





Megan Masson-Minock

Principal, Carlisle Wortman Associates
Co-facilitator, Michigan Local Food Council
Network (2015-2021)



Amanda Maria Edmonds

Owner/Consultant, Beehive Strategies
PhD Researcher, Wageningen University
Mayor of Ypsilanti, Michigan (2014-2018)
Executive Director, Growing Hope (2003-2017)



The Controversy of

THE CITY CHICKEN

Urban Agriculture/Urban Livestock

Beyond backyard chickens: A framework for understanding municipal urban agriculture policies in the United States

Regulatory Practices of Urban Agriculture: A Connection to Planning and Policy

The Intersection of Planning, Urban Agriculture, and Food Justice: A Review of the Literature





Food Policy is....

actions *and* in-actions by government that influence the supply, quality, price, production, distribution, and consumption of food.

For municipalities, this includes *if, where, and how* these food system activities can occur

Types of Policy Instruments



Policy Instrument	Municipal Examples
STICKS (regulatory)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ordinances • Licenses & permits • Fees & Taxation
CARROTS (economic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget (spending) • Financial incentives (& disincentives) • Grants
SERMONS (information & persuasion)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies & Plans • Public education • Speeches/press releases • Proclamations/Endorsements/Voluntary agreements
[STUFF]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land, buildings, et al

Adapted from: Bemelmans-Videc, M.-L., Rist, R.C.C & Vedun, E. (Eds.) Carrots, sticks, & sermons: Policy instruments and their evaluation. Transaction, New Brunswick.



POLICY versus policy

**Big P
Policy**
‘substantive’

Official, legal act by
elected official in
legislative,
executive, or judicial
branch

- Ordinance
(including Budget)
- Resolution
- Legal Action

**little p
policy**
‘procedural’

Administrative,
programmatic
decisions within
government
depts/agencies
or other non-
govt'l entities



“New” Models: Micro-Breweries



New Models: Farm Stops

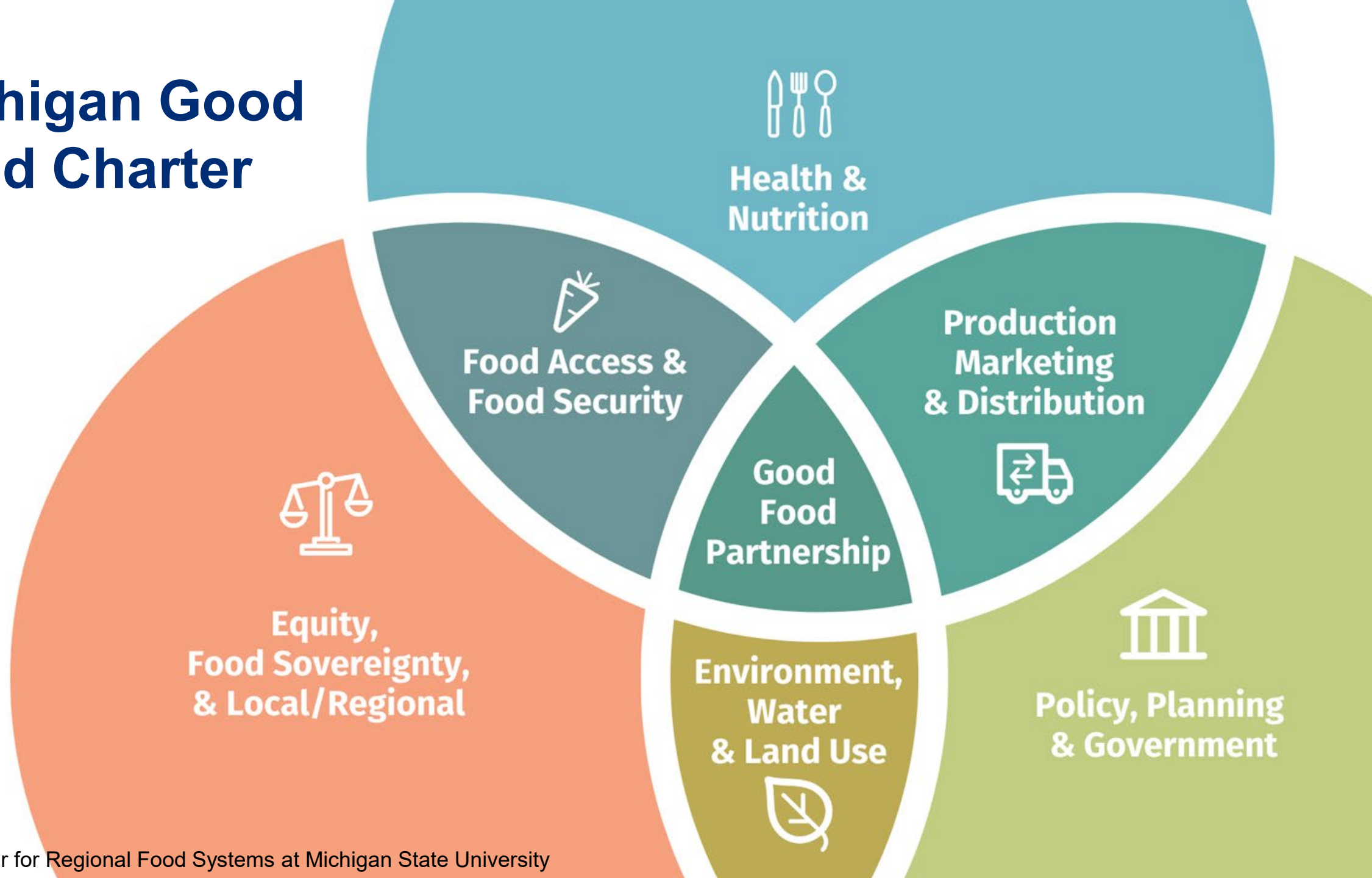


Michigan Good Food Charter

Initially published in 2010, with a new charter created in 2022, the Michigan Good Food Charter helps build momentum to advance **a food system that promotes EQUITY, HEALTH, SUSTAINABILITY, and THRIVING ECONOMIES.**



Michigan Good Food Charter



Michigan Good Food Charter

Farm and Food Business Development

Cultivate thriving local/regional farm and food businesses.

Local/Regional Food Value Chains

Prioritize local and regional food systems within a global economy.

Collaboration Infrastructure

Use the power of collaboration to dismantle racism and systemic inequity in food systems.

Employment Equity

Establish fair compensation, safe working environments, and opportunities for career advancement in food systems.

Land and Ecosystem Stewardship

Foster climate resilience through equitable land stewardship.

Nutrition, Health, and Food

Support people to have real choices that lead to good food and health.

Zoning Questions in the Michigan Good Food Charter

Can individuals and community groups grow and sell culturally relevant, traditional foods and livestock?

Does the Zoning Ordinance (or other ordinances) create unnecessary costs and regulatory burdens?

Are regulations applied in a way that acknowledges the diversity of producers, farm scale, and production practices?



MICHIGAN LOCAL FOOD COUNCIL NETWORK

Geographic Coverage

2024

Local Food Councils

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Allegan Food Alliance | 15 Monroe County Food Advisory Council |
| 2 Bay County Food Council | 16 Northwest Food Coalition |
| 3 B. Healthy Food Council | 17 Oakland County Food Policy Council |
| 4 Capital Area Food Council | 18 Ottawa Food |
| 5 Detroit Food Policy Council | 19 Southwest Michigan Local Food Council |
| 6 Flint and Genesee Food Council | 20 Thumb Food Policy Council |
| 7 Food Access Collaboration Team of Saginaw (FACTS) | 21 Tribal Food Sovereignty Collaborative |
| 8 Hunger Free Calhoun County Coalition | 22 Upper Peninsula Food Exchange |
| 9 Huron Shores Regional Food Council | 23 Washtenaw County Food Policy Council |
| 10 Kent County Food Policy Council | 24 Western U.P. Food Systems Collaborative |
| 11 Lake County Community Food Council | 25 Western Wayne County Food Policy Council |
| 12 Livingston County Hunger Council | 26 Wiisinidaa Mnomijim (Let's Eat Good Food)
in Bay Mills Indian Community |
| 13 Local Food Alliance of Northern Michigan | 27 Zoo City Farm and Food Network |
| 14 Midland County Hunger Connections | |

