



Plymouth County Food System Action Plan: Community Advisory Board (CAB)

Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/BdAzBO8eTQ6KMqnBZUx6cQ>

Dial-in: 1-646-876-9923 (Meeting ID: 830 0964 3773; Passcode 241827)

Open to board members and the public

Agenda

- 1) Welcome and introductions (Rita Higgins, Marion Institute)
- 2) Review meeting dates for November and December (Rita)
- 3) Update from last Steering Committee meeting (Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC)
- 4) Check in about how this CAB process is going (Rita)
- 5) Discuss **Theme 3, “Community self-reliance in food”** (Rita and Joanne)
 - a. ★ Before meeting, please review Paper 1, which follows this agenda
- 6) Next steps and meeting survey (Rita)

Next meeting: November, date to be confirmed

Notices

- For further information about this project, including agenda, recordings, and minutes, please visit <https://oldcolonyplanning.org/foodresiliency/>.
- This public meeting will be recorded and made available on OCPC's website.
- Accessibility accommodations and language services will be provided free of charge, upon request, as available. Please contact Mary Waldron at mwaldron@ocpcrpa.org or 508-583-1833.
 - Si necesita esta información en otro idioma, comuníquese con Mary Waldron a mwaldron@ocpcrpa.org o al 508-583-1833.
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Paper 1

Community self-reliance in food (Theme 3)

Instructions

We're using the Community and Agriculture Resilience Audit Tool (CARAT) (<https://carattool.org/>) as a collaborative platform to bring together community stakeholders for a self-assessment of our local food system. The results will inform the development of a Plymouth County Food System Action Plan.

The theme of this meeting will be "Community self-reliance in food." We will discuss each of the 'indicators' numbered below to assess our region's performance.

Terms in **orange bold** are defined after the list of indicators.

If you would like to explore what other places are doing, please see the "Resource Archive" at <https://carattool.org/guide/introduction> (located in the left menu).

Indicators we'll cover at this meeting

To what extent, if at all, do we do or have the following? Please consider related policies, practices, programs, and projects, as well as the individuals and organizations involved.

Part A: Protecting community members against instability in and external threats to the food supply chain

37. We have policies, practices, or programs that include farmland-protection strategies like **development rights programs** and **land trusts**, among others.
38. We have policies, practices, or programs that educate and enable people to hunt, fish, and forage for food.
39. We have policies, practices, or programs that offer minimal barriers to starting new food production enterprises.
40. We have policies, ordinances, or zoning regulations that allow food for local consumption to be grown within the community's boundaries.
41. We have policies, ordinances, or zoning regulations that allow food for local consumption to be processed by small-scale **cottage** or other processors.
42. We have policies, practices, or programs that support affordable access to fresh water, mulch, compost, seeds, and other resources for food growing programs in our community.
43. In our community, local commercial farmers (those with more than \$1,000 in annual sales) and/or local food processors produce and sell a substantial amount of food for consumption in households, restaurants, school cafeterias, hospital food service, as well as programs for donating to **food-insecure** residents in our community.
44. In our community, private household and community gardens produce a substantial amount of food that is consumed in our community.

Part B. Providing opportunities for additional local food production within the boundaries of the community food system

45. We have a substantial amount of unplanted, **arable**, government-owned land in our community that could be used by current or new farmers for additional production of food for local consumption.
46. We have a substantial amount of unplanted, **arable**, privately owned land in our community that could be used by current or new farmers for substantial additional production of food for local consumption.
47. We have a substantial amount of unplanted, **arable land** owned by a nonprofit organization(s) in our community that could be used by current or new farmers for substantial additional production of food for local consumption.
48. We have unplanted, **arable land** owned by government, private, or nonprofit entities that could be used by a program that provides new farmers with land for producing food for local consumption.
49. We have policies, practices, or programs that match new and/or beginning farmers with farmland available for lease or purchase.
50. We have policies, practices, or programs that support soil remediation measures and/or the construction of raised beds where needed to enable residents to produce food safely.

Definitions

Arable Land

Land suitable for crop production/growing food. (Source: [UC Davis](#))

Cottage food

The sale of food prepared in home kitchens. Laws generally permit the sale of non-potentially hazardous foods (non-PHF), which are items that can be safely stored at room temperature and do not require refrigeration. This includes baked goods, jams, and jellies. However, the law prohibits the production and sale of foods that require hot or cold holding for safety, such as cream-filled pastries, cheesecake, cut fruit and vegetables, and certain sauces. Additionally, specific processing methods like acidification, hot fill, or vacuum packaging are also prohibited. (Source: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/starting-a-wholesale-food-business>)

Development Rights Programs

Farmland development rights programs are incentive-based, voluntary initiatives that compensate landowners for permanently protecting their agricultural land from development.

Food insecurity

The condition assessed in the food security survey and represented in USDA food security reports—is a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food. (Source: [USDA](#))

Hunger

An individual-level physiological condition that may result from food insecurity. (Source: [USDA](#))

Land trust

A legal entity, often a trust or nonprofit organization, that either acquires land or conservation easements to achieve specific conservation or community goals. These goals can include protecting natural habitats, ensuring farmland availability, or creating affordable housing.

(Source: [Land Trust Alliance](#))