adams schools and institutions.

Action A: Promote Partnerships for Healthful Eating in City Institutions

Collaborate with dietitians and local health care providers to design healthier menus in the hospital cafeteria, as well as in other institutional cafeterias, including day care sites and senior centers.

Action B: Support Education and Career Development Focused on Agriculture and Food Systems, including Food Preparation, Value-added Processing, Nutrition and Hospitality.

Explore partnership or collaboration potential with McCann Technical School, specifically its Culinary Arts program. Find out whether they use local food, they emphasize healthy cooking and if a pilot program in which Culinary Art students teach community members how to cook with local, healthy food could be a viable pilot project.

Action C: Encourage Opportunities for Youth Training and Participation with Local Partners

Identify opportunities for 'Guest Chefs', 'Guest Farmers' or Junior Iron Chef Competition at institution cafeterias, including North Adams Regional Hospital, MCLA and schools.

Action D: Encourage Healthy and Local Foods in Cafeteria Settings

Create a 'Veggie or Fruit of the Month' program to introduce healthy and local food products in cafeteria settings – highlight the product, distribute recipes.

Action E: Explore Municipal Purchasing Arrangements between City Programs and Local Food Suppliers.

Expanding food options and enhancing local economic relationships between the City and food suppliers.

Action F: Provide Municipal Support for School Wellness Programs

Assist the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition's Mass in Motion program with coordinating school wellness programs, including nutrition, with the school wellness committee.

Action G: Partner with the North Adams Regional Hospital to further Community and Institutional Wellness Initiatives

Actively collaborate with North Adams Regional Hospital to promote healthy food and wellness options in and out of the hospital. Access to green space and gardens is restorative to patients and health care providers. Identify walking loops around hospital for staff and patients. Identify opportunities for kitchen gardens near the hospital for use in hospital cafeteria meals. Identify funding opportunities for healthy hospital food programs and options.

Policy 4.2: Promote local foods in the North Adams education system, and reduce non-healthy food options.

Action A: Provide Municipal Support where Possible for School Gardens

Promote school gardens as opportunities for education and food production. Consider ways to ensure that the garden programming remains active even in summer months, like Project Sprout at Monument Mountain High School. Consider low-cost tools for weather protection and season extension, such as hoop houses.

From Farm to School

Two organizations in Massachusetts assist in bringing food and agriculture into the cafeteria and classroom.

[The Massachusetts Farm to School Project](#) facilitates sustainable purchasing relationships between local institutions and local farms. It offers trainings to institutional food services and farm-to-institution matchmaking. The organization already works with the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition Mass in Motion program to help connect community to healthy food and bring more local foods to North Adams schools. Through a USDA grant, the organization was able to work with Crosby Elementary School in Pittsfield to launch a school garden program, and work with the food services director to purchase and provide local foods in the cafeteria. This grant was targeted to assist low-income school districts.

[Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom](#) is a non-profit organization provides agricultural education training for teachers and other educators, helping students identify the connections between foods, fibers and other agricultural products they use. Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom connects these lessons to state curriculum frameworks. The organization provides mini-grants, skills workshops and demonstrations for teachers and other educators to bring new lessons and skills into their classrooms and schools.

Action B: Encourage Healthy, Local Food Options in Schools through Both Cafeteria Service and Curriculum Development

Increase in-class and at-lunch food education in North Adams schools, and encourage in-school curriculum that promotes the value of horticulture and nutritional value of fruit and vegetables. Work with the school district and independent or charter schools to integrate activities and lessons into curriculum that emphasize healthy eating and food production.

Action C: Provide Technical Assistance for North Adams Schools Interested in School Gardens.

Identify schools with an active interest and suitable site for a school garden. Develop a toolkit for schools interested in hosting a school garden: what is needed to start and maintain a successful school garden? What are good site characteristics? Explore partnership opportunities so that the space remains maintained during vacation periods, and the fruit or vegetables not wasted. Potential partners include the Massachusetts Farm to School Project, Northern Berkshire Community Coalition's Mass in Motion program, the Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom group, and the North Adams School District.

Action D: Encourage Schools to Identify Funding Opportunities for School Gardens from a Variety of Funding Sources, including Public and Private Entities.

Identify funding opportunities for school gardens within North Adams. Actively seek opportunities to fund school gardens, in the form of grants as well as technical assistance or in-kind donations.

Action E: Promote Healthy Vending Opportunities in North Adams Schools.

Identify opportunities for fresh and healthy vending opportunities, including vegetables, fruit, and dairy products around the MCLA campus.

Action F: Help Connect North Adams with Partners to Increase the Range of Snacks Available within City Schools.

