

## Cross-cutting Economic Indicator - Food System Jobs

As mentioned under the section for locally-grown foods, more can be done to encourage a diverse, balanced and skilled workforce throughout the food system. The growth of jobs in the food sector has dramatically increased compared to other industries, but wages have actually declined and are generally lower than those in other industries, and often do not come with benefits. Depressed wages in the food sector in a region with a high cost of living is a recipe for economic instability. Some recommendations to address this are:

- Research and explore strategies for strengthening food system jobs. Develop recommendations for food system businesses to increase their competitiveness and attract a skilled workforce by providing opportunities for individuals to make a decent living and support themselves and their families, improving overall economic stability of employees and fostering growth of the industry. This is especially important in the retail and service industries, which have some of the lowest reported wages of any jobs in the food industry. Cutting-edge food service businesses offer competitive wages and benefits that meet the needs of today's workforce.
- Enforce and strengthen labor law compliance. Using regulatory devices such as food safety and liquor licenses to ensure that employers are complying responsibly is one means to address this issue. Penalties should also be increased for employers who violate labor laws, especially through misappropriation of employee wages and tips, which reduces employee take-home pay and the amount of money paid in taxes.
- Advocate for raising the minimum wage for all workers, including tipped workers. Increasing the minimum wage would improve wages, reduce poverty, and help food system workers transition off public assistance programs.
- Fund county training programs for all food system workers, including undocumented workers. Training programs should offer career pathways that would enable workers to make a livable-wage in their segment of the food chain.
- Ensure that local procurement programs for (public) institutions include labor standards and worker protections, such as health care benefits and occupational safety. In addition, legislation should require that all farms and food businesses meet certain labor standards before they receive government loans or subsidies.



# APPENDIX A

## About the Contributors

### **Sustainable Long Island**

Sustainable Long Island is a regional nonprofit whose mission is to promote economic development, environmental health, and social equity for all Long Islanders, now and for generations to come. Sustainable Long Island is a catalyst and facilitator for sustainable development. We cultivate the conditions, identify resources and provide tools to advance sustainability on Long Island.

Over the last 50 years, our communities were built and have matured without adequate planning, leaving an aftermath of suburban sprawl, fragmented transportation systems, depleting natural resources, segregated neighborhoods and schools, and deteriorating downtowns. To address these needs, Sustainable Long Island advances sustainable development; community and regional planning that integrate current and future needs for economic growth, environmental health, and social equity. For more information about Sustainable Long Island and the organization's work, visit <http://sustainableli.org>.

### **Food Equity Advisory Committee**

Sustainable Long Island's Food Equity Advisory Committee (FEAC) was created to increase dialogue around our food system and to bring multiple sectors of the food system together to address food equity on a regional level. The FEAC looks at policies and programs to increase access to fresh, healthy food across Long Island and is comprised of a diverse set of stakeholders from many levels of the food system.

The FEAC has regularly discussed issues such as the lack of access to fresh, healthy food options and barriers to access, including transportation and distribution systems, and recognizes that food equity requires community-driven, viable, long-term solutions to map out a comprehensive course of action.

### **Adelphi University**

Adelphi is a world class, modern university with excellent and highly relevant programs where students prepare for lives of active citizenship and professional careers. Through its schools and programs—The College of Arts and Sciences, Derner Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies, Honors College, Ruth S. Ammon School of Education, University College, Robert B. Willumstad School of Business, College of Nursing and Public Health and the School of Social Work—the co-educational university offers undergraduate and graduate degrees as well as professional and educational programs for adults. Adelphi University currently enrolls nearly 8,000 students from 43 states and 45 foreign countries. With its main campus in Garden City and centers in Manhattan, Hauppauge, and Poughkeepsie, the University, chartered in 1896, maintains a commitment to liberal studies in tandem with rigorous professional preparation and active citizenship.

### **Adelphi University's Center for Health Innovation**

The Center for Health Innovation (CHI) brings together many professional and academic backgrounds to create and foster practitioner-focused, interdisciplinary academic programming, healthcare research, community partnerships and leadership—all with the goal of meeting current and emergent healthcare needs. CHI is a progressive collaboration of schools and disciplines within Adelphi University. It establishes a single point of reference for all healthcare programs and services, thereby creating a collective identity, increasing efficiency, and expanding Adelphi's regional influence in healthcare. Interdisciplinary groups monitor our programs, and their work is supported through consultation with the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee. For more information about CHI, visit [adelphi.edu/chi](http://adelphi.edu/chi).