<https://foodsystems.msu.edu/localfoodcouncil>

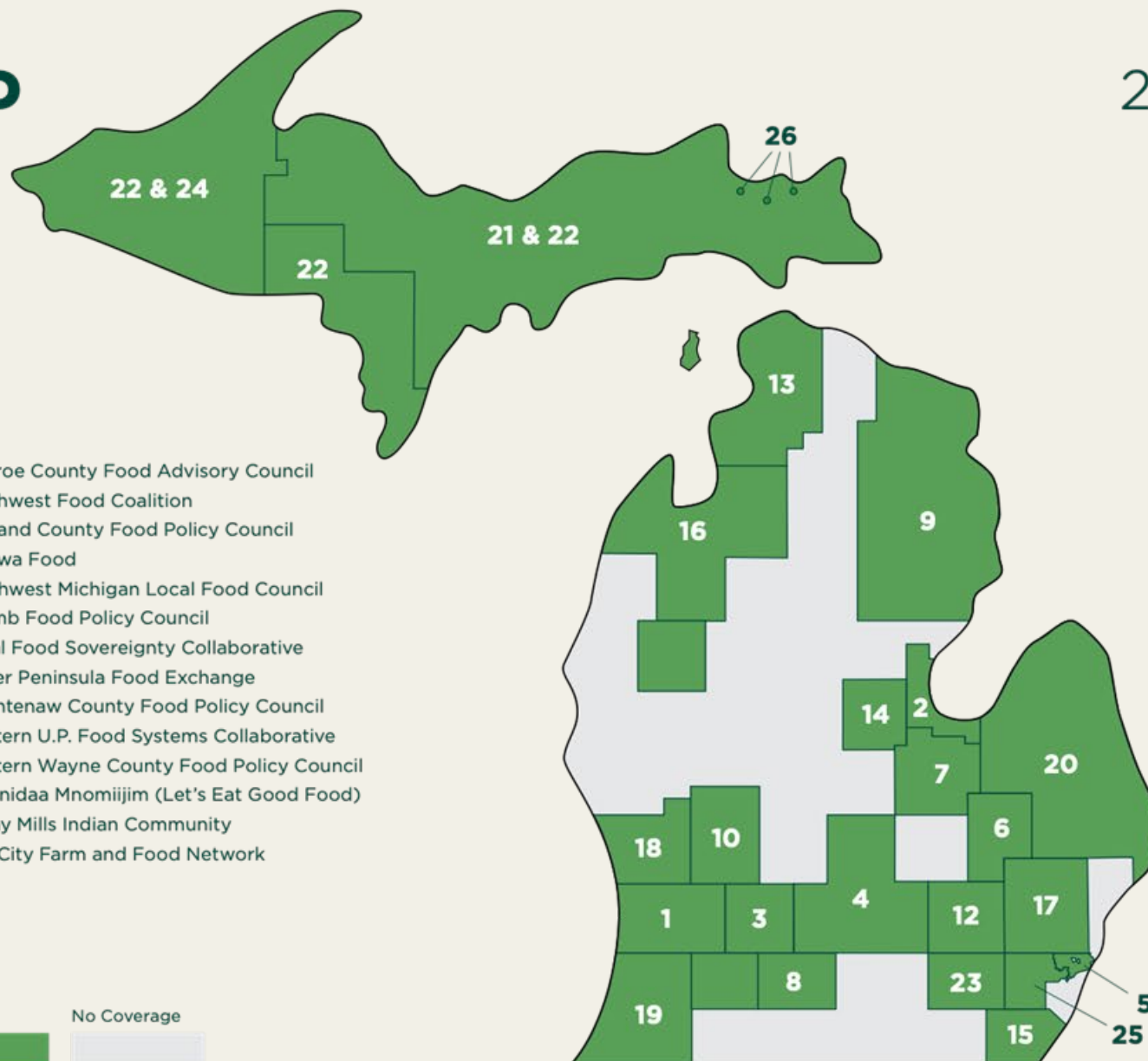
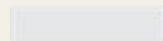
MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Center for
Regional Food Systems

Coverage

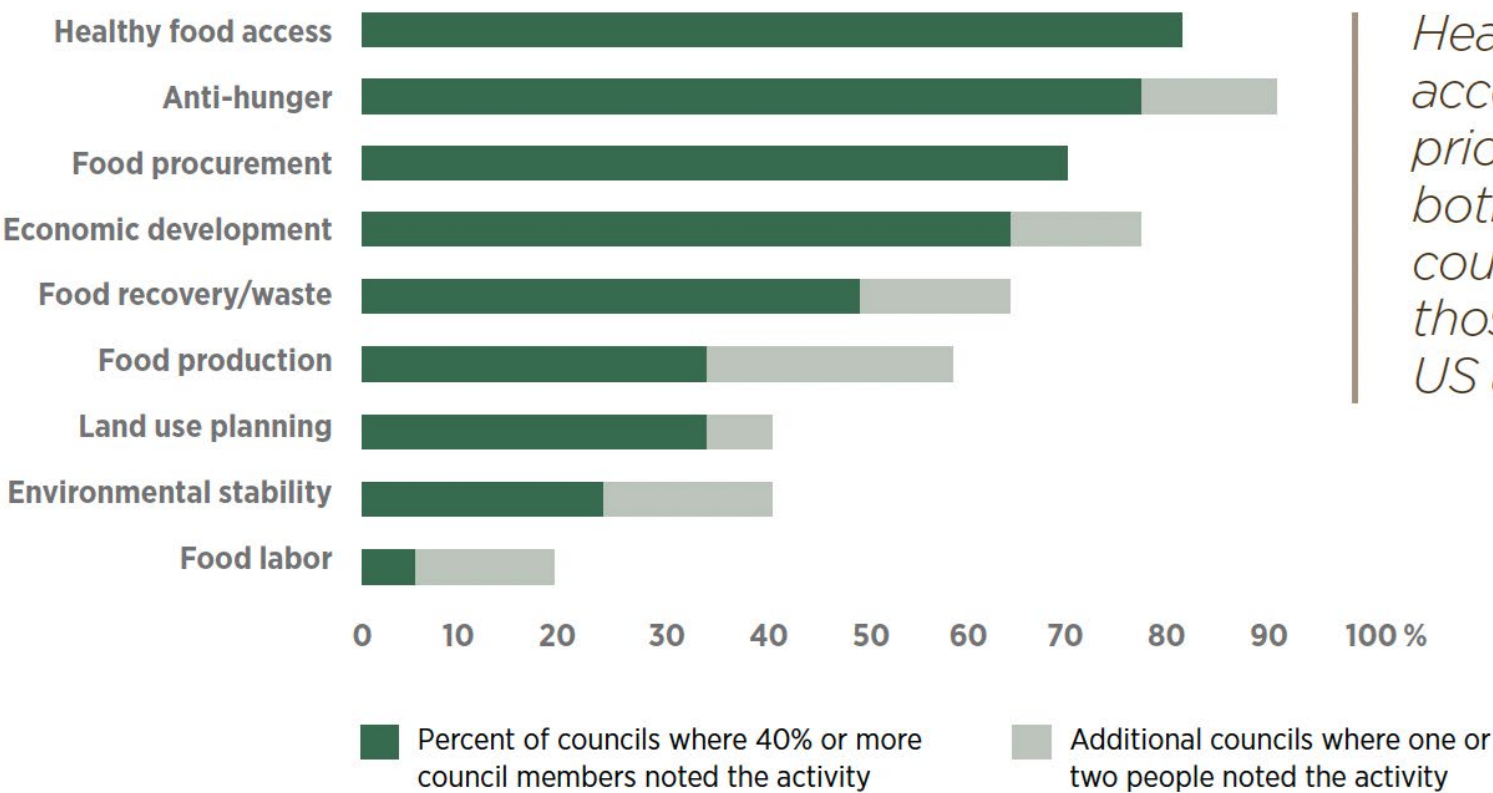


No Coverage



What Local Food Councils in Michigan Are Working On

FIGURE 2. **Topics** councils prioritize



Healthy food access is a top priority for both Michigan councils and those across the US and Canada.

POLICY AGENDA (Approved 7/14/2014)		
County	Action	Priority
Full Council	Advocacy	1. Identify opportunities for the County to engage in establishing a living wage and safe working conditions for all food service and seasonal/migrant farm workers.
Zoning & Land Use	Advocacy	2. Coordinate with municipal planning departments to stress the importance of including food systems as part of the Master Planning Process.
Farmers & Purchasing	Standards	3. Place an emphasis on food system development in the countywide economic growth, processed, and prepared foods, local goods and services, with an aim of the County and its vendors purchasing 20% of food products locally by 2020.
Waste & Packaging	Standards	4. Support change to the County Procurement Policy to give preference to locally grown, processed, and prepared foods, local goods and services, with an aim of the County and its vendors purchasing 20% of food products locally by 2020.
Full Council	Guidelines	5. Amend the Environmentally Preferred Purchasing section of the County Procurement Policy to mandate the purchase of foodservice ware and packaging that is reusable, compostable, or recyclable. Require funds to be allocated for the education and resource development of County purchasing staff as well as for adequate recycling and composting containers and services at every county building.
Waste & Packaging	Advocacy	6. Develop system to examine and provide opportunities to utilize foreclosed/vacant/abandoned land in the food system.
Fed / State	Action	7. Advocate that municipalities implement a landfill ban on commercial and institutional organic material generated within 20 miles of a composting facility or anaerobic digester.
Access & Nutrition	Advocacy	8. Ensure the preservation of funding, and respond to changes to eligibility guidelines to reduce enrollment barriers for food assistance programs.
Farmers & Purchasing	Advocacy	9. Identify and support opportunities and alternative models that reduce barriers for small farmers to participate in the marketplace.
Institutional	Action	10. Identify and support programs and policies that increase access to capital for local farmers and food producers, particularly beginning and historically under represented farmers.
Full Council	Advocacy	11. Recommend and support that institutions within the county take measures to preserve our essential pollinator populations by utilizing pesticide free grounds management practices.
Access & Nutrition	Guidelines	12. Encourage institutions to adopt policies and practices leading to the purchase of 20% of food products locally by 2020.
		13. Recommend and support that institutions within the county establish policies and implement environmental and organizational changes that increase the availability, affordability and sensory appeal of nutritious and, when possible, local and sustainable food.

