

# Making the Food – Climate Connection for Local Policy

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# Goals

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- **Highlight the connections between food and climate**
- **Present several roles for local government**
- **Discuss Farmshed in Central Wisconsin, a work in progress...**

**FOOD**

## **Fossil Fuels**

- Food production
- Process and transport
- Food waste

**CLIMATE**

## **Land Use & Ecosystems**

- Forest conversion
- Soil carbon release
- Albedo and Transpiration

**FOOD**

- Hydrological regimes
- Soil ecology
- Desertification

**CLIMATE**

# A climate-friendly food system...

- **Reduces dependence on fossil fuels**
- **Enhances carbon-sequestration**
- **Recycles waste to reduce methane production**

# A climate-friendly food system...

- **Is more local than not**
- **Is less “machine intensive” and lets soil microbes do the heavy work**
- **Recognizes that there is no such thing as waste, only young compost**

# What role for local policy?

- **Helping make local food possible**

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Review your land use plans and zoning codes- is local food being “zoned out”?

What could the agriculture element of a local comprehensive plan look like for a small city or village?

# What role for local policy?

- **Helping make local food possible**

In 2005, Woodbury County, Iowa adopted the “Local Food Purchase Policy”: encourages schools, institutions and restaurants to purchase food grown within 100 miles of Sioux City.

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Woodbury County is also offering up to \$50,000 each year in real property tax rebate incentives for farms that convert from “conventional” farming to “organic”.

This policy hopes to:

- Return to smaller acreage farms
- Create new jobs
- Provide a greater return on the agriculture production
- Allow greater diversity of crops and livestock

# What role for local policy?

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- Portage County has long sponsored distribution of back-yard compost bins
- Cities in California are developing food-waste pick ups at apartments and other locations where composting is difficult
- Growing Power in Milwaukee receives brewers mash and unusable grocery stock for intensive vermicompost system

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Surveys of community planners find that support for including food issues in local government planning has nearly doubled, from 38% to 71% in past seven years

# Central Rivers Farmshed

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- **A collaborative forum for farmers/growers and concerned food consumers in and around Stevens Point**
- **About 30 “core” volunteers and nearly 100 supporters**

# Central Rivers Farmshed Initiatives

- **Farmer capacity**
- **Public markets**
- **Food system education**
- **Local eating**
- **Nutrition for learning and health**
- **Local food networks**

# Central Rivers Farmshed Events

- Annual food forum/fair
- Chef on the square
- Food preservation workshops
- Speed dating for farmers
- Farmer tribute dinner
- Weekly breakfasts