Encourage North Adams schools to offer healthy food options along with or instead of conventional vending machine snacks. Potential partners include Massachusetts Farm to School.

Action G: Encourage Sharing and Promotion of Nutrition and Physical Activity Best Practices at North Adams Schools.

Partner with local health care providers and experts to bring best practices into schools through class room visits, field trips and integration into curriculum.

Action H: Establish a Working Group of Food Service Directors, Superintendents and other School Stakeholders to Address Farm to School Opportunities and Challenges.

Coordinate working meetings with food service directors to share ideas, challenges and solutions to getting more local food in schools, in partnership with Massachusetts Farm-to-School.

Action I: Implement a Pilot Farm to Cafeteria Project: Identify a Grower and Institution Interested in Testing out Contractual Growing.

Assist school system in reviewing options and testing priority 'local first' sourcing for cafeteria food. Work with Massachusetts Farm to School to develop a pilot farm to cafeteria program at a North Adams school to encourage other schools to participate.

Action J: Include Garden Mosaics Service Learning Program as a Fixed item in the School Budget to Encourage Sustained Capacity.

Dedicate school budget item for Garden Mosaics service learning gardening program.

Action K: Promote Healthy Eating and Living through a Variety of Media.

Use public resources, like Channel 22 (public access television) to promote healthy food behaviors. Offer information about healthy eating behaviors, and how to prepare local, healthy foods as part of Channel 22 programming.

Policy 4.3: Integrate food and agriculture planning efforts into broader policy and governance conversations.

Action A: Be an Active Advocate in Ongoing Work of the Massachusetts Food Policy Council.

Participate in the upcoming statewide food and agriculture plan to be led by the Food Policy Council. The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is leading efforts, through the Massachusetts Food Policy Council, to develop a statewide strategic food systems plan. North Adams should explore opportunities for participation and eventual implementation items that develop from the planning process.

Action B: Develop Working Group, such as North Adams Food Policy Council, Representing a Full Cross-section of Local and Regional Government.

The council could include members of the planning department, health department, community and economic development departments, recreation, school districts, and institutions or organizations working with food or agriculture related projects to continue and prioritize food and agriculture action items and implementation.

Action C: Leverage Local and Regional Assets to Grow and Sustain Community Food System Initiatives.

Actively collaborate with local foundations to support community engagement, evaluation activities and longer-term coordination of food system strategies. Actively seek funding opportunities and partnership opportunities through State agencies and regional foundations and non-profit organizations.

Action D: Use Food System-related Actions to Help Achieve Open Space, Transportation, Land Use, Community & Economic Development, Housing, Natural Resource and Solid Waste Goals of Comprehensive Plan, and vice a versa.

When implementing strategies from other comprehensive plan elements, consider how these actions will enhance or detract from the North Adams food system. When implementing food related strategies consider how impacts could extend beyond the food system and offer cross-cutting solutions. For example: a pedestrian and bike path between North Adams and Williamstown slated for 2014 will increase safe food access for low income residents in North Adams lacking independent transportation while also increasing access to recreation and transportation. See Figure 2.

GOAL 5: PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE METHODS OF FOOD PRODUCTION AND FOOD WASTE MANAGEMENT

Policy 5.1: Encourage sustainable gardening and agriculture practices through community education opportunities and outreach.

Action A: Partner with Local and State Institutions and Organizations to Provide Gardening Workshops.

Many organizations and institutions within Berkshire County provide training and education related to sustainable gardening and agriculture. Partnering with interested groups provides opportunity for broad community exposure to workshops, seminars and other valuable resources. Local colleges, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), Berkshire Grown, Berkshire Botanical Garden, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), UMass Extension, etc. offer such resources.

Action B: Consider Possible Partnerships with Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts MCLA, in Celebration of its Agricultural History.

Ongoing efforts continue to promote community engagement through food producing gardens. A partnership with MCLA could provide opportunities for community outreach and education, and student opportunities for service learning and wider integration into the city and community of North Adams.