Source: <http://foodsystems.msu.edu/resources/aremichigans-food-councils-changing-policy>

What are you working on?

- Food systems in Master Plan
- Food systems in the Zoning Ordinance
- Ordinances for waste management, weeds, water, parks
- Resolution of support for Michigan Good Food Charter
- Standard Procedures
- Events (Zero Waste and Food Procurement)
- Hot issues?
- What else?





Food Access

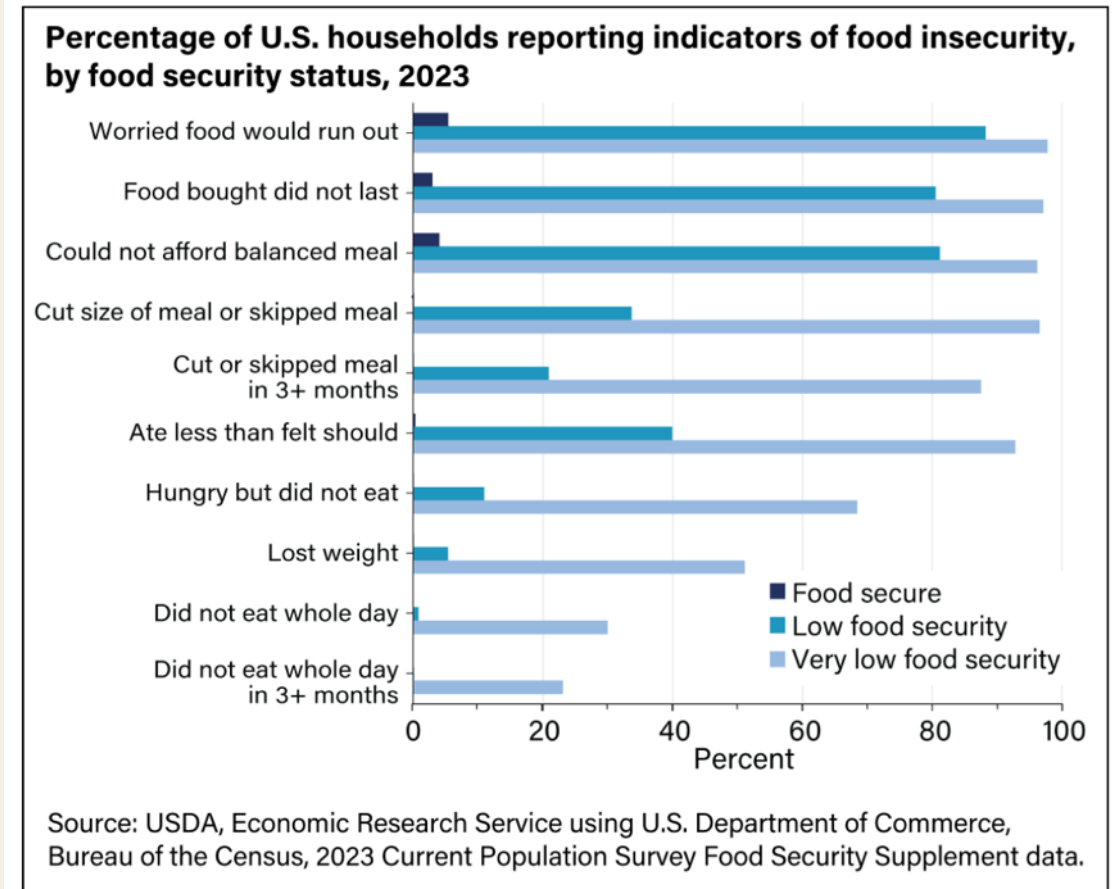
What Is Food Access? Food Security

Food security is the ability of all people to have, at all times, sufficient and consistent **access** to fresh, healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate food.

Food insecurity does not equal hunger.

Municipalities should consider **where, when, and how people get food...** including how healthy the food they can reliably afford and get to is.

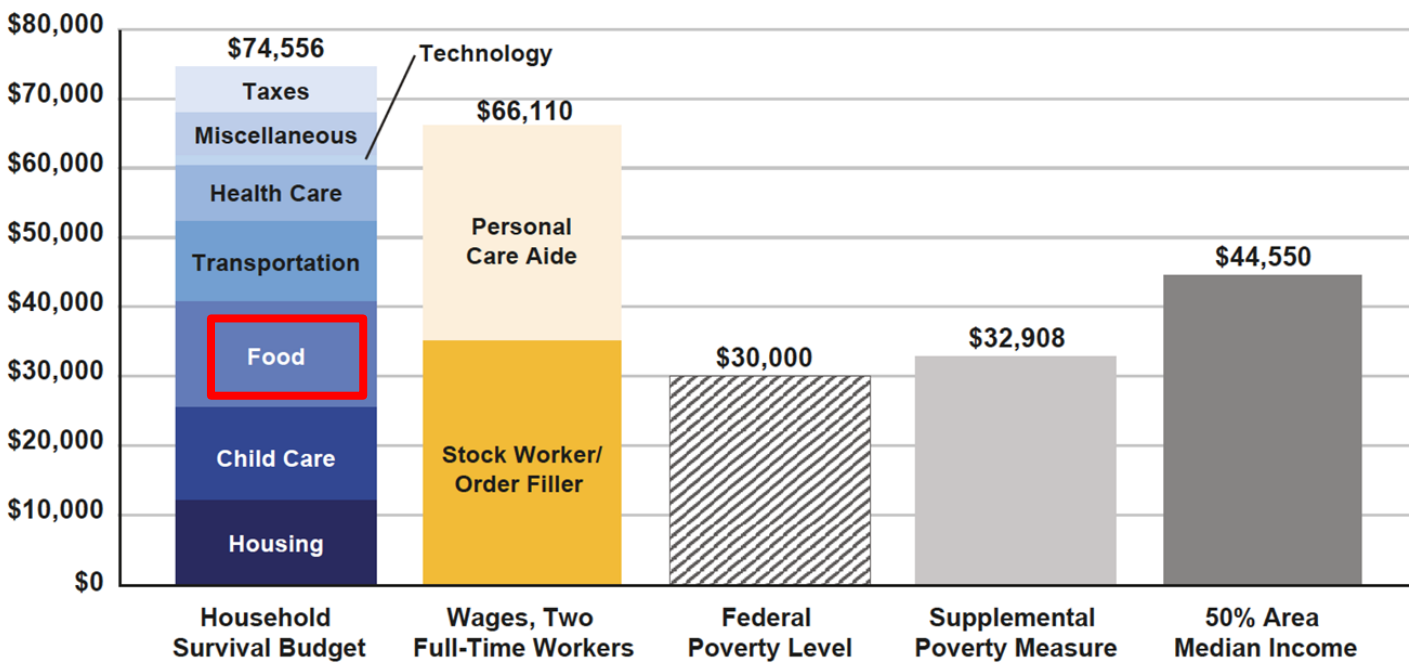
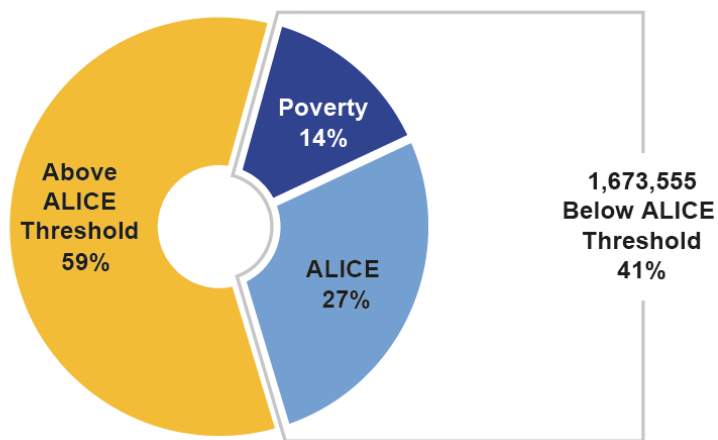
Find your community experts (food policy councils, community & faith leaders, public health department, community-based orgs, food pantries) – and ask what their barriers are. Help them translate those into roles municipalities can play.



ALICE: Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed

Figure 2. Basic Costs Exceeded Wages of Common Jobs and Official Measures of Hardship
Annual Budget, Wages, and Official Measures of Financial Hardship, Family of Four, Michigan, 2023

Figure 1. Forty-One Percent of Michigan Households Faced Financial Instability in 2023



Note: Personal care aides monitor the condition of people with disabilities or chronic illnesses and help them with daily living activities. Stock workers/order fillers receive, store, and issue merchandise, materials, equipment, and other items from stockrooms, warehouses, or storage yards, and may operate power equipment to fill orders.

