towards a more sustainable Buffalo Niagara

Food Access and Justice Working Team

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Working Team Process and Timeline

6 Meetings/4 Tasks

1 ESTABLISHING GOALS

2 FRAME STRATEGIES

3 IDENTIFY ACTIONS

4 CONSTRUCT INDICATORS

Nov 2013 Community Congress Workshops

+2 Additional Meetings

NEXT

FEB

MARCH

REVIEW & REFINE

At two more meetings in 2014 the working teams will consider feedback from the fall Council and Community Congress sessions.

DRAFT Plan
Spring 2014

Regional Plan
For Sustainable Development

FOOD ACCESS & JUSTICE
Growing Together

Improving food access and farm viability in Buffalo-Niagara

UB Food Systems Planning and Healthy Communities Lab
What is *Growing Together*?

- A report on food in Buffalo-Niagara
- A part of *One Region Forward*
- A reflection of community concerns about and goals for the region’s food system
Goals for the region

• Make fresh food more equitably accessible

• Ensure the food system, especially the agriculture sector, is creating viable jobs

• Strengthen connections between growers and the public
What we’ve covered

Context:

• Farmland, farming, and farmers
• Food access and healthy eating
• Connecting producers and consumers
Also in the report

Context:

• Farmer interviews

• Food store assessment

• Policy framework

• Analysis
Three analyses

• Who has limited food access?

• How self-reliant is our region in growing what we need to eat?

• How much can we expand farmland?
Analysis 1

Who has Limited Food Access?

Our questions

How many households do not own a car and live further than average walking distance from a supermarket?

How many households live further than average driving distance to supermarkets?
Who has limited food access?

55,954 households, or 12% of the region’s households, are without a car and do not live within walking distance of a supermarket.
Who has limited food access?

53,062 households - 11% of all households - live further than average driving distance to supermarkets

Driving access

- Supermarkets
- Driving access area

% of HHs in Census Tract without driving access
- 0-11%
- 11-42%
- 42-79%
- 79% or more
What this means for the region

Healthy food costs more for these households

- Transportation to supermarkets
- Healthy food at more proximate convenience stores and grocery stores
Analysis 2

Are we growing what we need to eat?

Our questions

How self-reliant is the Buffalo-Niagara region in producing the food the residents need?

If everyone in the region wanted to buy healthy, local food, how much of that demand could currently be met?
Self-reliance

*The share of our population’s demand for fruits and vegetables that our farmers grow*

Current self-reliance:
- 67% of fruits and vegetables

Self reliance if we ate a healthy diet:
- 38% of fruits and vegetables
  - 1% for dark green vegetables, 10% for red & orange vegetables, and 34% fruit

35,574 acres short of farmland to reach full self-reliance

Source: USDA Cropland Data Layer, 2012
Analysis 3

How much can we expand farmland?

Our question
How much land is available and suitable for farming in the region?
Based on soil and 143,753 acres of land farmed now and 20,868 acres of land not farmed now and 122,885 acres of land not farmed now and would be suitable for farming.
Expanding farming

11,739 acres of this land is vacant or publicly-owned and undeveloped.
Questions?
Next Steps

- Connect the food system with other community systems
- What are the implications of our ideas for other working groups?