## **Adelphi University's Vital Signs**

Vital Signs is a multiphase project that systematically identifies, tracks, and analyzes the social health of populations and communities in Nassau and Suffolk counties on Long Island. Initiated by Adelphi University President Robert A. Scott in 2004, it has the primary objective of developing a centralized resource to help inform policy and service provision and reduce social health disparities. As a campus-community partnership, Vital Signs reflects Adelphi's ongoing commitment as an "engaged university" and is affiliated with the Institute for Social Research and Community Engagement.

## **Adelphi University's Institute for Social Research and Community Engagement (iSoRCE)**

iSoRCE generates actionable knowledge through collaborative social research and uses that knowledge to better understand and address Long Island's critical and enduring social issues. Rather than developing top-down solutions for social problems, iSoRCE incorporates community questions, priorities, and perspectives into the investigatory process. iSoRCE then works with community partners to explore and take action on findings. iSoRCE is part of the Center for Health Innovation at Adelphi University.

## APPENDIX B

### Food Equity Advisory Committee Members

This report is made possible by the dedicated efforts of numerous individuals and various organizations for their participation in the FEAC and their continued commitment in addressing farming issues and food equity throughout Long Island.

- Central Islip Youth Enrichment Services
- Adelphi University Institute for Social Research and Community Engagement
- Bayshore Unified Free School District/Long Island School Nutrition Directors Association
- Community Gardens Coordinator, Department of Family Medicine Stony Brook University
- Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk, Nutrition/Wellness - Family Health & Wellness
- SUNY Stony Brook Department of Family Medicine
- Health & Welfare Council of Long Island
- Heifer International / Hobbs Community Farm
- Hempstead Rebirth
- iEatGreen
- Island Harvest
- Long Island Cares
- Long Island Council of Churches
- Long Island Farm Bureau
- Nassau & Peconic Land Trusts
- Nassau Soil Water Conservation District
- New York State Department of Health
- New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets
- Roosevelt Community Revitalization Group
- Slow Food Huntington
- Suffolk County United Veterans/Greater Bellport Coalition
- SUNY Old Westbury
- Sustainability Institute at Molloy College
- Town of Hempstead Council District 1- Hon. Dorothy Goosby
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

# APPENDIX C

## Resources

Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems, University of Wisconsin, <http://www.cias.wisc.edu>  
Centers for Disease Control, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss>  
Centers for Disease Control, Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System (PedNSS), <http://www.cdc.gov/pednss>  
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk, "Suffolk County Farmers Markets, 2012,"  
<http://ccesuffolk.org/farmers-markets-373/>  
Farmers Market Federation of New York,  
<http://www.nyfarmersmarket.com/resources/resources-for-farmers-markets/ebt.html>  
Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap, 2011  
<http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-studies/map-the-meal-gap.aspx#>  
Island Harvest, <http://www.islandharvest.org/intro.aspx>  
Long Island Cares, <http://www.licares.org>  
Long Island Farm Bureau, <http://www.lifb.com>  
Long Island Regional Economic Development Council,  
<http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/long-island>  
The New York Health Foods & Healthy Communities fund,  
<http://esd.ny.gov/BusinessPrograms/HealthyFoodHealthyCommunities.html>  
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, "Specialty Crop Block Grant Program,"  
<http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/slide/SpecialtyCrop.html>  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Bureau of Watershed Assessment and  
Management, <http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/1149.html>  
New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, <http://otda.ny.gov>  
Stony Brook University, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Waste Reduction and Management  
Institute, <http://www.somas.stonybrook.edu/institutes/wrmi.html>  
Suffolk County Department of Planning,  
<http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Planning/Divisions.aspx>  
Suffolk County Water Authority,  
<http://www.scwa.com>  
Tagtow A., Roberts S., "Cultivating Resilience: A Food System Blueprint that Advances the Health of Iowans,  
Farms and Communities," February 2011, <http://iowafoodsystemscouncil.org/cultivating-resilience>  
US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey,  
<http://www.bls.gov/cex>  
US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, <http://www.bls.gov/cew>  
US Census, County Business Patterns, 2011,  
<http://censtats.census.gov/cgi-bin/cbpnaic/cbpsect.pl>  
US Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). "Farmers Markets and Local Food  
Marketing: Food Hubs: Building Stronger Infrastructure for Small and Mid-Size Producers,"  
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/FoodHubs>  
US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Census of Agriculture,  
<http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/index.php>  
US Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service, "Specialty Crop Block Grant Program,"  
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/scbqg>  
US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service,  
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov>

# APPENDIX D

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> Soabl, J. *A conceptual model of the food and nutrition system*. Soc Sci Med. 1998 Oct ;47(7):853-63.