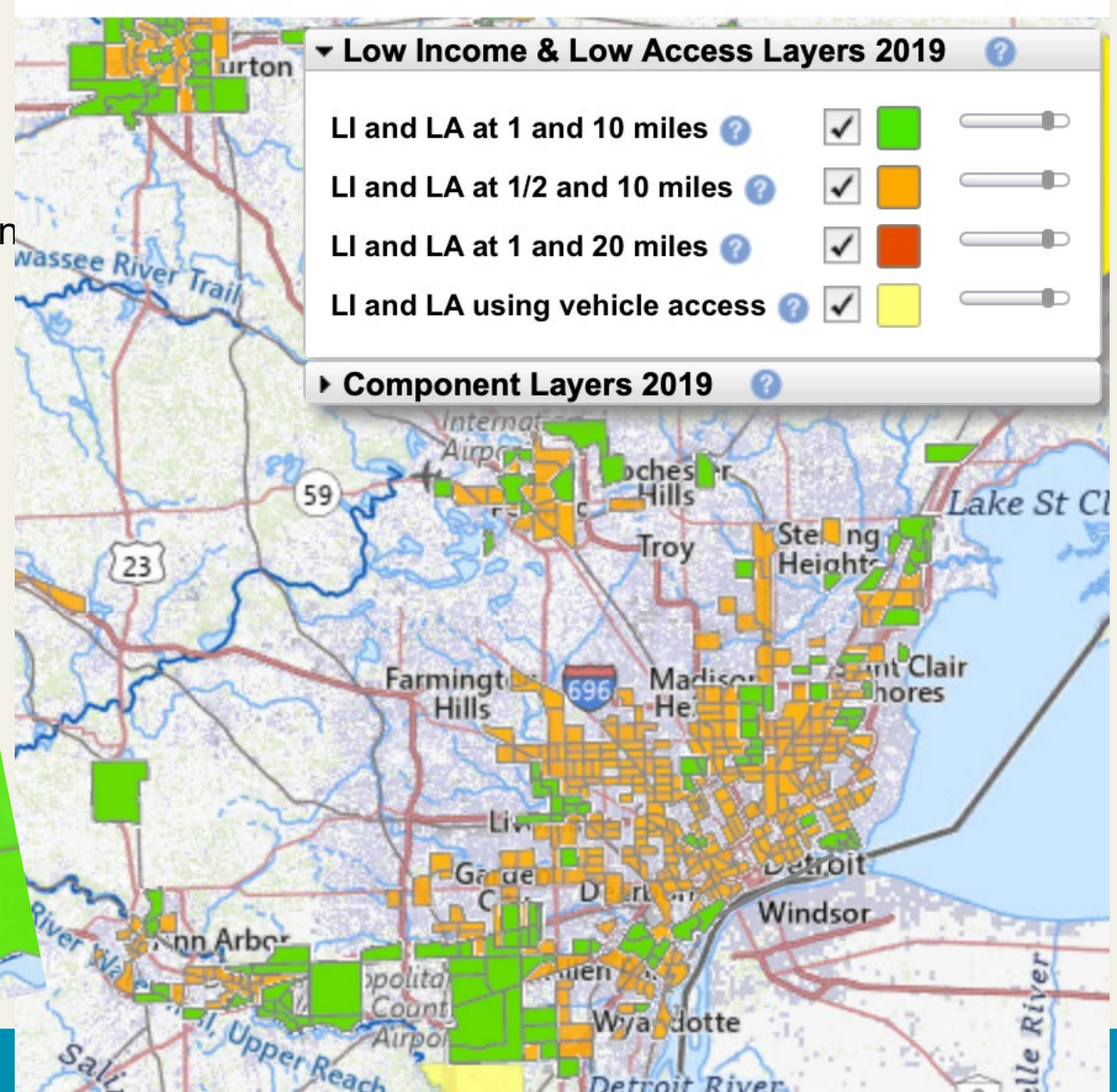
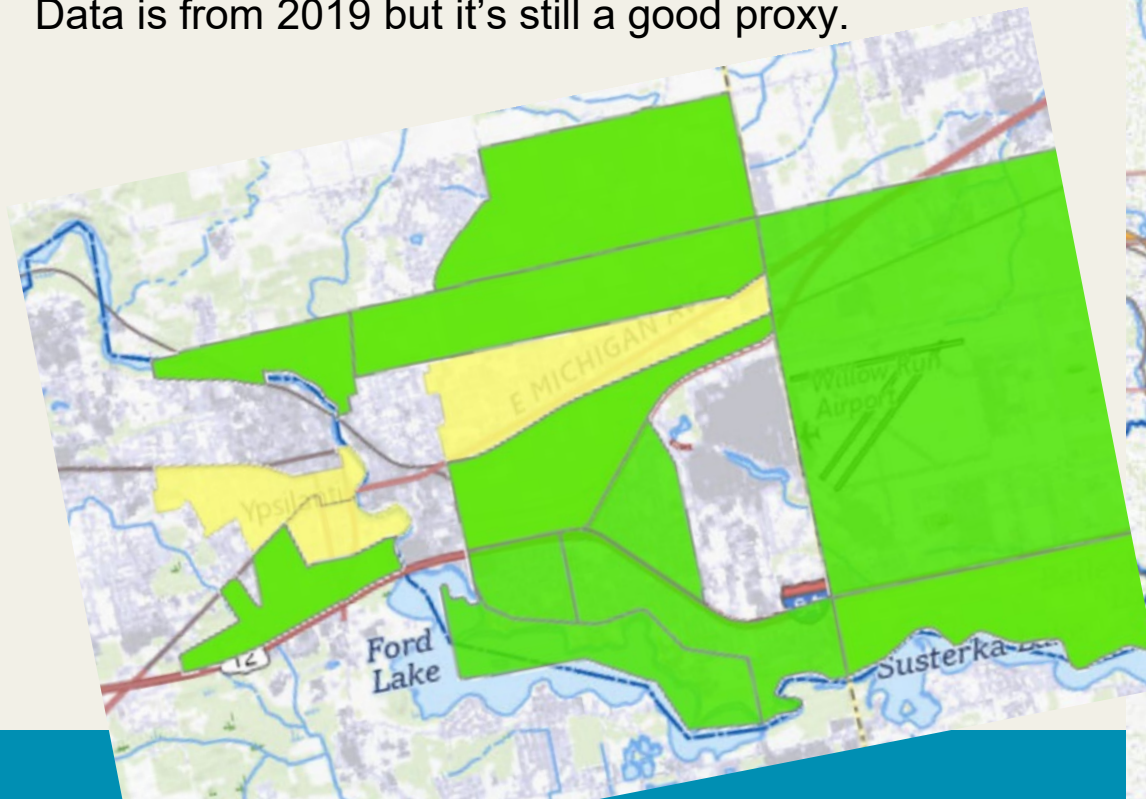
Sources: ALICE Household Survival Budget, 2023; Bureau of Labor Statistics–Occupational Employment Statistics, 2023; U.S. Census Bureau, Supplemental Poverty Measure, 2023; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Area Median Income (State Income Limits), 2023

How to understand food access

USDA's Food Access Research Atlas gives census tract level data that combines access to supermarkets with income and vehicle access.

Low access in urban areas is measured at ½ or 1 mile; in rural areas as 10 or 20 miles.

Data is from 2019 but it's still a good proxy.



Food Access & Transit

Does your city sit on your local public transit authority?
Is food access considered in your Transit Authority's Strategic Plan? In your Master Plan?

Things to consider:

- Overlay Low Income-Low Access data with existing and proposed transit routes
- How far are bus stops from food stores? Are they near the entrance?
- How do the hours of bus routes relate to when people need to shop?
- Do senior transit options go to grocery stores? Farmers markets?

Michigan Example:

- **Rides to Groceries** in Flint. Post-supermarket closure, 9 minibuses "Your Rides" for seniors and individuals with disabilities began given rides to food stores; regular routes also serve supermarkets



Healthy Food Access & Kids


The environment shapes health, including food consumption. Some ways to make it healthier:

- Healthy food vending in parks & recreation facilities
- Zoning restrictions around fast food in schools
- Providing municipal parks & facilities for USDA SUN program (summer meals)

Michigan Example:

- Detroit's zoning ordinance requires fast food restaurants maintain a minimum distance of 500 feet between the subject site and the nearest point of an elementary, junior high, or senior high school site.

[Home](#) / [Resources](#) / [Local Government Food Policy Database](#) / [Fast Food Restaurants Near Schools in Detroit, Ordinance No.9-98, § 1, 4-1-98, 92.0379B\(j\)](#)



Search the Database

Use the search tools below to find one or more policies. GENERAL SEARCH by a keyword. Or for a more ADVANCED SEARCH, you can choose from a pre-determined set of terms listed in the drop-down menus.

