



MARION INSTITUTE

Advancing a Culture of Health Through Food Equity

FROGFOOT FARM
NEIGHBORS FEEDING NEIGHBORS

FIELDS TO FAMILIES
CERTIFIED GLEANING

GROW EDUCATION
A FARM-TO-SCHOOL

SOUTHCOAST
FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

February 17, 2026 12 -1 pm

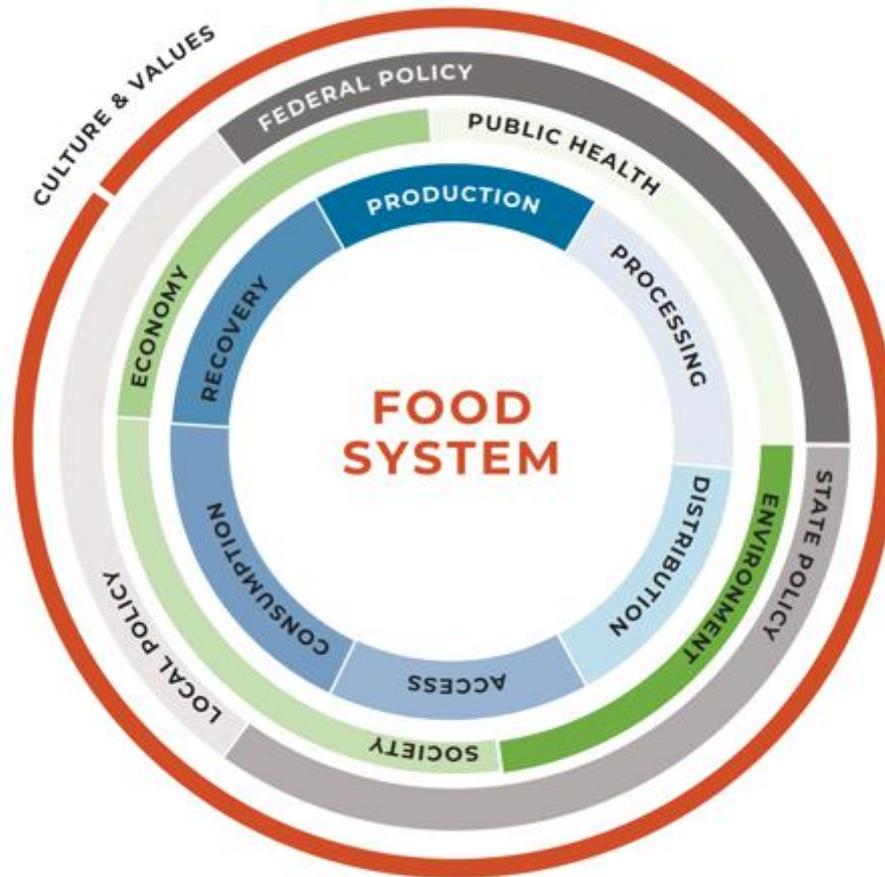
Agenda SFPC Quarterly Meeting



- **Welcome/Introductions**
- **The Role of the Food Policy Council**
- **SFPC Mission**
- **2021 Food System Assessment**
- **SFPC Priorities, Structure and History**
- **Working Group Initiatives and Policies**
- **Engage in our work!**

Ask questions at any time!