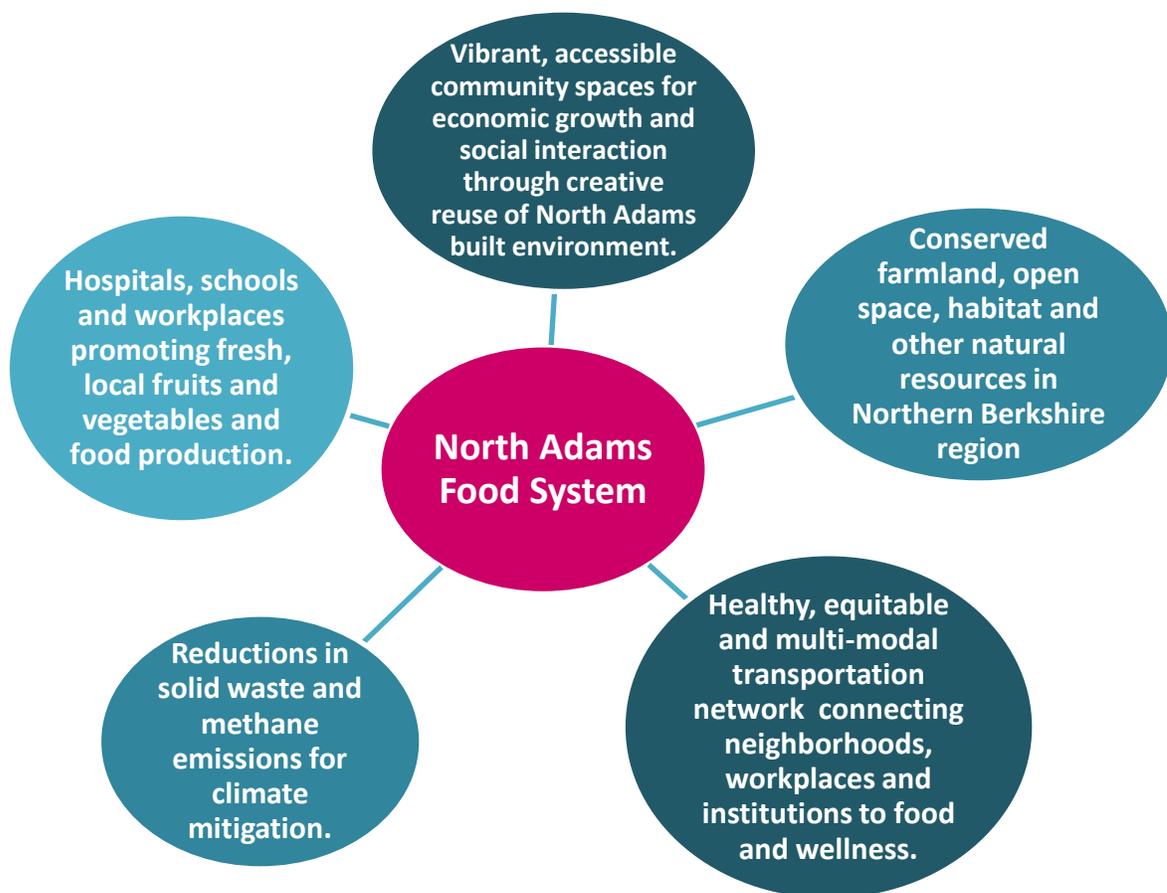


Figure 1

Policy 5.2: Reduce food waste.

Action A: Synchronize Local Efforts to Address and Meet State Regulations Regarding Food Waste.

Work to implement regulations such as the proposed Department of Environmental Protection policy requiring hotels, food waste processors and large institutions generating large volumes of food waste to compost – proposed regulations targets diverting at least 35% of source separated organics from disposal by 2020. Identify largest producers of food waste, and facilitate the siting and regulation of composting facilities where suitable. Look to other cities who have implemented composting programs, including curbside compost pick up. Conduct education and outreach so that residents understand the benefits of composting and best composting practice.

Action B: Work with Schools and Institutions to Implement Composting Program.

Publicize existing projects, such as ongoing efforts at the North Adams Regional Hospital and its ‘Green Team’. Publicizing ongoing efforts such as the North Adams Regional Hospital and its ‘Green Team’ provides positive and realistic examples of institutions implementing sustainable practices

Action C: Consider Food Waste as a Potential Energy Resource within the City of North Adams.

Work to identify other uses of food waste besides composting: Energy generation via anaerobic digestion is one example of an alternative use for food waste, and feasible at facilities such as the waste water treatment plants like the one in North Adams.

Action D: Support Investment in Organics Infrastructure—for the Collection and Hauling of Organic Materials.

The City of North Adams can look for and pursue funding or technical assistance opportunities to implement an organics infrastructure throughout the city, and partner with organizations already committed to food waste reduction and recycling, such as the North Adams Regional Hospital.

Action E: Support Targeted Business Development to Create New and Green Jobs in Food Waste Reduction and Recycling.

Promoting entrepreneurial opportunity in food waste reduction and recycling (like the Pedal People in the Pioneer Valley, or the Vermont Composting Company) could lead to employment opportunity and job development for residents interested in organic, sustainable horticulture and agriculture practice.