[GENERAL SEARCH](#)

[ADVANCED SEARCH](#)

[Search](#)

Fast Food Restaurants Near Schools in Detroit, Ordinance No.9-98, § 1, 4-1-98, 92.0379B(j)

Jurisdiction Name:	Detroit
State/Province:	MI
Country:	United States
Type of Government:	Municipality
Population:	713,777
Population Range:	250,000 to 999,999
Policy Links:	– PDF
Policy type:	
Year:	1978
GFC Topic:	community food security
Keywords:	children, food access, food retail, obesity, school
Adopting Government Department(s):	Detroit City Council
Lead Implementing Entity(s):	n/a
Support Entity(s):	n/a
Funding Amount:	n/a
Funding Sources:	n/a
Policy Outcome(s):	The zoning ordinance of Detroit requires fast food restaurants maintain a minimum distance of 500 feet between the subject site and the nearest point of an elementary, junior high, or senior high school site.
Additional Resources and Information:	Link 1

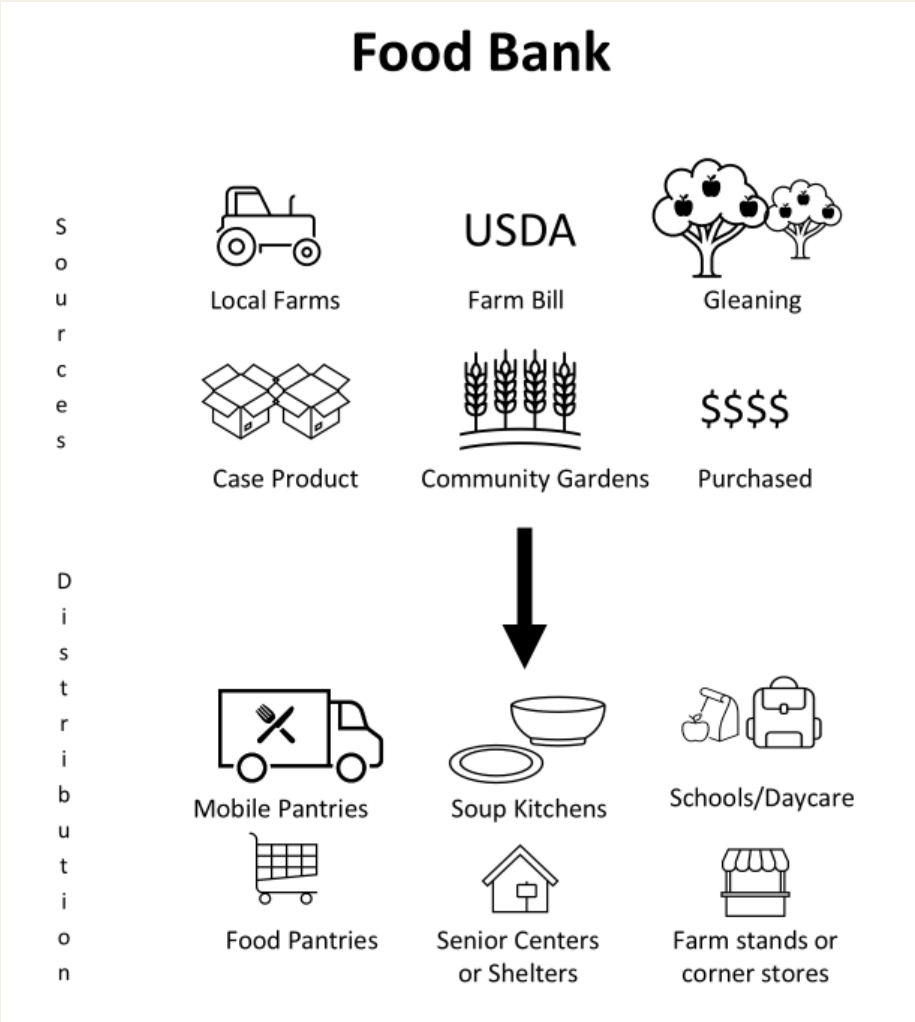
Homegrown Food Production & Sales

How do your ordinances support or prohibit people producing food for themselves and sharing it with the community?

- Are the terms below defined?
 - Home gardening, community gardening, urban agriculture
 - Season extension (hoophouses, greenhouses)
 - Urban livestock (including bees!)
 - Farm Stands (on farm/on garden sales)
 - Farmers markets (including neighborhoods)
 - Cottage food sales out of homes?
- Are they permitted uses in zoning districts where or near where people live?
- Are the processes and permits clear, and reasonable/affordable?
- Is growing space required in public or affordable housing? In other developments?



Food Banks: A different food chain



Emerging & Blended Models



Allen Neighborhood Center in Lansing

Emerging & Blended Models



Food Hubs (ValleyHub at KVCC)



Little Free Food Pantries (Howell)

Mobile Food Pantries



(Innovative?) Retail Food Access

Food access is in part about helping food be closer to where people live, work, play, or go to school.

Do you define, and allow the following in places people live or can get to:

- Farm stands on urban farms/community gardens?
- Mobile farm stands?
- Farmers markets?
- Sidewalk sales of fruits & vegetables in front of stores?





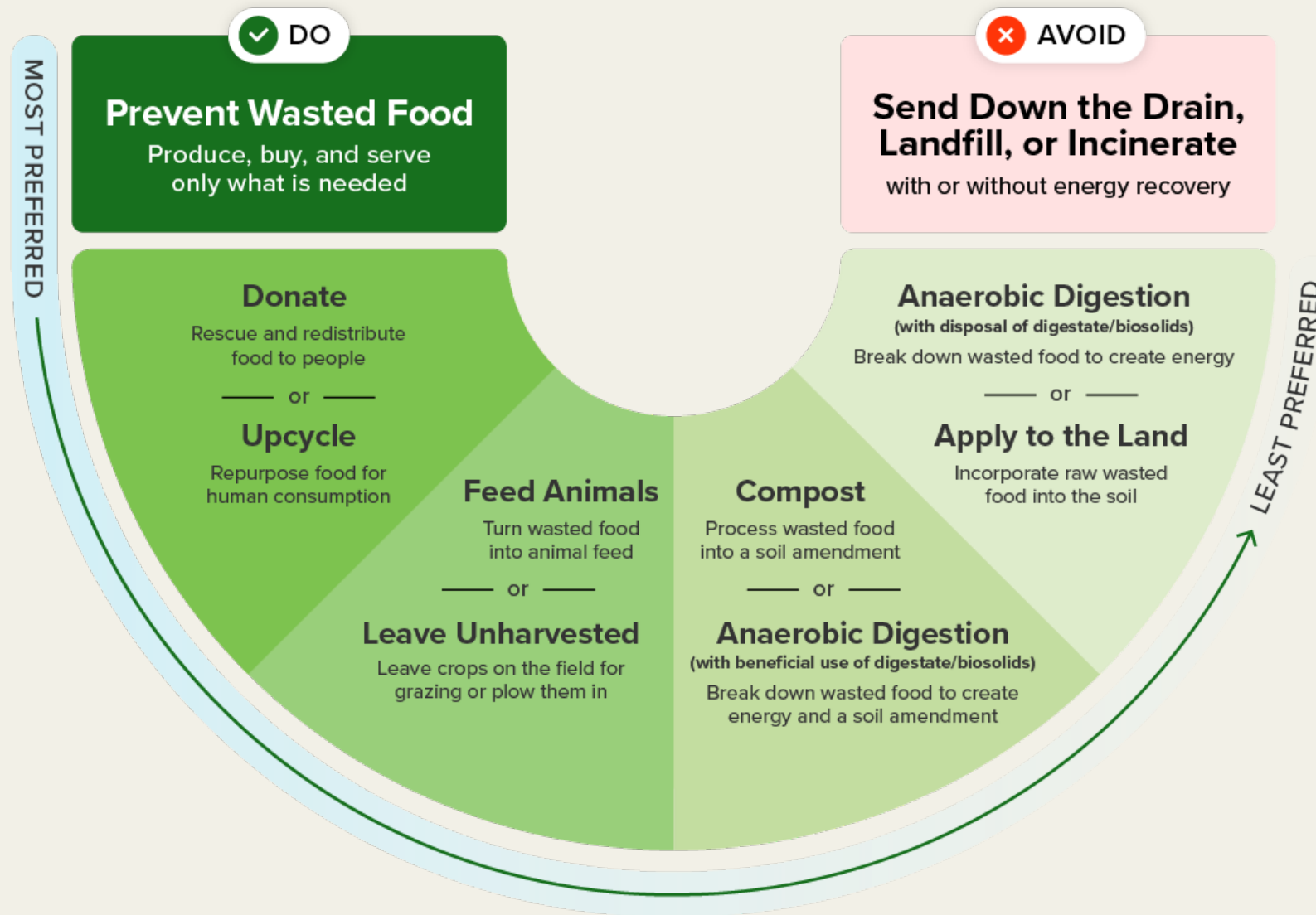
October 2022

Food Waste



Wasted Food Scale

How to reduce the environmental impacts of wasted food



The MI Healthy Climate Plan includes a goal of cutting food waste in half by 2030. Food waste is defined as any food that is grown and produced for human consumption but ultimately is not eaten.

