

# Section 06 Local Food + Agriculture

Currently in Edina:



**1**

Community gardens



**1**

Farmers markets



**8.1%**

Food insecurity rate in  
Hennepin County



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# Local Food and Agriculture

Transporting food across long distances burns fossil fuels and emits greenhouse gases. The extended period of time of long-distance transport increases the need for refrigeration. Refrigeration is carbon-intensive. The less transportation and refrigeration needed to supply us our food, the more sustainable it becomes.

Buying food from local sources can reduce the carbon intensity of our diet while also supporting your small business local economy. Studies have indicated that nearly 32 jobs are created for every \$1 million in revenue generated by produce farms involved in a local food market, compared to only 10.5 jobs for those involved in wholesale channels exclusively<sup>1</sup>. Meanwhile, the outdoor and social activity supported by community gardens and increased gardening in neighborhoods have social and community benefits like increasing social cohesion, providing multi-generational activity, supporting outdoor low-impact exercise, and support of plant/animal/pollinator habitat.<sup>11</sup>

Our food system is also vulnerable to impacts of climate change<sup>2</sup>. These vulnerabilities include physical impacts like extreme precipitation and heat, crop and livestock vulnerabilities like animal heat stress, biological impacts like increasing invasive insect infestations, interruptions to natural annual cycles, and socioeconomic impacts. Today, food insecurity—disruption of nutrition availability because of lack of money, access, or other resources—is inequitably felt: people experiencing low income are nearly three times more likely to experience food insecurity<sup>3</sup>. We should anticipate that the climate change vulnerabilities of our national food system will exacerbate the inequities of food security in all communities.

## Equity Considerations

- People in low-income neighborhoods may have limited access to full-service supermarkets or grocery stores - an area known as a “food desert.”
- Studies have also shown that communities with fewer resources often have more outlets that promote unhealthy dietary behaviors such as fast food restaurants, and little access to affordable nutritious food. This condition is known as a “nutrition desert.”
- New programs created in local food systems may perpetuate inequities that are defined by the dominant population, ignoring rather than addressing the disenfranchisement of marginalized people in our food system. These programs often unintentionally leave out the same voices as the industrial food system. People who cannot afford to “buy local” or organic may be excluded<sup>4</sup>.



### Climate Hazards

Hazards to the local food and agriculture system include reduced crop quality and yield, vulnerability to pests and soil moisture as well as fluctuation in availability, food price volatility and change.



### Opportunities

Increased capacity of local food and agriculture systems and improved farm-to-table approaches can reduce community food insecurity while creating local jobs and improved community resilience.



The strategies on the following pages guide our path in meeting our climate goals for the Local Food and Agriculture sector. Each strategy is supported by a series of detailed actions to be explored and undertaken in order to carry out the vision and goals.

See Section 10 Implementation for all supporting actions.



# Local Food and Agriculture

Strategy  
LF 1

## Increase production of local food and its resilience to climate shocks, particularly serving low income and food insecure individuals.

As a national system, the US agriculture system is also vulnerable to regional climate impacts<sup>5</sup>. Pacific states are particularly sensitive to reduced water supplies, warmer winters, and more variable spring weather. Grain production is vulnerable to more variable weather, warmer winters, heat wave, and hot summer nights and flooding in the Great Plains and the Midwest. Beef, pork, and poultry production is vulnerable to increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather in the Great Plains and the Southeast as well as sensitive to interruptions in feed, water, and power supplies that can occur with extreme weather events and other climate change drivers.

Although all community members may feel any affects of climate change impacts on the food system, individuals who are already experiencing low income or food insecurity will very likely experience these affects more profoundly. Increased local food system capacity can help increase resilience, food security, job creation, and community wealth building benefits<sup>6,7</sup>.

See Section 10 Implementation for supporting actions.

Strategy  
LF 2

## Increase access to local food, particularly serving low income and food insecure individuals.

As indicated in the USDA Food Map to the right, a portion of Edina (shaded in orange) have portions of the population who are economically stressed as well as having limited access to transportation and living 1/2 mile or further from a grocery store.<sup>14</sup> In addition to this food access consideration, others in the community are experiencing food insecurity due to lack of money, access to culturally appropriate foods, or other resource considerations. Increasing food access will decrease food insecurity improve community resilience and adaptative capacity to climate impacts.

See Section 10 Implementation for supporting actions.

### Community Gardens Per 100,000 Residents

United States:  
18,000 Total (est)<sup>12</sup> **5.5**

Twin Cities Metro:  
600 Total<sup>13</sup> **18.3**

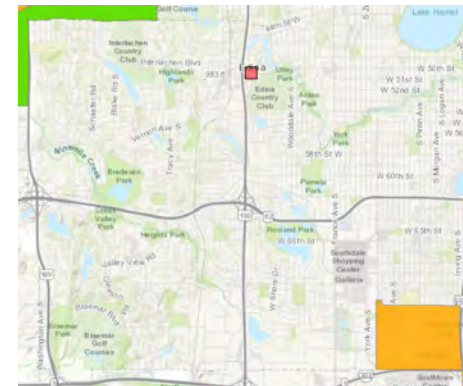
City of Burnsville:  
3 Total **4.9**

City of Edina:  
1 Total (City operated) **1.9**

Farmer's Market  
Locations in Edina: **1**

### USDA Food Map

Low-income census tracts where a significant number or share of residents is more than 1/2 mile from the nearest supermarket.



# Local Food and Agriculture

Strategy  
LF 3

## Reduce food waste, achieve a 25% reduction in food waste community-wide by 2030.

Nationally, 30-40% of the food supply is estimated to be wasted<sup>8</sup>. There is an estimated 4,650 tons of food waste in Edina’s solid waste stream annually<sup>6</sup>. In addition to the greenhouse gas emissions generated, this food waste represents an economic loss of over \$6 million every year<sup>9</sup>. Beyond reducing economic loss, food that is wasted could have benefited families in need and the land, water, labor, energy and other inputs that went into producing that food could have been put to more productive means. Reduction of food waste will support Edina’s climate action goals, improve the overall sustainability of the city, and could reduce food insecurity within the community.

See Section 10 Implementation for supporting actions.

Strategy  
LF 4

## Reduce the amount that the community’s food consumption contributes to climate change.

The production, packaging, distribution, retail, and waste generation associated with the food system is responsible for 1/3rd of GHG emissions<sup>10</sup>. As with most communities, the vast majority of the food consumed is produced outside of the city and cannot be fully accounted for in municipal GHG Inventories. However, addressing the impacts of our food consumption that extend beyond our City boundaries is of critical importance to global climate action.

See Section 10 Implementation for supporting actions.

### The Carbon Footprint of What You Eat

