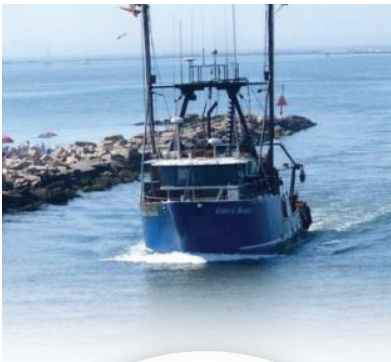




# RHODE ISLAND FOOD STRATEGY



A strong food system supports Rhode Island's economy, culture, and people.

As part of her efforts to grow Rhode Island's economy and support healthy families and communities, in spring 2016, Governor Gina M. Raimondo announced the hiring of the State's (and nation's) first director of food strategy to lead the development of Rhode Island's first comprehensive Food Strategy. With the support of many partners, this actionable vision was created, which builds on the state's momentum in growing its local food economy in a way that benefits all Rhode Islanders, enhances Rhode Island's environment, and celebrates the state's unique food cultures and landscape.

Rhode Island stands at an exceptional moment in time to release this Food Strategy. In addition to State-level leadership, there is a robust network of partners across business, government, and community who are engaged in and energized by this effort. Designed to be a five-year action plan, the Strategy takes a holistic view of the state's food system and is organized around three core themes: Health & Access, Economic Development, and Environmental Sustainability & Resiliency. It is further broken out into five integrated focus areas:

#### INTEGRATED FOCUS AREAS:

Preserve &  
Grow Agriculture,  
Fisheries Industries  
in Rhode Island

Enhance the  
Climate for Food  
& Beverage  
Businesses

Sustain & Create  
Markets for Rhode  
Island Food,  
Beverage Products

Ensure  
Food Security  
for All Rhode  
Islanders

Minimize  
Food Waste &  
Divert it from the  
Waste Stream

To learn more, visit [relishrhody.com](http://relishrhody.com)



The **Rhode Island Food Strategy** envisions a sustainable, equitable food system that is uniquely Rhode Island; one that builds on our traditions, strengths, and history while encouraging innovation and supporting the regional goal of 50 percent of the food eaten in New England be produced in the region by 2060.

**EACH OF THE FIVE INTEGRATED FOCUS AREAS HAS  
A SET OF RECOMMENDED NEAR-TERM ACTION STEPS:**

### Preserve & Grow Agriculture, Fisheries Industries in Rhode Island

- Expand preservation of active farmland
- Enhance technical assistance & improve coordination and communication about existing resources
- Strengthen job training opportunities for agriculture and fisheries industries
- Explore innovative funding and financing tools
- Support a robust DEM Division of Agriculture
- Continue to invest in critical infrastructure
- Support efforts of the Rhode Island Seafood Marketing Collaborative
- Promote recruitment efforts within fishery industries
- Support efforts of Rhode Island's Shellfish Initiative

### Enhance the Climate for Food & Beverage Businesses

- Identify, prioritize, and tackle regulatory challenges for food enterprises
- Assess and implement communications and engagement best practices for processes and regulations
- Address funding gaps and communicate funding opportunities
- Recognize and celebrate food-system partners
- Support key agencies and staff in fostering innovation

### Sustain & Create Markets for Rhode Island Food, Beverage Products

- Expand direct-to-consumer sales opportunities, particularly within fisheries
- Connect Rhode Island products to institutional markets
- Support infrastructure investments
- Promote food tourism under a unified brand message

### Ensure Food Security for All Rhode Islanders

- Create a statewide hunger taskforce to lead efforts to reduce food insecurity in Rhode Island to below 10 percent by 2020
- Maximize participation in federal meal programs
- Reduce transportation barriers to food access
- Reduce the price and increase access to healthful foods across the state
- Support development of community gardens
- Continue to promote high levels of health and nutrition in public schools and daycare facilities
- Expand partnerships with public health advocates
- Encourage healthy workplaces

### Minimize Food Waste & Divert it from the Waste Stream

- Leverage opportunities to reduce food waste at the source
- Connect healthful, potentially wasted food to Rhode Islanders in need
- Provide technical assistance and needed resources to help divert organic waste from the landfill

#### To learn more

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Learn, engage, and discuss at  
[relishrhody.com](http://relishrhody.com)