Food Waste in Municipalities

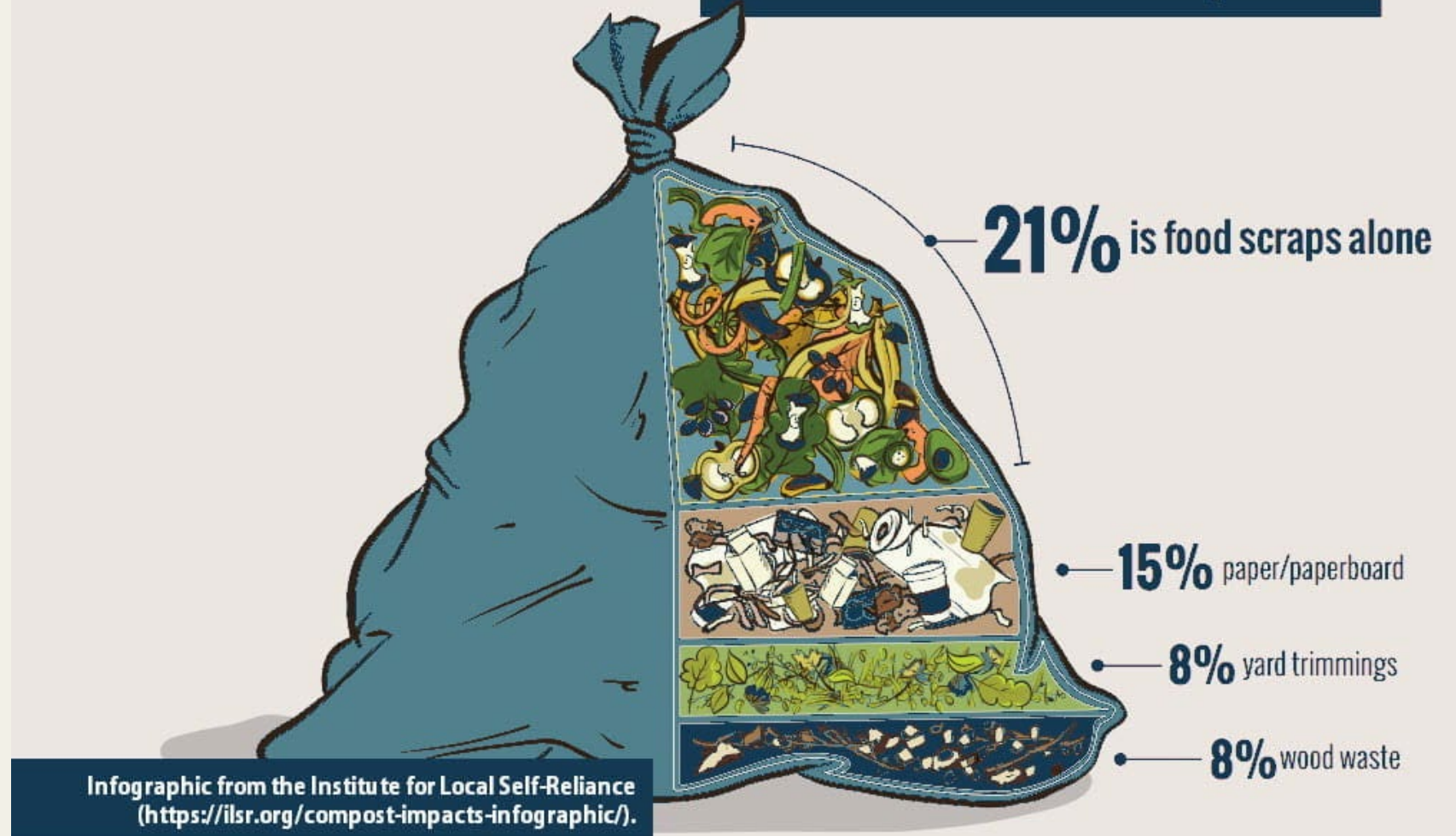
Consumer-facing businesses and homes represent over 80% of all food waste generated.

Composting, at multiple scales, is one strategy that is regulated by municipalities.

Facilities managing over 200 cubic yards of material may have to register with EGLE, and comply with their setback requirements from other types of properties, and bodies of water.

Every year, U.S. landfills and trash incinerators receive **167 MILLION TONS** of garbage.

> 50% of typical municipal garbage set out at the curb is compostable.



Southfield's Blueprint to Zero Food Waste

Michigan Example:

03.A Draft and adopt language for policy **on using locally created compost in city projects**

03.B Create **standards for backyard and community composting**

03.C Draft and adopt language for policies requiring that all **city- sponsored programs and events donate excess food and have food scrap collection bins** if food is served

03.D Require that all **special events donate excess food and have food scrap collection bins** if food is served

03.E Update **site development standards** to include food waste management in plans



Composting: Scales & Settings



Home - Community Garden – Urban Farm – Small Commercial Operator – Bio-Digester – Municipal food waste collection & composting – Large Scale Commercial Operator

Compost Ordinances, Regulations, and Contracts

- Define and differentiate **home composting** and **community composting** in zoning ordinance (as well as related terms)
- Define **where different types of composting can occur** and when it is by right, primary or accessory (such as in a community garden), or conditionally
- Assess how other areas of existing regulation impact composting– from nuisance management to floodplain management to hauler licensing; **lift barriers** when appropriate
- **Review waste hauling contracts** to make sure they do not effectively prohibit organic collections by a community composting or other operation.










Farmers Markets

Municipal Roles in Farmers Markets




Administrative Policy & Process

(little p policy)

- Owning/operating  
- Issuing permits/licenses 
- Use of public space 
- In-kind support & promotion 

Legislative Decisions

(Big P Policy)

- Municipal plans 
- Municipal codes/regulations 
- Municipal budget allocations 



Farmers Market Policy Recs

- Include markets in master plans
- Define markets in code (zoning or elsewhere)
- Include market as allowed land use in zoning
- Include market in multiple zoning districts
- Include market by right; not needing conditional/special use or temporary use
- Make public land available for markets
- Regulate market operating standards
- Provide streamlined and affordable permitting process
- Mandate acceptance of food assistance benefits

Title of Publication	A: Farmers Market Policy: An Inventory of Federal, State, and Local Example	B: Community and Regional Food Planning Policy Guide	C: A Planners Guide to Community & Regional Food Planning	D: Establishing Land Use Protections for Farmers' Market	E: Zoning for Public Markets and Street Vendors	F: Food Access Policy & Planning Guide	G: Innovative Local Government Plans and Policies to Build Healthy Food Systems in the U.S.	H: Zoning for Healthy Food Access	I: From the Ground up—Land Use Policies to Protect and Promote Farmers' Markets	J: Healthy Foundations for Farmers Markets: Recommendations for Cities and Counties	K: Policies that Support Local Fresh Food Markets	L: Good Laws Good Food: Putting Local Food Policy to Work for Our Communities
	2005	2007	2008	2009	2009	2011	2011	2012	2013	2013	2015	2017
	Zoning											
	Define markets in code			X		X			X	X		
	Include market as allowed land use in zoning	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Include market in multiple zoning districts		X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
	Include market by right; not needing conditional/special use/temporary use	X			X		X		X	X		
	Other Land Use											
	Include markets in master plans		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
	Help markets find appropriate sites	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Make public land available for markets	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Encourage/require developers to make space for market						X			X		X	X
Operations												

A very common scenario:

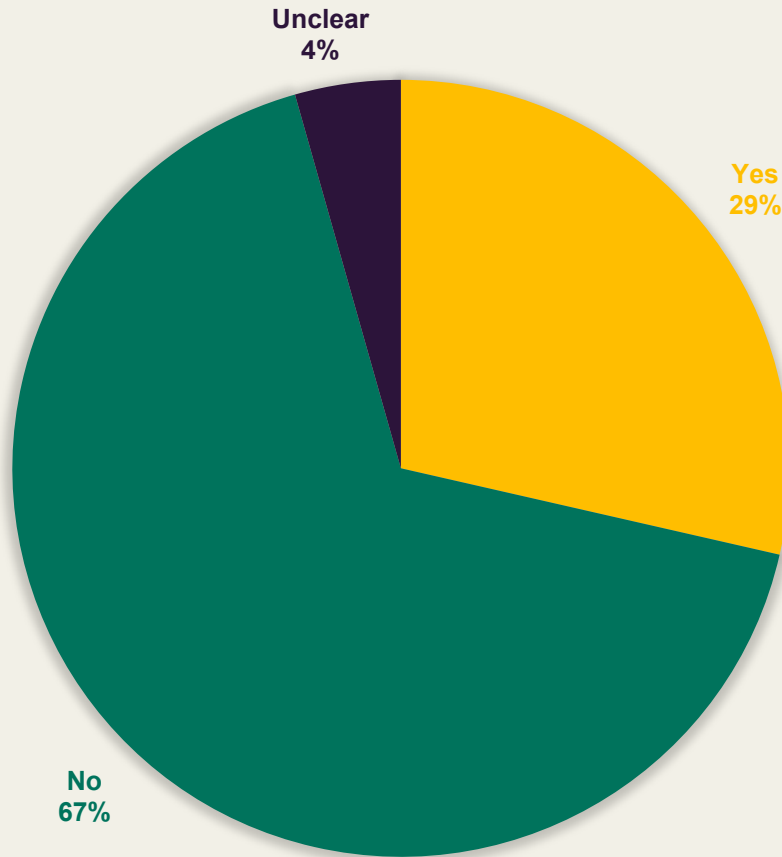
The municipal code does not specifically require a permit or license to operate a farmers' market. That said, a farmers' market may need a "temporary sales permit," which is available online.