<sup>2</sup> Long Island Farm Bureau, <http://www.lifb.com/Portals/1/history-of-agriculture.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> The Long Island Regional Economic Development Council (2011). *Long Island's Future Economy: A Strategic Economic Development plan for the Long island Region*.

<sup>4</sup> US EPA National Estuary Program (2005), <http://nepis.epa.gov/Adobe/PDF/P1002OT7.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> This percentage was determined by combining the number of acres in orchards and vegetables harvested and dividing it by the total number of farmland acres.

<sup>6</sup> Suffolk County Department of Planning,

[http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Portals/0/planning/EnvPlanning/LIDuckHistory/Main\\_Report.pdf](http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Portals/0/planning/EnvPlanning/LIDuckHistory/Main_Report.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Keep It On Long Island, <http://www.kioli.org/longisland/infamous/duck-farming/>

<sup>8</sup> Nassau County: Healthy Nassau. \$150 million Environmental Program Bond Act, retrieved from

<http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/healthynassau/land/eba.html>

<sup>9</sup> The Nature Conservancy: New York, Long Island's Last Stand, retrieved from <http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/newyork/explore/long-island-long-islands-last-stand.xml>

<sup>10</sup> Suffolk County Department of Planning, <http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Planning/Divisions/OpenSpaceandFarmland/FarmlandPreservation.aspx>

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>12</sup> According to the Census: Grocery stores include establishments generally known as supermarkets and smaller grocery stores primarily engaged in retailing a general line of food, such as canned and frozen foods; fresh fruits and vegetables; and fresh and prepared meats, fish, and poultry. Included in this industry is delicatessen-type of establishments primarily engaged in retailing a general line of food.

<sup>13</sup> As defined by the Consumer Expenditure Survey, food at home includes all expenditures for food at grocery stores (or other food stores). Food away from home includes spending on food at eating and drinking establishments, as well as at hotels, recreational sites, and schools. See: <http://www.bls.gov/cex/csxgloss.htm>

<sup>14</sup> Biros, M.H., Hoffman, P.L. & Resch, K. (2005). The prevalence and perceived health consequences of hunger in emergency department patient populations. *Academic Emergency medicine*, 12: 310–317; Stuff, J., Casey, P. Szeto, K., et al. (2003). Household food insecurity is associated with health status.. *Journal of nutrition*, 134: 2330–233; Vozoris, N.T. & Tarasuk, V.S. (2003). Household food insufficiency is associated with poorer health. *Journal of nutrition*, 133: 120–126.

<sup>15</sup> In New York, there is more income flexibility in percentage of gross income for households in which there are disabled or senior members or where child care costs exist.

<sup>16</sup> The USDA sets a serving size for fruit or vegetables as equal to about one-half cup. Greens like spinach and lettuce have a serving size of one full cup. One serving of sliced fruit is equal to one-half cup; however a single piece of fruit, such as an apple or an orange, counts as one serving. The decision was based on the portion sizes that people typically eat, ease of use and nutritional content of fruits and vegetables.

<sup>17</sup> Agritourism: Cultivating Tourists on the Farm. Washington State University Extension. Retrieved from <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb2020/eb2020.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> Arkansas Local Food Network, <http://littlerock.locallygrown.net/>

<sup>19</sup> Fife, John. (2012). Bringing Supermarkets into Food Deserts: An Analysis of Retail Intervention Policies. Retrieved from SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2197864> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2197864>

<sup>20</sup> According to the Farmers' Market Federation of New York, roughly \$1.6 million in SNAP benefits were used at farmers' markets in 2010.

<sup>21</sup> Dong D, Lin BH. Fruit and Vegetable Consumption by Low-income Americans: Would a Price Reduction Make a Difference? 2009. Economic Research Report No. (ERR-70).

<sup>22</sup> New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Chronic Disease Evaluation and Research [http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/brfss/reports/docs/1202\\_brfss\\_fruit\\_and\\_vegetable\\_consumption.pdf](http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/brfss/reports/docs/1202_brfss_fruit_and_vegetable_consumption.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> An example of an agriculture business incubator model currently on Long Island is the Agriculture Consumer Science Center at Calverton owned and operated by Stony Brook University <http://www.stonybrook.edu/calverton/AgricultureConsumerScienceCenter/index.html>

# NOTES

Food System Report Card



SUSTAINABLE LONG ISLAND



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