Role of Food Policy Council



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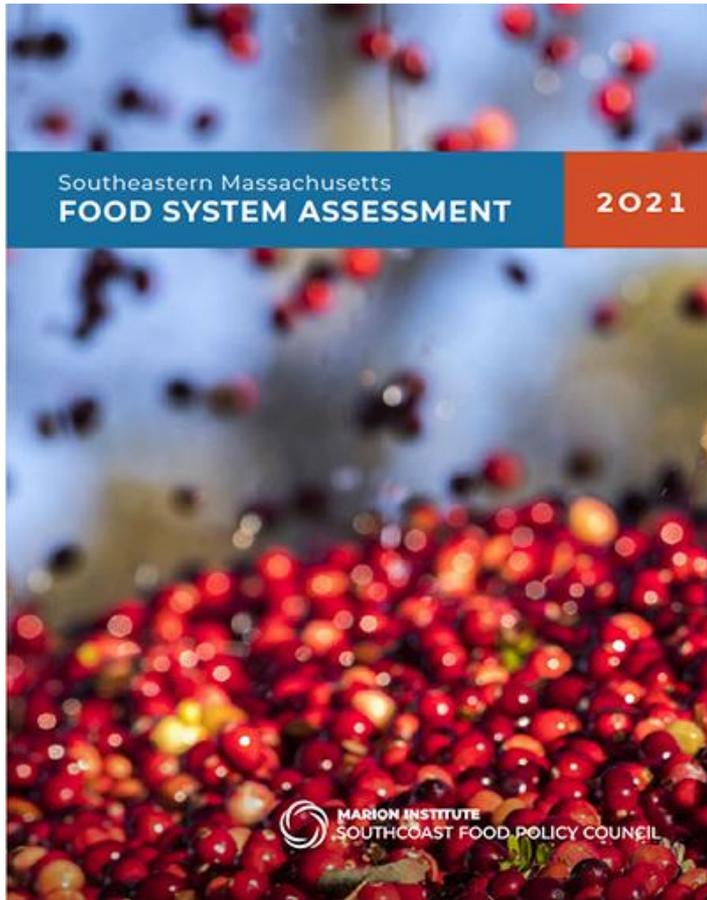
The food system both impacts and is influenced by a variety of other factors and systems including the environment, public health, and the economy.



MARION INSTITUTE
SOUTHCOAST FOOD
POLICY COUNCIL

A mission to connect, convene, and advocate for local food producers, consumers, and community members who seek policy and systems that strengthen our regional food system, improve community health, and eliminate food insecurity

SFPC 2021 Food System Assessment



Production / Harvesting

1,643
FARMS (49 organic)
(-8.1% from 2012)

2,277
PRINCIPAL PRODUCERS (40% women, 98% white, 59.8 years average age)

90%
FAMILY OWNED

TOTAL LAND IN FARMS 99,688 ACRES
(-8.0% from 2012)

AVERAGE FARM SIZE 61 ACRES

FISHERIES:

32,637
BOAT TRIPS

571,953,330 LBS
SEAFOOD LANDED

\$469,763,709
VALUE

2022 SFPC Priorities

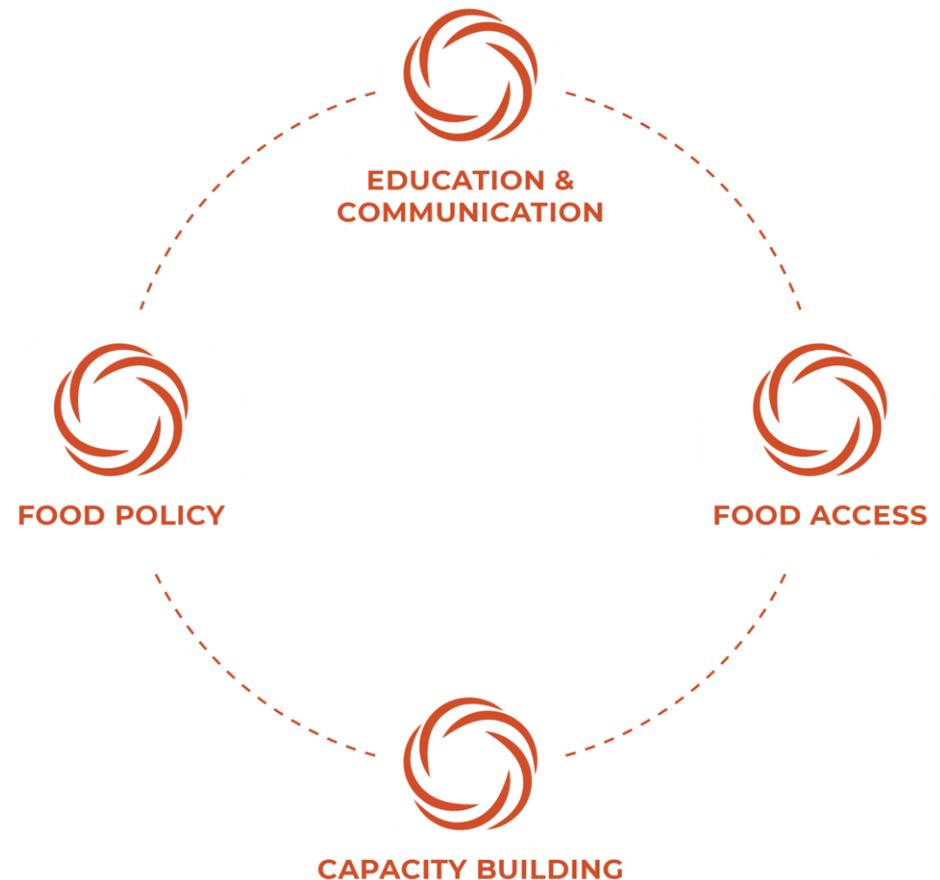
- Local Food System
- HIP Funding and SNAP Gap
- Living Wages in the Food System
- Accessible/Affordable Farmland
- Climate Change
- Farm-to-School
- Partially Cooked and Ready to Eat Food
- Increase the number of mobile markets
- More Urban agriculture/green/living spaces
- Support Communities of Color to start a farm or food business
- Survey SEMA to identify farmable properties
- Gleaning is nascent
- Farm-to-Pantry and other local food options
- Build a Regional Food Innovation District
- Increase refrigerated and storage spaces
- Building Networks that make local food accessible

SFPC Programming

The SFPC has emerged as the backbone organization of our local food system coalition.

STRUCTURE

- Two staff, 1 consultant
- Executive Team, Chair, Co-Chair
- CAB with Working groups
- 3-5 Food Equity Advisors



History Southcoast Food Policy Council



2019-20 Origin	2021 Structure & Training	2022 Recruitment & Strategy	2023 Execute Plans	2024 Successes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSA Research Begins • SE Food Security Network (GI) becomes the MI's program • SFPC formed and went into pandemic emergency food work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hired Staff • Emergency food work redirected • FSA published • Community Advisory Board (CAB) formed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly Public meetings • CAB develops priorities, and 4 Working Groups to execute initiatives • Food Summit, Candidate Forum, Hunger Awareness Month, Focus Groups, Food Equity Advisors (FEAs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 meetings a month • Hired Director Food Access/Innovation to reconfigure to adapt to long-term mode • Research, advocate, action, strategize, communication loop • Take action on 3 major initiatives based on FSA, Workgroups and funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative Breakfast, 130 community & legislators • Eat Local Southcoast Challenge, 750 individuals • Action Alert Network, 424 letters • Candidate Forum, 10th District, Bristol County • <i>Food Summit, Shifting Perspectives from Food Security to Food Sovereignty</i> • CARAT work began • Distributed 17,000 lbs. USDA Commodities with partners

Education and Communication Working Group 2025

Initiatives:

- Eat Local Southcoast Challenge: Increased participation by 27.4% and 70% of those surveyed said they are making lifestyle changes.
- 2025 Food Summit: *Strengthening Aquaculture Through Wastewater Advocacy* resulted in a newly formed Aquaculture Coalition.
- FarmCoast Documentary: Working with film producer Ethan de Aguiar on a documentary that educates community members and legislators on the issues confronting our regional food system.

Policies:

- Farm-to-School Grant S.311/H.565
- Food Literacy S.392/H.735



EAT FOOD FROM
A 200-MILE RADIUS
FOR 4 WEEKS!