The municipal code regulates "temporary outdoor merchandising events." If a farmers' market falls under that licensing scheme, several regulations apply. 271 Temporary outdoor merchandising events are permitted as an accessory use within the C-1, C-2, C-3, and C-4 zoning districts. 272

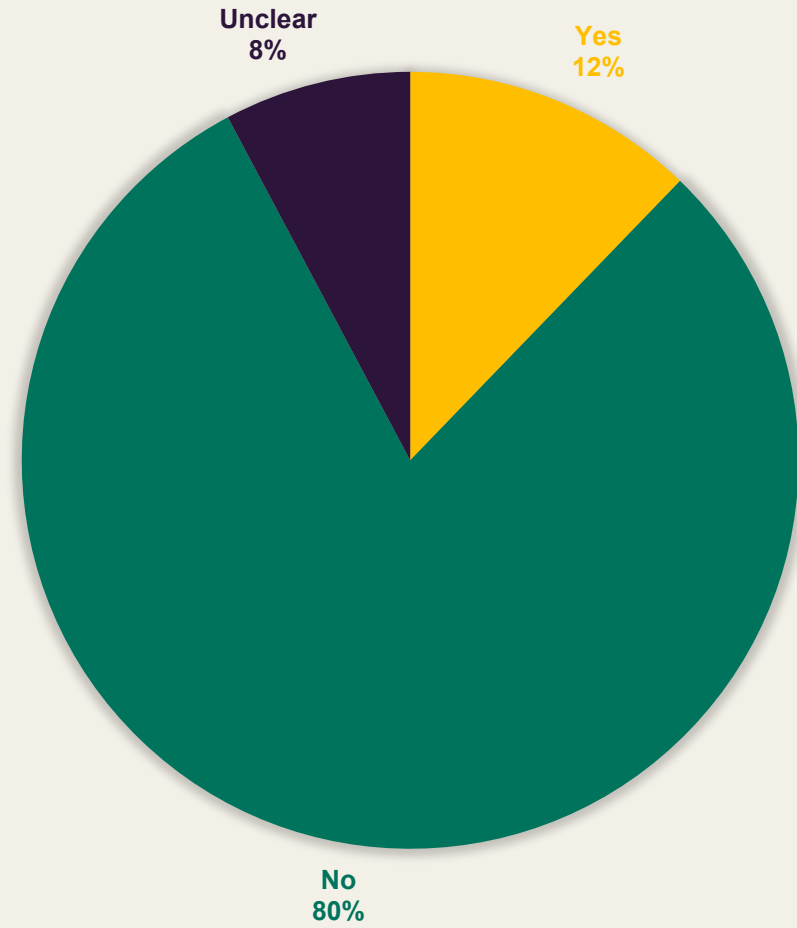
(Hastings, MN)

From Dakota County Food Systems Policy Analysis Summary (2015). Public Health Law Center at William Mitchell College of Law, St. Paul, MN

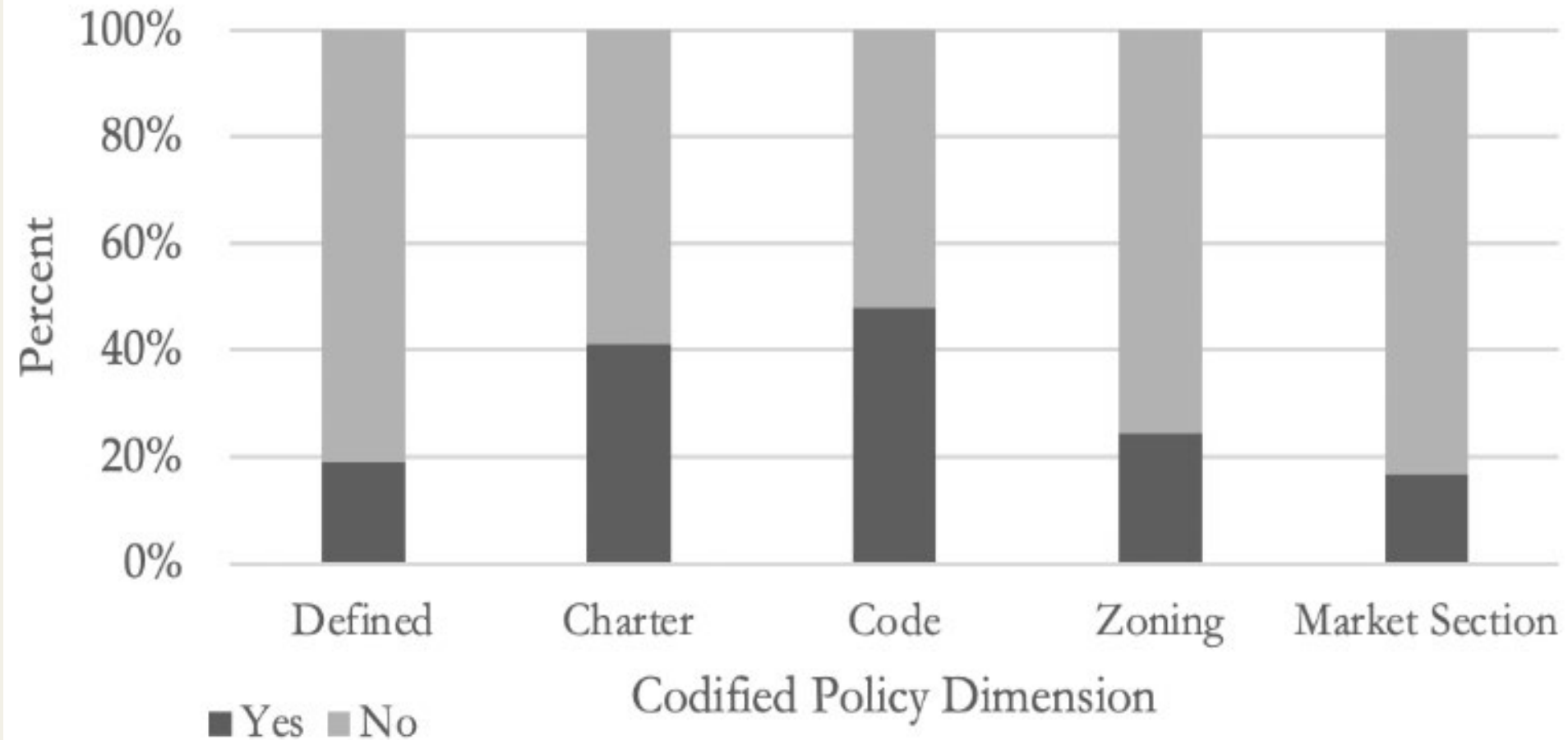
MARKET IN ZONING CODE



MARKET DEFINED IN CODE



Summary: Market Representation in Codified Policy



VERSION: MAR 3, 2025 (CURRENT)

CODE CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

SUPPLEMENT HISTORY TABLE modified

TITLE I - ADMINISTRATION

TITLE II - UTILITIES AND SERVICES

Chapter 26 - SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT

Chapter 27 - WATER SERVICE

Chapter 28 - SEWAGE AND SEWAGE
DISPOSALChapter 29 - WATER, SEWER AND
STORMWATER RATESChapter 30 - AUTOMOBILE PARKING
SYSTEM

Chapter 31 - PUBLIC MARKET

2:91. - Market continued.

2:92. - Market manager.

2:93. - Market days.

2:94. - Persons who may use.

2:95. - Restrictions.

2:96. - Stall assignments.

2:97. - Responsibility of stallholders.

2:98. - Market operating rules.

Chapter 32 - CABLE SYSTEMS AND CABLE
SERVICE

< 2:89. - Parking permits.

Chapter 31 - PUBLIC MARKET

2:91. - Market continued.

The Ann Arbor Public Market as heretofore located and established is hereby continued in the same.

2:92. - Market manager.

The Public Market of the City of Ann Arbor shall be under the supervision and control of the Market Manager. The Market Manager shall have all the powers and duties with respect to the Public Market as are specified in Chapter 8 of this Code. The Market Manager shall see that the provisions of this Code pertaining to the Public Market are enforced, and for the enforcement of the provision of this chapter, the market operating rules, and other provisions of this Code pertaining to the Public Market, the Market Manager shall attend the market during all hours during which the same is open; shall see that no imposition is practiced by buyers or sellers; shall see that the market is kept in order; and shall direct the arrangement of stalls and vehicles. The Market Manager shall be under the supervision of the Community Services Administrator or his/her designee.

(Ord. No. 42-98, § 2, 10-5-98; Ord. No. 27-04, § 1, 8-16-04; Ord. No. 22-07, § 2, 7-16-07)

2:93. - Market days.

The Public Market shall be open at such times as prescribed by the market operating rules, which shall be approved by the Community Services Administrator or his/her designee. Said rules may specify that any of the activities permitted on the grounds of the market shall be restricted to a certain portion of the time during with the market is open.

(Ord. No. 42-98, § 3, 10-5-98; Ord. No. 27-04, § 1, 8-16-04)

2:94. - Persons who may use.

The Public Market may be occupied by persons who are offering for sale articles of their own raising or production. Any persons deemed qualified to be vendors at the market may offer for sale and sell articles of their own production or raising and may do so either personally or by or through any member or members of their families, regular employees, or a member or members of the vendor's business corporation or partnership, so long as the family member, employee or business member is an active participant in the vendor's business. The qualifications of any person offering any article for sale shall be determined by the Market Manager in accordance with the market operating rules. Vendors or vendor applicants may appeal the decision of the Market Manager to the Community Services Administrator or his/her designee as provided in the market operating rules.

The market may also be occupied by charitable, educational, or community service organizations. Any such organization desiring to use the market shall first make application to the Market Manager specifying the name of the organization, the purpose of the organization, the proposed activity at the market, and such other information as required by the market operating rules. Any organization desiring to use the market for charitable purposes shall, in addition to complying with the chapter, comply with all other city requirements concerning charitable solicitations.

City of Ann Arbor has a long time, large municipally-run farmers market. Markets are not mentioned in the zoning code, despite other farmers markets existing (operated by others). Technically, other farmers markets in Ann Arbor are illegal.

Define Farmers Markets

FARMERS MARKET means an **outdoor** market open to the public, **operated by** a governmental agency, a nonprofit corporation, or one of more producers where at least **75%** of the displayed inventory of the products sold is **farm products**. (Littleton, CO)

FARMERS MARKET: The **temporary outdoor** sale, for an extended period, of an array of agricultural products, handmade goods, and similar locally produced items (not including secondhand goods). (Grand Rapids, MI)

FARMER'S MARKET means an **indoor or outdoor** commercial area providing retail sales booths for **numerous merchants** of produce and plant life. May provide arts and crafts booths accessory to the produce and plant life booth. (Carson City, NV)

OPEN MARKET OR MARKET SHOP means retail sales conducted primarily from outdoor areas, open air structures, and buildings with stalls. **Includes farmers' markets and flea markets**. (Montpelier, VT)



	Grand Rapids	Zoning: Definitions	Farmers’ Market: The temporary outdoor sale, for an extended period, of an array of agricultural products, handmade goods, and similar locally produced items (not including secondhand goods).
	Hamtramck	Code of Ordinances: Business Regulations: Restaurant and Food-Related Services and Products: Public Markets (chapter)	Public Markets: Public Market or Market Place. A place on vacant property used for buying and selling farm products and the accommodation of producers' and hucksters' wagons in which the products are brought to or taken from the place.
	Kalamazoo	Code of Ordinances: Kalamazoo Municipal Market	Market or Public Market: The Kalamazoo Municipal Market.
	Lincoln Park	Charter: Powers of City and Council: Section 24—Markets	The Council shall have power to establish and regulate markets and market places for the sale of meats, fish, vegetables and other provisions and articles necessary for the sustenance and convenience of the inhabitants.
	Marquette	Zoning: Definitions	Farmers Market: A location established in accordance with local ordinance and operated in compliance with Act No. 92, the Michigan Food Law, as amended, where farmers may transport and sell to the public fruits, vegetables or other agricultural products. Vendors of other retail items may also be permitted by the City.
	Monroe	Zoning: Definitions	Open Air Business: Businesses operated on a seasonal or year-round basis which are not conducted from a wholly enclosed building and which include, but are not limited to: A. Product sales or rentals; B. Outdoor product display; C. Fruit and vegetable markets; D. Nurseries and garden supply and equipment; and E. Commercial recreation businesses.
	Muskegon Heights	Zoning: Definitions	Farm Market: A temporary use within the City, which sells produce and other farm products.
	Rochester Hills	Zoning: Definitions	Roadside Stand and Market. The temporary use of property or facilities for the selling of produce.; Temporary Use. A use permitted and regulated pursuant to this ordinance for periods of time that are limited in duration as specified by this ordinance, including, but not limited to carnivals, circuses, farmers market, art fairs, craft shows, sidewalk sales, antique sales, Christmas tree sales, flower sales, flea markets and similar events.
	Traverse City	Zoning: Definitions	Market, municipal. “Municipal market” means a publicly owned and operated building or space where vendors offer a wide range of different products from open stalls.
	Wyoming	Zoning: Definitions	Outdoor display, sales, or storage: Outdoor display, sales, or storage that is accessory to a permitted commercial use or a business operated substantially outside of any building, including: retail sales of garden supplies and equipment (including, but not limited to, trees, shrubbery, plants, flowers, seed, topsoil, trellises, and lawn furniture); sale of building and lumber supplies; automobiles, recreational vehicles, boats, mobile homes, garages, swimming pools, playground equipment, mowing equipment, farm implements, construction equipment and similar materials or equipment; rental and leasing establishments; and year-round flea markets, farmer's markets, roadside stands, and auctions.
	Ypsilanti	Zoning: Definitions	Farmers' market means an indoor or outdoor market open to the public offering for sale at retail vegetables, produce,

Include Farmers Market in Municipal Plans

minneapolis | 2040

Minneapolis 2040 — The City's Comprehensive Plan
**Done right, growth
can help our city become
a healthy, sustainable,
and thriving place for all.**



Farmers markets are addressed directly in multiple places in Minneapolis' master plan including around food entrepreneurship and economic development

Plan Policies

Food Businesses
Support food-related businesses to improve access to healthy food and advance economic development.



For food-related businesses and entrepreneurial growth the local economy by connecting productive livelihoods and building their skills, increasing the availability of healthy food for residents. The farmers markets of Minneapolis are an excellent example: In 2016 they provided a commercial marketplace for an estimated \$10 million to \$20 million in sales for more than 800 local food vendors, as well as numerous venues throughout the city for residents to purchase fresh produce and local food products.

Economic growth is most powerful when it builds economic capacity in communities with the greatest need. Supporting food-related businesses can help build this economic capacity in a number of ways. For example, culturally specific food-related businesses can serve as an important economic entry point, and continued means of income for new immigrant entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs of color. Improving healthy food access in under-resourced communities can help children and youth have the energy and focus to learn and grow, ultimately contributing to a productive, vibrant local economy.

Entrepreneurs often lack the capital, resources, and experience with regulatory frameworks to start businesses in the city. Creating conditions conducive to new business start-ups, such as streamlining processes and raising awareness of resources, can remove barriers for new and existing businesses to thrive.

ACTION STEPS

The City will seek to accomplish the following action steps to support food-related businesses to improve access to healthy food and advance economic development.

- Develop or expand business financing programs to help with startup and capital costs for food processing businesses and food stores.
- Continue to streamline and clarify business licensing processes for food businesses.
- Ensure reliable educational opportunities for food processing entrepreneurs to learn about food safety.
- Continue to review and refine regulations for new food, beverage, and food-producing enterprises.
- Support farmers markets and other food system infrastructure to provide reliable, accessible venues for healthy food and food producers.

Include Farmers Market in Municipal Plans

GOAL 2

Ensure that all residents have convenient access to healthy food, health care, safe environments, and choices for an active lifestyle.

SE9: Ensure healthy, safe, and sanitary housing for all residents.

SE10: Prohibit new residential development in vulnerable areas such as floodplains.

SE11: Support local healthcare facilities to provide responsive, high-quality care to all users.

SE12: Coordinate with commercial, local businesses and districts to ensure all residents have access to emergency food

SE14: Provide opportunities for healthy activity in safe and accessible public spaces for all residents.

SE15: Establish community gardens and farmers' markets as a by-right use in residential neighborhoods.

SE16: Foster a range of health and community support services to ensure delivery is coordinated, respectful, user-friendly, and wellness focused.

SE17: Support health and social services that are accessible by all means of transportation.

SE18: Enable residential care facilities and other housing for aging persons to be located close to services and amenities.



Livable and Sustainable Communities

Goal 1: Columbia will be a healthy, diverse, and enriching community for all residents that promotes healthy people and families

Objective: Promote health through clean air, waterways, and a green city providing healthy lifestyles through recreation, community gardens, adequate grocery stores, and farmers' markets
Other: Promote easy access to health care, social services, and elder care

Columbia, MO grouped farmers markets into Livable & Sustainable Communities goal, based on community input

Des Moines, IA connects farmers markets to health goals



Takeaways for Michigan cities:

- Connect with your Food Policy Council if you haven't yet
- Read your Master Plan and see if your zoning follows it
- Review zoning code definitions, and add food systems relevant ones when missing
- Consider the different scales of food system activities— one size doesn't necessarily fit all

Zoning considerations in particular:

- Is the food system mentioned in the intent of the Zoning Ordinance or in the intent of any of the zoning districts?
- Where are food system land uses allowed? Are they allowed at a small, medium and large scale?
- What permits are needed for each food system land use? How difficult is it to start one of these uses?
- What food system land uses are not mentioned?

Resources

Model & Peer Municipal Ordinances:

- [Growing Food Connections](#)
- [Sustainable Development Code](#)
- [Natural Resources Defence Council's Model Municipal Ordinances](#) (Composting, Food Waste)
- [Healthy Food Policy Project's Policy Database](#)
- [UP Food Exchange's Policy Resources](#)

Other Food Systems & Food Planning Resources

- [APA Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning](#)
- [APA FOOD – American Planning Association's FOOD Division](#)
- [2022 Michigan Good Food Charter](#)



[Or direct link here](#)