JULY 7TH - AUGUST 1ST, 2025

#EatLocalSouthcoast
#EatLocalSoCo



Food Access Working Group 2025

Addressing Emergency Food Gaps in Southeastern, MA



Initiatives:

- Increase access to local food in food pantries: Field to Families and Frogfoot Farm.
- Partially Cooked and Ready to Eat Food: Cooks for Community.
- Emergency Food Resource Meetings.
- Southcoast Food Alert at sfpc@marioninstitute.org.

Policies:

- Healthy Incentives Program HIP (S.104/H.129)
- Basic Needs Assistance for MA Immigrant Resident (S.117/H.207)
- HIP Lobby Day at the Statehouse
- Three SFPC Food Equity Advisors provided several HIP testimonies

Policy Working Group 2025



Share your story

Initiatives:

- Capturing Stories for Testimony
- Lunch & Learn Issue Briefings
- Action Alerts: 612 SFPC members at large took action on 11 Action Alerts.

Policies:

- Equity in Agriculture (S.53/H.111)
- Food System Budget: Successfully advocated for over \$84 million in food system budget priorities.

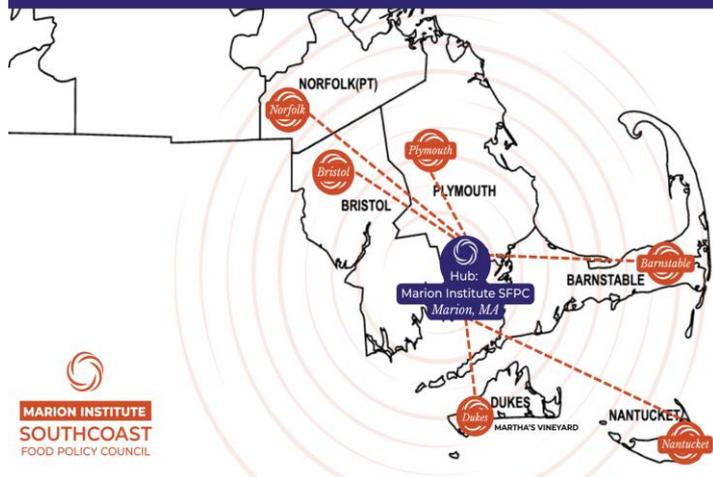


LUNCH
and

LEARN

CARAT- Community & Agriculture Resilience Audit Tool 2026 Food System Assessment of Southeastern MA

Connecting Communities, Cultivating Change



Initiatives:

- CARAT- 152 indicators tied to 7 themes
- Launched monthly CARAT Community of Practice meetings with (6) SE MA County leads.
- Established CABs and initiated CARAT in Bristol, Plymouth, Nantucket, Dukes, and Barnstable Counties.
- Conducted focus groups.

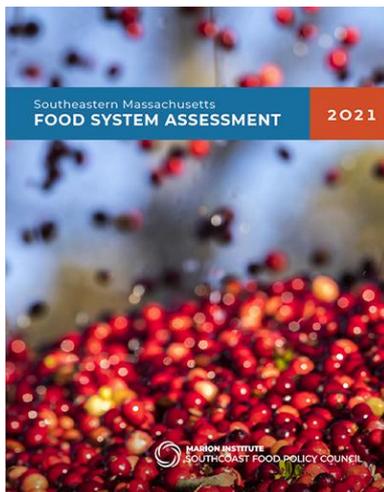
Policy:

- An Act Encouraging the Donation of Food To Persons in Need (S.1043/H.3154).
- An Act Promoting Equity in Agriculture (H.111/S.53)
- An Act to Establish a Coastal Wastewater Infrastructure Financing Commission (S.638/H.1000)

What's New in the Coming Year?

- Bristol County CARAT Scoring
- Candidate Forum – state candidates
- FarmCoast Documentary
- 2026 Food System Assessment of Southeastern MA
- Launch the Aquaculture Coalition
- Dissolve Policy Working Group, Testimony in all Groups

2026 Southeastern MA Food System Assessment



Engage in SFPC Initiatives

